Arcanum-Butler Local School District

REGULAR
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING UPDATE

November 12, 2026

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

APPROVED:

- Minutes from the regular meeting held October 13, 2026, and the agenda for the November 12, 2026 meeting. (vote – all yea)
- Financial Report, as presented by the Treasurer. (vote – all yea)
- FY27 Student Wellness and Success Plan, as presented by the Treasurer. (vote – all yea)
- PR-10 at a cost not to exceed $28,749.58 to Level MB for the Booster Stadium Project. (vote – all yea)
- Hire Traci Dohme as a substitute van driver, effective October 23, 2026. (vote – all yea)
- Resignation of Noah Brown as the MS Wrestling coach. (vote – all yea)
- Usage agreement with Arcanum youth Wrestling Association for the 2026-2027 school year. (vote – all yea)
- Resolution for senior's last day. (vote – all yea)
- Resolution reducing a school year for excessive calamity days for students if blizzard bags are needed. (vote – all yea)
- Brian Pohlman to take four FFA members to the Ohio FFA Ag Technology and Mechanical Systems state finals December 9-10, 2026, at The Ohio State University ATI in Wooster OH. (vote – all yea)
- Compensate building principals as Athletic Site Manager, when requested by the Superintendent, to attend home events not affiliated with the principals primary job duties. (vote – all yea)
- Three-year treasurer contract for Matt Huffman, effective August 1, 2027 through July 31, 2030. (vote – all yea)
- Policies: 0145 – Filling a Board Vacancy; 0146 – Resignation or Removal; 1231 – Outside Activities of Staff; 2265 – Protections of Individual Beliefs, Affiliations, Ideals, or Principles of Political Movements and Ideology; 2431 – Interscholastic Athletics; 2431.07 – Extracurricular Participation of Non-enrolled Public High School Students (Student Athlete Mobility "SAM Act"); 2461 – Recording of District Meetings Involving Students and/or Parents; 2623.01 – Academic Intervention; 2623.03 – K-3 Mathematics Diagnostic Assessments; 2675 – Advanced Mathematics Placement and Promotion; 3231 – Outside Activities of Staff; 4231 – Outside Activities of Staff; 5111.01 – Homeless Students; 5224 – Youth Membership Organization Access; 5330 – Use of Medications; 5463 – Credits from State-Chartered and Non-Chartered Nonpublic Schools; 5514 – Student use of Bicycles, E-Bikes, Scooters, E-Scooters, and other Personal Transportation Devices; 6100 – Proper Use of Public Funds; 6423 – Use of Credit Cards; 7540.10 – Recording and AI Processing of Communications on School Property and at School Events; 8120 – Volunteers; 8310 – Public Records; 8330 – Student Records; 8470 – Sex Offender Notification; 9700 – Relations with Special Interest Groups (vote – all yea)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Accolades and Announcements
  - ♦ Thank you to AD Abbey Moore and JH AD Matt Macy, all of our Fall Coaches, Teams and Athletes for an outstanding Fall Sports Season. I also would like to thank the principals for attending the many events and activities.
  - ♦ Well done Principals and staff on the recent Professional Development Day with the following sessions – Math Interventions, ELA Data Analysis, K-2 Reading Strategies, Use of AI Gemini, Career Connections Activities, Gifted Differentiated Instruction. The day will end with a DLT-led activity connected to our theme – ON PURPOSE, WITH PURPOSE.

- Congratulations to graduates Katelynne Michael and Seth Fearon who earned their American FFA Degrees, the highest degree bestowed to FFA Members.

- School Operations and Updates
  - Booster Stadium Update – Bleacher Installation.
  - Capital Improvement – Review & Discussion of 2027 items.
  - Access Engineering – They reviewed the emergency entrance/exit and would recommend adding 4' to widen the current 20' drive. The cost to do so would be $59,000 that would include overlay of the entire drive. I did ask what we could do if we wanted additional parking. Adding 50 spots to the east of the existing back lot would cost $175,000. Additional parking would permit all of our HS drivers to be parked in the back.
  - BWC Grant update – New bus cameras
  - 26-27 Calendar Draft – Are there any issues or options you would like considered?

PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS:

- **Elementary**
  - Continuous Improvement Goal #1 – The district will maintain academic excellence with instruction that will support the unique educational needs of every student.
    - The teachers participated in sessions focusing on multi-sensory reading strategies, math interventions, and using AI in the classroom during the October 30 Professional Development Day. Thank you to Amanda Herzog, Beth Piel, David Baker, Emily Kappel, Andrea Painting, and April Hoying for presenting to the staff.
    - Teachers have spent time planning and preparing for parent teacher conferences being held on November 10th and 12th. Teachers provide feedback on student growth and resources for parents to use at home.
    - I was able to attend a 2-day CCIP conference on October 26/27 to learn federal and state updates and attend sessions geared towards improving students' academic success.
    - AELC and kindergarten students were finally able to get their Brumbaugh's trips rescheduled and enjoyed learning about pumpkins, apples, and pollination while having fun at the farm.
    - First grade teachers and students walked to the Arcanum Public Library where all students received a library card if they did not have one and toured the library to learn about all the resources and programs they have.
    - Second grade students have participated in daily number talk routines to improve their number sense and math reasoning skills.
    - Third grade students have been completing hands-on activities that integrate all subjects. They made puff mobiles, water turbines, fossil labs, and had a smorgasbord of book genres.
    - 4th grade students enjoyed an exciting and interactive assembly featuring Kattam and His Tam-Tams! Through rhythm, music, and dance, Kattam took students on a multicultural journey exploring the traditions of Africa, the Middle East, and India. Students experienced unique percussion instruments, participated in rhythmic activities, and learned how music connects cultures around the world. Thank you to the Darke County Center for the Arts for partnering with us to provide this opportunity for our students.
  - Continuous Improvement Goal #2: The district will promote pride and the traditions of Arcanum-Butler Local Schools – "The Trojan Way".
    - Thank you to Cassie Bixler, who led our Elementary Student Council in the Homecoming parade to represent the elementary.
    - The elementary joined the middle school in celebrating Red Ribbon week to promote drug awareness by completing different activities.
    - The elementary students did a fantastic job following district protocol and expectations during this month's fire and lockdown drills.
    - Second Congratulations to the October Trojans of the Month for showing courage and accepting challenges: Jaxon Gilbert, Natasha Terry, Asher Deaton, Graeson Hardwick-

Segura, Krew Morrison, Banks Overholser, Millie Croft, Ruby Suggs, Kyson Guntle, Jaxon Lester, Zeke Wick, Navee Morris, Marshall Engle, Lennon Brubaker, Carter Richardson, Maggie Dickensheets, Iris Knight, Braylee Chrisman, Layla Holsapple, Carter Setser. Students celebrated their reward with breakfast and games.
    - Thank you to our amazing PTO for wrapping our new book machine to show our love for reading and Trojan pride!
    - Our students enjoyed participating in the district wide Homecoming pep assembly with the older students!
- Continuous Improvement Goal #3: The district will provide learning opportunities that prepare students to excel in a modern society.
    - Thank you to the Ohio State Extension Office for talking with our 3rd grade students about soil and plants and providing the students the opportunity to grow their own plants in the classroom.
    - Mr. McEldowney's Leadership class continues to work with our students on foundational reading skills and building positive relationships in different elementary classrooms.
    - Thank you to the Arcanum Fire Department who spoke to our kindergarten and 2nd grade students about fire safety and prevention.
    - Parents joined us to celebrate the end of the quarter for our annual Harvest Parties on October 29. Our annual staff theme this year was crayons!

- **Middle School**
    - Continuous Improvement Goal #1 – The district will maintain academic excellence with instruction that will support the unique educational needs of every student.
        - Congratulations to students who earned Merit Roll and Honor Roll during the first quarter. Overall we had 80 students achieve Merit Roll status and 208 earn Honor Roll status during the first quarter.
        - Our 5th grade students completed IOWA/CogAT testing during the week of October 12. A special thank you to our 5th grade team, Ashley Matheson, and David Baker for their hard work in organizing, coordinating, and administering these assessments. Their efforts helped ensure a smooth and successful testing experience for our students.
        - Department meetings were held on October 21, providing staff with valuable time for collaboration and professional discussion. Each department completed a documentation guide with differentiated topics tailored to its specific needs and priorities. These meetings generated meaningful conversations, encouraged the sharing of ideas, and helped strengthen our collective focus on student success and continuous improvement.
        - On October 26, our Special Education staff participated in professional development focused on writing effective Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). The training provided an opportunity to review best practices, strengthen IEP development, and ensure that student goals, accommodations, and services are aligned with individual needs. We appreciate our Special Education team's continued commitment to providing meaningful support and helping every student succeed.
        - Thank you to our creative staff for keeping students engaged during a hectic Halloween week! Once again, Mrs. Painting's classes and our Science Department never fail in keeping students highly engaged throughout the Halloween season.
        - History came to life on November 4 in Mr. Troutwine's 8th grade Social Studies class as students stepped into the roles of delegates at the Second Continental Congress. Representing the 13 colonies, students debated whether to declare independence from Great Britain, defending their positions, listening to opposing viewpoints, and ultimately casting their votes. This engaging, hands-on activity challenged students to think critically, communicate effectively, and experience the difficult decisions that helped shape our nation's history.
        - Our Junior High Academic Team, consisting of students in grades 7–8, competed in its first meet of the year on November 6 at Franklin Monroe. Under the leadership of Mrs. Rice, students have been preparing for the upcoming competition and are excited to put their knowledge and teamwork to the test. Best of luck to our students, and thank you to Mrs. Rice for her time and dedication to the program!

- Emily Kappel from Kappel Consulting continues to work with our Middle School Math Department, providing ongoing professional development, instructional support, and opportunities for collaboration. These sessions focus on strengthening instructional practices, exploring effective teaching strategies, and identifying ways to support student learning and growth in mathematics. We appreciate Emily's continued partnership and our math teachers' commitment to improving instruction and student achievement.

- Continuous Improvement Goal #2: The district will promote pride and the traditions of Arcanum-Butler Local Schools – "The Trojan Way".
  - Congratulations to our October Students of the Month: 5th grade – Gracen Neal & Tyma Deaton; 6th grade – Thaddeus Perdue & Alayna Starns; 7th grade – Caleb Roeser & Addyson Kenworthy; 8th grade – Seth Richard & Alex James.
  - Congratulations to our October/November T-shirt Tuesday winners – Abigail Warren, Case Matheson, Eli Brown, Hunter Geeding, Izzy Wick.
  - The Red Ribbon Week was the week of October 28. Students dressed up to different themes and staff shared various anti-drug and anti-alcohol information with students each day. Thanks to Megan Smith and Ashley Matheson for organizing this year's event.
  - Our Middle School Student Council recently sponsored a very successful food drive, collecting over 2,300 cans of food thanks to the generosity of our students, families, and school community. All donations were delivered to the food pantry at Faith United Methodist Church to support local individuals and families in need. A special thank you to our Student Council for organizing this effort and to everyone who contributed, demonstrating the Trojan Way through kindness, compassion, and service to others!
  - On November 11, our school held a Veterans Day Assembly, bringing together students, staff, veterans, and community members to honor and recognize the brave men and women who have served our country. The assembly provided a meaningful opportunity for our school and community to come together, reflect on the sacrifices made by our veterans, and express appreciation for their service. A special thank you to Mr. McEldowney's Leadership Class and Mr. Cates for their hard work in planning and organizing this important event, as well as to the veterans and community members who joined us!
  - The MS Hope Squad, which is made up of peer elected student leaders in grades 6 through 8, had the opportunity to visit the University of Dayton Arena for a mental health pep rally on October 15. The Hope Squad heard from the men's basketball head coach of UD as well as his wife about the loss of their daughter in 2021 to suicide. Students were educated on the basics of mental health and how to take care of themselves during times of trial and to always remember feelings are temporary. Thanks to Ashley Matheson and Megan Smith for organizing this trip.
- Continuous Improvement Goal #3: The district will provide learning opportunities that prepare students to excel in a modern society.
  - On October 27, students in Mr. McEldowney's Career Connections class participated in mock interviews with me to practice and develop their interviewing skills. Students also had the opportunity to evaluate one another and receive constructive feedback on their performance. This was a great hands-on learning experience that helped students build confidence and prepare for future career opportunities.
  - Staff participated in a professional development day on October 30, with breakout sessions focused on Value-Added, math instruction, artificial intelligence (AI), YouScience/Career Connections, gifted instruction, and the K–2 reading series. These sessions provided valuable opportunities for professional growth, collaboration, and sharing instructional strategies. Thank you to our guest presenters and staff members who helped lead these sessions, and a special thank you to our DLT subcommittee for organizing a fun team-building activity to conclude the day!
  - On October 14, our 8th grade students had the opportunity to visit the University of Dayton as part of our efforts to promote college and career readiness. During the visit, students were introduced to the college environment and gained valuable exposure to opportunities available beyond high school. This experience encouraged students to begin thinking about their future educational and career goals.

- Students On November 6, our Junior High students participated in an Arts in Education program sponsored by the Darke County Center for the Arts, featuring the talented string trio Simply Three. Through their unique blend of classical and contemporary music, the group provided an engaging and entertaining performance that showcased the versatility of instrumental music. This was a great opportunity for our students to experience the performing arts, and we appreciate DCCA's continued commitment to bringing these valuable experiences to our schools!

- Additional Notes.
  - The week of October 19 was School Bus Safety Week. Safety information and reminders were posted on the Middle School Facebook page. A special shout out to all of our drivers who go above and beyond to ensure the safe arrival and return home for all of our students.
  - Picture Retake Day took place on October 20, providing students with an additional opportunity to have their school pictures taken. A special thank you to Handshoe Photography for their organization and efficiency throughout the process. Their efforts helped ensure a smooth and successful picture retake day with minimal disruption to the school day.
  - Students and staff successfully completed our monthly fire and lockdown drills, along with a full-scale evacuation drill, with no issues reported. These drills provide important opportunities to practice our safety procedures and ensure everyone is prepared in the event of an emergency. A special thank you to John Wilt for his assistance and continued support in keeping our students and staff safe.
  - Parent-Teacher Conferences were held on November 10 and 12, providing valuable opportunities for families and teachers to connect, discuss student progress, and collaborate on ways to support student success. Thank you to our staff for their time and dedication, as well as to the families who participated in these important conversations. A special thank you to Doug Surber and his staff for providing food for our teachers during conference nights!
  - November 11 and 13 were parent teacher conferences for Arcanum-Butler MS. November 11 included grades 5 and 6 while November 13 included the entire middle school. I'd like to thank all the parents and staff for their time and collaboration on these important meeting dates. In addition, a special thank you to Doug Surber and the kitchen staff for preparing dinner each night.
  - Congratulations to all of our fall athletes for an entertaining fall sports season. Team results: Volleyball – 7th grade: overall 6-4 in WOAC/WOAC Semifinalist, 8th grade – overall 9-2 in WOAC/WOAC Champions. Football – overall record 4-4, finished 5th in WOAC. Cross Country – Boys WOAC Champions, Girls 2nd place in WOAC. Cheerleaders – great overall season with several 1st and 2nd place finishes.

- **High School**
  - Continuous Improvement Goal #1 – The district will maintain academic excellence with instruction that will support the unique educational needs of every student.
    - I want to thank Mrs. Kessler for organizing the PSAT test for juniors, giving them the opportunity to qualify for the National Merit program. Each year during the month of October, more than 1.4 million high school juniors take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test. This test, otherwise known as the PSAT or NMSQT, is the initial qualifying examination for the College Board's National Merit Scholarship Program and National Recognition Program. This prestigious program offers students the opportunity to qualify for one of the most elite recognition programs in the country. Based on the strong performance of Kayla Harrison on the PSAT in October 2025 during her junior year, Kayla earned a National Recognition Award. The National Recognition Program awards academic honors to underrepresented students of all backgrounds in three categories: school recognition award, rural and small-town recognition award, and first-generation recognition award. After reviewing her PSAT scores and academic achievements in school, Kayla was identified as scoring in the top 10% amongst those students attending a small or rural high school and earned a National Recognition Program Award!

- I want to thank Mrs. Kessler and Mrs. Bennett for their work in organizing and proctoring the ACT test for our juniors and seniors.
- I want to thank those who led PD and the DLT crew for our recent professional development day.
- Our Academic Team has begun competitions. The Varsity team is currently in second place.

- Continuous Improvement Goal #2: The district will promote pride and the traditions of Arcanum-Butler Local Schools – "The Trojan Way".
  - 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 October Students of the Month, recognized for Respect: 9th grade – Weston Hatfield; 10th grade – Emmit Fore; 11th grade – Mollei Gilbert; 12th grade – Davy Newhart.
  - I want to thank Miss Kaitlyn Zell, now Mrs. Schneider and the Arcanum SADD Club for organizing Red Ribbon Week, promoting safe and positive choices to help our students stay drug-free!
  - On November 5, we held our annual National Honor Society Induction Ceremony, welcoming 17 new student members and one staff member. I want to commend Mrs. Arling and the National Honor Society for a special ceremony as well as Joni Pechie and Kim Hollinger for their help.
  - Our Marching Band received a "1" Superior Rating at State and did at every single competition this year!
  - We have just started planning for our annual Senior Citizens Christmas Luncheon on December 2. Advertisements will be distributed in the coming weeks.
  - I want to congratulate our fall athletes and the band on a successful fall sports season. I'd like to thank our coaches, advisors, students, and parents for their hard work and dedication. A special thanks goes to Mrs. Abbey Moore, Mr. Chey Kramer, Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Kramer, the Arcanum Athletic Boosters, and the A# Music Boosters for ensuring that each event runs smoothly. Congratulations to our seniors and their parents on their achievements over the past four years. A big shout-out to our WOAC Champions as our **Girls swept all fall sports Volleyball, XC and Girls Golf. We had a historic fall!**
- Continuous Improvement Goal #3: The district will provide learning opportunities that prepare students to excel in a modern society.
  - During November, Mrs. Kessler and I will meet with Seniors to ensure they have a clear plan for life after graduation through Enroll, Enlist, or Employ and to verify that they are on track with the credits needed to graduate.
  - Juniors and Seniors are participating in Job Shadows and we are lining up speakers for our upcoming College and Career days that align with YouScience results.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **GIRLS GOLF**
  - Record 10-1 (7-1 WOAC)
  - WOAC GIRLS GOLF CHAMPIONS Turtle Creek 402
  - 3rd place Sectional Tournament | Stillwater Valley 405
  - 2nd place District Tournament | Heatherwoode GC 390
  - STATE TEAM QUALIFIER | Firestone Country Club (Fazio Course) 416/404
- **BOYS GOLF**
  - Record 16-2 (11-0)
  - WOAC BOYS GOLF CHAMPIONS Turtle Creek 324
  - 1st place Sectional Tournament | National Golf Links 320
  - T-7th place District Tournament | Heatherwoode GC 324
  - NEW BOYS GOLF RECORDS
  - Team | Low 9 | 143
  - Team | Low 18 | 313
  - Team | Low Team Avg | 159
- **HS VOLLEYBALL**
  - Varsity Overall 22-4 (11-0) | JV 13-9 (9-0)
  - WOAC VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONS
  - OHSAA SW D5 DISTRICT CHAMPIONS
  - JV Greenville Federal Volleyball Invitational RUNNER-UP
  - Varsity Greenville Federal Volleyball Invitational CHAMPIONS
  - NEW VOLLEYBALL RECORDS
  - Gabby Nottingham | Most Aces in a Season | 90
  - Team | Most Aces in a Season | 314
  - Team | Most Wins in a Season | 22
- **VARSITY FOOTBALL**
  - Results: Overall 7-5, WOAC 6-2
    - vs Covington L
    - vs Tr-County North W
    - @ Dixie W
    - vs Bradford W
    - vs Preble Shawnee W
    - @ National Trail W
    - @ Twin Valley South W
    - vs Northeastern(IN) L
    - @ Ansonia L
    - vs Tri-Village L
    - OHSAA PLAYOFFS vs Dayton Christian W
    - OHSAA PLAYOFFS @ Graham L
  - NEW FOOTBALL RECORDS
  - W. Schmidt to E. Parks | Longest Pass | 88
  - Raysean Miles | Most Receptions in a Season | 68
  - MJ Macy | Most Rushing Yards in a Season | 1,647
  - MJ Macy | Most Rushing Yards in a Career | 4,636
- **BOYS CROSS COUNTRY**
  - Boys team finished in 7th place at the WOAC meet
  - WOAC Top 10 Finishers - Leland Neumaier | 5th Place
  - REGIONAL QUALIFIERS | Leland Neumaier & Jesse Hootman
- **GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY**
  - WOAC GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONS
  - WOAC Top 10 Finishers - Lilly Moore | 6th Place
  - Sadie Waldo | 10th Place
  - REGIONAL QUALIFIERS | Girls Team

ARCANUM ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT Fall 2026 Highlights

- **JH FOOTBALL**
  - Overall Record: 4-4
  - Finished 5th in the WOAC
  - Wins vs TCN, Dixie, Bradford, TVS
- **JH VOLLEYBALL**
  - 7th Grade: Overall 6-3 WOAC 9-7
  - 8th Grade: Overall 12-6 WOAC 9-2
  - JH Volleyball Tournament:
  - 7th Grade earned the #4 seed in the WOAC Tournament
  - 7th made it to the semifinals
  - 8th Grade earned the #3 seed in the WOAC Tournament
  - WOAC 8TH GRADE VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONS
- **JH CROSS COUNTRY**
  - Boys Highlights:
  - WOAC Championship Highlights | Nathan Johnson 1st
  - WOAC JH BOYS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONS
  - Nathan Johnson 37th in the State Meet
  - Girls Highlights:
  - WOAC Championship Highlights | Sarah Hartman 12th
  - Team - 2nd place (only two schools had enough numbers to compete as a team)
- **HS/JH CHEERLEADING COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS**
  - WOAC Cheer Competition is Sunday, December 5th 1:00PM @ Twin Valley South
  - Just recently qualified for the State competition in their Gameday routine

Adjourned at 8:53 p.m.