

**VAN WERT CITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 27, 2026 – 5:00 p.m.
First Federal Lecture Hall - Niswonger Performing Arts Center
10700 State Route 118 South, Van Wert, OH 45891**

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call - **Time in: 5:00 p.m. Board Members Present - Anthony Adams, Julie Burenga, Greg Blackmore, Debby Compton, Thaison Leaser. Others Present – Scott Truxell, Sam Shriver, Mark Bagley, Troy Bowersock, Bob Priest, Todd Keller, Aaron Ries, Haley Michaud, Chris Covey, Ben Collins, Ryan Parrish, Curt Schaffner, Darla Dunlap, Noah Floyd, Amari Junkins, Kelsey Cunningham, Mark Verville, Rilee Conrad, Ally Klausing, Derek Avera.**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America – **Recited by attendees in unison**
- III. Vision / Mission – **Recited by Greg Blackmore**

Our Vision

In partnership with our community, Van Wert City Schools will ensure that all students develop the knowledge, skills, and attributes they need to thrive in post-secondary education, careers and civic life.

Our Mission

Van Wert City Schools will continue to be a source of Cougar Pride while providing each student a quality education through innovative instructional methods and technology.

- IV. Public Participation - **None**

In order for the Board to fulfill its obligation to complete the planned agenda in an effective and efficient fashion, a maximum of thirty (30) minutes of public participation will be permitted at each meeting.

Each person addressing the Board will give his/her name and address. If several people wish to speak, each person will be allotted three (3) minutes until the total time of thirty (30) minutes is used. During the period, no person may speak twice until all who desire to speak have had the opportunity to do so. Persons desiring more time should follow the procedure of the Board to be placed on the regular agenda. The period of public participation may be extended by a vote of the majority of the Board.

26.05.024

- V. Set Agenda
Motion was made by Julie Burenga and seconded by Thaison Leaser to accept the May 27, 2026 Regular Meeting agenda as presented. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Thaison Leaser, yes. Motion carried 5-0.
- VI. Educational Impact Presentation / Educational Impact Presentation
A. Mark Verville, President/CEO, Van Wert Chamber of Commerce – Youth Leadership Academy

B. Ben Collins, Van Wert Middle School Assistant Principal, Ryan Parrish, Van Wert High School Assistant Principal - Focus 3 update and discussion

- VII. Treasurer's Section - *Mr. Bowersock shared with the Board of Education the April financial statements, checks issued, summary of cash balances by fund, and monthly revenue and expenditure summary. Mr. Bowersock also reviewed the amendments to the fiscal year 2026 permanent appropriations and presented an updated Eggerss Stadium project budget.*
- VIII. Assistant Superintendent's Section - *Mr. Priest provided an update on the Middle School/High School chiller project. He also discussed custodial/maintenance staffing changes and indicated that Curt Schaffer has assumed duties as the Maintenance Director.*
- IX. Superintendent's Section - *Mr. Bagley reviewed the second reading of new/revised policies from the Neola spring 2026 (Volume 44, number 2) update recommended for approval. Mr. Bagley also provided an update on staffing and continued conversations on Phase IV of the Eggerss Stadium restoration project. Lastly, Bagley highlighted end of school year activities, which included graduation, and provided a legislative update.*
- X. Board Member Section / Reports from Board Representatives (discussion only)
- A. Vantage - *Highlighted end of school year activities and provided an update on the Vantage Academy of Medical Careers renovation project.*
 - B. VWAPAF - *No report*
 - C. VWASIG - *No report*
 - D. Athletic Council - *No report*
 - E. Safety Team - *Discussed the recent district Safety Team Meeting and the annual Ohio Safety Conference in Columbus that Mr. Priest attended.*

26.05.025

- XI. Consent Resolutions
- Motion was made by Thaison Leaser and seconded by Greg Blackmore to approve the consent items "A through AJ" as presented. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Thaison Leaser, yes. Motion carried 5-0.**
- A. Accept the resignation of Dylan Wierwille from her position as Third Grade Teacher, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
 - B. Accept the resignation of Emilee Colgan from her position as Early Childhood Center Paraprofessional, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
 - C. Accept the resignation of Justin Krogman from his position as Elementary School Principal, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
 - D. Accept the resignation of Jon Okuly from his position as a Custodial / Maintenance Worker, effective July 12, 2026, as presented.
 - E. Accept the resignation of Jerrickah Catlin from her position as Elementary School Paraprofessional, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
 - F. Accept the resignation of Debbie Rager from her position as Elementary School Secretary, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
 - G. Approve a one-year leave of absence for Jessica Small, First Grade Teacher, effective the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.
 - H. Approve John Okuly as Assistant to the Director of Maintenance, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective July 13, 2026, as presented.

- I. Approve the following Elementary School staff, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2026-2027 contract year as presented:
 - a. Lori Braun - Paraprofessional
 - b. Ashley Edwards - Paraprofessional
 - c. Anna Kolb – Paraprofessional
 - d. Debbie Rager - Paraprofessional / Computer Monitor
- J. Approve Meghan Dicke as Middle School Secretary, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.
- K. Approve Kelsey Cunningham as Middle School / High School Secretary, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.
- L. Approve Amari Junkins as Middle School Music and Band Teacher / High School Assistant Band Director, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.
- M. Approve the rehire of Mark Bagley, Superintendent, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, for a 5-year administrative contract, effective August 1, 2026 - July 31, 2031.
- N. Approve the rehire of Chris Covey, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, for a 3-year administrative contract, effective August 1, 2026 - July 31, 2029.
- O. Approve a 3-year administrative contract for Ruth Ann Dowler, Special Services Coordinator, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective August 1, 2026 - July 31, 2029, as presented.
- P. Approve a 3-year administrative contract for Darla Dunlap, Middle School Principal, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective August 1, 2026 - July 31, 2029, as presented.
- Q. Approve a 3-year administrative contract for Chuck Rollins, High School Principal, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective August 1, 2026 - July 31, 2029, as presented.
- R. Approve a 3-year administrative contract for Ashlee Featherston, School Psychologist, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective August 1, 2026 - July 31, 2029, as presented.
- S. Approve a 3-year administrative contract for Easton Rudasill, School Psychologist, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective August 1, 2026 - July 31, 2029, as presented.
- T. Approve the following Early Childhood Center Summer 2026 staff as presented:
 - 1. Secretarial
 - a. Debbie Pollock
 - 2. Summer School - Round 1
 - a. Ashley Hockenberry
 - b. Alexa Post
 - c. Lorelei McKeddie
 - d. Megan Neuenschwander
 - 3. Summer School Testing Week
 - a. Judi Smith
 - b. Ronda Niemeyer
 - c. Becky Doctor
 - d. Megan Neuenschwander
 - e. Alexa Post
 - 4. Summer Therapists
 - a. Chrissy Kreischer
 - b. Taylor Bendele
 - c. Lisa Knoch

- d. Naomi Schlatter
 - e. Jennifer Willford
- 5. Summer School - Round 2
 - a. Shelly Place
 - b. Megan Neuenschwander
 - c. Connor Thome
 - d. Zach Spence
 - e. Heidi Kline
 - f. Mckenzie Owens
- U. Approve the following Elementary ESY summer 2026 staff as presented:
 - 1. Kim Dowdy
 - 2. Megan Weitzel
- V. Approve Middle School summer 2026 staff as presented:
 - 1. Tom Baer
 - 2. Julia Schaffner
- W. Approve the following as summer 2026 custodial workers as presented:
 - 1. Melissa Nava (new)
 - 2. Maissee Short (new; MWF)
- X. Approve the following coaching supplemental contracts, effective the 2026-2027 contract year, as presented:
 - 1. Morgan Hicks - High School Volleyball Volunteer
 - 2. Morgan Seewer - Freshman Football
 - 3. Dylan Welch - Freshman Football
 - 4. Ben Collins - Freshman Football Volunteer
 - 5. Josiah Poletta - High School Football Volunteer
- Y. Approve an overnight request for High School Girls Basketball (15 students and 5 adults) to Sandusky, Ohio for the Cedar Point Shootout, June 8-9, 2026, as presented.
- Z. Approve a satellite program standards and maintenance agreement between Van Wert City Schools and Vantage Career Center for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.
- AA. Approve an Academic Affiliation Agreement between Van Wert City Schools and the University of Toledo's College of Health and Human Services, effective July 16, 2026, as presented.
- AB. Approve a memorandum of understanding with Defiance College for hosting teacher education candidates during the 2026-2027 school year as presented.
- AC. Approve three year services agreement with Northwest Ohio Area Computer Services Cooperative for the period July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029, as presented.
- AD. Approve an agreement between Van Wert City Schools and Northern Ohio Virtual Academy (NOVA) for the period August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2027, as presented.
- AE. Approve enrollment in the Sedgwick/Ohio SchoolComp Workers Compensation group rating program for the policy period commencing January 1, 2027 and ending December 31, 2027.
- AF. Approve to establish the following new funds under the provisions of Ohio Revised Code 5705.12 for the 2026-2027 school year as follows:
 - 1. Family & Children First Council OCBF - 022 9127
 - 2. Family Center Services & Support - 022 9227
- AG. Approve the amendments to the fiscal year 2026 Permanent Appropriations totaling \$39,663,824.49 as presented.
- AH. Approve the minutes from the regular Board meeting held on April 22, 2026.
- AI. Approve the monthly financial report as presented by the Treasurer.
- AJ. Acknowledge the following charitable groups, entities, and individuals for their generous donations to the Van Wert City Schools:
 - 1. Edward Jones - Trevor Webster - \$1,834.00 to Eggerss Stadium Project - Legacy Donation

2. Trevor & Whitney Webster - \$10,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Project - Legacy Donation
3. Edward Jones - Veronica Cuevas - \$1,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Project - Legacy Donation
4. Bee Gee Realty & Auction Co. LLC - \$2,500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Project - Legacy Donation
5. Tim & Kari Stoller - \$5,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Project - Legacy Donation
6. Citizens National Bank - \$1,667.00 to Eggerss Stadium Project - Legacy Donation
7. Jeffery-Mohr Dentistry - \$244.29 to Van Wert Elementary School Activity Fund
8. The Van Wert County Foundation on behalf of the Richard L. & Nadie O. Klein Memorial Trust - \$29,419.13 to Klein Trust Fund
9. Van Wert City Schools Elementary PTO - \$2,000.00 to Van Wert Early Childhood Center Activity Fund
10. Van Wert Service Club - \$150.00 to Van Wert Endowment Fund for Educators
11. Laudick's Jewelry - \$90.00 to Track & Field Activity Fund
12. The Snapdragon Book Foundation - \$1,955.12 to Middle School Snapdragon Building Book Buddies Grant

XII. Non-consent Resolution(s)

26.05.026

A. Approve the following Early Childhood Center Summer 2026 staff as presented:

1. Summer School Testing Week
 - a. Nicole Adams

Motion was made by Debby Compton and seconded by Greg Blackmore to approve Nicole Adams as Early Childhood Center Summer 2026 staff for summer school testing week. Vote: Anthony Adams, abstain; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Thaison Leaser, yes. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 abstention.

26.05.027

B. Approve the following Early Childhood Center Summer 2026 staff as presented:

1. Summer Therapist
 - a. Danae Leaser

Motion was made by Julie Burenga and seconded by Debby Compton to approve Danae Leaser as Early Childhood Center Summer 2026 staff as a Summer Therapist. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Thaison Leaser, abstain. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 abstention.

26.05.028

C. Approve the following coaching supplemental contract, effective the 2026-2027 contract year, as presented:

1. Turner Witten - Middle School Football

Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Thaison Leaser to approve a supplemental coaching contract for Turner Witten as Middle School Football coach effective for the 2026-2027 contract year, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, abstain; Thaison Leaser, yes. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 abstention.

26.05.029

- D. Approve the new/revised policies from the Neola Spring 2026 Update - Vol. 44, No. 2 and March 2026 Special Update, as presented.
1. po2431.06 - Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) in Athletics (new)
 2. po3440 - Job-Related Expenses (revised)
 3. po4440 - Job-Related Expenses (revised)
 4. po5112 - Entrance Requirements (revised)
 5. po5421 - Grading (revised)
 6. po5430 - Class Rank (revised)
 7. po6220 - Budget Preparation (revised)
 8. po6320 - Purchases (revised)
 9. po6325 - Procurement - Federal Grants/Funds (revised)
 10. po6423 - Use of District Credit Cards (revised)
 11. po6424 - Procurement Cards (revised)
 12. po6425 - Use of District Tax Exempt Certificate (new)
 13. po6460 - Vendor Relations (revised)
 14. po6465 - Affinity, Rewards, or Other Discount Programs (new)
 15. po7540.09 - Artificial Intelligence ("AI") (replacement)
 16. po8500 - Food Services (revised)
 17. po4162 - Drug and Alcohol Testing of CDL License Holders and Other Employees Who Perform Safety Sensitive Functions (revised/title change)
 18. po4162.01 - Drug and Alcohol Testing of Employees Without CDL Licenses Who Transport Students in Alternative Vehicles (non-DOT testing) (new)
 19. po8600 - Transportation (revised)
 20. po8600.04 - Bus Driver Certification (revised/title change)
 21. po8640 - Transportation for Non-Routine Trips (revised)
 22. po8650 - Transportation by Vehicles Other Than School Buses (revised/title change)
 23. fm3120.09F1 - Volunteer Release Form (renumbered/rescind)
 24. fm4120.09FI - Volunteer Release Form (rescind)
 25. fm8120F1 - Volunteer Release Form (renumbered/rescind)

Motion was made by Debby Compton and seconded by Julie Burenga to approve the new/revised Board policies and guidelines from the Neola Volume 44 No. 2 / Spring 2026 update and March 2026 Special Update as presented. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Thaison Leaser, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

26.05.030

- E. Accept the employment resignation and separation agreement of Daniel M. Arend as presented, and further direct the Superintendent to sign the separation agreement on behalf of the Van Wert City School District Board of Education.

Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Debby Compton to approve the employment resignation and separation agreement of Daniel M. Arend as presented, and further direct the Superintendent to sign the separation agreement on behalf of the Van Wert City School District Board of Education. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Thaison Leaser, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

26.05.031

- F. Approve the Negotiated Agreement between the Van Wert City Schools Board of Education and the Classified Employees of Van Wert City Schools effective August 1, 2026 to July 31, 2029, as presented.

Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Julie Burenga to approve the Negotiated Agreement between the Van Wert City Schools Board of Education and the Classified Employees of Van Wert City Schools effective August 1, 2026 to July 31, 2029, as presented. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Thaison Leaser, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

- XIII. This is to inform the Board of Education that the following employee(s) will be advanced on the payscale, due to additional college coursework, effective the 2026-2027 school year:
A. Bob Spath - Master's+15 to Master's+30

26.05.032

- XIV. Executive Session

A. Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1), for the purpose of discussing the employment, dismissal, and compensation of public personnel.

Motion was made by Thaison Leaser and seconded by Debby Compton to go into Executive Session at 5:55 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the employment dismissal, and compensation of public personnel. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Thaison Leaser, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting reconvened at 6:33 p.m.

26.05.033

- XV. Adjournment

Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Julie Burenga to adjourn the Meeting at 6:34 p.m. Vote: Ayes - 5; Nays – 0

Next Meeting Date

The next scheduled regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. In addition, the public records commission (Board president, Board vice-president, Superintendent and Treasurer) will meet immediately prior to the meeting to review the recommended disposal of specific public records. The meetings will be in the First Federal Lecture Hall at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center.

Board President

Fiscal Officer