

**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 6:00 PM on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 for its Organizational Meeting.

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

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.

2026-1/13-1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 PM by Mr. Marcum, President Pro-Tempore with all members present.

2026-1/13-2

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.

2026-1/13-3 Roll Call

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

2026-1/13-4 Agenda Approval

Mrs. Smrek moved to approve the agenda for the Organizational Meeting of 1/14/25. Mr. Marcum seconded the motion and the vote resulted as follows:

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

2026-1/13-5 Opening the Floor for the Nominations of the 2025 Board of Education President and Election of the Board President

The motion was made by Mrs. Smrek to open the floor for nominations for the 2026 Board of Education President. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sherwood and the vote resulted as follows:

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

Upon a call for nominations for the office of President of the Austintown Board of Education for the calendar year of 2026

1st Nomination of Mrs. Smrek made by Mr. Sherwood

2026-1/13-6 Closing the Floor to Nominations for the 2026 Board of Education President and Election of the Board of Education President

Mrs. Smrek moved to close nominations for the 2026 Board of Education President. Mr. Sherwood seconded the motion and the vote to close nominations resulted as follows:

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

Vote for the Office of President of the Board

On the nomination of Mr. Marcum for 2026 President of the Austintown Board of Education, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Mrs. Smrek is elected President of the Board of Education for the calendar year of 2026.

2026-1/13-7 Opening the Floor for the Nominations of the 2026 Board of Education Vice President and Election of the Board Vice President

The motion was made by Mrs. Smrek to open the floor for nominations for the 2026 Board of Education Vice President. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sherwood and the vote resulted as follows:

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

Upon a call for nominations for the office of Vice President of the Austintown Board of Education for the calendar year of 2026 Mr. Sherwood was nominated by Mrs. Smrek.

2026-1/13-8 Closing the Floor to Nominations for the 2026 Board of Education Vice President and Election of the 2025 Board of Education Vice President

Mr. Sherwood moved to close the floor to nominations for the 2026 Board of Education Vice President.

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

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

Vote for the Office of Vice President of the Board

On the nomination of Mr. Marcum for the 2026 Vice President of the Austintown Board of Education the vote resulted as follows:

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

The Administration of the Oath of Office for the newly elected President and Vice President was conducted by Blaise Karlovic, Board Treasurer. The gavel was passed to the newly elected President who will preside over the meeting from this point forward.

2026-1/13-9 Robert's Rules of Order-Parliamentary Procedure Guideline

Mr. Marcum moved upon the Board's recommendation to use Robert's Rules of Order as the parliamentary procedure guidelines for meetings of the Board and its committees.

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

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

2026-1/13-10 Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Legislative Liaison

Mr. Sherwood moved to nominate Mr. Marcum to serve as the OSBA Legislative Liaison.

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

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

2026-1/13-11 Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Student Achievement Liaison

Mrs. Smrek moved to nominate Mrs. Berdis to serve as the OSBA Student Achievement Liaison.

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

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

2026-1/13-12 Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Delegate to Capital Conference

Mrs. Smrek moved to nominate Mr. Sherwood to serve as the Delegate to the OSBA Capital Conference.

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

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

2026-1/13-13 Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Alternate Delegate to Capital Conference

Mr. Sherwood moved to nominate Mrs. Smrek to serve as the Alternate Delegate to the OSBA Capital Conference. Mrs. Smrek seconded the motion and the vote resulted as follows:

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

2026-1/13-14 Disbursements and Investments

Mr. Sherwood moved to 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. Mrs. Smrek seconded the motion as the vote resulted as follows:

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

2026-1/13-15 Records Officer

Mr. Marcum moved to name 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. Mrs. Smrek seconded the motion as the vote resulted as follows:

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

2026-1/13-16 Service Fund

Mrs. Smrek moved to approve, as recommended by law, the establishment of 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.

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

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

2026-1/13-17 Purchase of Goods or Services

Mr. Sherwood moved to 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.

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

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

2026-1/13-18 Travel Expenses

Mr. Sherwood moved to 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, 2026. Mrs. Smrek seconded the motion as the vote resulted as follows:

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

2026-1/13-19 Board Compensation

Mr. Sherwood moved to approve the recommendation that compensation for board members at the rates and for the purposes outlined in ORC 3313.1 be authorized. Mr. Marcum seconded the motion as the vote resulted as follows:

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

2026-1/13-20 Superintendent's Authority to Fill Vacancies Between Board Meetings

Mrs. Smrek moved to approve the 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. Mr. Sherwood seconded the motion as the vote resulted as follows:
Mrs. Berdis Yes; Mr. Marcum, Yes; Mr. Porter, Yes; Mr. Sherwood, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (5-0).

2026-1/13-21 Superintendent's Authority to Accept Resignations Between Board Meetings

Mr. Sherwood moved to approve the resolution authorizing the Superintendent to accept resignations between Board meetings. Mrs. Smrek seconded the motion as the vote resulted as follows:
Mrs. Berdis Yes; Mr. Marcum, Yes; Mr. Porter, Yes; Mr. Sherwood, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (5-0).

2026-1/13-22 Project and Grant Applications

Mr. Sherwood moved to approve the recommendation authorizing the Superintendent to file applications for projects and grants considered desirable for the Austintown Local School District. Mrs. Smrek seconded the motion as the vote resulted as follows:
Mrs. Berdis Yes; Mr. Marcum, Yes; Mr. Porter, Yes; Mr. Sherwood, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (5-0).

2026-1/13-23 Retainment of Legal Council

Mr. Sherwood moved to approve 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

Mrs. Marcum seconded the motion and the vote resulted as follows:
Mrs. Berdis Yes; Mr. Marcum, Yes; Mr. Porter, Yes; Mr. Sherwood, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (5-0).

2026-1/13-24 State and Federal Grant Programs for 2026 Calendar Year

Mr. Sherwood moved to 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
- ARP Homeless
- ARP IDEA
- ARP Preschools Disability
- BWC
- State Safety Grants
- Federal Safety Grants
- State Preschool Grant
- State Attorney General Grants

Mrs. Smrek seconded the motion as the vote resulted as follows:
Mrs. Berdis Yes; Mr. Marcum, Yes; Mr. Porter, Yes; Mr. Sherwood, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (5-0).

2026-1/13-25 Non-Profit Booster Organizations

Mr. Marcum moved to approve the resolution

Whereas the following 501.C3 non-profit booster organizations and school support groups may operate for the 2025 calendar year effective 1/1/25 to 12/31/25 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
Austintown Mat Boosters
Austintown Orchestra Parents Organization
Austintown Robotics Boosters
Austintown Track and Field Boosters
Band Parents Club
Boys Basketball Boosters
Boys Soccer Boosters
Cheerleaders
Choir Parents
Cross Country Boosters
Falcon Swim Team Booster Club
Fastpitch Club

Fitch Bowling
Fitch Football Club
Fitch Girls Basketball Boosters
Fitch Golf Boosters
Fitch Tennis Boosters
Fitch Volleyball Boosters
Football Parents
Girls Soccer Boosters
Hall of Fame
Wrestling Boosters

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

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

2026-1/13-26 Day, Time, and Location for Regular Board of Education Meetings During 2026

Mr. Sherwood moved to approve the third (3rd) Wednesday of the month beginning at 6:00 PM in the Austintown Middle School Cafeteria for monthly Regular Sessions of the Austintown Board of Education.

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

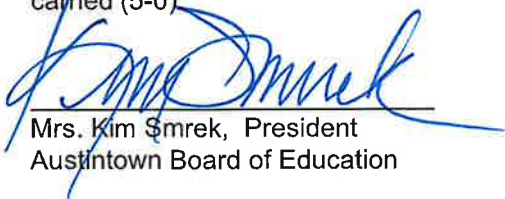
Mrs. Berdis Yes; Mr. Marcum, Yes; Mr. Porter, Yes; Mr. Sherwood, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (5-0).

2026-1/13-27 Adjournment

Mr. Marcum moved to adjourn at 6:22PM.

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

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


Mrs. Kim Smrek, President
Austintown Board of Education


Blaise Karlovic, Treasurer
Austintown Board of Education