

**VERMILION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ORGANIZATIONAL & REGULAR MEETING AT 6:00 PM
JANUARY 12, 2026
VHS COMMONS**

Every adult helping every child succeed today, tomorrow, and beyond!

This is a meeting of the Vermilion Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business, and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated on the agenda. Vermilion Board Bylaw 0169.1.

ALTERNATIVE TAX BUDGET HEARING

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

A. Call to Order

B. Pledge of Allegiance with the VES December Citizens of the Month who demonstrated that they are empathetic individuals:

Hannah Knox	Amelia Pierce	Bowie Kinney
Olivia Alten	Ava Wilson	Cashden Orticari-Wilson
Lucas Stuckart	Hazel Seymore	Madison Young
Garrett Fisher	Paisley Luman	Tristan Millis
Ivy Rhoades	Daisy Werner	Ava Thompson
Savion Ogletree	Hadlee Janda	Chloe Jakopak
Wesley Rose	Salina Vickers	Skylar Seymore

C. Administer Oath of Office - Treasurer Justin Klingshirn

- ❖ Sarah Stepp
- ❖ Jill Treece
- ❖ Willa Dunn - Student Board Member

D. Roll Call

Mrs. Innes ____; Mr. Benson ____; Mrs. Stepp ____; Mrs. Russell ____;
Mrs. Treece ____; Miss Dodge ____; Miss Dunn ____

E. Election of Officers for 2026

1. President Pro Tem

Nominations: _____

Motioned by: _____ Seconded by: _____

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Innes _____; Mr. Benson _____; Mrs. Stepp _____;
Mrs. Russell _____; Mrs. Treece _____; Miss Dodge _____; Miss Dunn _____

2. President

Nominations: _____

Motioned by: _____ Seconded by: _____

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Innes _____; Mr. Benson _____; Mrs. Stepp _____;
Mrs. Russell _____; Mrs. Treece _____; Miss Dodge _____; Miss Dunn _____

3. Vice President

Nominations: _____

Motioned by: _____ Seconded by: _____

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Innes _____; Mr. Benson _____; Mrs. Stepp _____;
Mrs. Russell _____; Mrs. Treece _____; Miss Dodge _____; Miss Dunn _____

4. Appoint _____ to serve as **Legislative Liaison with the Ohio School Boards Association for 2026.**

Nominations: _____

Motioned by: _____ Seconded by: _____

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Innes _____; Mr. Benson _____; Mrs. Stepp _____;
Mrs. Russell _____; Mrs. Treece _____; Miss Dodge _____; Miss Dunn _____

5. Appoint _____ to serve as **Student Achievement Liaison** with the Ohio School Boards Association for 2026.

Nominations: _____

Motioned by: _____ Seconded by: _____

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Innes _____; Mr. Benson _____; Mrs. Stepp _____;
Mrs. Russell _____; Mrs. Treece _____; Miss Dodge _____; Miss Dunn _____

F. New Board President Presiding - Recommend a resolution to approve the following Standing Resolutions for 2026:

1. To establish the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00 PM for the day and time of Regular Board Meetings for 2026 to be held at Vermilion High School in the Commons, 1250 Sanford St., Vermilion OH 44089.

February 9, 2026	June 8, 2026	October 12, 2026
March 9, 2026	July 13, 2026	November 9, 2026
April 13, 2026	August 10, 2026	December 14, 2026
May 11, 2026	September 14, 2026	

2. Designate the **Vermilion Photojournal** as the **Official Newspaper**.
3. Direct the Treasurer to provide copies of the minutes of the last meeting two (2) days prior to the next Regular meeting, and to **waive the reading of the minutes** if said is done.
4. **Authorize the Treasurer to:**

- ❖ Pay on abstracts and invoices, monthly salaries and bills with the approved appropriations;
- ❖ Request from the Erie and Lorain County Auditor's advances on tax settlements as monies are collected;
- ❖ Invest the funds of the district as they are available;
- ❖ Establish funds as necessary when requested by law or Auditor of State;
- ❖ Approve student activity funds purpose statements and budgets;
- ❖ Open and read bids immediately after the time for filing of bids has expired;

- ❖ Establish a service fund in the amount allowed by law of \$3,500.00 for the Board of Education within the general fund for the remainder of fiscal year 2026 and fiscal year 2027;
- ❖ Authorize the Treasurer to submit the Alternative Tax Budget for fiscal year 2026 to the Budget Commission in a timely manner;
- ❖ Authorize the Treasurer to serve as the designee of the members of the Board of Education for Public Records Training as required by law;
- ❖ Authorize the Treasurer to reduce the salary of an employee for approved unpaid leave.

5. Authorize the Superintendent or his designee to:

- ❖ Act as the Purchasing Agent;
- ❖ Approve the emergency and temporary employment of personnel in compliance with policy;
- ❖ Accept resignations of personnel on behalf of the Board of Education;
- ❖ Authorize the building principals and Director of Athletics to sign contracts such as student activity contracts, student pictures, school yearbooks, athletic contests, and the like;
- ❖ Appoint the Superintendent or his designee as the Board of Education's hearing officer for appeals of suspensions of students;
- ❖ Appoint Lisa Dobinson, Teacher, to serve on the Vermilion City Parks and Recreation Board for 2026;
- ❖ Authorize the Superintendent to approve participation in state and federal programs and grants, and authorize him to appoint designees to represent Vermilion for FY27.

6. Appoint Pepple & Waggoner Ltd. as general legal counsel.

Motioned by: _____ Seconded by: _____

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Innes _____; Mr. Benson _____; Mrs. Stepp _____;
Mrs. Russell _____; Mrs. Treece _____; Miss Dodge _____; Willa Dunn _____

REGULAR MEETING

- I. Legislative Report -**
- II. Student Liaison Report -**
- III. Student Board Member Report -**
- IV. Public Participation on Agenda Items Only -** This time is allotted for community members to speak to the Board regarding an item(s) on this agenda. Please register your name, address, topic, and group affiliation (if applicable).

- ❖ Time Allotted: 30 minutes total. Individuals should keep their time to 3 minutes or less. The Board President reserves the right to limit a speaker's time.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ **JANUARY IS SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH** in Ohio and the Vermilion Local Schools, and thus I urge all citizens to join me in recognizing the dedication and hard work of local school board members.

School Board Recognition Month - January 2026

WHEREAS, our community values a quality education as a vital step along the pathway to success for our children; and

WHEREAS, Sara Stepp, Krystal Russell, Shelly Innes, Mark Benson, Jill Treece, Paige Dodge and Willa Dunn contribute greatly to this community through their service on the Vermilion Local School Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, these local decision-makers set the policies and procedures to govern all aspects of school district operation; and

WHEREAS, the school board keeps attention focused on progress toward the school district's goals and maintains two-way communications with all segments of the community; and

WHEREAS, these school board members are serving our community with integrity, honor, and a commitment to our children's future;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Wes Weaver, do hereby declare my appreciation to the members of the Vermilion Local School Board and proclaim the month of January 2026, as **School Board Recognition Month** in Vermilion Local Schools. I hereby urge all citizens to join me in recognizing the dedication and hard work of local school board members, and in working with

them to provide an education system that helps every adult help every child succeed today, tomorrow, and beyond.

❖ **Presentation** - Andrew Perry, VHS Principal presents his results from Principal Entry Plan

A. Recommend a resolution for the Board to approve the revisions of District Policies for the second first read (Attachment A).

- ❖ Policy 4162 Drug and Alcohol testing of CDL license holders
- ❖ Policy 4162.01 Drug and Alcohol testing of CDL license holders who transport Students in alternate vehicles (non-DOT testing)
- ❖ Policy 8600 Transportation
- ❖ Policy 8600.04 Bus and Alternative Driver Certification
- ❖ Policy 8640 Transportation for Non-Routine Trips
- ❖ Policy 8650 Transportation by Alternative Vehicles

Motion: _____ Seconded: _____

Mrs. Innes _____; Mr. Benson _____; Mrs. Stepp _____; Mrs. Russell _____;
Mrs. Treece _____; Miss Dodge _____; Miss Dunn _____

B. Recommend a resolution to review Policy 2261.01 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability for its annual review (Attachment B).

Motion: _____ Seconded: _____

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Innes _____; Mr. Benson _____; Mrs. Stepp _____;
Mrs. Russell _____; Mrs. Treece _____; Miss Dodge _____; Miss Dunn _____

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Recommend a resolution to the Board to approve the Financial Report for December 2025 (Attachment C).

Motion: _____ Seconded: _____

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Innes _____; Mr. Benson _____; Mrs. Stepp _____;
Mrs. Russell _____; Mrs. Treece _____; Miss Dodge _____; Miss Dunn _____

B. Recommend a resolution to the Board to approve the following donations:

- ❖ \$600.00 from William and Georgia Orwig to VHS Speech and Debate
- ❖ \$176.00 from Vermilion Athletic Boosters to Peer Leadership/TLC
- ❖ \$103.00 from Vermilion Athletic Boosters to the Class of 2030
- ❖ \$400.00 from Grace United Methodist Church to eSports
- ❖ \$2,000.00 from Edward and Barbara Kobal to the Matt Kobal Scholarship

Motion: _____ Seconded: _____

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Innes _____; Mr. Benson _____; Mrs. Stepp _____;
Mrs. Russell _____; Mrs. Treece _____; Miss Dodge _____; Miss Dunn _____

- C.** Recommend a resolution to the Board to approve the Ritter Public Library Trustee appointment of Mary Deucher to fill the vacated term of Joseph Weeks that expires on December 31, 2030.

Motion: _____ Seconded: _____

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Innes _____; Mr. Benson _____; Mrs. Stepp _____;
Mrs. Russell _____; Mrs. Treece _____; Miss Dodge _____; Miss Dunn _____

- D.** Recommend a resolution to the Board to approve the 2026-2027 Alternative Tax Budget (Attachment D).

Motion: _____ Seconded: _____

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Innes _____; Mr. Benson _____; Mrs. Stepp _____;
Mrs. Russell _____; Mrs. Treece _____; Miss Dodge _____; Miss Dunn _____

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

The Superintendent and Treasurer recommend that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda items. Action by the Board of Education in “Adoption of the Consent Agenda” means that all items are adopted by one vote unless a member of the Board, the Treasurer, or the Superintendent requests that any such item be removed from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately.

- A.** Approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of December 8, 2025.
(Attachment E).
- B.** Approve the November 15-November 21, 2026 Vermilion Marching Band and Choir overnight trip to Orlando at a cost of approximately \$1,568-\$1,622 per student (Attachment F).
- C.** Approve the payment of \$500.00 to each of the following twice per year for the

2025-2026 school year per the VTA Negotiated Agreement for the LPDC committee:

- ❖ Nikki Fritz-Garcia
- ❖ Jennifer Higley
- ❖ Kelly Dupaski
- ❖ Heidi Riddle
- ❖ Mike Kacur
- ❖ Breanna Rebman

D. Approve the Employment Action:

Maternity Leave:

- ❖ Updated: Kristen Schon January 5, 2026-April 10, 2026
- ❖ Nicole West, April 18, 2026- May 28, 2026

Leave of Absence:

- ❖ Allison Keating, 2026-2027 school year

E. Approve the 2025-2026 Classified Substitute Contract for Bradford Huntley, Substitute Bus Monitor.

F. Approve the Substitute Administrator Contract for John Lukasko at at per diem rate of \$400.00 per day beginning January 6, 2026 for up to six weeks.

G. Approve the One (1) year Additional Duties Contract for the 2025-2026 school year to the following:

- ❖ Olivia Eldridge, Assistant Director Major Musical, Level 11, Step 0
- ❖ Grace Robinson, Assistant Drama Director, Level 9, Step 2
- ❖ Grace Robinson, Orchestra Director Major Musical, Level 10, Step 2
- ❖ Shawna Stillman, SMS Girls Intramurals 2nd semester, Level 7, Step 6
- ❖ Kenneth Ryan, SMS Boys Intramurals 2nd semester, Level 7, Step 6

Items to be removed from the Consent Agenda:

Motion: _____ Seconded: _____

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Innes _____; Mr. Benson _____; Mrs. Stepp _____;
Mrs. Russell _____; Mrs. Treece _____; Miss Dodge _____; Miss Dunn _____

VIII. Dates and location of upcoming Board meetings. Meetings will be held in the Vermilion High School Commons, 1250 Sanford St., Vermilion at 6:00 PM, unless otherwise noted.

- ❖ Regular Meeting - Monday, February 9, 2026
- ❖ Regular Meeting - Monday, March 9, 2026
- ❖ Regular Meeting - Monday, April 13, 2026

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Public Participation section of the Board of Education's agenda is specifically designed for the public to address the Board with their compliments, concerns, ideas, and/or questions. The Board welcomes your comments. If you wish to address the Board regarding an issue, the Board would remind you of two things: first, your comments should be factual and respectful of the rights of others, and second, before coming to the Board with an issue, you should have first addressed it with the appropriate teacher, staff member, or administrator. This meeting of the Board of Education in public is for the purpose of conducting the School District's business.

- ❖ Time Allotted: 30 minutes total. Individuals should keep their time to 3 minutes or less. The Board President reserves the right to limit a speaker's time.

X. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(1), I hereby move that the Board adjourned to executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee.

Motion: _____ Seconded: _____

Mrs. Innes _____; Mr. Benson _____; Mrs. Stepp _____; Mrs. Russell _____;
Mrs. Treece _____; Miss Dodge _____; Miss Dunn _____
Time into Executive Session: _____ Time out of Executive Session: _____

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: _____ Seconded: _____

Mrs. Innes _____; Mr. Benson _____; Mrs. Stepp _____; Mrs. Russell _____;
Mrs. Treece _____; Miss Dodge _____; Miss Dunn _____

Time adjourned: _____