

FORT WAYNE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
1200 SOUTH CLINTON STREET
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46802

6:02 p.m.

May 18, 2026

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

The Board of School Trustees of the Fort Wayne Community Schools met for Student Recognitions in the Lester L. Grile Administrative Center on Monday, May 18, 2026, at 6:02 p.m. Vice President Jennifer Matthias, with there being no speakers on Public Comment Regarding Agenda Topics, called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and the following members in attendance:

Roll Call

Members present: Jennifer Matthias, Chairperson
Stephen Corona
Julie Hollingsworth
Maria Norman
Antonette Payne

Members absent: Noah Smith
District 3 Member Vacant

Indiana
M.A.T.H
Bowl 2026

Dr. Mark Daniel, superintendent, presented the following information and recommendations concerning awards and recognitions:

RECOMMENDATION: It was recommended that the Board recognize St. Joseph Central Math Bowl team who placed Top 10 in state.

RELATED INFORMATION: St. Joseph Central School's 12-member Math Bowl team, made up of 4th and 5th grade students, earned 4th place in the Red Division at the FWCS competition and finished among the top 10 teams in Indiana in this year's Math Bowl Competition.

The following were recognized:

4th Grade

Ariana Dixon
Nathan Dunn
Emerson Esquivel
Nora Gillette
Rhys Johnson
Henry Niccum
Everett Stucky

5th Grade

Jason Blom
River Bok
Oliver Griebel
Lucy Sarrazin
Foster Walent

Shannon Fisher, 4th grade teacher and Math Bowl coach
Derek Burgette, 4th grade teacher and Math Bowl coach
Susanne Tieman, Principal

FWCS
Scholarship
Recipients
2026

RECOMMENDATION: It was recommended that the Board recognize the following students for being 2026 Fort Wayne Community Schools Scholarship recipients.

RELATED INFORMATION: Thirty-five Fort Wayne Community Schools high school seniors were recently awarded scholarships through the FWCS Scholarship Committee. The scholarships are funded by sixteen donors, and committee members are appointed by the FWCS Board of School Trustees.

Students who receive these scholarships must be FWCS seniors who displayed leadership and initiative during their high school years. Awards range from \$500 to \$40,000.

FWCS Scholarship Committee Chair, Michelle Bandor, read the following Scholarships and the recipient names:

Bill C. Anthis Scholarship
Josmar Chan, Snider

Charles Baker Scholarship
Margaret Bertelsen, Wayne

Clarence & Josephine Biedenweg Scholarship
JaKaj Rich, North Side
Catherine Wiese, Northrop
Chloee Ruckman, Wayne

Joe Campbell Scholarship
Altin Andrews, Northrop
Faye Davis, Northrop
Charles Miller, Snider
Noah Scheick, Northrop
Yazah Tion, Snider

John and Maryann Chapman Scholarship
Ruby Campbell-Carpenter, North Side
Daniela Cruz, North Side
Wijdan Mohammedain, North Side
Amelia Ngo, North Side

Grace Hogan Scholarship
Wigdan Gedio, Northrop
Evelyn Gensic, South Side
Casen Harl, South Side
Tatum Miguel, Snider

Mark Lee Memorial Scholarship
Donnivan Malone, North Side

Nurse Marci Scholarship
Ashlyn Brinlee, Snider

Alice MacPherson Scholarship
Kyler Tang, North Side

Dr. Wendy Y. Robinson Legacy Scholarship
Adrianna Rust, South Side

Nathaniel Saul Wittenberg Scholarship
Emma Hooper, Northrop

Shahnaz Shipchandler Scholarship
Miles Benson, Northrop

Emma M. Shockley Memorial Scholarship
Daniela Romero, South Side

Richard & Patricia Wilson Scholarship
Colin Butler, North Side
Violet Dillon, South Side

John Young Scholarship
Brilee Day, Northrop
Liliana (Levi) Monroe, Snider
Lauren Prochaska, Snider
Taya Turner, Snider
Korben Hatfield, South Side
Jessica Pozuelos, Wayne
Tessa Chesney-Jordan, Wayne

Caroline Zwick Scholarship
Sawyer Tippmann, Snider

ISSMA All Music Award

RECOMMENDATION: It was recommended that the Board recognize Memorial Park for earning the Indiana State School Music Association All Music Award. Memorial Park also received the Total Department Award, an honor awarded to only nine middle schools in Indiana.

RELATED INFORMATION: This is the second consecutive year for Memorial Park to win this prestigious award. The ISSMA All-Music Award recognizes school music departments (High School and Junior/Middle/Elementary) who demonstrate excellence across the entire spectrum of musical events. It is awarded to schools that achieve Gold/Superior ratings in sanctioned events like marching band, jazz and concert events, and Solo & Ensemble.

The following were recognized:

Brian Abbott
Rosalyn Ables
Nayeli Tlapale Barron
Gabby Boone

Keenan Blakey
Finely Buteyn
Jesus Diaz
Andrea Grim

Reagan Hatfield
Leslie Hernandez-Gutierrez
Alan Hernandez Lopez
Thalia Kangas

Maysun King
Ava Letizia
Ellieanna LaBo
Zulia Macias
London Manes
Amara McClellan
Mari Orebaugh

Luke Pennington
Thomas Preble
Maryrose Ramsey
Molly Rutledge
Arthur Satter
Franki Serrani
Eliza Snyder

James Stanski
Kayleigh Steveson
Gillian Wagley
Crosby Walker
Silas Wilbanks
Namoni Wilson

Allison Jennings, Choir Director
Colleen Phillips, Orchestra Director
Ryan Thomson, Band Director
Brad Crozier, Principal

Enhanced
Program &
Distinguished
Unit –
Wayne's
JROTC

RECOMMENDATION: It was recommended It is recommended that the Board recognize a Wayne High School JROTC cadet for receiving the Indiana Sons of the American Revolution Enhanced Cadet Award. It is further recommended that we recognize Wayne High School's JROTC as a Distinguished Unit for this school year.

RELATED INFORMATION: The JROTC Enhanced Program recognizes outstanding cadets who demonstrate leadership, academic excellence, and military bearing through competition at the chapter, state, and national levels. Eligible cadets must meet rigorous academic and program requirements, obtain recommendations, and submit an essay, with this year's topic focused on how JROTC has prepared them to be better citizens of the United States.

The Distinguished Unit Award has not been earned by Wayne's program since 1997. This prestigious recognition is not only exceptionally difficult to achieve, but it also provides a significant advantage for cadets applying to the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA). As a Distinguished Unit, Wayne would be authorized to directly nominate qualified applicants to the Academy, reducing reliance on the highly competitive and limited Congressional or Senatorial nomination process.

The following were recognized:

Lydia Demukuh
Robert Fink
Hnin Hpyu
Deanna May-Perez
Matthew Owen

Indra Yee
Chief Wepner, Instructor
Captain Thomas, Instructor
Nakia Royal, Assistant Principal
Emily Oberlin, Principal

3DE Case
Challenge
with The
Home Depot

RECOMMENDATION: It was recommended that the Board recognize the Wayne High School team for advancing through the competition and being selected as one of the top eight teams nationwide in the 3DE Case Challenge with Home Depot.

RELATED INFORMATION: Across 3DE's nationwide network of 80 schools, more than 6,300 tenth grade students competed in a five-week Design Thinking challenge to create an innovative shopping experience for DIY customers featuring one of The Home Depot's top-selling departments.

The following were recognized:

Addison Carpenter
Ashlynn Dettmer
Elizabeth Haynes
Olivia Keeling
Kila Powers

Kaliah Sullivan
Emily Arata, 3DE School Director
Jennifer Steele, Teacher
Chasr Sleesman, METT principal
Emily Oberlin, Principal

National Career
and Technical
Student
Organization
(CTSO) Winners

RECOMMENDATION: It was recommended that the Board recognize these Career Academy students who won first place in their respective CTE program areas and will be representing their school in June at the national level.

RELATED INFORMATION: A Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) is a student group connected to Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes. CTSOs help students build leadership, job, and technical skills through competitions, projects, and hands-on activities. These organizations serve millions of students across the country and are recognized by education departments nationwide.

The following were recognized:

Martin Nino-Aquilera	Plumbing
Isaac Bell	Computer Programming
Tiege Bollier	Cabinetmaking
Daniela Castellanos	HOSA / Dental contest
Anaeje Childs	Promotional Bulletin Board
Kyla Harroff	Promotional Bulletin Board
Jadyn Miller	FCCLA Baking
Emilia Morales	HOSA / Dental contest
Lily Muncie	Early Childhood Education
Everett Pawlak	Job Skill Demonstration A
Johann Ramirez	Electrical Wiring
Abram Ratajczak	Masonry
Molly Rider	Advertising Design
Ethan Ring	Welding
Yazah Tion	HVAC
Tyre Tomlinson	Sheet Metal
Amelia Williams	Promotional Bulletin Board

Scholastic Art
& Writing
Awards

RECOMMENDATION: It was recommended that the Board recognize the Fort Wayne Community Schools students who won national and regional awards for Scholastic Art and Writing.

RELATED INFORMATION: Scholastic Art & Writing Awards recognize student achievement in the visual and literary arts in 28 categories, including painting, novel writing, mixed media, poetry, digital art, journalism, and more. Students are celebrated locally and nationally with awards, exhibitions, publications, and scholarships.

The following were recognized:

North Side High School

Ceramics:

Adelle Barone	Silver Key, Honorable Mention
Maren Tappan	Two Gold Keys, Honorable Mention

North Side Teachers:

Alan Woehnker (winker)
David West, Principal

Northrop High School

Ceramics and Glass:

Emley Chloe	Gold Key
Lillian (Onyx) Coleman	Honorable Mention
Sofia Drake	Two Honorable Mentions
Sarah Farling	Honorable Mention
Ariana French	Honorable Mention

Isabella Jones
Nathan Smith
Vann Toensing
Annie Tran
Lyric Washington
Amarante Workman
Nathifa Yussuf

Silver Key
Honorable Mention
Honorable Mention
Honorable Mention
Two Honorable Mentions
Three Gold Keys, Seven Silver Keys, Honorable Mention
Honorable Mention

Drawing:

Eliana Nicholson
Thu Le

Honorable Mention
Gold Key

Jewelry:

Karlie Bruce
Abigail Farling
Alexandra Klekot
Aireonna Leathers
Natalie Parent
Adan Plodzic
Aaron Quintana
Kennedy Tassler
Oswald Valiant-Whiz
Lyric Washington

Silver Key, Honorable Mention
Honorable Mention
Gold Key
Gold Key
Honorable Mention
Honorable Mention
Gold Key
Three Silver Keys, Honorable Mention
Honorable Mention
Honorable Mention

Photography:

Khalid Aboelgassim
Carrie Beekley
Melisa Besirovic
Mariah Briggs
Mariana Briones
Rory Browder
Brayden Brown
Lillian Coleman
Harmony Collins
Braylin Curry
Desmond Epps
Clover Erick
Autumn Esquivel
Jackson French-Will
Colbie Geist
Levi Grubbs
Lee Heckenbach
Mayah Hehir
Elijah Henderson
Ava Houser
Alexandra Klekot
Allison Lambert
Marisa Lawee
Paris Lee
Kiley Letner
Simar Lidder
Reann Murphy
Thu Nguyen
Ya' Jaira Pimentel
Emma Ropa
Caleb Shutt

Three Honorable Mentions
Honorable Mention
Silver Key, Three Honorable Mentions
Two Honorable Mentions
Silver Key, Two Honorable Mention
Two Silver Keys, Honorable Mention
Honorable Mention
Honorable Mention
Honorable Mention
Silver Key, Two Honorable Mentions
Silver key, Two Honorable Mentions
Honorable Mention
Silver Key
Two Silver Keys
Silver Keys
Honorable Mention
Honorable Mention
Two Silver Keys, 6 Honorable Mentions
Two Honorable Mentions
Three Honorable Mentions
Two Honorable Mentions
Two Honorable Mentions
Three Silver Keys, Two Honorable Mentions
Honorable Mention
Two Honorable Mentions
Honorable Mention
Honorable Mention
Honorable Mention
Gold Key, Honorable Mention
Honorable Mention
Two Honorable Mentions

Adelyn Springer	Honorable Mention
Vann Toensing	Honorable Mention
Evan Treesh	Silver Key, Six Honorable Mentions
Benjamin Tulley	Silver Key, Gold Key, Three Honorable Mentions
Yudith Vasquez	Silver Key
Carson West	Gold Key
Brady Wright	Honorable Mention
Sculpture:	
Danik Bakhtov	Honorable Mention
Emley Chloe	Gold Key
Northrop Teachers:	
Erica Leitch	
John Platt	
Angela Smolek	
Robb Robison, Principal	
<u>Snider High School</u>	
Painting:	
Cuauhtzin Quintana Friedrich	Two Gold Keys
Snider Teachers:	
Lucas Chapman	
Amy Sims	
Chad Hissong, Principal	
<u>South Side High School</u>	
Painting:	
Clairanna Council	Honorable Mention
Photography:	
Clairanna Council	Two Silver Keys
Ainsley McComas	Silver Key, Honorable Mention
Ethan Miranda	Honorable Mention
Zailyn Alonzo	Honorable Mention
Trec Reynolds	Silver Key
Digital Painting:	
Ainsley McComas	Honorable Mention
South Side Teachers:	
Jennifer Slone	
Zach Harl, Principal	
<u>New Tech at Wayne</u>	
Poetry:	
Sali Guest	Silver Key, Honorable Mention
Edith McComas	Gold Key
Zachary Spahr	Honorable Mention
Ceramics:	
Benrey Hill	Honorable Mention
Digital Art:	
Okka Ko	Honorable Mention

New Tech at Wayne Teachers
Ashley Toy
Helen Foster, New Tech Academy Director
Emily Oberlin, Principal

Comments

Board Member Steve Corona expressed his condolences on the passing of longtime track and cross-country coach Barry Peterson, describing him as a wonderful man whose impact on the sports community was significant. He noted that track and cross-country are especially meaningful to his family, with several of his grandchildren participating in those activities. He reflected on knowing Barry for many years and remarked that his grandchildren would have enjoyed the opportunity to be coached by him. Member Corona concluded by saying Barry will be greatly missed.

Board Member Maria Norman congratulated tonight's students on their achievements and recognized the parents, guardians, and extended family members who supported them throughout their educational journeys. She humorously acknowledged the countless hours families spend driving students to activities, waiting in parking lots, and providing encouragement and care. She also shared a broader message about the importance of kindness and respect within the community. Member Norman reminded everyone that board members and school employees are neighbors and community members who serve because they care about students. She encouraged people to model respectful behavior, emphasizing that students are watching how adults respond to challenges and will carry those lessons into their own communities.

Board Member Julie Hollingsworth also honored Barry Peterson, recalling her experience teaching alongside him at Northrop High School. She highlighted his remarkable coaching accomplishments, including numerous conference, sectional, regional, semi-state, and state championships. More importantly, she emphasized the lasting impact he had on the lives of the students he coached and offered prayers to his family while thanking him for his service to Fort Wayne Community Schools. Member Hollingsworth also celebrated positive news regarding Indiana's increasing college-going rate, noting that FWCS's own Shenita Bolton was featured in an article discussing the district's GEAR UP program, which helps students explore college opportunities through visits and other experiences. Finally, Ms. Hollingsworth acknowledged the difficulty of closing South Wayne High School and encouraged alumni and community members to attend an upcoming celebration honoring the school's legacy.

Board Member Antonette Payne reflected on attending a South Wayne High School celebration event and described it as uplifting to see former students, staff, and families return to support and honor the school. While recognizing that school closures are difficult, she appreciated the strong sense of community demonstrated at the event. Toni also congratulated parents, students, and teachers as the school year came to a close and encouraged students to enjoy their summer safely. She advised graduating seniors and other students to appreciate the memorable moments ahead while remaining cautious and responsible. Member Payne expressed excitement about the student recognition events taking place, including awards programs, Career Academy celebrations, and upcoming graduations, and congratulated everyone involved.

Superintendent Dr. Mark Daniel shared personal memories of coaching alongside Barry Peterson and spending time with him more recently. He described Barry as someone who deeply loved Fort Wayne Community Schools and noted that Barry's son was also hired as a track coach, continuing the family's connection to the district. He affirmed that Barry's many accomplishments were well deserved and said he would be remembered fondly. Dr. Daniel also provided an update on transportation staffing, reporting encouraging results from a recent bus driver recruitment effort that generated multiple applications. He praised the community for stepping up to help address staffing challenges. Additionally, he reviewed the upcoming graduation schedule, highlighting the number of ceremonies planned and encouraging students and families to celebrate safely while enjoying this important milestone.

Vice President Jennifer Matthias remarked on the many positive events taking place across the district and thanked those who continued to participate in and support board meetings. She highlighted the student recognition event held that evening, noting the importance of celebrating students' hard work and accomplishments. Member Matthias also attended the Hire to Inspire event at the Mirro Center and praised both the students and local business leaders who participated. She was impressed by the students' presentations and felt the business community was demonstrating strong support for Fort Wayne Community Schools. Looking ahead, she encouraged graduates and families to enjoy their celebrations safely and wished everyone a pleasant summer. Ms. Matthias also reminded the public that applications for the District 3 board vacancy were being accepted through Friday, May 22 at 5 pm and directed interested candidates to information available on the board's website.

Next Meeting The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Lester L. Grile Administrative Center.

Adjournment There being no further business, upon a motion by Julie Hollingsworth, seconded by Antonette Payne, the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

General Public Comment Martin-Diaz, Pamela, Community Member, re: Immigration

Dismissal The meeting was dismissed at 8:01 p.m.

ABSENT

President
Noah Smith

Vice President
Jennifer Matthias

Secretary
Antonette Payne

Member
Stephen Corona

Member
Julie Hollingsworth

Member
Maria Norman

No Signature for Vacant District 3