VAN WERT CITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 23, 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, Todd Keller.**

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America – **Recited by attendees in unison**

III. Vision / Mission – **Recited by Julie Burenga**

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.

26.09.059

V. Set Agenda
Motion was made by Debby Compton and seconded by Greg Blackmore to accept the September 23, 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. Curriculum, Instruction, District Report Card / Educational Impact Presentation:
A. State of the District Discussion - Mark Bagley, Superintendent, and Chris Covey, Director of Curriculum

VII. Board Member Section/Reports from Board Representatives (discussion only)
A. Vantage Board Report - *Provided an update on the Vantage Academy of Medical Careers renovation project that is nearly complete.*
B. VWAPAF Report - *No report*
C. VWASIG - *Reviewed information from September VWASIG Trustees meeting that included a financial update, rate increases for 2027 plan year, and upcoming insurance open enrollment.*
D. Athletic Council – *Discussed the September 18, 2026 Eggerss Stadium rededication and expressed appreciation to Trent Temple, Athletic Administrator, and district staff for planning/coordinating the celebration event.*
E. Safety Team - *No report*

VIII. Treasurer's Section
Business and Records - *Mr. Bowersock shared with the Board of Education the August 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 September 23, 2026 fiscal year 2027 permanent appropriations, presented an updated Eggerss Stadium project budget, and lastly discussed the upcoming insurance open enrollment.*

IX. Assistant Superintendent's Section - *Mr. Priest reviewed the continued buildings and grounds maintenance planning to address the district's future needs and updated the Board of Education on plans for the purchase of a replacement bus. He also expressed his appreciation for the cooperation and efforts of staff, the Van Wert Fire Department, and local law officials in responding to the recent smoke/fire incident involving a HVAC unit at the Elementary School. Lastly, Priest indicated that the annual transportation count week for funding purposes will take place October 5-9, 2026.*

X. Superintendent's Section - *Mr. Bagley discussed with the Board of Education activities that are taking place throughout the district including the upcoming 8th grade Washington DC class trip. He provided an update on staffing for the 2026-2027 school year and reviewed Phase IV of the Eggerss Stadium restoration project, which highlighted the recent stadium rededication that took place on September 18, 2026. Lastly, Bagley closed his report with a legislative update.*

26.09.060

XI. Consent Resolutions
Motion was made by Julie Burenga and seconded by Debby Compton to approve the consent items "A through L" 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 Christine Amstutz from her position as early childhood center paraprofessional, effective at the beginning of the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.
B. Approve Joseph Balyeat as a high school language arts teacher at the Van Wert School at the Goedde, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective September 15, 2026, as presented.
C. Approve Austin Mitchell as a full-time bus driver, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.
D. Approve the minutes from the regular Board meeting held on August 26, 2026.
E. Approve the monthly financial reports as presented by the Treasurer.

F. Approve the following supplemental contracts, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2026-2027 contract year as presented:
    1. Athletics
        a. Spring Head Coaches
            1. Nate Hoverman - Boys and Girls Track & Field
            2. Sean Kennedy - Softball
            3. Mitch Price - Boys Tennis
        b. Winter Strength Coach
            1. Andrew Peel
        c. Winter Assistant Coaches
            1. Boys Basketball
                a. Damian Helm - Varsity Assistant
                b. Ben Shindeldecker - Junior Varsity
                c. Drew Bagley - 9th grade
                d. Tom Baer - 8th grade
                e. Nate Hoverman - 7th grade
            2. Girls Basketball
                a. Alexis Burdette - Varsity Assistant
                b. Erika Racster - Junior Varsity
                c. Sierra Poulson - 8th grade
                d. Allison Schaufelberger - 7th grade
            3. Boys and Girls Bowling
                a. Brock Blackmore - Assistant
                b. Jim Davis - Assistant
            4. Wrestling
                a. Terrin Contreras - High School Assistant
                b. Nick Pauff - High School Assistant
                c. Isaiah Bretz - Middle School
            5. Swimming
                a. Nicole Byrum - Assistant
            6. Cheer (Winter)
                a. Katie Parrish - Middle School

G. Approve the annual 8th grade class trip to Washington DC, for 94 students and 13 Adult chaperones, Monday, October 19, 2026 through Thursday, October 22, 2026, as presented.

H. Approve the Service Contract Agreement for Comprehensive Gifted Services and Comprehensive Teaching & Learning Services with Mercer County Educational Service Center for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.

I Approve the Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources for fiscal year 2027 as presented.

J. Approve the fiscal year 2027 Permanent Appropriations totaling $38,252,085.96 as presented.

K. Approve a resolution to participate in the Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council cooperative school bus purchasing program as follows:

Whereas the Van Wert City School District Board of Education wishes to advertise and receive bids for the purchase of one(1) school bus.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Van Wert City School District Board of Education wishes to participate and authorize the Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council to advertise and receive bids on said Boards' behalf as per the specifications submitted for the cooperative purchase of one(1) school bus.

L. Acknowledge the following charitable groups, entities, and individuals for their generous donations to the Van Wert City Schools:

1. Greve Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram - $900.00 to Van Wert Middle School PBIS
2. Van Wert Bedrooms - $100.00 to Van Wert Middle School PBIS
3. Sealscott CPA Inc. - $100.00 to Van Wert Middle School PBIS
4. Alspach-Gearhart Funeral Home & Crematory - $100.00 to Van Wert Middle School PBIS
5. VWMS Staff Activity Fund - $1,728.00 to Van Wert Middle School PBIS
6. Lee Kinstle Sales and Service - $900.00 to Van Wert Middle School PBIS
7. StateWide Ford - $900.00 to Van Wert Middle School PBIS
8. First Federal Van Wert - $900.00 to Van Wert Middle School PBIS
9. Quality Technology Services, LLC - $1,500.00 to Middle School Robotics
10. Van Wert Service Club - $1,200.00 to Summer Speech Program
11. Raymond James Charitable / Cooper Family Foundation - $2,000.00 to High School Academics
12. Unverferth Family Dentistry Inc. - $50.00 to Van Wert Middle School PBIS
13. Cooper Farms - $50.00 to Van Wert Middle School PBIS
14. Van Wert Family Physicians - $50.00 to Van Wert Middle School PBIS
15. Spencer & Erika Wise - $1,500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
16. Roger & Kay Okuley - $500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
17. Donald & Grace Mitchell - $1,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
18. Curtis & Julia Schaffner - $1,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
19. Bonnie Thatcher - $500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
20. Brent & Vicki Stevens - $1,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
21. Garmann Miller - $1,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
22. Steve Racster - $500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
23. Randy & Susan Heppeard - $250.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
24. Andrew & Nichole Gearhart - $500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
25. Kristine Mitchell - $500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
26. Margaret Mitchell - $500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
27. James & Marjorie Wollet - $500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
28. Kimberly Dowdy - $250.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
29. Kevin & Annette Hirschy - $500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
30. Hall & Amanda Block - $250.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
31. VWHS Class of 1983 - $500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
32. Deledia Quiroz - $500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
33. Constance Cobb - $500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
34. Gregory & Shari Blackmore - $250.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
35. Rebecca Leeth - $250.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
36. James & Rhonda Mohr - $500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
37. Straley Reality and Auctioneers, Inc. - $2,500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Project - Legacy Donation
38. Superior Credit Union - $1,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Project - Legacy Donation
39. Janet Gearhart - $2,500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Project - Legacy Donation
40. Alspach-Gearhart Funeral Home - Andrew Gearhart - $2,500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Project - Legacy Donation
41. Van Wert Moose Lodge 1320 - $1,700.00 to Lunchroom Fund for Assistance with Unpaid Student Lunch Balances
42. Lee's Ace Hardware - $100.00 to Van Wert Middle School PBIS
43. Braun Ambulances - $100.00 to Van Wert Middle School PBIS

44. Laudick's Jewelry - $100.00 to Van Wert Middle School PBIS
45. Class of 2002 Cheerleaders - $1,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute

XII. Non-consent Resolution(s)

26.09.061

A. Approve the following athletic supplemental contract for the 2026-2027 contract year:
   1. Charlie Witten - Head Baseball Coach

Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Scott White to approve a supplemental contract for Charlie Witten as Head Baseball Coach effective for the 2026-2027 contract year, pending all Board policies pertaining to are met. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, abstain; Scot White, yes. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 abstention.

26.09.062

XIII. Adjournment

Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Debby Compton to adjourn the Meeting at 5:56 p.m. Vote: Ayes - 5; Nays – 0

Next Meeting Date

The next scheduled regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be in the High School/Middle School Media Center.

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Board President *Fiscal Officer*