

August 17, 2026

A meeting of the Board of School Trustees of Wabash City Schools was held on Monday, August 17, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Wabash City Hall, 202 S. Wabash St., Wabash, IN.46992

I. Organization of Meeting

- A. Present was Board President Rhonda Hipkind, Board Vice-President Jason Fry, Board Secretary Jade Hall, Board Members Joan Foster and Connie Gorman. Also present was Superintendent Dr. Chris Daughtry, and Board Counsel Jordan Tandy.
- B. School Board President Rhonda Hipkind called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- C. The pledge of allegiance was recited.
- D. Wabash City Schools Mission *Wabash City Schools provides a relevant and rigorous education, founded upon relationships, to ensure each student is college and career-ready for success in a global community.*
- E. Board President Rhonda Hipkind welcomed everybody.
- F. Recognitions
- G. Revisions
 - a) Board approved revisions IV.G-K.
- H. Consent Agenda
 - 1. Minutes of July 20, 2026 Minutes of August 3, 2026
 - 2. Claims
 - 3. Donations
 - 1) The board approved a donation of \$15,000 from The Ford Meter Box Company, Inc.
 - 4. Financials
 - a) Revenue & Expense Update
 - b) Appropriations Report
 - Fry/Foster-passed unanimously
- I. The next regular scheduled board meeting will be **Tuesday, September 8, 2026** at Wabash City Hall, 202 S. Wabash St., Wabash, Indiana at 6:00 p.m.

II. Communications

- A. WHS, Mr. Blossom, [Facebook](#); [Twitter](#); [Twitter \(@WHS_Assist_Prin\)](#)
- B. WMS, Mr. Mattern, [Facebook](#); [Twitter](#)
- C. OJN, Ms. Phillipy, [Facebook page](#); [Twitter](#)
- D. LHC, Mrs. Miller, [Facebook](#)

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

- A. Board approved hiring Mason Hostetler for the WMHS Building Technician position starting at the base salary with the start date of August 7, 2026.
Fry/Foster-passed unanimously
- B. Board approved James Kastner as a Volleyball Volunteer Coach for the 2026-2027 season.
Foster/Fry-passed unanimously
- C. Board approved the resignation of Jake Smith as Varsity Football Assistant Coach.
Hall/Fry-passed unanimously
- D. Board approved the resignation of Maria Rodriguez effective August 3, 2026.
Hall/Foster-passed unanimously
- E. Board approved the resignation of Austin Terheide as WMHS Dual Credit Math Teacher effective at the end of the 2025-2026 contract year.
Fry/Hall-passed unanimously
- F. Board approved hiring Melanie Salyers as a special needs bus aide, starting Tuesday, August 18, 2026.
Fry/Hall-passed unanimously
- G. Board accepted the resignation of Madisen French as a bus aide, effective September 3, 2026.
Foster/Fry-passed unanimously
- H. Board approved the termination of Delanie Campbell as paraprofessional at LH Carpenter due to job abandonment.
Fry/Foster-passed unanimously
- I. Board approved the pay increase for Mary Jones, paraprofessional at LH Carpenter, from \$11/hour to \$12/hour for adding duty of diapering.
Hall/Fry-passed unanimously
- J. Board approved hiring Briana Williams as a paraprofessional at OJ Neighbours at \$11/hour pending background check and board approval.
Foster/Fry-passed unanimously
- K. Board approved FMLA Leave for employee #12527 from August 10, 2026 - September 9, 2026.
Hall/Foster

V. Superintendent Dr. Chris Daughtry says Enrollment Updates: Fall Sports Update

The new Volleyball coaching staff hit the ground running. I have heard nothing but positive feedback early. Football added a few students and will compete with a modified schedule. They will play an 8 game schedule that will include a few opportunities to play 8 vs 8 competitions. Numbers for football throughout the county and conference are down. Mr. Kelsheimer has reported that there have been open discussions at the TRC meetings on the future of football in the conference. Boys V Soccer is the only other sport that has had a low turnout. Though 8 had initially signed up, there have only been 5 that have been coming to practice. A decision will need to be made on that schedule. The rest of the Fall line-up of sports have demonstrated good participation.

VI. Health Insurance Renewal

A. 5% Renewal

B. Account Balance of \$798,080.42 as of 8/2026

Met with AGA and our advisor from Trucordia with representatives of the Wabash Teacher's Association last week. AGA presented a 5% increase for the renewal. In comparison, the trust that services many of the area schools is reporting a 12% increase. It should also be noted that the ending balance in the claims account as of 8/2026 was \$798,080.42. The goal will be to grow this balance to 1 million dollars. At that point, there can be some decisions made on rate holidays for employees if the fund continues to grow.

VII. OJN and LHC- River Rock landscaping project complete

The mulch beds in the front of OJ and LH were replaced with river rock this week. Nate's landscaping did a fabulous job and in light of the weather were able to complete the work quickly. This work will prevent having to purchase mulch yearly and really cleans up the look of the front of the high school.

VIII. Building Usage Forms and Rates

We are currently working on creating a new building usage form to upload on to the website for both staff and outside usage of the building and fields. Rates are out of date and really out of line with area schools. I will be bringing a schedule of proposed new rates that better reflect the space that is being used. I will also plan to bring an update to the forms and any policy changes that need to be made. I have found that there has not really been a quality established process for facility usage, which has led to custodial strain due to people placing their own events on the calendar and seeking out custodial coverage at the last minute. I also think it is important to note that there have been outside groups using the facility without bringing any proof of liability insurance.

IX. Chiller Replacement-

A. OJN

B. WMHS

Chad Niccum and Dr. Sively had been working on getting pricing for Chiller replacement at OJN and WMHS. Both projects look like they were to come out of the bond proceeds that are left and not being used for the auditorium improvements. Quotes were attained through Havel and Trane. Both quotes are now over 30 days, so I will likely ask each company to submit new quotes. It is ideal to do Chiller work in late Fall, so this is a project that we should get on the schedule. Total to do both buildings based on pricing would be in the range of 250,000 - 275,000. We will also need to consider the annual service agreements with both companies, as well to look at future cost avoidance

X. No items from Administrators

XI. No Items from Visitors

XII. Other Items from board members: Connie Gorman says to have a great school year! Jason says he heard a lot of good things about Volleyball. Joan Foster says that mural is done, Brodmor is looking good, and the donor signs are going up. Jade says that the Heartland meeting is Wednesday 6-7:30 pm. Rhonda says that we are happy that we are back in school!

XIII. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

President

Vice President

Secretary

Board Member

Board Member