

Austintown Board of Education

January 13, 2026
Organizational Meeting 6:00 PM at Austintown Middle School

Board Members

Mr. Fred Marcum, President Pro-Tempore
Mrs. Katie Berdis, Member
Mr. Harold Porter, Member
Mr. Don Sherwood, Member
Mrs. Kim Smrek, Member

Administration

Timothy Kelty, Superintendent
Blaise Karlovic, Treasurer

Vision and Mission Statement of the Austintown Schools

The Austintown Local School District is a united community with a proud legacy and a progressive approach to education. We provide an inspiring education that strengthens and prepares our students for unlimited future opportunities.

Mr. Marcum was elected at the December 17, 2025 Board of Education Meeting to preside as President Pro-Tempore for the 1/13/2026 Organizational Meeting.

1. Call to Order- Pledge of Allegiance-Mission Statement Time: _____
2. Oath of office administered by the Board Treasurer to re-elected Board Members Fred Marcum and Don Sherwood and newly elected Board Member Katie Berdis.
3. Roll Call
Mrs. Berdis, P/A; Mr. Marcum, P/A; Mr. Porter, P/A; Mr. Sherwood, P/A; Mrs. Smrek, P/A
4. Approve the agenda for the Organizational Meeting for 1/13/2026
Moted by _____ Seconded by _____
Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

Nominations for the Office of the President of the Board of Education

5. Approve the motion to open the floor for nominations for the 2026 President of the Board of Education
Moted by _____ Seconded by _____
Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N
 - 1st Nomination of _____ by _____
 - 2nd Nomination (if needed) of _____ by _____
6. Approve the motion to close the floor to nominations for President.
Moted by _____ Seconded by _____
Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

Vote for the Office of the President of the Board of Education

The Board shall nominate _____ as Board President.
(Name of 1st Nominee)

Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

- ❖ If the first nominee is not elected by majority vote of 3-2 the vote moves on to the second nominee.

The Board shall nominate _____ as Board President.
(Name of 2nd Nominee)

Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

Nominations for the Office of Vice President of the Board of Education

7. Approve the motion to open the floor for nominations for the 2026 Vice President of the Board of Education

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

- 1st Nomination of _____ by _____
- 2nd Nomination (if needed) of _____ by _____

8. Approve the motion to close the floor to nominations for Vice President.

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

Vote for the Office of Vice President of the Board of Education

The Board shall nominate _____ as Board Vice President.
(Name of 1st Nominee)

Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

- ❖ If the first nominee is not elected by majority vote of 3-2 the vote moves on to the second nominee.

The Board shall nominate _____ as Board Vice President.
(Name of 2nd Nominee)

Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

Board Treasurer shall administer the Oath of Office for the newly elected President and Vice President. The gavel is passed to the newly elected President who shall preside over the meeting from this point.

9. Approve the recommendation that the Board use Robert's Rules of Order as the parliamentary procedure guidelines for meetings of the Board and its committees.

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

10. Approve the appointment of one member of the Board of Education to serve as the Legislative Liaison with the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA)

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

11. Approve the appointment of one member of the Board of Education to serve as the Student Achievement Liaison with the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA)

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

12. Approve the appointment of one member of the Board of Education to serve as a Delegate to the Ohio School Boards Association Capital Conference (OSBA).

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

13. Approve the appointment of one member of the Board of Education to serve as the Alternate Delegate to the Ohio School Boards Association Capital Conference (OSBA).

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

14. Authorize the Treasurer to make disbursements for payroll, bonds, and accounts payable when due and invest funds within the authority, and in accordance with the Board adopted investment policy.

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

15. The board names the Treasurer as Records Officer on behalf of the Board of Education and designates the Treasurer to be the Board designee for public records training required.

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

16. As recommended by law, establish a "Service Fund" in the amount of \$4,000. Such funds may be used to make reimbursements to members of the Board for expenses incurred in the performance of duties outside the district.

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

17. Approve the resolution for the Board of Education to reserve the right of approval for the purchase of certain goods or services (including utilities, fuel and food products) in excess of the \$15,000 with the provision that in exceptional circumstances, due to Board meeting dates, approval may be granted by the Board President or Vice President.

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

18. Approve the recommendation that travel expenses for Board Members, Superintendent, Treasurer, Curriculum Director, and Special Education Director for OSBA, OASBO, ODE, Regional Chamber of Commerce, and other school related professional activities, be approved through January 1, 2027.

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

19. Approve the recommendation that compensation for board members at the rates and for the purposes outlined in ORC 3313.12 be authorized.

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

20. Approve a resolution authorizing the Superintendent to temporarily hire staff when vacancies occur between Board meetings and to fill vacancies when it becomes necessary pending Board approval

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

21. Approve a resolution authorizing the Superintendent to accept resignations between Board meetings.

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

22. Approve the recommendation authorizing the Superintendent to file applications for projects and grants considered desirable for the Austintown Local School District.

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

23. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approve retainment on an as needed basis of the following legal council for District needs:

- Ennis Britton
- Gingo and Bair, LLC
- Squire, Patton, & Boggs
- Weston Hurd
- Pepple & Waggoner Ltd

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

24. Approve the recommendation to continue participation in the following State and Federal Grant Programs during the 2026 calendar year:

- Title I-A Improving Basic Programs
- Title II-A Supporting Effective Instruction
- Title III Language Instruction for English Learners
- Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment
- IDEA-B Special Education
- IDEA Early Childhood Special Education
- K-12 Network Connectivity
- BWC
- State Safety Grants
- Federal Safety Grants
- State Preschool Grant
- State Attorney General Grants

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____
Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

25. Approve the resolution

Whereas the following 501.C3 non-profit booster organizations and school support groups may operate for the 2026 calendar year effective 1/1/26 to 12/31/26 and be permitted to use the school's name and district logo as they seek student enrichment and strive to reach educational goals, and

Whereas the following booster organizations and school support groups shall provide annual financial reports for money that flows in and out of the club coffers, and

Whereas the Austintown Board of Education shall not oversee the financial operations of booster organizations or school support groups.

Therefore Be It Resolved that the following groups be approved in accordance with adopted *Board Policy KMA – Relations with Booster Organizations*, and the *Booster Organization Handbook*

Austintown Fitch Baseball Boosters	Falcon Swim Team Booster Club
Austintown Mat Boosters	Fastpitch Club
Austintown Orchestra Parent Organization	Fitch Bowling
Austintown Robotics Boosters	Fitch Football Club
Austintown Track and Field Boosters	Fitch Girls Basketball Boosters
Band Parents Club	Fitch Golf Boosters
Boys Basketball Boosters	Fitch Tennis Boosters
Boys Soccer Boosters	Fitch Volleyball Boosters
Cheerleaders	Football Parents
Choir Parents	Girls Soccer Boosters
Cross Country Boosters	Hall of Fame
	Wrestling Boosters

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____
Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

26. Approve a day, time, and place for Regular Session meetings of the Board of Education during the calendar year of 2026.

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____
Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N

27. Adjournment Time: _____:_____ AM/PM

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____
Vote: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; Mr. Marcum, Y/N; Mr. Porter, Y/N; Mr. Sherwood, Y/N; Mrs. Smrek, Y/N