

**VAN WERT CITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 26, 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, Greg Blackmore, Julie Burenga, Debby Compton, Scott White. Others Present – Scott Truxell, Sam Shriver, Mark Bagley, Troy Bowersock, Bob Priest, Chris Covey, Justin Bragg, Haley Michaud, Chuck Rollins, Curt Schaffner, Carly Rollins.**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America – **Recited by attendees in unison**
- III. Vision / Mission – **Recited by Scott White**

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.

26.08.053

- V. Set Agenda
Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Debby Compton to accept the August 26, 2026 Regular Meeting agenda as presented. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Scott White, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

- VI. Treasurer's Section
Business and Records - Mr. Bowersock shared with the Board of Education the July financial statements, checks issued, summary of cash balances by fund, and monthly revenue and expenditure summary. Mr. Bowersock also reviewed with the Board of Education the recommended 9/1/2026 fleet, liability, and property insurance renewal with Stolly Insurance Group and the Ohio School Plan, he presented an update on the Eggerss Stadium project budget, and presented the district's fiscal year 2027 financial forecast.
- VII. Assistant Superintendent's Section - *Mr. Priest reviewed transportation staffing and bus route information in place for the 2026-2027 school year, discussed summer maintenance projects, and praised the custodial and maintenance staff for their efforts in preparing for 2026-2027 school year. Lastly, Priest informed the Board of Education on planning that is underway for the proposed construction of a bus storage/maintenance facility on the middle school/high school campus.*
- VIII. Superintendent's Section - *Mr. Bagley extended his appreciation to all staff members for the successful start to the new school year. He provided an update on staffing for the 2026-2027 school year and discussed ongoing Focus 3 district culture development initiatives including a recently published video by Focus 3 featuring Van Wert City Schools. Bagley also reviewed Phase IV of the Eggerss Stadium restoration project sharing information on the upcoming September 18, 2026 Eggerss Stadium rededication and closed his report with a legislative update including information on the newly legislated Student Athlete Mobility act.*
- IX. Board Member Section/Reports from Board Representatives (discussion only)
- A. Vantage Board Report - *Discussed beginning of school year activities, reviewed student enrollment which continues to grow, and provided an update on the Vantage Academy of Medical Careers renovation project.*
 - B. VWAPAF Report - *Reviewed 2026-2027 programming and financial planning efforts underway to address declining attendance and the resulting financial implications.*
 - C. VWASIG - *Reviewed monthly financial information and informed Board members of upcoming 9/16/26 meeting where 2027 premium rates will be discussed/approved.*
 - D. Athletic Council – *Discussed 2026 Football season ticket sales indicating that reserved seating is still available. Planning is underway for September 18, 2026 Eggerss Stadium rededication.*
 - E. Safety Team – *Informed Board members that safety signage updates throughout the dsstrict including exterior window identification numbering and hallway directional is now complete.*

26.08.054

- X. Consent Resolutions
- Motion was made by Julie Burenga and seconded by Debby Compton to approve the consent items "A through X" as presented. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Scott White, yes. Motion carried 5-0.**
- A. Accept the resignation of Benjamin Price from his position as bus driver, effective August 10, 2026, as presented.
 - B. Approve Elizabeth Price as an elementary school paraprofessional, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2026-2027 contract year, as presented.
 - C. Approve Ashley Elston as an early childhood center social worker / counselor, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective September 10, 2026, as presented.

- D. Approve the minutes from the regular Board meeting held on July 22, 2026.
- E. Approve the Career Education Opportunity (CEO) Agreement between Van Wert City Schools and Crestview Local Schools for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.
- F. Approve the Career Education Opportunity (CEO) Agreement between Van Wert City Schools and Lincolnview Local Schools for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.
- G. Approve the contract between Van Wert City School District and Crestview Local School District for Crestview students attending Van Wert School @ the Goedde for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.
- H. Approve the contract between Van Wert City School District and Lincolnview Local School District for Lincolnview students attending Van Wert School @ the Goedde for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.
- I. Approve the contract between Van Wert City School District and Parkway Local School District for Parkway students attending Van Wert School @ the Goedde for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.
- J. Approve all bus routes and shuttle schedules for the 2026-2027 school year as presented, and authorize Bob Priest to approve changes as deemed necessary.
- K. Approve the Early Childhood/Elementary/Middle/High School student fees for the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.
- L. Approve the substitute staff list for the 2026-2027 school year and any subsequent revisions as presented.
- M. Approve the following supplemental contracts, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met, for the 2026-2027 contract year:
 - 1. Early Childhood Center:
 - a. Megan Neuenschwander - Multi-media manager (.5)
 - b. Ashley Hockenberry - Multi-media manager (.5)
 - c. Becky Doctor - Cougar Pride (.5)
 - d. Kennedy Mercer - Cougar Pride (.5)
 - e. Ashley Hockenberry - Data Manager - (preschool)
 - f. Megan Neuenschwander - Data Manager - (kindergarten)
 - g. Megan Neuenschwander - RTI Manager
 - h. Ashley Hockenberry - PBIS Coordinator (.5)
 - i. Shelly Place - PBIS Coordinator (.5)
 - 2. Elementary School:
 - a. Hannah Philipot- Student Council (.5)
 - b. Brooke Comer - Student Council (.5)
 - c. Amy Smith - Student Rewards Primary (.5)
 - d. Karlie Ulm - Student Rewards Intermediate (.5)
 - e. Megan Weitzel - RTI Manager Grade 1
 - f. Rachael Dettrow - RTI Manager Grade 2
 - g. July Mosier - RTI Manager Grade 3
 - h. Kyra Welch - RTI Manager Grade 4
 - i. Jared Army - RTI Manager Grade 5
 - j. Leigh Short - Data Manager Grade 1
 - k. Renee Staas - Data Manager Grade 2
 - l. Jen Simper - Data Manager Grade 3
 - m. Betsy Davis - Data Manager Grade 4
 - n. Jared Army - Data Manager Grade 5
 - o. Nate Hoverman - ECHO Support Staff
 - p. Gage Chiles - Jumpin Jammers (.5)

- q. Alex Schmidt - Jumpin Jammers (.5)
- r. Gage Chiles - Road Runners Fall (.5)
- s. Alex Schmidt - Road Runners Fall (.5)
- t. Sarah Holliday - ES Literacy Facilitator (.5)
- u. Ashley Sinn - ES Literacy Facilitator (.5)
- v. Jessica Bear - Multi-media manager (.5)
- w. Debbie Rager - Multi-media manager (.5)
- x. Ashley Breese - Cougar Pride (.5)
- y. Allison Bertke - Cougar Pride (.5)
- z. Katelyn Shindeldecker - Summer Science Camp (.5)
- aa. Kelsey Luthman - Summer Science Camp (.5)

3. Middle School:

- a. Matthew Warnecke - Middle School Scholastic Bowl Advisor
- b. Christine Gemmer - PBIS
- c. Tami Suzuki - PBIS
- d. Katy Priest - Student Council / Cougar Leaders 8th grade
- e. Rachel Cheney - Student Council / Cougar Leaders 7th grade
- f. Brooke Boznango - Student Council / Cougar Leaders 6th grade
- g. Rachel Cheney - Yearbook
- h. Alexa Terry - Multi-media manager
- i. Marty Hohman - Middle School Robotics Club Advisor
- j. Heather Keller - Middle School After School Club Manager
- k. Bryce Crea - Intramurals (.5)
- l. Ben Laudick - Intramurals (.5)
- m. Melissa Bloomfield - Echo Support
- n. Heidi Arney - 6th Grade Data Manager (.5)
- o. Alexa Terry - 6th Grade Data Manager (.5)
- p. Nicole Gamble - 7th Grade Data Manager (.5)
- q. Kolby Barnhart - 7th Grade Data Manager (.5)
- r. Melissa Bloomfield - 8th Grade Data Manager
- s. Matthew Warnecke - Coordinator of Student Rewards (.5)
- t. Angie Myers - Coordinator of Student Rewards (.5)
- u. Marty Hohman - Coordinator of Student Rewards (full)
- v. Brooke Boznango - 6th Grade RTI
- w. Megan Hurless - 7th Grade RTI
- x. Amie Moonshower - 8th Grade RTI (.5)
- y. Payton Markward - 8th Grade RTI (.5)

4. High School:

- a. Melissa Bloomfield - Chamber Choir
- b. Jeremy Kitson - ECHO Support Staff (.5)
- c. Bob Spath - ECHO Support Staff (.5)
- d. Natoshia Wilhelm - Excalibur
- e. Nicole Gamble - Junior Class Advisor (2 positions)
- f. Krista Baer - Multi-media Manager
- g. Natoshia Wilhelm - National Honor Society Advisor (.5)
- h. Jackie Sroufe - National Honor Society Advisor (.5)
- i. Ryan Benroth - Robotics Club Advisor
- j. Noah Carter - Robotics Club Advisor
- k. Judy Krites - Robotics High School Assistant

- l. Melinda Clymer - RTI Manager
 - m. Nicole McClure - RTI Manager
 - n. Erin Lee - RTI Manager
 - o. Katie Merley - RTI Manager
 - p. Natoshia Wilhelm - RTI Manager
 - q. Jackie Sroufe - RTI Manager
 - r. Danielle Slagle - School Musical - Music Director
 - s. Rachael Dettrow - School Musical - Play Director
 - t. Emily Gehle - School Musical - Assistant Director
 - u. Ben Hemming - School Musical - Pit Orchestra Director
 - v. Danielle Slagle - School Plays - Play Director
 - w. Rachael Dettrow - School Plays - Assistant Play Director
 - x. Maggie Roehm - Senior Project Counselor
 - y. Ava Burkheimer - Senior Project Counselor
 - z. Khandiss Klinger - Spanish Club Advisor
 - aa. Judy Krites - Student Council Advisor
 - ab. Katie Bowersock - Student Council Advisor
 - ac. Jordan Dettrow - Coordinator of Student Rewards
 - ad. Ava Burkheimer - Coordinator of Student Rewards (.5)
 - ae. Maggie Roehm - Coordinator of Student Rewards (.5)
 - af. Traci McCoy - Varsity Club Advisor
5. Athletics
- a. Tom Baer - Middle School Fall Site Coordinator
 - b. Glenn Hicks - Middle School Winter Site Coordinator
 - c. Hannah Phlipot - High School Site Coordinator
 - d. Andrew Peel - Fall Strength Coach
 - e. Rhonda Cunningham - Concession Stand Manager
 - f. Krista Baer - Athletic Media Specialist
 - g. Adam Tussing - Junior Varsity Volunteer Football Coach
6. District and Building Leadership Teams / ECHO Support /
- a. ECC Building and District Leadership Team (Both DLT and BLT)
 - 1. Lori Bittner - Principal (unpaid)
 - 2. Erin Heaslip - Teacher
 - 3. Connor Thome - Teacher
 - b. ECC Building Leadership Team only
 - 1. Alexa Post - Teacher
 - 2. Shelly Place - Teacher
 - c. Elementary Building and District Leadership Team (Both DLT and BLT)
 - 1. Tracy Wehner - Principal (unpaid)
 - 2. Ty Wannemacher - Assistant Principal (unpaid)
 - 3. Samantha Fleming - Teacher
 - 4. Jared Army - Teacher
 - 5. Kim Dowdy - Teacher
 - d. Elementary Building Leadership Team only
 - 1. Brooke Comer - Teacher
 - 2. Jen Slusher - Teacher
 - 3. Andi Sealscott - Teacher
 - 4. Avery Cowan - Teacher
 - 5. Rachel Dettrow - Teacher
 - 6. Ashley Featherston - School Psychologist (unpaid)

- e. Middle School Building and District Leadership Team (Both DLT and BLT)
 - 1. Darla Dunlap - Principal (unpaid)
 - 2. Ben Collins - Assistant Principal (unpaid)
 - 3. Amie Moonshower - Teacher
 - 4. Heidi Arney - Teacher
 - 5. Payton Markward - Teacher
- f. Middle School Building Leadership Team only
 - 1. Brooke Boznango - Teacher
 - 2. Chris Gemmer - Teacher
 - 3. Melissa Bloomfield - Teacher
 - 4. Frankie Bowen - School Counselor
 - 5. Megan Hurless - Teacher
 - 6. Sarah Smith - School Psychologist (unpaid)
- g. High School Building and District Leadership Team
 - 1. Chuck Rollins - Principal (unpaid)
 - 2. Ryan Parrish - Assistant Principal (unpaid)
 - 3. Jordan Dettrow - Teacher
 - 4. Bob Spath - Teacher
 - 5. Kate Merley - Teacher
 - 6. Katie Bowersock - Teacher
- h. High School Building Leadership Team only
 - 1. Maggie Roehm - School Counselor
 - 2. Melinda Clymer - Teacher
 - 3. Mary Kramer - Teacher
 - 4. Jeremy Kitson - Teacher
- i. Goedde Building
 - 1. Rhonda Cunningham - Director (DLT) (unpaid)
 - 2. Karlin Dunlap - Teacher
- j. District Employees (unpaid)
 - 1. Mark Bagley - Superintendent (DLT only)
 - 2. Ruth Ann Dowler - Special Services Coordinator (DLT only)
 - 3. Justin Bragg - Technology Director (DLT only)
 - 4. Chris Covey - Director of Curriculum and Instruction (DLT/BLTs)
- k. Echo Support Staff
 - 1. Nate Hoverman - Elementary School
 - 2. Melissa Bloomfield - Middle School
 - 3. Bob Spath - High School (+20% 6 years experience) (.5)
 - 4. Jeremy Kitson - High School (+20% 6 years experience) (.5)
- l. Mentors/Focused Mentors for the Resident Educator Program
 - 1. Year-1 Mentors (mentors are paid \$500.00)
 - a. Katelyn Shindeldecker (Faith Bruns)
 - b. Betsy Davis (Grace Doctor)
 - c. Sarah Holliday (Kyra Welch)
 - d. Nate Hoverman (Grace Dowler)
 - e. Tiffany Werts (Amari Junkins)
 - f. Katie Bowersock (Alycia Lindeman)
- N. Approve the Service Contract Agreement for vision impaired services with Midwest Regional Educational Service Center for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.
- O. Approve the Service Contract Agreement for hearing/audiology services with Montgomery County Educational Service Center for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.

- P. Approve the Service Contract Agreement between Therapy Solutions, LLC and Van Wert City Schools for physical therapy services for designated students, effective July 1, 2026 to September 12, 2026, as presented.
- Q. Approve the Van Wert City Schools 403(b) Restated Plan to comply with 2022 cumulative list of changes in section 403(b) requirements for 403(b) pre-approved plans and to continue to receive the tax benefits of an IRS pre-approved plan effective January 1, 2026, as presented.
- R. Approve the fleet, liability, and property coverage (declining terrorism coverage) with Stolly Insurance Group and the Ohio School Plan effective September 1, 2026 to September 1, 2027.
- S. Approve the hiring of athletic event/school event workers on an “as needed” basis for the 2026-2027 school year.
- T. Approve the 2026-2027 Athletic Department Handbook as presented.
- U. Approve the monthly financial reports as presented by the Treasurer.
- V. Approve the fiscal year 2027 Financial Forecast based upon the information and assumptions available as of August 26, 2026 as presented.
- W. Approve the Service Contract Agreement for Independence Education Services and Related Services with Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.
- X. Acknowledge the following charitable groups, entities, and individuals for their generous donations to the Van Wert City Schools:
 - 1. YMCA of Van Wert County - \$250.00 to Boys Basketball Activity Fund
 - 2. Van Wert Propane, Inc. - \$250.00 to Boys Basketball Activity Fund
 - 3. George & Laura Scott - \$100.00 to Cross Country Activity Fund
 - 4. Gotcha Electrical Services, LLC - \$150.00 to Cross Country Activity Fund
 - 5. Byron & Stephanie Wells - \$145.00 to Golf Activity Fund
 - 6. Dustin McClain - \$145.00 to Golf Activity Fund
 - 7. Van Wert Tennis Association, Inc. - \$1,600.00 to Athletic Department
 - 8. William & Patricia Gutierrez - \$250.00 to Van Wert Elementary School Activity Fund
 - 9. Midwest Electric, Inc. - \$900.00 to High School Digital Art Grant Fund
 - 10. Cherie Conrad - \$500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 - 11. Camille Frysinger-Jackson - \$500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 - 12. Thomas & Julie Burenga - \$500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 - 13. Dillon & Renee Staas - \$250.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 - 14. Michael & Joyce Cross - \$500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 - 15. Van Wert High School Class of 1976 - \$1,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 - 16. Kendra Wessell - \$250.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 - 17. Weston & Quincy Thompson - \$500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 - 18. Kevin & Linda McGonagle - \$500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 - 19. Denny & Diane Stripe - \$1,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 - 20. Bill Clifton - \$250.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 - 21. Bob Priest - \$250.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 - 22. Trent Temple - \$250.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 - 23. Jerry Buti - \$250.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 - 24. William & Deborah Kelly - \$500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 - 25. Brian & Connie Wood - \$500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute

26. Patrick Crummey - \$1,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
27. Cody & Katie Bowersock - \$500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
28. Christy Wortman - \$250.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
29. Burcham Printing - \$1,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
30. Bruce & Ruth Ann Dowler - \$500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute

XI. Non-consent Resolution(s)

26.08.055

A. Approve the following supplemental contract for the 2026-2027 contract year:

1. District and Building Leadership Team

a. ECC Building and District Leadership Team (Both DLT and BLT)

1. Nicole Adams

Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Debby Compton to approve a supplemental contract for Nicole Adams as ECC Building and District Leadership Team effective for the 2026-2027 contract year, pending all Board policies pertaining to are met.

Vote: Anthony Adams, abstain; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Scot White, yes. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 abstention.

26.08.056

B. Approve the architect/engineer agreement with Garmann/Miller & Associates, Inc. for Bus Maintenance & Storage Building and Middle School/High School Asphalt Replacement as presented.

Motion was made by Julie Burenga and seconded by Greg Blackmore to approve the architect agreement with Garmann/Miller & Associates, Inc. for Bus Maintenance & Storage Building and Middle School/High School Asphalt Replacement as presented. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Scott White, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

XII. 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. Nicole McClure - Bachelor's to Bachelor's + 10

XIII. Acknowledge notification from the City of Van Wert of residential CRA applications as presented:

A. Elite Equity Holdings LLC - 326 and 328 N. Wayne St., Van Wert, OH 45891

XIV. Special Education Notice: Van Wert City Schools will offer a public meeting to provide the opportunity for public comment on the district's use of IDEA Part B funds with recommendations or suggestions for special education programs and services. Ruth Ann Dowler and Nicole Adams will be available for this meeting on September 9, 2026, at 5:00pm in the Goedde Building conference room, or by appointment at a later time.

26.08.057

XV. 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 Debby Compton and seconded by Greg Blackmore to go into Executive Session at 5:41 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; Scott White, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting reconvened at 6:41 p.m.

26.08.058

XVI. Adjournment

Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Julie Burenga to adjourn the Meeting at 6:42 p.m. Vote: Ayes - 5; Nays – 0

Next Meeting Date

The next scheduled regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 23, 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