



Tri-Village Local Schools

The Tri-Village Local School District Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, February 24, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present: Tim Bevins, Darin Dubbs, Tracy Frech, Tom Schlechty, and Justin Spencer. Josh Sagester, Kim Chowning, and Lee Morris were present as well. There were no visitors that attended the meeting.

The minutes of the tax budget, organizational, school calendar, and regular meetings held on January 13, 2025, were approved.

High School Principal Report: Forty-eight students are registered to take the ACT test on campus on February 25. Mr. Morris reviewed many of the items of interest published in the February 2025 Tri-Village Patriots Post as prepared by Melissa Davies. The second annual Tri-Village Arts Gala will take place on February 28 in the auditorium. The high school band and choir will feature music and students in Mr. Magill's art classes will have their work on display, too. Mr. Morris reviewed morning student drop-off procedures and one call issues. The online Continuity of Learning plan was shared if calamity days 6, 7, & 8 come to fruition. Congratulations to Hayden Crawford and Shaun Crawford for placing first in their respective weight classes at the Springfield Northeastern Powerlifting Invitational on January 11. Overall, the boys' team placed 6th out of ten teams and the girls' team placed 4th out of eight teams. On January 25, at the Kenton Regional Powerlifting meet, Hayden Crawford, Shaun Crawford, and Cameron Kimmel placed first in their respective weight classes. Overall, the boys' team placed 4th out of 25 teams and the girls' team placed 3rd out of 20 teams represented. The Tri-Village Archery Tournament was held on January 4 at the Darke County Fairgrounds Youth building. Congratulations to the high school team for placing 1st in the tournament and the middle school team placing 2nd. The district appreciates Mr. Brown and Mr. Siegrist's efforts in their respective programs. Mr. Morris shared general guidelines for keeping children home from school due to illness. He concluded his report with food service menu offerings stating that the cafeteria will now be serving Domino's smart slice pizza once a month.

Superintendent Report: Mr. Sagester began his report with an elementary playground update. The demolition of the existing playground will begin June 9 with the installation of equipment following. Cleanup and final inspection is expected to be completed by July 11. Mr. Sagester was also excited to announce that Brian Kight will be the district's guest speaker for the staff's professional development day on August 12. Mr. Kight is an entrepreneur, speaker, and advisor to businesses, sports teams, and schools. He has spent seventeen years serving clients to raise the standards of leadership, create a disciplined culture, and align behavior to produce results. Religious release time was discussed and a draft policy shared. Mr. Sagester shared a letter from the Director of Department of Education and Workforce, Stephen Dackin, congratulating the district on earning the Overall 5-Star Award for the 2023-2024 Ohio School Report Cards. A decision was made to move the May 2026 graduation exercises to May 31, 2026, to eliminate the potential issue of school delays and calamity days affecting the number of hours needed for seniors to graduate. Moving forward, graduations will be scheduled towards the end of the May calendar. Staff received Science of Reading curriculum professional development on January 17. SOR will be implemented following the April testing window. However, the kindergarten teachers have already begun utilizing the curriculum. Interim reports will be distributed on February 28. Sagester broached the topic of School Choice. In a recent Focus Education publication, there was an article citing that 60% of U.S. parents of school aged children considered sending at least one of their children to a different school last year. This reiterates the competitive environment in education that we are living in. Tri-Village in conjunction with the Darke County Economic Development will host an onsite Career Connections event for all Juniors and Seniors along with family on April 2 from 8:30 to 10:30. Career representatives will include individuals from manufacturing companies, doctors, attorneys, and a variety of other professionals. There are some issues with one of the small monitors in the PAC gymnasium on the far-left wall. Scorevision will either fix or replace it. Upcoming summer projects include updating flooring in the junior high/high school wing and in the kitchen area as well as the North parking lot being resealed and the purchase of new Chromebook laptops. Mr. Sagester gave a winter athletic update along with respective accolades. Congratulations to both the girls (co-champs) and boys' basketball team for winning their WOAC conferences. Girls' WOAC honors include first team Adalynn Hines

and Tai Mize, second team Kenna Wilcox, and special mention Mylee Bierly. Adalynn Hines and Tai Mize received first team District 9 honors as well. Boys’ WOAC honors include Trey Sagester who received Division VI Player of the Year, Dom Black and Noah Finkbine first team, Josh Sagester Coach of the Year, and Mick Sagester Assistant Coach of the Year. Congratulations to all winter athletes! In the OASSA State competition at Big Walnut High School, Tri-Village cheerleaders finished 3rd out of 11 in the State in Gameday and 4th in Traditional. Congratulations to our cheerleaders and their coaches on a terrific season. The powerlifting team recently competed at the Gregg Hale Memorial powerlifting meet at Bradford. The boys’ team placed first and the girls’ team placed third. Shaun Crawford broke a state record in his weight class.

Treasurer Report: The fiscal year 2024 State Audit report should be received in April. School income tax collections remain strong for fiscal year 2025. The Darke County Budget Commission has approved expected receipts of \$3.564 million to the district’s general fund for duplicate year 2025/2026 and \$527,730 to the Miami Valley Career Technology Center. Governor DeWine’s budget proposal seeks to continue the phase-in of the Fair School Funding Plan for years 5 and 6 while freezing the base costs input component at fiscal year 2022 levels. Freezing base cost inputs reduces the state share percentage while increases the local share. Projected simulations by the Office of Budget and Management reveal that 56% of Ohio public school districts will receive a decrease in state funding in fiscal year 2026. However, maintaining current enrollment numbers, Tri-Village is slated to receive a 3.1% increase in school foundation funding in FY 2026 and a 1.3% increase in FY 2027. These are very modest increases to say the least.

The following motions were voted upon by the Board of Education members:

PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS

- 1. Recommendation to approve the monthly employment of substitute teachers for the 2024-2025 school year as submitted and updated monthly by the Darke County Educational Service Center.
- 2. Recommendation to approve Chris Pearson, site manager, for 2024-2025 at a rate of \$50.00 per home baseball and softball games to be paid from the athletic fund.
- 3. Recommendation to issue a one year (2024-2025) limited supplemental contract to Brett Slone, Spring Sports Coordinator, pending the issuance of a valid Ohio coaching certification/license, and all other requirements as set forth by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio High School Athletic Association.
- 4. Recommendation to approve Mark Groff as a classified substitute (school bus driver) for the 2024-2025 school year retro-active to February 3, 2025.
- 5. Recommendation to approve Roxanne Groff as a classified substitute (school bus driver) for the 2024-2025 school year.
- 6. Recommendation to approve the issuance of a School Bus Driver’s Certificates to Mark Groff retro-active to February 3, 2025, and Roxanne Groff, school bus drivers for the 2024-2025 school year.
- 7. Pursuant to R.C. 3313.53, the Board of Education has offered the foregoing position(s) to those employees of the district who are licensed individuals, and no such employee qualified to fill the position(s) has accepted it. The Board has then advertised the position(s) as available to any licensed individual who is qualified to fill it and who is not employed by the Board, and no such person has applied for and accepted the position(s). Accordingly, the supplemental salary schedule set forth in the Agreement with the Tri-Village Education Association is not applicable to the circumstances, and the Board must consider other ways to recruit and retain individuals for these positions. To do so, the Board will consider volunteers to fill the positions. The Board will pay volunteers for the position(s) a nominal stipend as follows for the 2024-2025 school year:

Coaching/Activity	Volunteer	Stipend
Assistant Junior High Girls Track Coach	Joshua Murphey	2,105.00

Each person listed above volunteering for this position(s) must sign a “pupil activity contract” acknowledging that the nominal stipend attached to this position(s) is not guaranteed compensation. This fee is intended to cover the reasonable expenses associated with serving as a volunteer (travel, trophies, clinics, etc.). This fee is not a substitute for compensation. In addition, no current employee of the district who performs the same type of service may volunteer for this position(s). Persons volunteering for this position(s) must also comply with all other provisions required by Ohio law for pupil-activity programs.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. Recommendation to approve financial reports as presented by the Treasurer.
2. Recommendation to enter into an agreement between Council on Rural Service Programs, Inc. (CORS) and Tri-Village School District (Tri-Village). CORS agrees to provide social service support (Gateway Services) to at-risk children as identified by Tri-Village and Tri-Village agrees to pay CORS the costs associated with the Gateway services for forty (40) weeks, approximately thirty (30) hours weekly, beginning August 29, 2025, through May 29, 2026. The parties agree as follows:
 - A. CORS will provide Tri-Village Gateway Services, and the provider will be assigned to work at the designated location for the stated Period. CORS is the employer and will provide the employee(s) all compensation and benefits, including group health insurance, liability insurance, workers' compensation, and retirement, and will comply with all reporting requirements.
 - B. Tri-Village will pay CORS the cost for services at a rate of \$48,725.00 annually. This will be divided into (10) ten payments of \$4,872.50, monthly billing will be sent to Tri-Village from July through April; payment will be required by the fifteenth of the month in advance for services provided August through May.
3. Mileage required beyond the assigned location will be reimbursed to CORS on a monthly basis within 15 days after the invoice is presented to Tri-Village. Current mileage rates are \$0.60 per mile. This agreement shall be in effect for the 2025-26 school year.
4. Recommendation accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor for fiscal year duplicate of 2025-2026.
5. Recommendation to accept the following donations:

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Kiwanis Club of New Madison	Archery Club	\$500.00	
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 245	Elementary Principal	\$75.00	Valentine for Vets
Kiwanis Club of New Madison	Key Club	\$500.00	
Becca Bennett Aesthetics	PATS	\$150.00	Carnival
Flaig Lumber Company	PATS	\$100.00	Carnival
Greenville National Bank	PATS	\$50.00	Carnival

NEW BUSINESS CONSIDERATIONS

1. Recommendation to approve the 2025-2026 school calendar.
2. Recommendation to authorize the 2025-2026 membership into the Ohio High School Athletic Association.
3. Recommendation to enter into a College Credit Plus Agreement with Sinclair Community College.
4. Recommendation to approve an overnight field trip for students in Senior Seminar to go to Chenoweth Trails, Greenville, OH from May 9-10, 2025, under the direction of Mr. Sean Ford and Mr. Roy Lowrie.
5. Recommendation to approve an overnight field trip for high school cheerleaders to go to Columbus, OH for the OASSA Cheer Finals from February 22-23, 2025, under the direction of Ms. Christina Smith, Ms. Kara Wilson, and Mrs. Mattie Brewer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - The Board of Education entered executive session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. Time 7:38 and time out 7:40.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST – Mrs. Chowning shared and reviewed the FY 2024 Cupp report with the board members.

Mr. Dubbs adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.