

Austintown Board of Education

January 13, 2026

Work Session 5:00 PM
Regular Session 6:00 PM

Dr. Ritchie Legacy Room Central Office
Austintown Middle School Cafeteria

700 S. Raccoon Road
800 S. Raccoon Road

Board Members

Mrs. Katie Berdis, Member
Mr. Fred Marcum, 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.*

1. CALL TO ORDER Time: _____

Mr. Marcum, P/A; Mr. Porter, P/A; Mr. Sherwood, P/A; Mrs. Smrek, P/A

2. WORK SESSION

- District Update
- Construction Update
- Fiscal Year 2025 Audit
- Property Tax Reform
- Gasline

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION for the purpose of discussion with regard to:

- _____ Employment, appointment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, compensation of a public employee
- _____ Investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or student
- _____ To confer with an attorney for the board of education concerning disputes involving the board that are the subject of pending or imminent court action.
- _____ To prepare or conduct negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment.
- _____ To consider legal matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or regulations or state statutes
- _____ To discuss details relative to the security arrangements and emergency response protocols for the Board of Education

Motion to recess for Executive Session made by _____ at ____:____ AM/PM

Seconded by _____

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

4. RECALL TO ORDER Returned to Regular Session _____ at ____:____ AM/PM

Pledge of Allegiance and Vision/Mission Statement Read by: _____

5. AGENDA APPROVAL

Upon the recommendation of the Treasurer, approve the agenda for the 1/13/2026 Board of Education Regular Session.

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

6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS-** Speakers limited to no more than 3 minutes per speaker; 30 minutes total-BDDH:KD

7. **PRINCIPAL REPORT-** Andrew Scarmack, Austintown Middle School Principal

8. **DEPARTMENT REPORT**

- Alexis Weber-Food Service and Wellness Policy Update

9. **TREASURER'S CONSENT ITEMS**

Upon the recommendation of the Treasurer, approve the following items A-D by consent action:

A. MINUTES

- a. Regular Session held on 12/17/2025

B. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- a. December, 2026 Monthly Financial/Expenditure Activity Report
- b. December, 2026 Month End Forecast Report
- c. Purchase Orders over \$15,000 and transfers for the month as submitted

C. DONATIONS

- a. \$1295 from Robert Senn to Fitch Athletics

D. ITEMS FOR DISPOSAL

<u>Identification Number</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Method of Disposal</u>
1BABHC0A64F216704	School Bus	Transporation	Transportation	Scrap

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. **SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSENT ITEMS**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following items A-D by consent action:

A. PERSONNEL

1. Resignations

- a. Monica Pawlen, IT Computer Technician, effective 1/9/2026, career change
- b. Mathew Galchick, Special Education Paraprofessional, effective 1/6/2026, job change

2. Resignations for the Purpose of Retirement

- a. Andrew Bakes, AEA Art Teacher at AMS, effective September 10, 2026, after 27 years of service with Austintown Schools

3. OAPSE Appointments

- a. Regina Locicero, Food Service: 9-month, 3-hour flex position at Fitch, replacing Jeniffer Hernandez effective 1/5/2026
- b. Chelsie Sheets, Food Service: 9-month, 3-hour position at Fitch, replacing Kimberly Tremayne effective 1/5/2026

4. OAPSE Transfers

- a. Kathy Mirto, Transfer from AMS PM Custodian to AIS PM Turn Leader Custodian, replacing Kathleen Schmidt, effective July 1, 2026
- b. Pamela Markulin, Paraprofessional Monitor at AES to Special Education Paraprofessional at AES with report time from 10:15 am - 4 pm; classification, contracted days, and hours remain the same, effective 1/5/2025

B. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

- a. Debra Shelley ,Unpaid day, 2/20/2026
- b. Pamela Markulin, Unpaid Days, 2/4/2026,2/5/2026,2/6/2026, & 2/9/2026,
- c. Angela Carchedi - Intermittent FMLA- effective 12/3/2025
- d. Anthony Ferradino - FMLA - 12/1/2025- 3/11/2026 Medical leave 3/12/2026-5/22/2026
- e. Andrew DeNiro - Intermittent FMLA - 1/5/26-5/22/2026
- f. Kelly Vinion - FMLA - 12.1.2025-3.1.2026
- g. Robert Duda: Paid Medical Leave - effective 12/1/25-5/22/2026
- h. Amy Tibolla: Intermittent FMLA - effective 1/27/2026-5/22/2026
- i. Cheri Watson - FMLA - 2/13/2026-5/10/2026

C. STUDENT CAMPS

- a. What: Falcon Swim Camp, Grades 3-8
When: March 25-27
Where: YMCA Downtown
Cost: \$40.00

D. STUDENT TRIPS

- a. Who: Austintown Fitch Speech and Debate Team
When: Jan 16-17, 2026
Where: Wooster High School
What: Speech Tournament
Transportation: School bus
Cost: Self-funded
Chaperones: Teri Dutton - head coach, Jason Long and Faith Odom - assistant coaches,
Shannon Anderson - parent

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. RESOLUTION

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following resolution regarding the third grade testing on paper format:

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Section 3301.0711(G)(4) states beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, a school district, other public school, or chartered nonpublic school may administer the third-grade English language arts or mathematics assessment, or both, in a paper format in any school year for which the district board of education or school governing body adopts a resolution indicating that the district or school chooses to administer the assessment in a paper format. The board or governing body shall submit a copy of the resolution to the department of education not later than the first day of May prior to the school year for which it will apply. If the resolution is submitted, the district or school shall administer the assessment in a paper format to all students in the third grade, except that any student whose individualized education program or plan developed under section 504 of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973," 87 Stat. 355, 29 U.S.C. 794, as amended, specifies that taking the assessment in an online format is an appropriate accommodation for the student may take the assessment in an online format. ; and

WHEREAS, A district board of education or governing authority must make the choice to use paper tests and submit a board or governing authority resolution by May 1, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby confirms Austintown Local School District will administer the third-grade English language arts assessment in a paper format to all students in the third grade, except that any student whose individualized education program or plan developed under section 504 of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973," 87 Stat. 355, 29 U.S.C. 794, as amended, specifies that taking the assessment in an online format is an appropriate accommodation for the student may take the assessment in an online format for the 2026-27 school year.

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. PROPOSAL

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the proposal from Unyque Therapy Services to assign three dedicated Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs) to provide daily support within three designated kindergarten classrooms during the service period, January 5, 2026 through May 22, 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

13. AGREEMENT

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following Agreement by and between the Mahoning County Board of Commissioners for the Mahoning County Solid Waste Management District (hereinafter "District") and Austintown Local School District, (hereinafter "School"):

WHEREAS, the District, under the provisions of Chapter 3734 of the Ohio Revised Code, may expend funds for local solid waste projects; and

WHEREAS, the overall goal of the District is to develop an integrated solid waste management system, that will be implemented in an environmentally sound, technically feasible; cost effective and publicly acceptable manner; and

WHEREAS, the School has made available to the District space, and incidental services, for the accommodation of recycling drop-off containers; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to lease said space and obtain said incidental services from the School; and

WHEREAS, the objective of this Agreement is to provide a public drop-off recycling center that will benefit both the School and surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, the School has been authorized by a Resolution of its governing body to enter into an Agreement with the District.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants contained herein, the parties agree to the following as presented.

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. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by and between **Youngstown State University** and Austintown Local School District to participate in the College Credit Plus Program (CCP) with Youngstown State University. This agreement is in effect from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. This MOU shall expire on June 30, 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

15. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by and between **Kent State University** and **Austintown Local School District** to participate in the College Credit Plus Program (CCP) with Kent State University. This agreement is in effect from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. This MOU shall expire on June 30, 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

16. OPEN ENROLLMENT

Approve the recommendation to direct the Superintendent to notify the Ohio Department of Education that the Austintown Local School District will again be an Open Enrollment district in the 2026-2027 school year.

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. PUBLIC MEETING FOR FEBRUARY, 2026

Work Session: Date: _____ Location: _____ beginning at _____ AM/PM

Regular Session: Date: _____ Location: _____ beginning at _____ 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

18. TREASURER COMMENTS

19. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

20. BOARD COMMENTS

21. ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by _____; Seconded by _____; Time: _____ AM/PM

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