

June 29, 2026

A meeting of the Board of School Trustees of Wabash City Schools was held on Monday, June 29, 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. Amy K. Sivley, 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
 - 1) Revisions IV. K-L
 - 2) Revisions IV.M added at board meeting.
- H. Consent Agenda
 - 1. Minutes of June 9, 2026 Minutes of June 15, 2026
 - 2. Claims
 - 3. Donations
 - 4. Financials
 - a) Revenue & Expense Update
 - b) Appropriations Report
 - c) Hall/Fry-passed unanimously
- I. The next regular scheduled board meeting will be Monday, July 6, 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. Wilson, [Facebook](#); [Twitter](#)

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

- A. The board approved using Policy Analytics to provide the district with a tax impact study. This is retroactive to October of 2025. Policy Analytics provides us with reports to show long-term impacts due to recent property tax reform. The cost is \$9,500 and will be paid out of Rainy Day. We have already gone through the additional appropriation request and have received approval from the DLGF to use dollars in our Rainy Day fund.
Hall/Foster-passed unanimously
- B. The board approved the elimination of the Transportation Assistant position. With the elimination of the position, the stipend of \$3,000 will be added to Melisa Callahan's salary beginning August 1, 2026.
Foster/Hall-passed unanimously
- C. The board approved the 2026 Fiscal Year End fund transfers.
Fry/Gorman-passed unanimously
- D. The board approved the 2026-2027 Preschool Tuition fees.
Hall/Fry-passed unanimously
- E. The board approved P-CAP stipends of \$1,000 for Natasha Whitney and Chelsea Parson for summer P-CAP planning. This is paid from the P-CAP Grant.
Hall/Foster-passed unanimously
- F. The board approved the transfer of Tarissa Shreves from a preschool paraprofessional to a 3 year old teaching para beginning in the 2026-2027.
Fry/Hall-passed unanimously
- G. The board approved Abby Payton as a certified teacher pending her proxy scores.
Hall/Foster-passed unanimously
- H. The board approved the annual high school boys cross-country trip to Sleeping Bear Dunes in Michigan. This trip would be from July 19-24.
Hall/Fry-passed unanimously
- I. The board approved the volleyball trip to Dunes Volleyball Club in LaPorte, Indiana. The team will be leaving Sunday, July 12, and returning Tuesday, July 14, 2026. They will be staying in New Buffalo, MI. This is the varsity team only.
The team will also be going there the following week on Tuesday, July 2, 2026 for a one day event. This will be JV and Varsity. No overnight stay for this event.
Hall/Fry-passed unanimously

- J. The board approved that the following items that are broken/ inoperable be moved to surplus to be properly disposed of:

Blue Cold Cart (Broken Wheels)

1/2 Steam Table (Broken Wheels/ Heat doesn't work in one steam well)

2 Stand-Up Warmers (Inoperable- Used for parts)

Stand-Up combo warmer/ refrigerator (inoperable- will not keep consistent temp in warmer and fridge
part doesn't cool at all)

Smoothie Machine (Inoperable- doesn't cool and leaks)

Hall/Gorman-passed unanimously

- K. The board approved summer hours for the week of June 15 - June 19 for Kelly Springer as secretary for Watch Me Grow.

Fry/Gorman-passed unanimously

- L. The board passed a resolution to transfer funds between the debt service and operations fund.

Fry-Gorman-passed unanimously

- M. Announcement of not meeting threshold for teachers salaries.

Hall/Fry-passed unanimously

- V. Superintendent Dr. Amy Sivley says My husband and I always say that everything happens for a reason. I truly believe that I was brought to Wabash City Schools 5 years ago for a reason. I believe there were two big rocks that I was meant to accomplish during my time here.

First, I have always been so proud to be an educator. I firmly believe that educators have the most important jobs in the world because we make all other professions possible. We are preparing the next set of welders, teachers, doctors, truck drivers, attorneys and more. From my years of teaching to my time as a building administrator and all through my superintendency, I felt it was my responsibility to be a role model for my students, my faculty and staff, my families and my community. This meant being respectful to each and every person; modeling professionalism in how I dress and behave; serving others; accepting responsibility; being student focused; and protecting the school's reputation. I am proud to be a Wabash Apache and I hope that pride in Wabash City Schools has been restored over the past few years.

Second, let's talk about our finances because everybody around us sure seems to like to talk about them. I want to make it clear, Wabash City Schools is not broke! Over the past four years, we have

worked together and made tough but needed decisions to fix our finances. And when I say we, I mean everyone--every appointed Board member that has sat at this table, all our Central Office staff, all our building staff. We have made sacrifices and because of that, we are in a good position. Yes, our Operations fund dipped back into the negative the past couple of months but I remind you that this fund only gets its major funding twice a year. Imagine what it would be like if your family only got two paychecks a year. June is when we get our tax draw, and my projections show that our Ops fund will end the period positive again--that's what matters. In December, the Ops fund ended at \$250,000; at the end of June, my projection is that it will be around \$650,000. We have continued to work to grow our Ed and Ops fund balances. The state uses two months' expenses as a target for those balances. We are getting closer to those targets. Our fund balances will never be gigantic, nor should they be. Is it fiscally responsible to our taxpayers to be sitting on tens of millions of dollars? We are not a bank--we should be putting our money back into our schools be it through salaries and benefits, supplies, and facilities and equipment upkeep.

We've seen an increase in our IREAD and ILEARN scores over the past several years. We've also added dual credit opportunities at the secondary level. And our teachers are working more collaboratively through the PLC process. We have done great things over the past several years and I can proudly say that I am leaving Wabash City Schools better than I found it.

I want to thank the past and present appointed Board members. You trusted me and let me do what I was hired to do--run this district. I am honored to have served the students, teachers, administrators and families of Wabash City Schools.

- VI. No item from Administrators
- VII. No Items from Visitors
- VIII. Other Items from board members: Joan Foster says that there is no park board meeting, and to go see the new tennis/pickleball courts. Jade Hall says that Heartland increased the budget by 2%. Connie Gorman says thank you to Dr. Sivley. Rhonda wants to let everyone know that the summer reading program is still going on. All of the board members want to thank Amy for all she has done! We will miss her so much!
- IX. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

President

Vice President

Secretary

Board Member

Board Member