

**MINUTES OF WAPAKONETA CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
WAPAKONETA HIGH SCHOOL  
Monday, January 8, 2024  
6:00 PM**

The meeting of the Board of Education of the Wapakoneta City School District was called to order by President Pro-Tem Ron Mertz.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon the roll being called, the following were present:

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Brian Cossel  
Joshua Little  
Ron Mertz  
Gregg Ruppert  
Willie Sammetinger


Also in attendance were Aaron Rex, Superintendent; Angie Sparks, Treasurer; Nikki Sutton, Elementary Principal; Mike Watt, Director of Operations; and the Wapakoneta Daily News.

The pledge of allegiance was led by President Pro-Tem Ron Mertz.

**SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Angela Sparks, Treasurer, swore in the following board members by administering the following oath of office:

I, Ronald Mertz, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Ohio; and I will faithfully and impartially discharge my duties as member in and for the said Wapakoneta City School District, Auglaize County, Ohio, to the best of my ability, and in accordance with the law now in effect and hereafter to be enacted, during my continuance in said office and until my successor is chosen and qualified. Sworn to before me, this 8th day of January, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

I, Joshua Little, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Ohio; and I will faithfully and impartially discharge my duties as member in and for the said Wapakoneta City School District, Auglaize County, Ohio, to the best of my ability, and in accordance with the law now in effect and hereafter to be enacted, during my continuance in said office and until my successor is chosen and qualified. Sworn to before me, this 8th day of January, 2024.

Angela M. Sparks

I, William Sammetinger, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Ohio; and I will faithfully and impartially discharge my duties as member in and for the said Wapakoneta City School District, Auglaize County, Ohio, to the best of my ability, and in accordance with the law now in effect and hereafter to be enacted, during my continuance in said office and until my successor is chosen and qualified. Sworn to before me, this 8th day of January, 2024.

Angela M. Sparks

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

### **Nomination/Election of President/Vice President**

**1-24** President Pro-Tem Ron Mertz, as temporary chairman, called for nominations for President and Vice President, placed the names of Brian Cossel and William Sammetinger, respectively, in nomination. There being no further nominations, Joshua Little moved that the nominations be closed and that the treasurer be instructed to cast a unanimous vote for Brian Cossel as President and William Sammetinger as Vice President.

Member Gregg Ruppert seconded the motion.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **carried 5 – 0**.

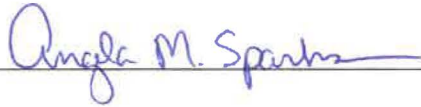
### **SWEARING IN OF OFFICERS**

Angela Sparks, Treasurer, swore in the following Board of Education officers by administering the following oath of office:

I, Brian Cossel, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Ohio; and I will faithfully and impartially discharge my duties as President in and for the said Wapakoneta City School District, Auglaize County, Ohio, to the best of my ability, and in accordance with the law now in effect and hereafter to be enacted, during my continuance in said office and until my successor is chosen and qualified. Sworn to before me, this 8th day of January, 2024.

Angela M. Sparks

I, William Sammetinger, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Ohio; and I will faithfully and impartially discharge my duties as Vice President in and for the said Wapakoneta City School District, Auglaize County, Ohio, to the best of my ability, and in accordance with the law now in effect and hereafter to be enacted, during my continuance in said office and until my successor is chosen and qualified. Sworn to before me, this 8th day of January, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

The meeting was turned over to Brian Cossel, Board President.

### **READING OF THE CODE OF ETHICS**

Reading of the Code of Ethics for Board Members (Policy 0123)

### **ROUTINE BUSINESS**

2-24 Member Gregg Ruppert moved, Member Joshua Little seconded to approve the following items:

#### **Establish Service Fund**

WHEREAS, Section 3315.15 of the Ohio Revised Code authorizes the establishment of a "Service Fund" not to exceed 75 cents per student enrolled, or \$7,500.00, whichever is greater, to be used in paying expenses of the Board of Education or its official representatives, when said expenses are actually incurred in the performance of their duties inside or outside the school district.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Wapakoneta City School District does hereby appropriate for the purpose of said "Service Fund" the amount of \$7,500.00.

#### **Authorize Treasurer to Invest Funds**

WHEREAS, the Wapakoneta City Board of Education, during the calendar year 2024, will receive funds periodically for current expenses and other expenditures of the said school district;

and WHEREAS, the funds that are not to be expended immediately shall be invested as interim funds or inactive funds;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Wapakoneta City School District does hereby direct the Treasurer to invest funds during the calendar year 2024, as set forth in the Ohio Revised Code and Board Policy #6144.

**Request the Advancement of Tax Settlements**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Wapakoneta City School District, that the Auditor of Auglaize County be and is hereby requested to draw warrants, and the Treasurer of said county be and is requested to pay the Treasurer of this Board any money in the county treasury to the account of this Board and lawfully applicable to the purpose of the calendar year 2024.

**Appoint a Purchasing Agent/Change Order Authorization**

BE IT RESOLVED that Aaron Rex and Mike Watt be appointed the Wapakoneta City Board of Education official purchasing agents for 2024 and be authorized to approve change orders up to 10% of original contract award amount, not exceeding \$25,000.00, with a follow-up report to the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

**Board of Education Meetings**

Calendar of Board of Education Meetings for 2024:

January 8 (organizational) - High School - 6:00 p.m.

January 8 (regular) - High School - 6:00 p.m.

February 27 - \*\*High School - 7:00 p.m.

March 26 - \*\*Wapakoneta Elementary - 7:00 p.m.

April 23 - \*\*Middle School - 7:00 p.m.

May 28 - High School - 7:00 p.m.

June 25 - Gardenia Office - 6:00 p.m.

July 23 - Gardenia Office - 6:00 p.m.

August 27 - Gardenia Office - 7:00 p.m.

September 24 - High School - 7:00 p.m.

October 22 - \*\*Cridersville Elementary - 7:00 p.m.

November 26 - High School - 7:00 p.m.

December 17 - Gardenia Office - 5:30 p.m.

\*\*Student recognition at the meeting

**Fixing the Amount of Bond for Board President**

BE IT RESOLVED that the bond of the President be fixed at the sum of \$20,000.00 and that the President be authorized and directed to provide bond satisfactory to the Wapakoneta City Board of Education for a one (1) year period from January 8, 2024, through organizational meeting 2025.

**Appointment of Board Committees and Representatives**

BE IT RESOLVED that the following members of the Wapakoneta City Board of Education be appointed to serve on the designated boards and committees for 2024, per Board Policy 0155.

Representatives to the Wapakoneta High School Athletic Board/Parent Information Group: Brian Cossel, Willie Sammetinger

Members of the Facilities Committee: Ron Mertz, Gregg Ruppert, Willie Sammetinger

Members of the Finance Committee: Gregg Ruppert, Josh Little

Member of the Legislative Liaison Committee: Josh Little  
Member of the Student Achievement Liaison: Ron Mertz  
Members of the Performing Arts Center Committee: Brian Cossel, Ron Mertz  
Member of the Compensation Committee: Gregg Ruppert, Ron Mertz

**Blanket Purchase Orders**

As required by Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D), the amount for blanket purchase orders is hereby set at 10% of the appropriations.

**Public Records Designee**

Appoint Angela Sparks, Treasurer, the Public Records Designee for Wapakoneta City Schools for 2024.

**Authorize Treasurer to Pay Bills**

Authorize the Treasurer to pay bills within the limits of the Budget Appropriations after determined by the Superintendent and Treasurer that merchandise or services received were satisfactory.

**Authorize Treasurer to Modify Budget Appropriations**

Authorize the Treasurer to modify the Annual Budget Appropriations as needed and report to the Board monthly.

**Authorize Superintendent and Treasurer to Write off Bad Debts**

Authorize the Superintendent and Treasurer to jointly decide to write off bad debts for the school fees of families who have moved from the District or who are experiencing extreme financial hardship, when necessary.

**Authorize Superintendent to Accept Employee Resignations**

Authorize the Superintendent to accept resignations of Classified and Certified employees on behalf of the Board of Education.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **carried 5 – 0**.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**3-24** Member Ron Mertz moved, Member Gregg Ruppert seconded to approve to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **carried 5 – 0**.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary