

**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 5:00 PM on January 13, 2026 for a Work Session and at 6:00 PM for the January Regular Session Board Meeting.

Board Members

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

Administration

Timothy Kelty, Superintendent
Blaise Karlovic, Treasurer

2026-1/13-1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM with all members present.

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

2026-1/13-2 Work Session-Topics for Discussion

- District Update- Mr. Swavel spoke about behavioral health consultants that will provide service to AES
- Construction Update- Mr. Kelty provided an update on the new athletic facility and a ribbon cutting date was discussed
- Fiscal Year 2025 Audit- Mr. Karlovic updated the board on the results of the audit.
- Property Tax Reform- Mr. Karlovic spoke about the property tax reform
- Gasline- Mr. Marcum provided an update on the gas line. The board requested more information

2026-1/13-3 Executive Session

Mr. Sherwood motioned to recess to Executive Session at 5:52 PM for the purpose to discuss details relative to the security arrangements and emergency response protocols for the Board of Education
Mrs. Smrek seconded the motion and the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Marcum, Mr. Porter, Yes; Mr. Sherwood, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (4-0). The Executive Session ended at 6:20 PM.

2026-1/13-4 Recall to Order

The Board returned to Regular Session at 6:25 PM with all members present.

2026-1/13-5 Agenda Approval

Mr. Sherwood moved to approve the agenda for the 1/13/2026 Board of Education Regular Session.
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).

2026-1/13-6 Public Comments

No public comments

2026-1/13-7 Principal Report

Mr. Scarmack gave a district wide academic and extra-curricular update

2026-1/13-8 Department Report

Mrs. Weber provided a Food Service and Wellness Policy Update

2026-1/13-9 Treasurer's Consent Items

Mr. Sherwood moved upon the recommendation of the Treasurer to approve the Treasurer's Consent Items:

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</u>
1BABHC0A64F216704	School Bus	Transporation	Transportation	Scrap
4DRBRAAN63B960300	School Bus	Transporation	Transportation	Scrap
4UZAAXBVX2CJ42677	School Bus	Transporation	Transportation	Scrap

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).

2026-1/13-10 Superintendent's Consent Items

Mr. Sherwood moved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following items 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

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).

2026-1/13-11 Resolution

Mr. Sherwood moved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to 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.

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).

2026-1/13-12 Proposal

Mr. Sherwood moved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to 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.

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).

2026-1/13-13 Agreement

Mr. Sherwood moved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to 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.

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 Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Marcum moved, Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to 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.

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).

2026-1/13-15 Memorandum of Understanding

Mrs. Smrek moved, Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to 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.

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).

2026-1/13-16 Open Enrollment

Mr. Sherwood moved to 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.

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

Mrs. Berdis Yes; Mr. Marcum, Yes; Mr. Porter, No; Mr. Sherwood, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (4-1).

2026-1/13-17 Public Meeting for February, 2026

Mr. Sherwood moved for the following day, date, time, and location for the February, 2026 Board of Education meeting to take place:

Work Session: February 18, 2026 at the BOE Office Conference Room beginning at 5:00 PM

Regular Session: February 18, 2026 at Austintown Middle School beginning at 6:00 PM

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).

2026-1/13-18 Treasurer's Comments

N/A

2026-1/13-19 Superintendent's Comments

Mr. Kelty congratulated Mrs. Berdis and welcomed her to the board

2026-1/13-20 Board Comments

All of the board members congratulated Mrs. Berdis and our retirees

2026-1/13-21 Adjournment

Mr. Sherwood moved to adjourn at 6:40PM.

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).



Mrs. Kim Smrek, President
Austintown Board of Education

1/13/2026 Board of Education Meeting-Regular Session

Blaise Karlovic, Treasurer
Austintown Board of Education