TRI-VILLAGE LOCAL SCHOOLS
AGENDA II
August 17, 2026

Date: September 23, 2026
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Tri-Village Board of Education Conference Room

Board Members Present
Lauren Armstrong, Tim Bevins, Darin Dubbs, and Tracy Frech.

Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the regular meeting held on August 17, 2026, were approved by the Board.

Elementary School Principal Report
Mr. Mead outlined the elementary goals for the 2026-2027 school year. Total student enrollment is 422. The PBIS program has been rolled out for the year, and the first PBIS Cart Day has already taken place. Students can purchase items from the mobile cart using the Patriot Bucks they have earned. Mr. Mead stated, "Mallorie Randall has done an unbelievable job" along with the PBIS committee to overhaul the program and reinstate different ideas, rewards, and goals for the students. Lindsay Bergman is spearheading the elementary Purple Star School Program which supports and serves students and families connected to the United States military. Watch D.O.G.S. sign up are scheduled for September 24 in the Commons area. Jessie Henry has contacted Darke Developmental Disabilities to help organize Lunch Buddies visits with students. The first visit will be October 8.

Regarding state testing, Mr. Mead said that the elementary did very well but there are still things to work on. In grades 3-6, a floating sub will be utilized in the classrooms so Mr. Mead can meet with the math teachers to analyze trend data to better help identify and support struggling students. Small groups will be personalized to individualize math instruction. IXL will also be used monthly as a diagnostic assessment to help make any needed grouping adjustments. Mead has begun his OTES 2.0 walkthroughs and expects to have them all completed by Thanksgiving. Instructional meetings are taking place as well where April Hoying from the ESC and Mr. Mead meet with staff to discuss what was observed. Daily informal assessments are happening to check for understanding. The Fall MAP testing and LLI Benchmarking will be completed by September 30 and the KRA testing needs to be completed by September 29. All Intervention Specialists have attended IEP writing professional development.

The State Elementary Report Card can be found at the following email address: https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov. The elementary building ratings are as follows: Achievement 5 (top 13% in the State), Progress 3, Gap Closing 4, Early Literacy 4, Performance Index 101, and Performance Index Percentage 90.6%.

The D.A.R.E. program is up and running in both Kindergarten and 5th grade. Mr. Mead stated that Deputy Dan does a very nice job with the students. Elementary students will participate in the spirit dress up days during Homecoming week. Parent-teacher conferences will be held on October 13th and 15th.

The district has had a fire drill already this year with a lockdown scheduled soon.
Mrs. Georgia Lange, gifted teacher, has been a great addition to not only the TAG program but to the building.

The first Patriots of the Month will be awarded in October and the corresponding lunch with the principal will be held on October 23. Mr. Mead invited the board members to attend the luncheon. Sign ups for the Pink Laces running club are completed with twenty young ladies participating. They will have a couple of runs and then a Fun Run at the end of October.

High School Principal Report
Mr. Morris began his report by stating that students have completed day 16 of their 178 days on campus for the 2026-2027 school year. Brittany Hill from the Daily Advocate recently interviewed Logan Brubaker, Tara Ford, and Heather Stump who were recognized as receiving the top test scores in Darke County for their tested subject areas. Morris shared that both the girls' and boys' golf teams have qualified to play in District matches.

Olivia Schmitmeyer from Darke County Economic Development was on campus on September 9 to meet with the following students regarding an October Leadership Conference: Zoe Ayette, Dominic Black, Carsen Dyson, Alexis Finkbine, Kole Hiestand, Ian Homan, Teddy Miller, and Shelby Sagester. April Hoying was also on campus September 9 visiting and observing junior high classrooms.

On September 11, the district held an all-grades assembly out on the front lawn in remembrance of the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Community first responders were invited to attend. The ceremony was led by Student Body President, Alexis Finkbine, along with participation from Mr. Canan and the marching band, several sixth-grade students (Katie Benedict, Annie Brewer, Kinsley Lovett, Easton Holmes, Sterling Cruz, Megan Blackford, Aliyah Homan, and Dax Graham), and 12 grade student Halee Fellers.

September 23 was a busy day on campus for many students. Activities involved Senior Sunrise for the Class of 2027, Prayer at the Pole, FFA students traveling to the Farm Science Review, the girls' golf team played at Stillwater golf course, and the Senior Seminar class attended Indiana University East for Red Wolves Day.

Superintendent's Report
For the third consecutive year, U.S. News and World report has awarded the high school building a "badge" for ranking in the top 40% of the state. Mr. Sagester stated, "another great accomplishment for our district and community."

Sagester reviewed Tri-Village's 2025-2026 report card in detail with the board members. The overall district rating was a 4 star (top 50% in Ohio), the junior high/high school building received a 4 star as well (top 40% in Ohio), and the elementary building received a 4.5 star (top 20% in Ohio). The elementary building received a 5-star achievement rating with a performance index score of 101 placing them in the top 13% of the state and a 4 star for Early Literacy placing them top 19% in Ohio. Mr. Sagester congratulated the elementary staff, students, and Mr. Mead on these accomplishments.

The Hometown Heroes recognition at the football game on 9/11 went well. Mr. Sagester thanked cheer advisor, Darlene Ary, and the cheerleaders for spearheading the event. The following groups were recognized: New Madison American Legion, New Madison Fire Department, Liberty Fire Department, Hollansburg American Legion, Hollansburg Fire Department, Darke County Sheriff Department, and Tri-Village Rescue.

Mr. Sagester is a member of the Darke County Business Advisory Council which recently met. The following topics were reviewed and discussed: the Business Advisory Council plan, STEAM camp, You Science, Leadership Darke County, internships, 2027 Career Expo, Darke County job shadow week, and Manufacturing Day.

Tri-Village won the Channel 2 Spirt Award from last spring as part of Trey Sagester's selection as Athlete of the Month. Representatives from Channel 2 will be on campus on September 24 to present the $2,500 check. 4-H and FFA students were also recently highlighted for their contributions to the Great Darke County and State Fair.

The district will be applying for a Purple Star distinction in November. This is a specialized designation awarded to schools that show a commitment to serving students and families connected to the United States Military. Mr. John Beard is the dedicated liaison for the high school building, Mr. Ethan Hemmerich for the junior high building, and Mrs. Lindsay Bergman for the elementary building. These staff liaisons must complete specific professional training to understand the academic and emotional challenges military youth face during transitions. Their information will be listed on the school website. As a district, the school must host community events, maintain dedicated programs, and engage directly with military families.

During the first early release day of the school year, both April Hoying, ESC Curriculum Coordinator, and Emily Kappel, mathematics consultant, joined in on the instructional and data meetings with administrators and teachers. During these meetings, student data is looked at, classroom observations are discussed, and the sharing of best practices that can be implemented a amongst classrooms. Science teachers in the tested grades and content areas (5th grade, 8th grade, and Biology) will attend a workshop on September 29 at the Darke County ESC. Dave Shellhaas from the Midwest Regional ESC will be the presenter. The workshop will provide an opportunity for the science teachers to further develop their instructional practices, review assessment expectations, and collaborate around strategies that can positively impact student achievement.

Mr. Sagester concluded his report with an extracurricular update. The high school football team is #1 in the region, the high school volleyball team lost to Arancum dropping them out of the running as WOAC champions, and the boys' golf team has finished second in both the WOAC and sectional tournaments. Both Kohen Burns and Reggie Osborne received first team honors for golf and Caleb Brinley special mention. The girls' golf team finished second in the WOAC championship. Lyla Brewer received play of the year and Taytum Gray, Kash Mead, and Abby Hampton (all first team). Annabeck Spencer received special mention. The boys' and girl's cross-country teams are participating well. The cheerleaders performed well at the Great Darke County fair. The high school cheerleaders received first place in their game day performance as well as receiving the grand champion award. Junior high cheerleading received first place and so did youth cheerleading. Youth were grand champions as well. The high school cheerleaders recently competed at Covington and earned second place. The marching band performed very well at the Darke County Band Spectacular. They performed songs from the Greatest Showman in front of a very large crowd at Greenville's football stadium.

Sagester shared results from a NFHS 2025-2026 Annual Participation Survey. The state of Ohio ranks third nationally for high school sports participation with 347,994 athletes behind Texas with 911, 405 and California 859,022. The top boys' sport in Ohio is football with 40,302 athletes and girls' sport is cheer with 26,635 participating.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Chowning shared and reviewed the Student Wellness and Success Funding plan, and the Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid plan as required by Ohio Revised Code. As of the September #2 school foundation settlement, the district is expected to receive $246,688 in student wellness dollars and $62,608 in disadvantaged pupil impact aid funding. At least 50% of student wellness dollars must be spent on mental and physical health services. However, the district is expecting to spend over 100% (an estimated amount of $365,332) of the allocated student and wellness dollars toward mental and physical health services in the 2026-2027 school year. DPIA expenditures are set aside for dropout prevention and school safety measures. These plans are posted on the district website.

Inflation Cap Credits – over/under payments to school districts amounted to a $39 million discrepancy between the property tax credits homeowners received under HB 186 and what school districts were reimbursed to offset the effects of those credits. The amount of direct overpayments was $53.7 million and direct underpayments was $14.9 million, netting to the $39 million overpayment. This will require a multi-step solution. First, a statutory correction will need to take place to ensure the reimbursement formula moving forward reflects the intent of the legislation, determine how to best reconcile the 2026 discrepancies to the impacted schools, and a legislative fix passed in lame duck session as an emergency measure so that the correction can be effective for the second half settlement. It is speculated that these discrepancies occurred due to levies dropping off or new levies added to tax abstracts.

Triennial update notices have been distributed to Darke County taxpayers. It appears that values are increasing in double digits in sections of the county based on sales of real property. However, these percentages will be reduced by the annual GDP deflator. Thus, taxpayers will see the Inflation Cap Credit recorded on their tax bills.

Mrs. Chowning also shared an informative sheet on Ohio's School Funding Shift as to how state taxes and school funding have changed over time.

The Darke County ESC recently billed the district for last year's preschool excess costs which amounted to $103,345.

Personnel Considerations
Recommendation to approve the monthly employment of certified/temporary substitute teachers for the 2026-2027 school year as submitted and updated monthly by the Darke County Educational Service Center.

Recommendation to hire Beau Shephard as a substitute teacher retroactive to August 18, 2026, at a rate of $110.00 per day.

Recommendation to employ Heidi Hoffman, school nurse substitute, for the 2026-2027 school year.

Recommendation to employ the following as classified substitutes for the 2026-2027 school year. (All Aide substitutes must have an active Educational Aide Student Monitor permit issued from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW).

Kelly McDowell	Jennifer Hatfield

Recommendation to approve Allyson Payne for obtaining additional hours to place her on the Masters step per the negotiated agreement.

Recommendation to approve Jordan Renfro, van bus driver, for the 2026-2027 school year.

Request to rescind board motion 26-62 number 6, Beth Fisherback, Student Council Advisor.

Recommendation to issue a one year (2026-2027) limited supplemental contract to the following individuals:

Supplemental	**Staff Member**
Freshman Class Advisor	Allyson Payne
Student Council Advisor	Karis Lowrie

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 2026-2027 school year:

Coaching/Activity	Volunteer	Stipend
Junior Class Advisor	Dawn Reed	$1,594.00

Financial Considerations
Recommendation to approve financial reports as submitted by the Treasurer.

Recommendation to approve Archery Club Fees of $60.00 per member as per the Archery Club Advisor for the 2026-2027 school year. This fee covers all tournament fees and bus travel costs throughout the season.

Recommendation to pay Ted & Melanie Miller $80.00 per month for transportation fees, for the 2026-2027 school year.

Recommendation to accept the following donations:

Donor	**Account**	**Amount**	**Purpose**
Beech Grove Church	Archery	$100.00	

Kenneth and Tracey DeLong	Athletics	$120.00	
State Farm Insurance (Shane Bietry)	Athletics	$1,500.00	Scoreboard Sponsor
Tri-Village Music Boosters	Band	$750.00	
CBT Sealcoat LLC	HS Cheer	$250.00	
Eric and Natasha Denlinger	HS Cheer	$100.00	
Flower Junkie	HS Cheer	$100.00	
Dale and Darlene Ary	JH Cheer	$50.00	
New Madison Community 4th of July	JH Cheer	$100.00	
Darke County Foundation	Patriot Partners	$1,300.00	
Gypsy Kitchen	PATS	$150.00	

New Business Considerations
Recommendation to adopt the following Educational Purchasing Council (EPC) bus purchasing resolution: Whereas the Tri-Village Local School Board of Education wishes to advertise and receive bids for the purchase of 1 or more school buses. Therefore, be it resolved the Tri-Village Local School Board of Education wishes to participate in and authorize the Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council to advertise and receive bids on said Boards' behalf as per the specifications submitted for the cooperative purchase of one school bus(es).

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 in was 7:30 and time out was 8:10.

Communications and Items of Interest
Homecoming parade preparations were discussed.

Adjournment
Mr. Dubbs adjourned the Regular Board of Education meeting at 8:14.