



Beavercreek Public Schools Excels with eScribe

“Our system wasn’t broken, but it was holding us back.”

When Paul Otten looks back on how school board meetings were managed at Beavercreek Public Schools before eScribe, he doesn’t describe dysfunction—but he does describe strain. “It worked,” he said. “But it created stress. It created paper. And I don’t know if it was always as accurate as it needed to be.”

As Superintendent of one of Ohio’s 20 largest school districts, Otten oversaw a board meeting process that was entirely paper-based. Each department submitted agenda items to his administrative assistant, who compiled them into what the team called the “board book.” That book often exceeded 200 pages, and every change meant reworking the document by hand.

“She would get it finished and numbered, and then someone would need to add or remove a page,” he explained. “Eventually, we were numbering pages 112A, 112B, etc., just to avoid renumbering the whole thing.”

The community also had limited visibility. While meetings were recorded, the videos weren’t embedded or indexed. “If you wanted to go back and watch a portion of a meeting, you either had to watch the whole thing or slowly play through it,” Otten said. Even board members found it difficult to locate decisions after the fact.

A Frustrated Board Member Makes a Suggestion

The turning point came from within the board. One board member, trying to help a community resident locate the meeting where the high school principal had been hired, couldn’t find it. The documents weren’t searchable. The video wasn’t tagged. And he didn’t want to ask staff for help.

“He created a lot of frustration for himself,” said Otten. “But he came to the board with a proposal—not for the board’s convenience, but for the community. He wanted something more accessible.”

Key Outcomes

- Faster, less stressful agenda creation.
- Real-time updates and improved accuracy.
- Easier public access to meetings and documents.
- Stronger collaboration across departments.
- Empowered staff with shared ownership.

That suggestion launched Beaver Creek into a search for a better way to manage their meetings. After evaluating three different vendors and then narrowing it down to two, the choice became clear.

“What was evident to us was just how updated and user-friendly eScribe was,” Otten said. “The other vendor kept talking about upgrades coming down the pike, but we didn’t feel like we needed to wait. eScribe already had what we needed.”

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Implementation: Practical, Supported, and Culture-Shifting

Beaver Creek’s implementation process was highly collaborative. The assistant treasurer and administrative assistant led the training effort, working closely with eScribe’s onboarding team. Once confident, they brought other board members into the process, eventually walking the full school board through the platform during a live meeting.

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“The support from eScribe has been fantastic,” Otten said. “We’ve had moments where my admin assistant would take a picture of her screen and send it to them, asking, ‘Why is this box here?’ And they’d help us solve it and explain why it happened.”

One of the biggest shifts wasn’t technical—it was cultural. Departments began owning their own agenda items. HR could upload last-minute retirements. Finance could make changes in real-time. No more funneling everything through one person, and no more scrambling to reorganize 200+ pages of paper board books.

“It’s put the ownership back on each department,” noted Otten. “It’s empowered them. And it’s made life a lot easier for our administrative staff.”

Better Board Meetings. Better Public Experience

Today, Beaver Creek’s meetings run more smoothly and more accurately than ever before. The agenda is a living document, updated right up until the day of the meeting. And for Otten, that’s a critical improvement.

“Our agendas are definitely more accurate than they’ve been in the past,” he said. “And for the community, it’s night and day. People have already commented on how much easier it is to find information.” Residents can now search past meetings, access linked documents, and view recordings from one central place.

From Meeting Tool to Strategic Platform

Looking ahead, Beaver Creek is planning to expand how it uses eScribe. The leadership team has begun reviewing full agendas together the day before meetings, not just to check for errors, but to treat the platform as a collaborative workspace.

“We’re trying to shift from just using eScribe as a tool to store agendas to using it as a tool to build them,” said Otten. “And I think as we get a full year under our belt, we’ll use it for even more—other meetings, internal use cases, and so on.”

“If I Went Somewhere New, I’d Bring eScribe With Me”

Otten was candid in saying that he wasn’t looking to overhaul the meeting process. “Our old system wasn’t broken, but it wasn’t efficient. It wasn’t accurate. And it wasn’t sustainable.”

Asked if he’d make the same decision again to implement eScribe, Otten didn’t hesitate. “If I left here and went to another district, I would bring eScribe with me. Absolutely.”

Ready to See What eScribe Can Do for Your Public Health Board?

If your district is still using PDFs and binders to run meetings, you don’t have to wait for something to break. There’s a better way, and Beaver Creek is just one of many customers who have found success with eScribe’s solution. Learn more about eScribe by [downloading our brochure](#) or [booking a personalized demo](#).