

**VAN WERT CITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 24, 2026 – 5:00 p.m.
First Federal Lecture Hall - Niswonger Performing Arts Center
10700 State Route 118 South, Van Wert, OH 45891**

MINUTES

PUBLIC RECORDS COMMISSION MEETING (Board President, Board Vice-President - absent, Superintendent, and Treasurer) – *The Public Records Commission met prior to the organizational meeting to consider the following:*

- A. *Consider the recommendation for the disposal of public records – Approval was granted for the disposal of public records as presented.*
- I. Call to Order and Roll Call - **Time in: 5:00 p.m. Board Members Present - Anthony Adams, Greg Blackmore, Debby Compton, Thaison Leaser. Absent – Julie Burenga. Others Present – Scott Truxell, Sam Shriver, Mark Bagley, Troy Bowersock, Bob Priest, Justin Bragg, Haley Michaud, Chuck Rollins, Trent Temple, Curt Schaffner, Tracy Wehner, Ty Wannemacher, Carson Shull, Alysia Barnhart, Colby Barnhart, Andrea Profit, Natoshia Wilhelm, Noelle Byrum, Symphony Schuerman, Jeremy Best, Cohnen Bragg, Zach Crummey, Charlie Witten, Zander Coleman, Wyatt Scott, Alex Benner.**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America – **Recited by attendees in unison**
- III. Vision / Mission – **Recited by Mark Bagley**

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.

26.06.034

- V. Set Agenda

Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Debby Compton to accept the June 24, 2026 Regular Meeting agenda as presented. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, absent;

Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Thaison Leaser, yes. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

- VI. Educational Impact Presentation
A. Chuck Rollins, Van Wert High School Principal, Natoshia Wilhelm, Noelle Byrum, Symphony Schuerman, Jeremy Best, Cohnen Bragg, Zach Crummey, Charlie Witten, Zander Coleman, Wyatt Scott, Alex Benner - Year in review - Academic / Athletic Awards
- VII. Treasurer's Section
Business and Records - *Mr. Bowersock shared with the Board of Education the May financial statements, checks issued, summary of cash balances by fund, and monthly revenue and expenditure summary. He discussed the recommended transfer amounts to the Capital Projects and Termination Benefits funds. Mr. Bowersock also presented an update to the Board of Education in reference to the Fiscal year 2026 year-end close-out, the fiscal year 2027 beginning of year preparations, and the Eggerss Stadium project budget.*
- VIII. Assistant Superintendent's Section - *Mr. Priest provided an update on district maintenance projects that are underway this summer and on the Middle School/High School chiller project. He shared information on continued maintenance planning to address the district's future needs and reviewed custodial/maintenance staffing changes. Lastly, Priest indicated the new bus was recently delivered and informed the Board of Education that all buses have passed inspection.*
- IX. Superintendent's Section - *Mr. Bagley provided an update on staffing for the 2026-2027 school year and on Phase IV of the Eggerss Stadium restoration project. Bagley also highlighted student and staff activities taking place including summer camps, the YWCA Summer Food Program, and ongoing staff professional development. Lastly, Bagley closed his report with a legislative update.*
- X. Board Member Section / Reports from Board Representatives (discussion only)
A. Vantage - *Discussed the Nursing LPN to RN adult education program and provided an update on the Vantage Academy of Medical Careers renovation project*
B. VWAPAF - *No report*
C. VWASIG - *Reviewed information from the June VWASIG Trustees meeting that included a financial update and the consideration/discussion of a premium rate increase.*
D. Athletic Council - *No report*
E. Safety Team - *Discussed the active shooter drill/training that recently took place at Lincolnview Local Schools.*

26.06.035

- XI. Consent Resolutions
Motion was made by Thaison Leaser and seconded by Greg Blackmore to approve the consent items "A through AR" as presented. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, absent; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Thaison Leaser, yes. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.
- A. Accept the resignation of Kelsey Luthman from her position as Second Grade Teacher, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
- B. Accept the resignation of Emma Schmitmeyer from her position as High School Mathematics Teacher, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
- C. Accept the resignation of Tre Short from his position as Fifth Grade Teacher, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
- D. Accept the resignation of Ty Wannemacher from his position as Second Grade Teacher, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.

- E. Accept the resignation of Tracy Wehner from her position as Elementary School Assistant Principal, effective July 31, 2026, as presented.
- F. Approve a 3-year administrative contract for Ty Wannemacher as Elementary School Administrative Assistant, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective August 1, 2026 - July 31, 2029, as presented.
- G. Approve a 3-year administrative contract for Tracy Wehner as Elementary School Principal, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective August 1, 2026 - July 31, 2029, as presented.
- H. Approve Christine Amstutz as an Early Childhood Center Paraprofessional, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.
- I. Approve Lindsay Bates as an Early Childhood Center Paraprofessional, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.
- J. Approve Alysia Barnhart as a Third Grade Teacher, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.
- K. Approve Faith Bruns as a Second Grade Teacher, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.
- L. Approve Katie Kraner as a Fifth Grade Teacher, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.
- M. Approve Nicole Fry as an Elementary School Secretary, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.
- N. Approve Carson Shull as an Elementary School Counselor Intern, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.
- O. Approve Hunter Cunningham as an Elementary School Cross-Categorical Intervention Specialist, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.
- P. Approve Andrea Profit as a High School Paraprofessional, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.
- Q. Approve Dave Hohman as a Custodial/Maintenance Worker, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective July 13, 2026, as presented.
- R. Approve an Administrative contract for John Marquez as Director of Food Services, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective August 15, 2026 through August 14, 2029, as presented.
- S. Approve an Administrative contract for Justin Bragg as Director of Technology, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective August 15, 2026 through July 31, 2029, as presented.
- T. Approve an Administrative contract for Benjamin Showalter as Director of Transportation, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective August 15, 2026 through August 14, 2029, as presented.
- U. Approve an Administrative contract for Haley Michaud as Marketing/Public Relations Specialist, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective August 15, 2026 through August 14, 2029, as presented.
- V. Approve an Administrative contract for Adam Nygren as Work-Based Learning Coordinator, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective August 15, 2026 through August 14, 2029, as presented.
- W. Approve an Administrative contract for Taylor Bendele as Occupational Therapist, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective August 15, 2026 through August 14, 2029, as presented.
- X. Approve the following Early Childhood Center Summer 2026 staff as presented:
 - 1. Lori Bittner - 7 days outside her regular contract days due to Kindergarten Boot Camp Grant
- Y. Approve the following supplemental contracts, effective the 2026-2027 contract year, as presented:
 - 1. Betsy Hamman - High School Cheerleading Assistant Coach

2. Mariana Ickes - High School Freshman Volleyball Coach
- Z. Approve the college coursework reimbursement payments to Justin Krogman as paid during the 2025-2026 school year.
- AA. Approve the minutes from the regular Board meeting held on May 27, 2026, as presented.
- AB. Approve the monthly financial report as presented by the Treasurer.
- AC. Approve the 2026-2027 preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, middle school and high school student handbooks as presented.
- AD. Approve overnight trips/stays as presented:
1. High School Football Team to East Harbor State Park in Lakeside Marblehead, Ohio; 50 students and 9 adults, Tuesday-Wednesday, July 14-15, 2026, as presented.
 2. High School Track to the OHSA State Meet; Columbus & Gahanna, Ohio; 4 students and 2 adults, retroactively to June 4-6, 2026, as presented.
- AE. Approve an agreement between Wood County Juvenile Detention Center-Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio and Van Wert City Schools for the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.
- AF. Approve a Professional Services Agreement for Behavioral Health Services between Westwood Behavioral Health Center and Van Wert City School District, effective August 1, 2026 through June 1, 2027, as presented.
- AG. Approve the Service Contract Agreement with Western Buckeye Educational Service Center for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.
- AH. Approve an agreement between New Tech Network, Inc. and Van Wert City Schools for Van Wert High School, Van Wert Middle School, and Van Wert Elementary School for continuation services in the New Tech Network, effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028, as presented.
- AI. Approve Scott Scriven LLP to take all necessary and reasonable actions to petition the Court for a reimbursement of its legal fees associated with the Purdue Pharma L.P. bankruptcy litigation. Furthermore, the Board explicitly waives its attorney-client privilege with regard to those Scott Scriven LLP's bills and invoices pertaining to the Purdue Pharma L.P. bankruptcy litigation for the sole purpose of pursuing a reimbursement of said legal fees.
- AJ. Approve the firm of Gingo & Bair Law, LLC to serve as legal counsel to the Van Wert City School District Board of Education and hereby authorize the Board President, Superintendent, and Treasurer to engage the services of said firm on an as needed basis.
- AK. Approve the Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources for fiscal year 2026 as presented.
- AL. Approve the amendments to the fiscal year 2026 Permanent Appropriations totaling \$39,688,216.90 as presented.
- AM. Approve the Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources for fiscal year 2027 as presented.
- AN. Approve the Temporary Appropriations for fiscal year 2027 totaling \$38,653,881.00 as presented.
- AO. Approve transfer of the ½ mill equalization payment for fiscal year 2026 as required by the Ohio School Facilities Commission for the Classroom Facilities Assistance Program from the Permanent Improvement Fund to the Classroom Facilities Maintenance Fund in the amount of \$113,804.00.
- AP. Approve transfer of \$300,000.00 from the General Fund (001 0000) to the Termination Benefits Fund (035 9025).
- AQ. Approve transfer of \$2,250,000.00 from the General Fund (001 0000) to the Capital Projects Fund (070 9024).
- AR. Acknowledge the following charitable groups, entities, and individuals for their generous donations to the Van Wert City Schools:
1. Edward Jones - Eric Hurless - \$500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Project - Legacy Donation
 2. Brent Mosier - \$500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 3. Frank & Donna McKibben - \$250.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 4. Edward & Nancy Goedde - \$500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute

5. Connie & Michael Ainsworth - \$250.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
6. Lee Ann Pratt - \$500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
7. Janet Gearhart - \$500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
8. Mitch & Brooke Gearhart - \$500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
9. John & Janet White - \$2,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
10. United Way of Van Wert County - \$2,000.00 to Van Wert School at the Goedde - Podcast Grant
11. The Van Wert County Foundation - \$7,000.00 on behalf of the following grant funds:
 - a. John D. and Nellie S. Ault Memorial Fund - \$4,000.00 to Van Wert Career Education (CEO) Program
 - b. Oscar J. Scaer Memorial Fund - \$3,000.00 to the Goedde Principal's Fund - Christmas at the Goedde

XII. Non-consent Resolution(s)

26.06.036

- A. Approve Spencer Adams as a High School Intervention Specialist, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.

Motion was made by Debby Compton and seconded by Thaison Leaser to approve Spencer Adams as a High School Intervention Specialist, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2026-2027 contract year as presented. Vote: Anthony Adams, abstain; Julie Burenga, absent; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Thaison Leaser, yes. Motion carried 3-0 with 1 abstention and 1 absent.

26.06.037

- B. Approve the following supplemental contract, effective the 2026-2027 contract year, as presented:
1. Spencer Adams - Middle School Football Coach

Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Thaison Leaser to approve a supplemental coaching contract for Spencer Adams as Middle School Football Coach effective for the 2026-2027 contract year, pending all Board policies pertaining to are met. Vote: Anthony Adams, abstain; Julie Burenga, absent; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Thaison Leaser, yes. Motion carried 3-0 with 1 abstention and 1 absent.

26.06.038

- C. Approve the Administrative Salary Schedule for the 2026-2027, 2027-2028, and 2028-2029 school years, as presented.

Motion was made by Debby Compton and seconded by Greg Blackmore to approve the Administrative Salary Schedule for the 2026-2027, 2027-2028, and 2028-2029 school years, as presented. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, absent; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Thaison Leaser, yes. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

26.06.039

- D. Approve the Other Personnel (Exempt Employees) Wage/Salary Schedule for the 2026-2027, 2027-2028, and 2028-2029 school years, as presented.

Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Debby Compton to approve the Other Personnel (Exempt Employees) Wage/Salary Schedule for the 2026-2027, 2027-2028, and 2028-2029 school years, as presented. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, absent; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Thaison Leaser, yes. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

26.06.040

- E. Accept the resignation of Thaison Leaser, Board of Education Member, effective June 30, 2026, as presented.

Motion was made by Debby Compton and seconded by Greg Blackmore to accept the resignation of Thaison Leaser, Board of Education Member, effective June 30, 2026, as presented. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, absent; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Thaison Leaser, abstain. Motion carried 3-0 with 1 abstention and 1 absent.

26.06.041

XIII. 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 Greg Blackmore and seconded by Debby Compton to go into Executive Session at 5:56 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the employment dismissal, and compensation of public personnel. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, absent; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Thaison Leaser, yes. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

Meeting reconvened at 6:32 p.m.

26.06.042

XIV. Adjournment

Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Thaison Leaser to adjourn the Meeting at 6:34 p.m. Vote: Ayes - 4; Nays – 0; Absent – 1

Next Meeting Date

The next scheduled regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 22, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be in the First Federal Lecture Hall at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center.

Board President

Fiscal Officer