Arcanum-Butler Local School District
REGULAR
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING UPDATE
October 13, 2026

Present: Mr. Norris, Mr. Fearon, Mr. Moore, Mr. Trask, Mrs. Zimmer

APPROVED:

- Minutes from the regular meeting held September 10, 2026, and the agenda for the October 13, 2026 meeting. (vote – all yea)
- Financial Report, as presented by the Treasurer. (vote – all yea)
- Expenditure not to exceed $154,112 for the purchase of a school bus from Rush Truck Center. (vote – all yea)
- Donation from Arcanum Youth Football in the amount of $1200 for purchase of yardage markers and pylons. (vote – all yea)
- Expenditure not to exceed $8,658 to repair and paint the Fieldhouse exterior by CertaPro Painters. (vote – all yea)
- Cristina Engle as sub school crossing guard effective September 14, 2026. (vote – all yea)
- High school participation in indoor track for the 2026-2027 school year. (vote – all yea)
- Schedule wrestling matches on selected Wednesday evenings. (vote – all yea)
- Following volunteer coach: Isaac Brown – JH Wrestling. (vote – all yea)
- Anastacia Baker as a classified sub. (vote – all yea)
- Resignation for the purpose of retirement, Sherri Kelly, effective June 4, 2027. (vote – all yea)
- Contract addendum for John Stephens – Superintendent, for the contract ending July 31, 2031. (vote – all yea)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Accolades and Announcements
    - ♦ What a great Homecoming Week! Thank you to Mr. Cates and staff for helping making it a special week for students.
    - ♦ Congratulations to our girl's golf team who qualified for the State Golf Tournament! It's the first time a girls team has qualified since 1995. The girls competed at Akron Firestone GC. Congrats to Coach Warner and the Lady Trojans!
    - ♦ Congrats to our boy's golf team who finished an outstanding year. The boys were WOAC and Sectional Champs! They set two school records for low 9 and 18 team scores. Luke Stephens was WOAC Player of the Year and Sectional Champion. Coach Bryant was named WOAC Coach of the Year.
    - ♦ The Principals and Gifted Coordinator, Andrea Painting, led the staff PD during the early dismissal on October 2. The focus was on completing Reading Improvement Plans for our qualifying students as well as Written Education Plans for our identified gifted students.
    - ♦ Congratulations to our Marching Band who qualified for OMEA State Competition by earning a "Superior – 1" Rating.
    - ♦ In recognition of the upcoming National School Lunch Week, October 12-16, I would like to thank Doug Surber and our Cafeteria Staff for efforts to not only meet the nutritional needs of our students, but for providing an abundant of great options for our kids and staff.
    - ♦ The week of October 19-23 is National School Bus Safety Week: **"Safe Rides, Everyday Heroes"** Many thanks to the transportation department and drivers for all of their daily efforts to keep our students safe.

- School Operations and Updates
    - Booster Stadium Update
    - Buildings & Grounds Report
    - 2025-2026 Report Card
    - Policy – First Read

PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS:

- **Elementary**
    - Continuous Goal #1: The district will maintain academic excellence with instruction that will support the unique educational needs of every student.
        - During the 2-hour early release on October 2, teachers developed reading improvement and monitoring plans (RIMPS) for students who are not on track in reading, and written education plans (WEPS) for students who have been identified in gifted areas. Students on RIMPS are receiving interventions to build their reading skills, and students on WEPS participate in enrichment and challenging activities and an enhanced curriculum.
        - Teachers have spent extra time outside of the classroom learning the many different resources and materials i-Ready and Into Reading has to enhance their instruction.
        - AELC has been busy assessing students and working on recognizing letters and numbers using a variety of hands-on activities. The staff does an excellent job using the Heggerty program to teach letters and sounds.
        - Kindergarten students focused on a letter each day to begin the school year and focused on the letter and sound doing a variety of activities as part of their ABC Bootcamp.
        - All 1st grade students were given the Tier 1 Dyslexia Screener, and students who were flagged as having weaknesses in early literacy are receiving intensive intervention in those areas. Thank you to Kelly Guillozet and Amanda Herzog for administering the screener.
        - Second and Third grade students have been learning a variety of science concepts through hands-on labs.
        - Fourth grade students are reviewing writing skills and working hard to integrate these strategies into all content areas.
        - Third grade students will be taking the Fall ELA state assessment on October 21 and 22. They will be taking the paper and pencil version of the test. The 3rd grade teachers along with Mrs. Shepherd and Mrs. Glasscoe have been reviewing test taking skills to help the students be successful.
        - All students learned about the history of September 11 and participated in a district wide memorial ceremony and planted flags in the school entrance for each life lost that day.
        - First grade students visited Brumbaugh's Fruit Farm in September. The students learned about apples and pumpkins and had a fun time with their classmates and teachers.
    - Continuous Goal #2: The district will promote pride and the traditions of Arcanum-Butler Local Schools – "The Trojan Way".
        - Thank you to Ashley Matheson and Megan Smith for planning our annual Start with Hello Week. Students participated in activities to promote kindness and positive interactions.
        - Congratulations to our Elementary Student Council Members who will be organizing different service and leadership opportunities for the elementary students. The members are Kennedy Brown, Ryder Clapp, Alex Clopp, Cooper Glasscoe, Ansley Gray, Avery Jones, Carsyn Means, Bailey Tegtmeyer, and Eli Wick. Thank you to Cassie Bixler and Kami Smith for leading this great group of students.
        - Congratulations to the September Students of the Month for demonstrating the character trait of kindness: Emory Jones, Warren Burns, Vera Bartle, Kellen Fledderjohn, Arie Vore, Laikyn Brubaker, Abby McCracken, Amelia Koogler, Blakely Holman, Lorelai Greve, Nila Bixler, Melody Griffith, Kayden Woods, Lily McCracken, Adelynn Hoop, Toby Moore. RJ McCracken, Grace Schwieterman, Leland Batten, Jayde Besecker. The students celebrated their award with donuts and games with Mrs. Pechie.
        - Ashley Matheson and Megan Smith are leading our kindergarten students through *The Incredible Years* program this year. This social-emotional learning program provides

students with meaningful opportunities to develop important skills such as identifying and managing emotions, building positive relationships, solving problems, and making responsible choices.

- Continuous Goal #3: The district will provide learning opportunities that prepare students to excel in a modern society.
  - Thank you to the Arcanum VFW for inviting our students to see America's Freedom Tribute Traveling Wall**.** This experience provided students with an opportunity to learn about the sacrifices made by the brave men and women who have served our country and to reflect on the freedoms we are fortunate to enjoy each day.
  - Katlynn Zell and SADD students lead a lesson in kindness for AELC students. The preschool students enjoyed working with the high school ladies.
  - Thank you to Abbey and the Athletic Department for recognizing our youth cheerleaders and football players at a recent Varsity game.
  - The PTO had their first meeting of the school year to brainstorm different ideas and events for the school year. Kindergarten Club also welcomed new officers and families to the club with an introductory meeting. Teachers gave classroom updates and parents were able to ask questions about the daily routines and procedures.
  - The AELC staff welcomed local UPS driver, Dave, into their classroom to talk about his job and how he helps the Arcanum community through his delivery service.

- **Middle School**
  - Continuous Improvement Goal #1 – The district will maintain academic excellence with instruction that will support the unique educational needs of every student.
    - A key focus in October for Arcanum-Butler Middle School will be identifying students who scored in the 690–710 range on last year's state assessments and cross-referencing those results with the most recent value-added data. This will allow us to more intentionally identify students who may be positioned for additional academic growth and provide targeted enrichment opportunities, instructional supports, and learning experiences designed to challenge students and help them continue progressing academically. Staff will be focusing on this during both of our October staff meetings.
    - Goal meetings have been completed with all middle school teachers. These meetings provided an opportunity to review individual and team goals, discuss areas of focus for the school year, and ensure alignment with building and district priorities.
    - During our September staff meeting, the Middle School team completed a grade-level pulse check to review how the school year has started and identify areas needing attention. Staff also discussed student academic and behavior concerns and RTI supports, academic progress checks, consistency in expectations and practices across each grade level, and continued identifying students who are leading The Trojan Way throughout the school day.
    - The JH Academic Team, led by Emilie Rice, is officially underway for the 2026–2027 school year. Mrs. Rice visited Flex classes on September 28 to introduce and promote the team to students, and the group held its first practice on October 2. The Academic Team provides students with another opportunity to challenge themselves, work collaboratively, and represent Arcanum-Butler through academic competition.
    - The 4th–6th Grade Darke County Arts in Education Program is scheduled for October 7. This year, we are excited to welcome Kattam, who is part Québécois and part Moroccan. Kattam began his musical journey with classical training in piano, singing, and percussion, and his passion for world music and travel has led to a wide variety of musical experiences around the globe. The Arts in Education program continues to be a great opportunity for our students to experience the arts in a unique and engaging way, make connections between the arts and their everyday lives, and discover opportunities that may be available to them as they continue their educational journey.
  - Continuous Improvement Goal #2: The district will promote pride and the traditions of Arcanum-Butler Local Schools – "The Trojan Way".

- Congratulations to our September Students of the Month (kindness): *5th grade* – Brody Overholser & Caroline VanCulin; *6th grade* – Zane Rhodehamel & Amaya Knittle-Morales; *7th grade* – Nolan Prickett & Luna Schellhaas; *8th grade* – Kreed Elston & Adelyn Hoskins
- Congratulations to our September T-Shirt Tuesday Winners! These students were nominated by staff members for going above and beyond in our school, district, and/or community. We are proud to recognize students who consistently demonstrate leadership, kindness, responsibility, and what it means to represent The Trojan Way: Spencer Eshelman (5th grade) and Amelia Flatter (7th grade).
- Congratulations to our newly elected Middle School Student Council members for the 2026–2027 school year! Student Council provides students with an opportunity to develop leadership skills, represent their classmates, and help promote a positive school culture. We look forward to seeing this group take an active role in supporting school activities, student voice, and The Trojan Way throughout the year. *5th grade* – Olivia Paulus, Kamryn Hoskins, Brady Bixler, Parker James; *6th grade* – Norah Gilbert, Cate Kessler, Case Matheson, Easton Woods; *7th grade* – Navie Moore, Afton Knight, Colton Hatfield, Alex Psczulkoski; *8th grade* – Alex James, Emma Warren, Noah Harleman, Ben Noe.
- LifeWise has officially begun for the 2026–2027 school year. Current enrollment includes 29 fifth graders, 14 sixth graders, 19 seventh graders, and 4 eighth graders. Fifth- and sixth-grade students participate on Mondays, while seventh- and eighth-grade students attend on Thursdays. In addition to the program itself, LifeWise provides a valuable character education component that connects well with our continued focus on The Trojan Way, reinforcing qualities such as respect, responsibility, positive decision-making, and serving others.

- Continuous Improvement Goal #3: The district will provide learning opportunities that prepare students to excel in a modern society.
  - Our 8th grade students visited the Miami Valley Career Technology Center (MVCTC) on September 10 and 11.Students spent time touring the campus and learning about the 42 programs available to students. This was a great opportunity for students to begin exploring future options and learning more about the programs available through MVCTC.
  - The MS SS Dept. had a busy and meaningful September, providing students with several opportunities to connect classroom learning to important moments in our nation's history. Lessons and activities focused on the 25th anniversary of September 11, the Traveling Vietnam Wall at the local VFW, and Constitution Day.
  - We are excited to offer 20 different clubs for students to choose from this year! Clubs meet once a month and give students a great opportunity to step outside the regular classroom, connect with peers and staff members, explore new interests, and showcase their talents and skills to their classmates. A big thank you to the A-B teaching staff for giving their time and providing these fun and meaningful opportunities for our students!
  - As part of National Manufacturing Day (recognized on Oct. 1), our 8th grade students visited Henny Penny to learn more about modern manufacturing and the wide range of careers available in the industry. Students had the opportunity to see real-world manufacturing processes, explore different career pathways, and better understand the skills and technology used in today's workforce. This experience was another valuable opportunity to connect classroom learning with future career possibilities.
  - Next up for our 8th grade students is a college visit to the University of Dayton on October 14. This experience will give students an opportunity to explore a college campus, learn more about postsecondary options, and continue thinking about the many pathways available to them after high school.
- Additional Notes.
  - A Washington, D.C. parent meeting was held on September 16 to provide families with important information about the upcoming 8th grade trip. Thank you to Mrs. Tegtmeyer and Mrs. Garbig for leading the meeting, as well as Mr. Troutwine for voluntarily taking

an active role in supporting the trip. We also appreciate K&K Tours for their continued partnership in helping provide this opportunity for our students.

- A special thank you to Mrs. Painting and our Middle School/High School students for helping make Cancer Awareness Night on Friday, September 18 a success. Their efforts helped create a meaningful evening that brought our students, staff, and community together in support of those impacted by cancer.
- Start With Hello Week was held the week of September 21. Throughout the week, students participated in activities focused on building connections, including others, and helping ensure that every student feels welcomed and supported at Arcanum-Butler Middle School. The week tied in well with our continued emphasis on The Trojan Way and creating a positive school culture. Thanks to Ashley Matheson and Megan Smith along with our L.E.A.D. group (formally We Are the Majority) for organizing this event.
- Homework Club kicked off on September 22 under the direction of Mrs. Griesdorn and Mrs. Heather Whittaker. The program, which meets each Tuesday and Thursday, provides students with an additional opportunity after school to complete assignments, receive academic support, and develop strong study habits. We appreciate Mrs. Griesdorn's and Mrs. Whittaker's willingness to lead this valuable support for our students.
- A district-wide lockdown drill was conducted on September 23. Middle School students and staff responded well and followed established safety procedures throughout the drill. Thank you to SRO Wilt and the administrative team for their assistance in coordinating the drill and helping ensure a safe and organized process.
- On October 2, students were dismissed two hours early to provide staff with dedicated professional work time. During the afternoon, teachers focused on developing Written Education Plans (WEPs) for our identified gifted students, as well as Reading improvement and Monitoring Plans (RIMPs) for students who have been identified as struggling readers. This time allowed staff to review student data, identify individual needs, and create targeted plans to support continued academic growth.

- **High School**
  - Continuous Improvement Goal #1 – The district will maintain academic excellence with instruction that will support the unique educational needs of every student.
    - In September, all teachers have created their goals for the school year. I have met with each teacher and will meet with them throughout the year to review their goals.
  - Continuous Improvement Goal #2: The district will promote pride and the traditions of Arcanum-Butler Local Schools – "The Trojan Way".
    - Teacher evaluations using the Ohio Evaluation System have been started and will continue throughout the school year. All teachers have also turned in their classroom syllabus, emergency sub plans, and behavior plan.
    - I want to congratulate our students, staff, and organizer, Mrs. Painting, for the great work with the Blood Drive. This was our first Blood Drive of the year!
  - Continuous Improvement Goal #3: The district will provide learning opportunities that prepare students to excel in a modern society.
    - As a high school staff, we will be focusing on promoting the values of accountability, honesty, and service to our students throughout the school year. The staff will be promoting these activities in a variety of ways throughout the school year. One example is in the selection of our Students of the Month. The September Students of the Month, recognized for their positive attitudes, were Laci Dillman (freshman), Rayon Landes (sophomore), Katie Bradford (junior), and Joey Clopp (senior).
  - Additional Notes.
    - During the two hour early release professional development opportunity, we were able to work with Mrs. Andrea Painting on WEPS. Thank you, Andrea!
    - Congratulations to our 2026 Homecoming Court! Freshmen – Elexie Fout and Wyatt Bixler; Sophomore – Katrina Baker and Paxton Besecker; Juniors – Addie Macy and Istvan Sallai; Senior girls – Eden Bird, Ella Flatter, Emily Fox, Cameron Garbig, Jordyn

Garbig, Claire Hein and Brycelin Troutwine, Senior boys – Gideon Garno, Carson Hamilton, Jace Mote, Luke Stephens, Wolfgang Stites and Haiden Vencil.

- Congrats to Mrs. Berry and our marching band for earning a bid to state at the Bowling Green competition (the first competition of the year)!
- JAFE hosted a visit for our students in honor of National Manufacturing Day.
- Congratulations to our Boys Golf Team on being named WOAC Champs! Luke Stephens was named WOAC Player of the Year for the second year in a row, and Andy Bryant earned WOAC Coach of the Year honors. Our Girls Golf Team came from behind to also become WOAC Champs! Congratulations to Coach Jesse Warner on being named WOAC Coach of the Year. Both teams advanced to Districts. The boys won the Sectional, and the girls finished third. Great job to both teams on an outstanding season! The girls also advanced to state for the first time since 1995 as they were District Runner Ups!
- I would also like to give a shout out to the FCCLA and Mrs. Painting for a successful Walk for Cancer. The FCCLA raised over $800 during Cancer Awareness Week. The entire district participated in Caps for Cancer, FCCLA sold luminary bags for the remembrance walk after the game, and the FCS classes made over 500 bags of treats for the bake sale during Friday night's game! About 20 student volunteers helped before, during, and after the game to make this event a success! All proceeds will be donated to the local Arcanum Bunco for Breast Cancer group.

Adjourned at 8:13 p.m.