

**Arcanum-Butler Local School District**  
**REGULAR**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING UPDATE**  
**April 13, 2023**

All Present

**APPROVED:**

- Minutes from the regular board meeting held March 9, 2023, and the agenda for the April 13, 2023, meeting. (vote – all yea)
- Financial report, as presented by the Treasurer. (vote – all yea)
- Amended appropriations and estimated resources. (vote – all yea)
- OVIS to install access control door controls for \$67,500 and emergency door release controls for \$15,556 utilizing school safety grant funds. (vote – all yea)
- KSI Sound Systems to install sound system at baseball and softball fields at a cost of \$10,365.97. (vote – all yea)
- Acceptance of a \$3000 donation from the Arcanum Athletic Boosters to be used for the sound system at the baseball and softball fields. (vote – all yea)
- One year contract with Imagine Learning for online curriculum in AVA. (vote – all yea)
- Purchase of an electric countertop tilting skillet braising pan from C&T Design and Equipment Co. at a cost of \$29,950.74 from cafeteria and food service funds. (vote – all yea)
- Purchase from Richey Athletics of a pole vault pit, mats, standards, and other necessary equipment that was damaged by wind at a cost of \$21,775. The total amount will be reimbursed by insurance. (vote – all yea)
- Resignation of Jason Stephan, HS Principal, effective July 31, 2023. (vote – all yea)
- One year contracts for the 2023-2024 school year for: Elizabeth Watren – MS language arts teacher; Paul Peters – bus driver. (vote – all yea)
- Adrienne Rich as a sub bus driver. (vote – all yea)
- Non-renewal of supplemental contracts of non-teaching personnel for school year 2022-2023, per list. (vote – all yea)
- Supplemental contracts and volunteers, per list, for the 2023-2024 school year. (vote – all yea)
- Lora Brandon to take Once in a Lifetime leave March 13-15, 2024. (vote – all yea)
- Job description for Gifted Coordinator. The Gifted Coordinator position shall be added to the Extra-Curricular Salary Schedule and paid based on the following index: 1 yr exp - .095; 1 yr exp - .100; 2 yr ex - .105; 3 yr exp - .110; 4 yr exp - .115. (vote – all yea)
- Two year contract, beginning August 2023, for Tyler Cates as HS Principal. (vote – all yea)
- To provide the incoming HS Principal with an additional five paid days in July to prepare for and transition into the 2023-2024 school year. (vote – all yea)
- To employ Kevin Brackman as the Varsity Boys Basketball Coach for the 2023-2024 school year. (vote – all yea)

## **PROGRAMS**

Mrs. Heather Wackler, EL art teacher, and three of her art students presented projects that they have recently completed. There will be a district art show on May 18 that will feature black light artwork.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- Vision, Continuous Improvement and Focus of District Work
  - ♦ Safety Grant Update
- Communication and Collaboration
  - ♦ The football/track stadium incurred some damage due to the storm over the weekend. The ticket booth and grill both blew over. The grill will need to be replaced. The pole vault pit (mats and standards) were damaged. The cost to replace is \$21,000, so we filed an insurance claim to replace them.
- Policies and Governance
  - ♦ Calendar Items – The Darke County Sheriff's Dept. and Commissioners are recommending all county schools not be in session next year on the day of the eclipse due to the amount of traffic and visitors to the area. The county superintendents will discuss again after making the decision to schedule 2 hour early dismissals that day.
  - ♦ NEOLA Policy Progress Update.
- Instruction
  - ♦ Thank you to the staff for an outstanding 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks. Down the final stretch we go!
  - ♦ State Testing set to begin.
  - ♦ Staffing Update
- Resources
  - ♦ A special thank you to HS Principal Jason Stephan for his outstanding servant leadership!
  - ♦ Capital Improvement Projects Update & Discussion.

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS:**

- **Elementary**
  - Continuous Improvement and Vision (CIP Goal #1)
    - ♦ Students and teachers have been working extremely hard preparing for the state assessments. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taking the tests the middle of April. The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students just completed the IOWA/CogAT assessments, which will identify students as gifted in specific areas.
  - Instruction (CIP Goal #2)
    - ♦ Thank you to all the teachers and the parent volunteers for a successful kindergarten screening for the incoming Class of 2036. Over 80 students are expected to attend kindergarten this fall. The teachers will use this student data to plan for the upcoming school year.

- ◆ Kindergarten students and teachers have seen great success in using the Secret Stories phonics program.
- ◆ The 1<sup>st</sup> grade classrooms held their annual consumer day where students applied their knowledge of money to buy different objects (books, snacks, toys, etc.) and counted and exchanged change.
- ◆ 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students used their engineering skills to design and construct leprechaun traps for St. Patrick's Day and discussed the process with kindergarten students.
- ◆ The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade team used the March Madness theme to motivate 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students to practice and prepare for the state assessments.
- ◆ The 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers continue to use creative writing prompts integrated within subjects to boost writing and language skills.
- School Operations, Resources, and Learning Environment (CIP Goal #3)
  - ◆ Students participated in many activities to celebrate opening day on March 30. Students earned tickets for positive behaviors and names were drawn for baseball themed prizes. Thanks to Chef Doug for a ballpark themed lunch and popcorn was enjoyed while watching a baseball movie.
  - ◆ The students have worked hard during the past month to focus on PBIS themes and positive behaviors. The students and teachers celebrated the end of the quarter with an interactive assembly playing baseball themed games with students versus teachers.
  - ◆ Congratulations to the March Trojans of the Month who were chosen for showing a positive attitude: Kayden Martin, Hamilton Greve, Logan Harshbarger, Carter Frank, Keera Block, Jase Pohlman, Hannah Crowder, Nora Cottrell, Kirsten Subler, Jett Baker, Emelia Ingle, Luke Wooten, Vera Stanley, Kaylee Eley, Chase Blackburn, Kallista Quigney, Callen Dornbusch, Caden Baker, and Noah Harleman.
- Collaboration (CIP Goal #4)
  - ◆ Thank you to the Darke County Board of Developmental Disabilities for talking with our K-4 grade students about differences and accepting those that have unique qualities.
  - ◆ Thank you to the Greenville Elks Lodge #1139 for their generous donation of school supplies for the district.
  - ◆ Thank you to the high school student council for planning activities and an Easter egg hunt for the kindergarten students.
- Parent, and Community Engagement (CIP Goal #5)
  - ◆ Thank you to Erin Fout, Kayla Morrison, and Manda Holliday for planning the annual AELC informational parent evening. We had many families attend to learn about the preschool and how to register for the upcoming school year. At this point, we still have open spots for the upcoming school year.
  - ◆ Thank you to Heather Wackler for submitting student's artwork to be displayed in the Anna Bier art gallery in Greenville for their annual art show.
  - ◆ Thank you to the Darke County Parks for talking with the Kindergarten Club parents and students during the March meeting about their programs and animals at Shawnee Prairie.

- **Middle School**

- Standard 1: Continuous Improvement – Principals help create a shared vision and clear goals for their schools and ensure continuous progress toward achieving the goals.
  - ◆ Congratulations to our March Students of the Month: *5<sup>th</sup> grade* – Lilly Moore & Grant Moore; *6<sup>th</sup> grade* – Erica Garber & Eli Sparks; *7<sup>th</sup> grade* – Alydia Miller & Noah Combs; *8<sup>th</sup> grade* – Kyrn Burns & Hunter Eley.
  - ◆ Congratulations to our March T-Shirt Tuesday winners: Leland Neumaier (7<sup>th</sup>), Cameron Garbig (8<sup>th</sup>), and Kylee Emrick (5<sup>th</sup>).
  - ◆ Congratulations to all of our FCCLA Regional Competitors: Addy Wooten and Madie Schwartz – Food Innovations, Gold; Claire Simpson – Repurpose and Redesign, Silver.
  - ◆ Congratulations to our very own Cindy Dickman who earned OEA's Educator Champion Award! Mrs. Dickman does an amazing job teaching 5<sup>th</sup> graders about science and social studies in a way that's engaging for all students. She goes above and beyond for our kids and school and is well deserving of this award!
  - ◆ Congratulations to Mr. Hopwood, Miss McFaddin, and all the students who competed in the Band and Choir Solo & Ensemble on March 25 at Troy High School. Altogether, students earned eleven I's (superiors), four II's (excellent), and one III (good).
  - ◆ Our Q3 assembly was held on Friday, March 31. Students competed against teachers in the annual staff versus students assembly (5<sup>th</sup> grade – obstacle course, 6<sup>th</sup> grade – dodge ball, 7<sup>th</sup> grade – kickball, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade – volleyball). The final score was 2-2. We also recognized our Q3 Growth Mindset winners and our merit roll and honor roll students.
- Standard 2: Instruction – Principals support the implementation of high-quality standards-based instruction that results in higher levels of achievement for all students.
  - ◆ 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade WATM Leaders continue to present Life Skills Lessons to our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Thank you to Megan Smith, Ashley Matheson, and our 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers for supporting this leadership program.
  - ◆ Thank you to SRO Wilt for his commitment to teaching our students about internet and social media safety. Officer Wilt meets with each grade level throughout the year and informs students about the dangers of various social media platforms and encourages students to talk with their parents about digital safety.
  - ◆ Thanks to all of the MS staff as they continue to provide engaging and fun activities to our students. This month, Mr. Brackman and Mr. Troutwine created a 'Merica Madness competition where each student reads about and voted on the most influential people in our nation's history.
- Standard 3: School Operations, Resources, and Learning Environment – Principals allocate resources and manage school operations in order to ensure a safe and productive learning environment.
  - ◆ A-B Local held its first of three required tornado drills on Thursday, March 22. The drill was inspected by Josh Haney and Chief

Troutwine. Students and staff did a great job in getting to their shelter locations. No issues were reported.

- ◆ This year's MS Dance took place on Friday, March 24. The theme was A Bright Night. Students packed the cafeteria and had a great time. Thanks to Mrs. Bowser, our Student Council students, and all the parent volunteers who helped make the night a success.
  - ◆ Thank you to Megan Smith for organizing an after school club for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Students meet each Thursday from 2:30-3:40 and participate in games and learn about making healthy choices when it comes to drugs and alcohol.
  - ◆ The MS celebrated Opening Day on Thursday, March 30. Staff provided baseball themed instruction, the cafeteria staff had a ballpark lunch, students dressed up in baseball gear, and we had a popcorn party outside to celebrate.
- Standard 4: Collaboration – Principals establish and sustain collaborative learning and shared leadership to promote learning and achievement of all students.
- ◆ The Darke County March Administration meeting was held in the Community Room. April Hoying led the meeting which focused on attendance, ODE's new principal website, and resources to improve K-12 literacy. Lisa Giuffre, Bill Nellis, and Kim Nellis also provided special education updates.
  - ◆ The District Leadership Team met on March 15. During this meeting, representatives from each building were informed about staffing and enrollment, gifted services, and new ODE requirements for the 2023-2024 school year. Thank you to Mr. Stephens for his leadership during this meeting.
  - ◆ Thank you to David Baker and Joni Pechie for the work in providing MS and HS staff with important information regarding state testing during our March 15 staff meeting.
- Standard 5: Parents and Community Engagement – Principals engage parents and community members in the educational process and create an environment where community resources support student learning, achievement and well-being.
- ◆ On Thursday, March 16, our MS and HS choirs, under the leadership of Miss McFaddin, performed for our Arcanum families and community members during our spring concert. The MS choir consists of early morning students, flex students, and those who chose choir as their elective.
  - ◆ Thank you to our amazing PTO who donated eight \$25 Amazon gift cards which were raffled off during our Q3 assembly. Students who received zero academic or behavior points during Q3 were eligible.
  - ◆ Congrats to Director Rachel Knight, Asst. Director Trina Williams, and all those who were part of the middle school play, Beauty and the Beast. March 11 was opening night and students overcame their nerves to put on a great performance. March 12 was our dinner theater performance as guests were treated to dinner from Mr. Surber and served by cast members and HS students. Both

shows sold out and the students did a fantastic job making the show a huge hit!

- **High School**

- Goal #1 – Principals help create a shared vision and clear goals for their schools and ensure continuous progress toward achieving the goals.
  - ◆ During the month of March, our students scheduled their classes for the 2023-2024 school year. Mrs. Kessler will now work to construct the schedule. Our goal is to complete the schedule by the end of the month and have it ready for the staff in May.
  - ◆ Our high school teachers completed state testing professional development and worked with their middle school colleagues to vertically align the curriculum during our two hour professional development.
- Goal #2 – Principals support the implementation of high-quality standards based instruction that results in higher levels of achievement for all students.
  - ◆ I want to commend our teachers, staff, and Mrs. Kessler for their work in organizing our ACT Day. Seniors completed a job shadow, juniors completed an ACT, sophomores completed the Pre-ACT, and our freshmen completed a college visit. We also received our Pre-ACT and ACT data and were impressed overall with our students' scores.
  - ◆ I would like to recognize Mr. McElDowney's Leadership class, and Mrs. Kuhbender's Boost English class for their work with elementary students.
- Goal #3 – Principals allocate resources and manage school operations in order to ensure a safe and productive learning environment.
  - ◆ The March Students of the Month were Mariah Kreusch and Ashton Paul.
  - ◆ I would like to commend our students, staff, and fellow administrators for their effort with the tornado drill.
- Goal #4 – Principals establish and sustain collaborative learning and shared leadership to promote learning and achievement of all students.
  - ◆ I want to commend Mrs. Brandon for assisting our future young women scientists in attending the Impact STEM program here in Darke County! At this event, girls from around the county heard about exciting opportunities in various scientific fields!
  - ◆ I want to commend Ms. Megan McFaddin for leading the High School Choir in an excellent spring concert.
  - ◆ I would like to thank our staff, students, and community helpers for another great "Real Life" Wednesday event! The students learned about more real life skills during our event. We will have our last "Real Life" Wednesday event in May!
- Goal #5 – Principals engage parents and community members in the educational process and create an environment where community resources support student learning, achievement and well-being.
  - ◆ The Serve Arcanum committee has continued the planning of the event. We are on target to complete the collection of activities and organization in early April.

- ◆ Congratulations to Jacob Rice for being recognized as the representative for Arcanum at the Franklin B. Walter Scholarship program here in Darke County.
- ◆ I want to congratulate Meridith Laux, Allison Brumbaugh, Kaitlynn Lipps, Heather Sowers, and Advisor Patty Carroll who qualified for the state FCCLA competition!

Executive session to consider the employment of a public employee. 8:20-8:43 p.m.

Adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

# SUPPLEMENTAL SPORTS & ACTIVITY POSITIONS FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

|  |                    |                                   |                       |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Head football                                    | Matt Macy          | MS music (band)                   | Bryce Hopwood         |
| Ass't HS football (3)                            | Michael Griffin    | HS yearbook (Arcette)             | Kathy Kuhbander       |
|  | Brian Collier      | MS yearbook                       | Matt Grote            |
|  | Mason Thobe        | Director HS musical/plays         | Becky Hootman         |
| Head MS football                                 | Colton Troutwine   | Ass't director HS musical/plays   | Trina Williams        |
| Ass't MS football                                | Doug Surber        | Director MS musical/play          | Becky Hootman         |
| Strength coach                                   | Matt Macy          | Ass't director MS musical/play    | Trina Williams        |
| Head HS cross country (B&G)                      | Adam Klipstine     | Senior class advisor              | Beth Kessler – ½      |
| Head MS cross country (B&G)                      | Tim Pfahler        |                                   | Heather Whittaker – ½ |
| Golf – boys                                      | Kip Gray           | Junior class advisor              | Sarah Murphy          |
| Golf – girls                                     | Andrew Bryant      | Sophomore class advisor           | Angie Polley          |
| Varsity volleyball                               | Jacie Holman       | Freshman class advisor            | TBD                   |
| JV volleyball                                    | Courtney Clymer    | 8 <sup>th</sup> gr class advisor  | Jaimee Garbig – ½     |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> gr volleyball                    | Beth Beisner       |                                   | Erin Tegtmeyer – ½    |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> gr volleyball                    | Teresa Greve       | 7 <sup>th</sup> gr class advisor  | Jacie Holman – ½      |
| Varsity basketball – boys                        | TBD                |                                   | Kim Peltier – ½       |
| JV basketball – boys                             | TBD                | 6 <sup>th</sup> gr class advisor  | Erica Byers           |
| Asst boys basketball                             | TBD                | HS student council                | Heather Whittaker – ½ |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> gr basketball – boys             | TBD                |                                   | Kathy Kuhbander – ½   |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> gr basketball – boys             | TBD                | MS student council                | Nicki Bowser          |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> gr basketball – boys             | TBD                | EL student council                | Sarah Loxley          |
| Varsity basketball – girls                       | Abbey Moore        | HS student mentorship program     | Lora Brandon          |
| JV basketball – girls                            | Kip Gray           | HS academic team advisor          | Kathy Kuhbander       |
| Asst girls basketball                            | Stevie Johnnting   | MS academic team advisor          | TBA                   |
| Head JH girls bball (8 <sup>th</sup> gr stipend) | TBD                | Science club advisor              | TBD                   |
| Asst JH girls bball (7 <sup>th</sup> gr stipend) | TBD                | National Honor Society advisor    | TBD                   |
| Gymnastics                                       | Katy Boston        | SADD club advisor                 | Christen Cyphers      |
| Head track (B&G)                                 | TBD                | HS Wednesday School monitor       | Andrew Bryant         |
| Ass't HS track (B&G) (2)                         | TBD                | HS detention monitor              | Andrew Bryant         |
|  |                    | FCCLA advisor                     | Patricia Carroll      |
| Head MS track (B&G)                              | TBD                | Art Club advisor                  | Gabrielle Huddleston  |
| Ass't MS track (B&G)                             | TBD                | District/community STEM coach     | Matt Grote – ½        |
| Varsity baseball                                 | TBD                |                                   | Adam Kendig – ½       |
| JV baseball                                      | TBD                | Science fair coordinator          | Lora Brandon – ½      |
| Varsity softball                                 | TBD                |                                   | Adam Kendig – ½       |
| JV softball                                      | TBD                | HS Renaissance coordinator        | Lora Brandon – ½      |
| Ass't athletic director                          | Kelly Kramer       |                                   | Matt Grote – ½        |
| Athletic site manager                            | Chey Kramer        | HS concession stand               | John James            |
| HS football cheerleading                         | Manda Holliday – ½ | Colorguard                        | Lacey Loges           |
|  | Kayla Morrison – ½ | Percussion                        | TBD                   |
| HS basketball cheerleading                       | Manda Holliday – ½ | AVA director                      | Jim Gray              |
|  | Kayla Morrison – ½ | HS band 20 days extended duty     | Bryce Hopwood         |
| MS football cheerleading                         | TBD                | HS guidance 25 days extended duty | Beth Kessler          |
| MS basketball cheerleading                       | TBD                | EL/MS guidance 10 days ext duty   | Ashley Matheson       |
| Varsity wrestling                                | TBD                | Library media aide                | Faith Bennett – ½     |
| MS wrestling                                     | TBD                |                                   | Pam McLain – ½        |
| HS swimming                                      | Josh Artin         | Media aide                        | Amanda Flatter        |
| HS band director                                 | Bryce Hopwood      | Transportation supervisor         | Kevin Stanley         |
| HS vocal music                                   | TBD                |                                   |                       |



**Volunteers**

HS football

Peyton Brown  
Jeremy Mills

HS volleyball

Kami McEldowney

MS volleyball

Erica Byers  
Katie Jenkins

