

**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 Fitch High School at 4:00 PM on November 20, 2025 for a Work Session and at 5:00 PM for the November 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

2025-11/20-1 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, Absent; Mrs. Smrek, Present

2025-11/20-2 Work Session-Topics for Discussion

- Falcon Media- Mrs. Mock discussed the appointment of a new BOE representative as she did not seek re-election for another term. Mrs. Mock has requested to be named as a community member active on the Falcon Media Committee.
- New Facility-Mr. Bostian provided a construction update for the new facility

2025-11/20-3 Executive Session

Mrs. Smrek motioned to recess to Executive Session at 4:12 PM for the purpose to discuss Employment, appointment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, compensation of a public employee and To consider legal matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or regulations or state statutes Mrs. Mock seconded the motion and the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Marcum, Yes; Mrs. Mock, Yes; Mr. Porter, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (4-0).

Mr. Sherwood arrived at 4:44 PM

The Executive Session ended at 5:00 PM.

2025-11/20-4 Recall to Order

The Board returned to Regular Session at 5:06 PM with all members present.

2025-11/20-5 Agenda Approval

Mrs. Mock moved to approve the agenda for the 11/20/2025 Board of Education Regular Session.

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).

2025-11/20-6 Public Comments

No public comments

2025-11/20-7 Principal Report

Ms. Vickers gave a district wide academic and extra-curricular update

2025-11/20-8 Treasurer's Consent Items

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

A. MINUTES

- a. Regular Session held on 10/23/2025

B. FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

C. DONATIONS

- a. \$4,000 from the Eagles to Austintown Board of Education for improvements at Fitch High School
- b. \$500 from Operation Keepsake, Inc to Austintown Middle School for participating in their Friends4Friends (F4F) Campaign.

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).

2025-11/20-9 Superintendent's Consent Items

Mrs. Mock moved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following items by consent action:

A. PERSONNEL

1. Resignations

- a. Melissa Swantner, Medical Assistant at Fitch effective November 7, 2025, personal
- b. Brian Zidian, Termination of employment as a substitute sweeper cleaner, effective 11/6/25

2. Resignations for the Purpose of Retirement

- a. Robert Duda, AEA Teacher, effective August 31, 2026, after 30 years as a teacher with Austintown Schools
- b. Laurine Grischow, AEA Teacher, effective June 30, 2026, after 25 years as a teacher with Austintown Schools
- c. Karen MacIntyre, Head Custodian at AIS, effective the end of the 2025-2026 contract year, after 16 years of service with Austintown Schools
- d. Margaret Sofranko, Secretary at Fitch, effective April 30, 2026, after 23 years of service with Austintown Schools
- e. Kathleen Schmidt, Custodian Turn Leader at AIS, effective June 30, 2026, after 27 years of service with Austintown Schools
- f. Gina Moorhead, Approve change of effective retirement date to June 1, 2026
- g. Debra Infante, Approve change of effective retirement date to June 1, 2026

3. OAPSE Appointments

- a. Bridgette Bobonick, Paraprofessional assigned to AES Lunch/Recess, 9-month, 5.75-hour, new position effective 11/3/2025
- b. Jeniffer Hernandez, Food Service at Fitch; 9-month, 3-hour position replacing Tiffany Rutushin effective 11/4/25
- c. Kelly Moreno, Food Service Kitchen Manager at AMS; 9-month, 7.5 hours replacing Sarah Tharp effective 11/10/25
- d. Alonda James, Bus Aide; 9-month, 3.5-hour aide replacing Carrie Whitehouse effective 12/1/25

- e. Christopher Hoskinson, Bus Driver; 9-month, 3.5 hour position effective 11/20/2025

4. OAPSE Transfers

- a. Sarah Tharp, Food Service 3-hour position at Fitch, replacing Jodie Hanna, effective 11/17/25
- b. Gary Markulin, SPED Paraprofessional at AES, report time change 8:25 am to 2:10 pm effective 2/1/25 due to the retirement of MaryAnn Miller

B. NON-BARGAINING UNIT PERSONNEL

- a. Isabella Caholi, Long term sub; AIS Grade 3 at the rate of \$120, effective 10/16/2025

Title I Grant Funded Positions

- a. Michele Peace, Fitch PBIS Aide for Student Success: limited to 5.75 hours daily, not to exceed 166 days at \$16.50 per hour effective 12/1/2025

C. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

- a. Holly Brady, Request for personal day following a holiday break: 12/1/25
- b. Kelley Ferguson, Request for two (2) unpaid days: 12/4/25 and 12/5/25
- c. Jeniffer Hernandez, Request for four (4) unpaid days: 11/4/25, 11/20/25, 12/16/25, and 12/17/25
- d. Kathleen Servisky, Request for six (6) unpaid days: 1/30/26 - 2/6/2026
- e. Renee Griswold - Intermittent FMLA - effective 11.10.25

D. ATHLETIC SUPPLEMENTAL POSITIONS (2025-2026SY)- AEA MEMBERS

The asterisk () denotes longevity percentage / two (**) denotes maximum longevity percentage*

FITCH

- a. Joseph Paris, Baseball Head - 21%** (MOU)
- b. Frank Pugliese, Baseball Assistant - 11%* (MOU)
- c. John Drummond, Baseball Assistant - 10% (MOU)
- d. Luke Kelty, Baseball Assistant - 5% (MOU)

AMS

- a. Jenna Riccardo, Basketball Girls Grade 7 - 10%

E. ATHLETIC SUPPLEMENTAL POSITIONS (2025-2026 SY)- NON-AEA MEMBERS

FITCH

- a. Booker Newberry, Basketball Varsity Assist. Boys - 15%
- b. Jacob Capezzuto, Basketball Varsity Assist. Girls - 15%
- c. Ian Kotch, Wrestling Assistant - 8%

AMS

- a. Devin Phillips, Wrestling Assistant Blue- 8%

F. ATHLETIC- EVENT STAFF

- a. Christopher Martini -Clock
- b. Jean Profanchik -Girls Basketball Scorebook

G. NON-TEACHING SUBSTITUTE PERSONNEL

- a. Allyson King - Food Service

H. STUDENT TRIPS

- a. Who: Fitch Softball
What: Cruiser Classic Tournament
When: 3/27/26-3/29/26
Where: Groveport, OH
Cost: Self Funded
Transportation: Self Transport/Parents
Contact: Coaching Staff

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).

2025-11/20-10 Agreement

Mr. Sherwood moved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following contractual agreement with ACCESS for internet application services:

Whereas, **ACCESS** wishes to provide Internet access and application services to **User** subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement;

NOW IT IS AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

SERVICES PROVIDED

ACCESS agrees to furnish and **User** agrees to purchase digital transmission (transport) and Internet access services, as outlined in Exhibit A attached hereto (together, the "Services").

User agrees to obtain, at its own expense, any computer and electronic equipment necessary for receipt of services at its facilities.

CHARGES AND PAYMENT

User agrees to pay **ACCESS** all required fees for the Services listed in Exhibit A hereto, less any discounts granted for E-rate eligible services. Payment will be due monthly on the 25th of each month commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026. **ACCESS**, where applicable, will file a FCC Form 474 to obtain reimbursement for the discount amount.

Notwithstanding the above, **User** agrees to be solely responsible for all charges associated with the Services throughout the period of the Agreement, regardless of the availability and/or receipt of E-rate funding.

TERM

This initial term of this Agreement shall be for the period of one (1) year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 as outlined in Exhibit A.

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).

2025-11/20-11 Agreement

Mrs. Smrek moved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the contractual agreement with Jostens to be the exclusive yearbook provider for Fitch High School from the school year 2026-2027 to school year 2028-2029.

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).

2025-11/20-12 Resolution

Mr. Sherwood moved to approve the resolution to declare transportation impractical for certain identified students is presented pursuant to the requirements of Ohio Revised Code §3327 and the procedures set forth by the Ohio Department of Education. The resolution follows careful evaluation of all other available options prior to consideration of impracticality.

The Superintendent of Schools Tim Kelty recommends that the board of education adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS the student(s) identified below have been determined to be residents of this school district, and eligible for transportation services; and

WHEREAS after a careful evaluation of all available options, it has been determined that it is impractical to provide transportation for these student(s) to their selected school(s); and

WHEREAS the following factors as identified in Revised Code §3327.02 have been considered:

1. The time and distance required to provide the transportation
2. The number of pupils to be transported
3. The cost of providing transportation in terms of equipment, maintenance, personnel, and administration
4. Whether similar or equivalent service is provided to other pupils eligible for transportation
5. Whether and to what extent the additional service unavoidably disrupts current transportation schedules
6. Whether other reimbursable types of transportation are available; and

WHEREAS the option of offering payment-in-lieu of transportation is provided in Ohio Revised Code: Therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Austintown Board of Education hereby approves the declaration that it is impractical to transport the students identified herein and offers the parent(s)/guardian(s) of students named on the attachment, payment-in-lieu of transportation.

ATTACHMENT TO RESOLUTION:
New for the 2025/2026 school year

Student First	Student Last	Parent(s)	School	Grade
Ayla	Beck	Brenton Beck	Heartland Christian	K
Arielle	Beck	Brenton Beck	Heartland Christian	K
Anna	Ulicney	Dave & Mindy Ulicney	St. Rose	8
Emma	Sterchi	Michelle & Brian Sterchi	Heartland Christian	K

Previously Determined Impractical:
2025/2026 school year

Student First	Student Last	Parent(s)	School	Grade
Gabriella	Francis	Kayla Francis	Heartland Christian	2
Abigail	Ellis	Amanda Ellis	Heartland Christian	10
Anabell	Ellis	Amanda Ellis	Heartland Christian	8
Grace	Ellis	Amanda Ellis	Heartland Christian	6
Martin	Ellis	Amanda Ellis	Heartland Christian	1
Domenica	Murray	Joseph & Brittaney Murray	Heartland Christian	2
Andrew	Rosta	Jane Mackey	Montessori of Mahoning Valley	4

Previously Determined Impractical:
2024/2025 school year

Student First	Student Last	Parent(s)	School	Grade
Micah	Beck	Brenton Beck	Heartland Christian	5
Levi	Beck	Brenton Beck	Heartland Christian	2

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).

2025-11/20-13 Memorandum of Understanding

Mrs. Smrek moved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Austintown Local School District ("Board") and the Austintown Education Association, OEA/NEA:

WHEREAS, the Board and the Association are parties to a collective bargaining agreement that is in effect from August 29, 2024 to August 28, 2027, and

WHEREAS, the Board and the Association believe it to be mutually advantageous to temporarily modify the Agreement; and

NOW THEREFORE, the Board and the Association agree as follows:

One of the Athletic Supplementals for Girls Basketball (7th) at Austintown Middle School, contractually compensated at 10%, shall be used to add an Assistant AMS Wrestling Coach position (Girls) at Austintown Middle School, compensated at 8%.

This MOU will be in effect for the 2025-2026 school year.

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).

2025-11/20-14 Board Policy Adoption/Revision

Mrs. Smrek moved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve re-adoption/revision/replacement of the following board policies:

PO1422 Nondiscrimination, Equal Employment Opportunity, and Anti-Harassment
PO1422.02 Nondiscrimination Based on Genetic Information of the Employee
PO1623 Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination in Employment
PO1662 Anti-Harassment
PO2260 Nondiscrimination And Access To Equal Education Opportunity
PO2260.01 Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability
PO2266 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities
PO2430.02 Participation of Community/STEM School Students in Extra-Curricular Activities
PO3122 Nondiscrimination, Equal Employment Opportunity, and Anti-Harassment
PO3122.02 Nondiscrimination Based on Genetic Information of the Employee
PO3123 Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination in Employment
PO3130 Assignment and Transfer
PO3362 Anti-Harassment
PO4122 Nondiscrimination, equal employment opportunity, and anti-harassment
PO4122.02 Nondiscrimination Based on Genetic Information of the Employee
PO4123 Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination in Employment
PO4362 Anti-Harassment
PO5130 Withdrawal from School
PO5136 Personal Communication Devices
PO5200 Attendance
PO5223 Released Time for Religious Instruction During the School Day
PO5410 Promotion, Academic Acceleration, Placement, and Retention
PO5517 Anti-Harassment
PO6109 Acceptance of Payment by Credit Card
PO6152 Student Fees, Fines, and Charges
PO6830 Audit
PO7540.02 Digital Content and Accessibility
PO7541 Electronic Data Processing Disaster Recovery Plan
PO8300 Continuity of Organizational Operation Plan
PO8305 Information Security
PO8400 School Safety

PO8462 Student Abuse and Neglect

PO8640 Transportation for Non- Routine Trips

PO9270 Equivalent Education Outside the Schools & Participation in Extracurricular for Students
Not Enrolled in 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).

2025-11/20-15 Public Meeting for December, 2025

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

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

Regular Session: December 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).

2025-11/20-16 Treasurer's Comments

None.

2025-11/20-17 Superintendent's Comments

Mr. Kelty congratulated the retirees and showed his appreciation for their service to the district

2025-11/20-18 Board Comments

Mr. Marcum congratulated all of the retirees

Mr. Porter congratulated the re-elected board members and new board member Katie Berdis

2025-11/20-19 Adjournment

Mrs. Smrek moved to adjourn at 5:18PM.

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