

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE AUSTINTOWN LOCAL SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC MEETING**

Pursuant to its rules, the Austintown Board of Education of the Austintown Local Schools met at Austintown Middle School at 4:00 PM on Tuesday March 18, 2025 for a Work Session and at 5:00 PM for the March Regular Session Board Meeting.

Board Members

Mr. Fred Marcum, President
Mrs. Kathy Mock, Vice President
Mr. Harold Porter, Member
Mr. Don Sherwood, Member
Mrs. Kim Smrek, Member

Administration

Timothy Kelty, Superintendent
Blaise Karlovic, Treasurer

2025-3/18-1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM with all members present.

Mr. Marcum, Present; Mrs. Mock, Present; Mr. Porter, Present; Mr. Sherwood, Present; Mrs. Smrek, Present

2025-3/18-2 Work Session-Topics for Discussion

- Band Update- Mr. Kelty met with AIS band staff and administration regarding eliminating 5th grade band
- Construction Update-Matt Bostian gave a facility update on our new construction project and highlighted that the roof is completed and restroom building construction has begun.

2025-3/18-3 Executive Session

Mrs. Mock motioned to recess to Executive Session at 4:16 PM for the purpose to discuss Employment, appointment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, compensation of a public employee and the details relative to the security arrangements and emergency response protocols for the Board of Education.

Mr. Sherwood seconded the motion. The vote resulted as follows:

The vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Marcum, Yes; Mrs. Mock, Yes; Mr. Porter, Yes; Mr. Sherwood, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (5-0). The Executive Session ended at 5:03 PM.

2025-3/18-4 Recall to Order

The Board returned to Regular Session at 5:05 PM with all members present.

2025-3/18-5 Agenda Approval

Mrs. Smrek moved to approve the agenda for the 3/18/2025 Board of Education Regular Session.

Mr. Sherwood seconded the motion and the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Marcum, Yes; Mrs. Mock, Yes; Mr. Porter, Yes; Mr. Sherwood, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (5-0).

2025-3/18-6 Public Comments

None

2025-3/18-7 Principal Report

Robin Vickers, AIS Principal- Ms. Vickers provided an update for each building.

2025-3/18-8 Student Recognition

- Fitch Competition Cheer Team- Julie Williams- Julie recognized all of the cheerleaders on the team and Mr. Kelty presented each with a Falcon pin.

2025-3/18-9 Treasurer's Consent Items

Mrs. Mock moved upon the recommendation of the Treasurer to approve the Treasurer's Consent Items:

A. MINUTES

- a. Regular Session held on 2/20/25

B. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- a. February, 2025 Monthly Financial/Expenditure Activity Report
- b. February, 2025 Month End Forecast Report
- c. Purchase Orders over \$15,000 and transfers for the month as submitted

C. DONATIONS

- a. \$250 from Rotary Club of Austintown to Fitch RDE
- b. \$500 from American Legion 9th District to Fitch Concert Choir
- c. \$1530 from Fitch Football Boosters to Fitch Football towards purchase of new uniforms
- d. \$2000 from Austintown Choral Parents Club to Concert Choir Tour
- e. \$3000 anonymous donation to Fitch Speech and Debate
- f. \$100 donation from Austintown PTA to Fitch Drama Club

Mrs. Smrek seconded the motion and the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Marcum, Yes; Mrs. Mock, Yes; Mr. Porter, Yes; Mr. Sherwood, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (5-0).

2025-3/18-10 Superintendent's Consent Items

Mrs. Smrek moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Superintendent's Consent Items:

A. PERSONNEL

1. Resignations

- a. Kelly Watkins, Custodian Turn Leader effective 3/5/2025, personal
- b. Betsy Cercone, Substitute Paraprofessional effective 3/7/2025, job change

2. OAPSE Appointments

- a. Kiara DiPietro, Athletic Groundskeeper 12-month position replacing Jaclyn Iagulli effective 3/3/2025
- b. Robert Headley, Athletic Groundskeeper 12-month position replacing Erica Ramirez effective 3/17/2025
- c. Taylor Bush, Bus Driver effective 1/29/2025
- d. Charles Olenick, Sweeper Cleaner at AIS 9-month 5.75 hour replacing Cheryl Nagle effective 3/18/2025
- e. Tiffany Rutushin, Food Service, 3 hour flex at Fitch High School, replacing Katelyn Ray effective 3/12/2025

3. OAPSE Transfers

- a. Nicole Kolat, Bus Aide to Bus Driver effective 2/26/2025

B. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

- a. Stephen Krispinsky - Intermittent FMLA- effective 1.21.25 - 5.23.25

C. NON-BARGAINING UNIT PERSONNEL

- a. Morgan Ainsworth , Home Instruction Intervention Specialist Tutor for grade 1

student; up to 5 hours per week as needed at \$20 per hour

- b. Rachel Mrazik, Home Instruction Tutor for grade 1 student; up to 5 hours per week as needed at \$20 per hour

D. SUMMER PERSONNEL

Camp Invention funded by the National Inventors Hall of Fame Grant

- a. Dr. William Young, Director
- b. Kerri Gries, Assistant Director

E. ATHLETIC SUPPLEMENTAL POSITIONS (2024-2025 SY)- NON-AEA MEMBERS

The following positions were made available to AEA members with no internal applications received

FITCH

- a. Samuel Gibbons, Track Assistant Girls - 8.25%

F. ATHLETIC- EVENT STAFF

- a. Dana Kosco

G. CLASSIFIED NON-TEACHING SUBSTITUTE PERSONNEL

- a. Mark Julian - Paraprofessional substitute

H. STUDENT TRIPS

- a. Who: Baseball
What: Ripken Baseball High School Tournament
Where: Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
When: Saturday, April 19 - Saturday, April 26
Transportation: Parents driving (transportation waiver will be signed)
Hotel: The Breakers Myrtle Beach Resort, 2104 North Ocean Blvd, Myrtle Beach, SC (Phone Number 1-855-710-4941)
Expenses: Fund Raised or self funded
Chaperones: Joe Paris, Jake Corbett, Frank Pugliese, John Drummond, Joe Chepke, Joey Chepke
Contact: Joe Paris 330-507-4264

Mrs. Mock seconded the motion and the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Marcum, Yes; Mrs. Mock, Yes; Mr. Porter, Yes; Mr. Sherwood, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (5-0).

2025-3/18-11 Resolution

Mrs. Smrek moved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor:

WHEREAS, This Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of law has previously adopted a Tax Budget or has been granted the authority by the Mahoning County Budget Commission to waive this requirement for the next succeeding fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, The Budget Commission of Mahoning County, Ohio, has certified its action thereon to this Board together with an estimate by the County Auditor of the rate of each tax necessary to be levied by this Board, and what part thereof is without, and what part within, the ten mill limitation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Board of Education of the Austintown School District, Mahoning County, Ohio, that the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission in its certification, be and the same are hereby accepted; and be it further

RESOLVED, That there be and is hereby levied on the tax duplicate of said School District the rate of each tax necessary to be levied within and without the ten mill limitation as follows:

SCHEDULE A

SUMMARY OF AMOUNTS REQUIRED FROM GENERAL PROPERTY TAX APPROVED BY BUDGET COMMISSION AND COUNTY AUDITOR'S ESTIMATED TAX RATES

Fund	Amount Approved by Budget Commission Inside 10 Mill Limitation	Amount to Be Derived from Levies Outside 10 Mill Limitation	County Auditor's Estimate of Tax Rate to be Levied Inside 10 Mill Limit	County Auditor's Estimate of Tax Rate to be Levied Outside 10 Mill Limit
	Column I	Column II	Column III	Column IV
General	\$5,983,027	\$16,276,672	6.40	48.20
Bond (\$26,000,000)		\$1,907,090		2.04
Bond (26,682,099)		\$1,467,712		1.57
Class Facilities		\$317,110		0.50
Total	\$ 5,983,027	\$ 19,968,584	6.40	52.31

SCHEDULE B

CURRENT PROPERTY VALUES AND LEVIES OUTSIDE 10 MILL LIMITATION, EXCLUSIVE OF DEBT LEVIES (see attached schedule B)

And be it further

RESOLVED, That the Treasurer of this Board be and is hereby directed to certify a copy of this Resolution to the County Auditor of said County.

Mr. Sherwood seconded the motion and the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Marcum, Yes; Mrs. Mock, Yes; Mr. Porter, Yes; Mr. Sherwood, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (5-0).

2025-3/18-12 Resolution

Mrs. Mock moved, Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the resolution to amend the following program agreement:

WHEREAS, the Member of the ACCESS Council Assembly; and (hereinafter "the Board") is an Assembly

WHEREAS, the Assembly recently adopted an amendment to its Bylaws that necessitates an amendment to the Program Agreement to which the Board is a party; and

WHEREAS, the Board now desires to approve said amendment.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 3(B) of the Program Agreement shall be amended as follows:

(B) Assembly. The Assembly of the Council established pursuant to Section 3 of the Council Agreement and Section 2 of the Bylaws shall be the chief legislative body with overall responsibility for the governance and determination of all matters arising under this Agreement or with respect to the Computer Systems Program. For purposes of considering any such matters, in addition to the representatives of the Assembly Members, the Assembly shall include Associate Member and Nonmember representatives in accordance with its Bylaws. The Assembly shall have, in addition to its powers and duties under the Council Agreement and Bylaws, the following specific powers and duties in connection with the Computer Systems Program:

(1) It shall determine, upon recommendation from the Board of Directors as described in Section 9 hereof, the total estimated costs of the Program for each Fiscal Year, the percentage of the total estimated Program costs to be allocated to each Participating District, the amounts to be charged to all other User Entities, and the annual appropriations for the Program for each Fiscal Year based upon those estimated Program costs.

(2) It shall determine, upon recommendation from the Board of Directors, such other matters as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine to be matters requiring approval by the Assembly.

SECTION 2. The President and Treasurer are hereby authorized to execute any documents necessary to effectuate said amendment. The Treasurer is hereby authorized to certify a copy of this Resolution to ACCESS.

SECTION 3. This Board finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board and of any of its committees concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were taken, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in those formal actions were held, in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

SECTION 4. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

Mr. Smrek seconded the motion and the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Marcum, Yes; Mrs. Mock, Yes; Mr. Porter, Yes; Mr. Sherwood, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (5-0).

2025-3/18-13 Resolution

Mrs. Smrek moved, Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following resolution authorizing the filing of an original complaint against the valuation of commercial real property owned by MDC Coastal 18 LLC pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5715.19:

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Section 5715.19(A) permits a board of education to file an original complaint with the County Auditor challenging the determination of the total valuation of property it does not own but that is otherwise located within the boundaries of its school district on or before the thirty-first day of March if the property was sold in an arm's-length transaction during

calendar year 2023, and the sale price exceeds the true value of the property for Tax Year 2024 by both ten (10) percent and \$554,000;

WHEREAS, prior to filing an original complaint, a board of education is required to first adopt a resolution authorizing the filing at a public meeting;

WHEREAS, the Board's resolution is to include: a) identification of the parcel or parcels that are the subject of the original complaint by street address and permanent parcel number; b) the name of at least one of the record owners of the parcel or parcels; c) the basis for the complaint under divisions (A)(1)(a) to (f) of Ohio Revised Code Section 5715.19 relative to each parcel identified in the resolution; and (d) the tax year for which the complaint will be filed;

WHEREAS, before adopting the resolution, R.C. 5715.19(A)(7) provides that a board of education shall mail a written notice to at least one of the record owners of the parcel or parcels identified in the resolution stating its intent to adopt the resolution, the proposed date of adoption, and the basis for the complaint relative to each parcel identified in the resolution;

WHEREAS, the Board, through its counsel, has provided written notice to at least one of the record owners of the parcels identified herein in accordance with the statutory requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Board's Treasurer has recommended that the Board proceed with authorizing the filing of the original complaint as indicated below.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board:

SECTION 1. The Board hereby determines that the following property qualifies for an original complaint as it sold, according to the Mahoning County Property Records, for \$2,534,159 on April 20, 2023, and the County's tax year 2024 value is \$1,079, 870:

Street Address	Permanent Parcel Number(s)	Name of Record Owner	Basis for the Complaint	Tax Year of Filing
1100 N. Canfield Niles Rd Austintown, OH 44515	48-049-0-003.03-0	MDC Coastal 18 LLC	R.C.5715.19(A)(1)(d): Recent sale of the subject property establishes fair market value.	2024

SECTION 2. The Board approves the filing of an original complaint for the property described in this resolution and authorizes its legal counsel, Weston Hurd, LLP, to file said complaint with the Mahoning County Board of Revision and to take any action necessary to defend the complaint including but not limited to participating in the Board of Revision proceedings and any further appeal.

SECTION 3. The Board's Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary and consistent with this Resolution and to take such actions as necessary or appropriate to accomplish the objectives of this Resolution.

SECTION 4. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board,

and that all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public or in executive session as permitted by Ohio law.

SECTION 5. This Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Mr. Sherwood seconded the motion and the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Marcum, Yes; Mrs. Mock, Yes; Mr. Porter, Yes; Mr. Sherwood, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (5-0).

2025-3/18-14 Resolution

Mrs. Mock moved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following resolution authorizing 2025-2026 membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association:

WHEREAS, Austintown Local Schools, District IRN number:048298 of 700 S. Raccoon Rd, Mahoning County, Ohio

Has satisfied all requirements for the membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association, a voluntary unincorporated association not-for-profit; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education/Governing Board ("Board") and its Administration desire for the schools with one or more grades at 7-12 grade level under their jurisdiction to be voluntary members of the OHSAA;

NOW THEREFORE, it be resolved by the board of education/governing board that Austintown Fitch (grades 9-12), IRN:011791 and Austintown Middle School (grades 7 & 8), IRN: 001339 do hereby voluntarily renew membership in the OHSAA and in doing so, the Constitution, Bylaws, Regulations and Business Rules of the OHSAA are hereby adopted by this Board as and for its own requirements as it pertains to, but not limited to, student eligibility, coaching requirements, and administrative responsibility. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board reserves the right to raise the minimum standards as it deems appropriate for the schools and students under its jurisdiction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the schools under this Board's jurisdiction agree to conduct their athletics programs in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, Regulations, and Business Rules, interpretations and decisions of the OHSAA and cooperate fully and timely with the Executive Director's office of the OHSAA in all matters related to the interscholastic athletic programs of the schools. Furthermore, the schools under this Board's jurisdiction shall be the primary enforcers of the OHSAA Constitution, Bylaws, Regulations, and Business Rules and the interpretations and rulings rendered by the Executive Director's office. The administrative heads of these schools understand that failure to discharge the duty of the primary enforcement may result in fines, removal from tournaments, suspension from membership and/or other such penalties as prescribed in Bylaw 11.

Mrs. Smrek seconded the motion and the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Marcum, Yes; Mrs. Mock, Yes; Mr. Porter, Yes; Mr. Sherwood, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (5-0).

2025-3/18-15 Agreement

Mrs. Smrek moved, Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following contractual agreement made by and between the Austintown Local School District ("District") and The Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio ("Board") pursuant to R.C. 3313.845:

WHEREAS, the Board has expertise in providing services sought by the District, and

WHEREAS, the District wishes to utilize the Board's services and abilities during the term of this Agreement and the Board is qualified to provide such services and willing to offer such services upon the terms and conditions contained in this Agreement;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises contained herein, the parties agree on the following as presented.

This agreement shall begin on July 1, 2025 and end June 30, 2026, unless earlier terminated herein. This agreement shall not renew unless agreed to in writing by the ESC and the District.

Mr. Sherwood seconded the motion and the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Marcum, Yes; Mrs. Mock, Yes; Mr. Porter, Yes; Mr. Sherwood, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (5-0).

2025-3/18-16 Agreement

Mrs. Smrek moved, to approve the agreement ("Agreement") is made by the Governing Board of the Mahoning Valley Regional Council of Governments ("MVRCOG"), and Austintown Local ("District") pursuant to RC. 167.08.

WHEREAS, pursuant to R.C. 167.08, the public body of a political subdivision may contract with a regional council of governments to provide any service to such council; and

WHEREAS, the MVRCOG has expertise in providing certain services sought by the District; and

WHEREAS, the District wishes to utilize the MVRCOG's services and abilities during the term of this Agreement, and the MVRCOG is qualified to provide such services and willing to offer such services upon the terms and conditions contained in this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises contained herein, the parties agree as follows:

This Agreement shall begin on July 1, 2025 and end June 30, 2026 unless earlier terminated as provided herein. This Agreement shall not renew unless agreed to in writing by the MVRCOG and the District.

Mrs. Mock seconded the motion and the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Marcum, Yes; Mrs. Mock, Yes; Mr. Porter, Yes; Mr. Sherwood, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (5-0).

2025-3/18-17 Public Meeting for April, 2025

Mrs. Smrek moved for the following day, date, time, and location for the April, 2025 Board of Education meeting to take place:

Work Session: April 17, 2025 at the BOE Office Conference Room beginning at 4:00 PM

Regular Session: April 17, 2025 at Austintown Middle School beginning at 5:00 PM

Mr. Sherwood seconded the motion and the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Marcum, Yes; Mrs. Mock, Yes; Mr. Porter, Yes; Mr. Sherwood, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (5-0).

2025-3/18-18 Treasurer's Comments

None.

2025-3/18-19 Superintendent's Comments

Mr. Kelty recognized the Fitch Competition Cheerleading Team, gave some district wide updates and talked about the recognition by Governor DeWine for the Science of Reading.

2025-3/18-20 Board Comments

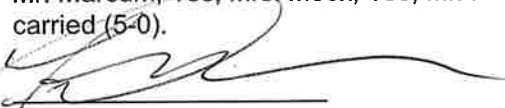
None.

2025-3/18-21 Adjournment

Mrs. Smrek moved to adjourn at 5:26 PM.

Mrs. Mock seconded the motion as the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Marcum, Yes; Mrs. Mock, Yes; Mr. Porter, Yes; Mr. Sherwood, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (5-0).



Mr. Fred Marcum, President
Austintown Board of Education



Blaise Karlovic, Treasurer
Austintown Board of Education