

Amherst Exempted Village Board of Education

550 Milan Avenue

Amherst, OH 44001

(440) 988-4406 - Fax (440) 988-4413

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, December 15, 2025 at 5:30 P.M.

M.L. Steele Creative Learning Center

450 Washington St.

Amherst, OH 44001

Each meeting of the Amherst Board of Education is held in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated on the agenda.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by:

Time:

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call:

Mr. Rex Engle, Board President - **Present / Absent**

Mr. Marc Zappa, Board Vice-President - **Present / Absent**

Mrs. Teresa Gilles, Board Member - **Present / Absent**

Dr. Amanda Messer, Board Member - **Present / Absent**

Mrs. Morgan Wachholz, Board Member - **Present / Absent**

4. Recommendation to adopt/amend the agenda as presented, including any addendum(s).

Roll call vote:

Mr. Engle _____, Mrs. Gilles _____, Dr. Messer _____, Mrs. Wachholz _____, Mr. Zappa _____

5. Hearing of the Public:

The Public Participation section of the Board of Education's agenda is specifically designed for the public to address the Board with their compliments and/or concerns. The Board welcomes and appreciates your comments. If you wish to address the board regarding a problem, please consider the following: First, your comments should be factual and respectful of the rights of others. Second, before addressing the Board with a specific problem, it is the Board's hope that you have first addressed the problem with the appropriate teacher, staff member or administrator. Individual statements should not exceed five (5) minutes and total time shall be a maximum of thirty (30) minutes.

(If planning to address the Board, please complete the sign-in sheet.)

Notes:

6. Board Recommendation(s):

A. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education appoint _____ as President Pro Tempore to preside over the January 12, 2026 Organizational Meeting.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Engle _____, **Mrs. Gilles** _____, **Dr. Messer** _____, **Mrs. Wachholz** _____, **Mr. Zappa** _____

7. Treasurer's Recommendations:

- A. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education amend and/or approve the board minutes for the 11/24/2025 Regular Board Meeting.
- B. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education amend and/or approve the board minutes for the 12/8/2025 Special Board Meeting.
- C. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the treasurer's financial reports for the month of November, 2025, as **per exhibits 7A, 7B, 7C, and 7D**.
- D. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education accept and acknowledge the receipt of the following donations to the Amherst Schools:
 - An anonymous donation of a \$50 Amazon gift card to Nord School's Puzzle Club.
 - An anonymous donation of \$100 to pay towards negative lunch balances.
 - American Legion Post 118 for a \$1,500 donation to CometsLive.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Engle _____, **Mrs. Gilles** _____, **Dr. Messer** _____, **Mrs. Wachholz** _____, **Mr. Zappa** _____

8. Board Discussion:

- Good News Report:
 - Mrs. Deanne Kelbley, Nutrition Services Supervisor
- May Levy
- Resolution:
 - That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education place a levy on the May 2026 Special Election Ballot:
_____ type - School District Income Tax (SDIT) or property
_____ term - 5 year, 10 year or CPT (Continuing Period of Time)
_____ if SDIT, earned or traditional

Roll call vote:

Mr. Engle _____, **Mrs. Gilles** _____, **Dr. Messer** _____, **Mrs. Wachholz** _____, **Mr. Zappa** _____

9. Personnel Recommendations:

- A. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education accept the following resignations as indicated, and authorize the Superintendent and/or Treasurer to execute any necessary documents relating to separation of employment:
 - **Aubrey Dooley**, JV Cheer Advisor, effective 11/2/2025
 - **Mya Koler**, Comet Kids Aide, Powers, effective 12/15/2025
 - **Melissa Rodriguez**, PT Monitor, Powers, effective 12/12/2025
 - **Elyse Rusaw**, PT Monitor, AJH, effective 12/19/2025
 - **Crystal White**, FT Bus Driver, effective 12/26/2025
- B. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education employ the following individual(s) as certified and/or classified substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year, as indicated, with compensation at the board approved substitute rates pending completion of all employment requirements, including, but not limited to licensure/certification (if required) and a BCI & FBI background check:

CERTIFIED

Chancellor Fritz, effective 12/16/2025

CLASSIFIED

Crystal White, Bus Driver, effective 1/6/2026

C. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education grant a supplemental contract to the following individuals for the winter and/or year-round extra-curricular activities during the 2025-2026 school year, pending completion of all employment requirements, including but not limited to Pupil Activity Permit, if required for positions, and a BCI and FBI background check with compensation at the board approved rate:

- **Steven Taylor** - Boys Varsity Bowling

D. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve **Katelynn Florek** as a **Comet Kids Aide** for Powers, effective 11/24/2025.

E. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education grant the following individuals who have completed their probationary contract, a limited contract or return to a continuing contract status as indicated:

- **Lakeshia Francis**, FT Bus Driver, balance of a one-year contract, effective 11/12/2025 - correction of last name (incorrectly listed as Goodwin on the 11/24/2025 agenda)

F. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the unpaid medical leave of absence for **Tammy Kleppe**, effective 11/11/2025 through 2/15/2026.

G. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the following game management and athletic event personnel to be paid according to the approved **2025-2026 Ancillary salary schedule** out of the athletic fund as per **attachment 9A**.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Engle_____, Mrs. Gilles_____, Dr. Messer_____, Mrs. Wachholz_____, Mr. Zappa_____

10. Educational Recommendations:

A. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the following overnight trips:

- Nutrition Services Supervisor and a M.L. Steele High School student to Washington, D.C. as per **exhibit 10A**.
- Cheer Team to Cheerleading Nationals in Orlando, FL as per **exhibit 10B**.
- Varsity Hockey Team to Columbus for a tournament as per **exhibit 10C**.

B. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve **Girls Flag Football** as a Club Sport for grades 7-12.

C. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the **Program of Studies** for **M.L. Steele High School** for the **2026-2027 school year**, as per **exhibit 10D**.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Engle_____, Mrs. Gilles_____, Dr. Messer_____, Mrs. Wachholz_____, Mr. Zappa_____

11. Business Recommendations:

A. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve **Universal Free Breakfast** for all Amherst students, to begin 1/6/2026. Breakfast will be provided to all students as part of the Nutrition Services Departments' USDA Spend Down Plan.

B. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the agreement with **Wolstein Center at Cleveland State University** for the purpose of holding the 2026 M.L. Steele commencement ceremony on May 23, 2026, as per **exhibit 11A**.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Engle_____, **Mrs. Gilles**_____, **Dr. Messer**_____, **Mrs. Wachholz**_____, **Mr. Zappa**_____

12. Board Recommendations:

A. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education certifies and approves the changes in assumptions, revenue enhancements, and expenditure reductions contained in the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce's written plan workbook and narrative as per **exhibit 12A**.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Engle_____, **Mrs. Gilles**_____, **Dr. Messer**_____, **Mrs. Wachholz**_____, **Mr. Zappa**_____

13. Move to executive session as needed:

- A. _____ the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of an employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against an employee, official, licensee or student requests a public hearing;
- B. _____ the purchase of property for public purposes or the sale of property at competitive bidding;
- C. _____ conferences with the board's attorney to discuss matters which are the subject of pending or imminent court action;
- D. _____ preparing for, conducting or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with employees;
- E. _____ matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or rules or state statute;
- F. _____ specialized details of security arrangements.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Engle_____, **Mrs. Gilles**_____, **Dr. Messer**_____, **Mrs. Wachholz**_____, **Mr. Zappa**_____

14. Adjournment.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Engle_____, **Mrs. Gilles**_____, **Dr. Messer**_____, **Mrs. Wachholz**_____, **Mr. Zappa**_____

ADDRESSING THE BOARD:

School patrons are reminded when addressing the Board, statements about school employees, students or parents must be accurate and that all remarks made at a public board meeting are subject to the libel and slander laws of the State of Ohio.

Patrons wishing to meet privately with the school board are asked to contact the Superintendent prior to the Board meeting so that the agenda may be adjusted and a time can be arranged.

MEETINGS AND EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:

This meeting and notices of all meetings are in compliance with O.R.C. 121.22. This Board of Education shall discuss in Executive Session only those items allowed in O.R.C. 121.22.

Board of Education members receive their copies of the agenda 72 hours prior to each meeting. This provides them with time to review all items, request additional information, if needed, and establish a position prior to the call for a vote.

WINTER EVENT WORKERS

Ticket Seller — Boys Basketball

Claudia Schultz
Jackie Doebr
Michele Sturgeon
Lynn Mayer

Ticket Seller — Girls Basketball

Claudia Schultz
Jackie Doebr
Michele Sturgeon
Lynn Mayer

Ticket Seller -- Hockey

Claudia Schultz
Jackie Doebr
Michele Sturgeon
Lynn Mayer

Ticket Seller -- Swimming

Claudia Schultz
Jackie Doebr
Michele Sturgeon
Lynn Mayer

Ticket Seller — Wrestling

Claudia Schultz
Jackie Doebr
Michele Sturgeon
Lynn Mayer

Scoreboard — Basketball — Girls/Boys

Linda Bray
Dana Weatherspoon
Al McConihe
Chris Kelley
Todd Sayers

Bookkeeper — Basketball —Girls/Boys Home/Away

Linda Bray
Tim Sumser
Chris Kelley

Announcer — Boys & Girls Basketball

Brandon Dimacchia
Tom Anderson

Security—Ice Hockey

Jerry Hackney
Michael Mahony
Erin Scott