

**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 February 18, 2026 for a Work Session and at 6:00 PM for the February 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

2026-2/18-1 Call to Order

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

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

2026-2/18-2 Work Session-Topics for Discussion

- Right at School Presentation- Summer Beach discussed before and after school programs, discovery clubs and camps. These camps include summer camps and will integrate into ASLD curriculum.
- Gas Line Discussion- Continue the gas line discussion to run a line from the gas well on campus to the bus garage. We are getting a second quote to install the line well to the bus garage.
- Athletics- coaching updates and new rules and regulations for operation of the indoor facility, including a student athlete contract.
- Facilities- ran out of time to discuss this topic
- Commencement- Mr. Kelty discussed the school calendar and keeping the original commencement date in tact.

2026-2/18-3 Executive Session

Mrs. Berdis motioned to recess to Executive Session at 5:46 PM for the purpose to discuss details relative to the security arrangements and emergency response protocols for the Board of Education

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

Mrs. Berdis; Yes Mr. Marcum, Mr. Porter, Yes; Mr. Sherwood, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (5-0). The Executive Session ended at 6:14 PM.

2026-2/18-4 Recall to Order

The Board returned to Regular Session at 6:21 PM with all members present.

2026-2/18-5 Agenda Approval

Mr. Sherwood moved to approve the agenda for the 2/18/2026 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).

2026-2/18-6 Public Comments

No public comments

2026-2/18-7 Student Recognition

AMS Competition Cheer Team was recognized.

2026-2/18-8 Principal Report

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

2026-2/18-9 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 1/13/2026
- b. Organizational Meeting held on 1/13/2026

B. FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

C. DONATIONS

- a. \$100 from the Kuchert Family to Fitch Concert Choir Tour
- b. \$4,000 from the Ohio State Eagles to the Austintown Local School District

D. PROJECTIONS OF EXPENDITURES, REVENUES, AND FUND BALANCES

Upon the recommendation of the Treasurer, approve the submission and projections of expenditures, revenues, and fund balances for fiscal year 2026, and for the three succeeding fiscal years ending 2027, 2028, and 2029.

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).

2026-2/18-10 Superintendent's Consent Items

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

A. PERSONNEL

1. Resignations

- a. Jessica Beall, AMS Track Assistant Girls Coach Supplemental position effective the 2025-2026 school year
- b. Hannah Loeb, AIS Title I Aide effective 1/16/2026

2. OAPSE Transfers

- a. Jaclyn Iagulli, Transfer from AMS AM Custodian to AIS Head Custodian, replacing Karen MacIntyre, effective July 1, 2026
- b. Anthony Rudolphi, Transfer from AES Paraprofessional to AES Special Education Paraprofessional, replacing Tammy Ruscitti, effective 2/9/2026

B. LONG-TERM TEACHING SUBSTITUTES

- a. Isabella Casholi, Long Term Substitute Teacher -Grade 3 effective 2/6/2026

C. NON-BARGAINING UNIT PERSONNEL

- a. Kathryn Matasy, General Education/Intervention Tutor (K-2); 5.75 hours per day at the rate of \$25 per hour, limited to 28.75 hours per week, effective 1/5/2026
- b. Emily Haggerty, General Education/Intervention Tutor (K-2); 5.75 hours per day at the rate of \$25 per hour, limited to 28.75 hours per week, effective 1/14/2026
- c. Mackenzie Hurst, AIS Instructional Assistant; Title I Grant-funded at \$16.50 per hour, 5.75 hours per day, limited to 28.75 hours per week, effective 2/17/2026

D. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

- a. Regina Locicero, Unpaid (4) days: 2/17/26 through 2/20/26
- b. Jackie Moretti, Unpaid (3.5) days: Half day on 3/24/26 and full-day on 3/25/26 through 3/27/26
- c. Bailey Doran, Unpaid (1) day: 3/9/26
- d. Mathew Reardon, Unpaid (2) days: 3/23/26 & 3/24/26
- e. Tamara Rader, Unpaid (1) day: 2/20/26
- f. Megan Klein, Unpaid (1.25) days: 3/26/26 & 3/27/26
- g. Meghan Ladner - FMLA - 4.13.2026-5.22.2026

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

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

FITCH

- a. Kira Mettille, Track Assistant Girls - 11%

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

FITCH

- a. Joseph Chepke II, Baseball Assistant - 5% (MOU)
- b. Joseph Chepke III, Baseball Assistant - 5% (MOU)
- c. Becki Spalding, Softball Assistant - 5.5%
- d. Robert Jones, Softball Assistant - 5.5%
- e. Booker Newberry, Track Assistant Weights - 11%
- f. Myron Anderson, Track Assistant Boys - 8.25%
- g. Samuel Gibbons, Track Assistant Girls - 8.25%

AMS

- a. Nathaniel Armstrong, Track Assistant Boys - 9%

G. ATHLETIC SUPPLEMENTAL POSITIONS (2026-2027 SY)- NON-AEA MEMBERS

FITCH

- a. Michael Hilliard, Soccer Head Boys Coach - 18%

H. CLASSIFIED NON-TEACHING SUBSTITUTE PERSONNEL

- a. Ross Linert - Custodian

I. VOLUNTEERS

- a. Rich Raymer -Softball
- b. Laura Frost - Nurse for Choir Field Trip
- c. Julie Brauer, Ski Club Chaperone
- d. Suzanne McCartney, Ski Club Chaperone
- e. Megan Samora, Ski Club Chaperone

J. STUDENT TRIPS

- a. Who: Austintown Business Department DECA
When: February 24-25, 2026
Where: Columbus Convention Center

What: DECA State Competition

Transportation: School bus

Cost: Self-funded/DECA-AT&T Grant

Chaperones: Krista McConnahey, DECA Advisor and Nicole Fiddler, Business Teacher

b. Who: High School Girls Wrestling (15 Students)

What: OHSWCA State Duals

Where: Marysville High School

When: 2/13/26 - 2/14/26

Transportation: School Vans and Parents

Hotel: Hampton Inn 16610 Square Drive Marysville, OH 43040

Expenses: Austintown Mat Boosters

Chaperone(s): High School Wrestling Coaching Staff

Contact: John Burd 330-506-1758

c. Who: High School Boys Wrestling (10-15 Students)

What: OHSAA District Tournament

Where: Wadsworth High School

When: 3/6/26 - 3/7/26

Transportation: School Vans and Parents

Hotel: Comfort Inn and Suites, 5 Park Center Drive, Wadsworth OH, 44281

Expenses: Fitch Athletics and Austintown Mat Boosters

Chaperone(s): High School Wrestling Coaching Staff

Contact: John Burd 330-506-1758

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).

2026-2/18-11 Resolution

Mr. Sherwood moved, Upon the recommendation of the Treasurer, approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to ORC 3313.202, the Board of Education hereby authorizes elected board members to participate in the school district's health care plan, provided that the member pays all premiums for such coverage, and that this election is recorded in the minutes of this meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Katie Berdis, a Board of Education Member of the Austintown Local School District, has exercised the option to be covered under this section, submitted in writing to the Treasurer, and shall be responsible for all premiums for that coverage for herself, dependent children, and spouse.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such coverage shall be effective January 13, 2026, shall be at no cost to the District, and the Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to implement and administer this election in accordance with ORC 3313.202 and applicable Board policy.

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

Mrs. Berdis Abstain; Mr. Marcum, Yes; Mr. Porter, Yes; Mr. Sherwood, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (4-0-1).

2026-2/18-12 Resolution

Mrs. Smrek moved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following resolution authorizing 2026-2027 membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association:

WHEREAS, Austintown Local Schools, District IRN number:048298 of 700 S. Raccoon Rd, Mahoning County, Ohio

Has satisfied all requirements for the membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association, a voluntary unincorporated association not-for-profit; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education/Governing Board ("Board") and its Administration desire for the schools with one or more grades at 7-12 grade level under their jurisdiction to be voluntary members of the OHSAA;

NOW THEREFORE, it be resolved by the board of education/governing board that Austintown Fitch (grades 9-12), IRN:011791 and Austintown Middle School (grades 7 & 8), IRN: 001339 do hereby voluntarily renew membership in the OHSAA and in doing so, the Constitution, Bylaws, Regulations and Business Rules of the OHSAA are hereby adopted by this Board as and for its own requirements as it pertains to, but not limited to, student eligibility, coaching requirements, and administrative responsibility. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board reserves the right to raise the minimum standards as it deems appropriate for the schools and students under its jurisdiction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the schools under this Board's jurisdiction agree to conduct their athletics programs in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, Regulations, and Business Rules, interpretations and decisions of the OHSAA and cooperate fully and timely with the Executive Director's office of the OHSAA in all matters related to the interscholastic athletic programs of the schools. Furthermore, the schools under this Board's jurisdiction shall be the primary enforcers of the OHSAA Constitution, Bylaws, Regulations, and Business Rules and the interpretations and rulings rendered by the Executive Director's office. The administrative heads of these schools understand that failure to discharge the duty of the primary enforcement may result in fines, removal from tournaments, suspension from membership and/or other such penalties as prescribed in Bylaw 11.

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).

2026-2/18-13 Agreement Amendment

Mr. Sherwood moved, upon the recommendation of the Treasurer, to approve the request for Amendment 09 to the August 17, 2022 Agreement between the Board of Education of the Austintown Local School District (herein the "Owner") and Hively Construction Company (herein "Hively") based on Hively's recommendation to proceed and award contracts on the remainder of the site work associated with the Fieldhouse Phase 2 Athletic Training Facility Site and the attached accounting recap, in the amount of \$213,278.92. The amount is based on the following as presented.

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

Mrs. Berdis Yes; Mr. Marcum, Yes; Mr. Porter, Abstain; Mr. Sherwood, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (4-0-1).

2026-2/18-14 Agreement

Mr. Sherwood moved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following agreement with AEP Energy Inc.:

The Master Purchase Agreement, Electric Commodity Sales, which comprises the General Terms and Conditions (these "GTC") dated and effective as of January 16, 2026 and all schedules, attachments, riders, and exhibits hereto, including any Attachment A-1 (each, an "Attachment" and collectively, this "Agreement"), is entered into by and between AEP Energy, Inc. ("AEP Energy") and Austintown Board of Education ("Customer") (each of AEP Energy and Customer referred to individually as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties") and governs the purchase and sale of Retail Energy (as hereinafter defined) between the Parties for Customer's account(s) specified on any Attachment (each, a "Service Location") at a rate of 0.08414 \$/kWh.

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).

2026-2/18-15 Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Marcum moved, Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Austintown Local School District (District) and Stark State College (College, Institution of Higher Education, IHE) for College Credit Plus:

This agreement is defined as providing middle and high school students, grades 7-12, the opportunity to be enrolled in a college-level course or series of courses taught by the college and the IHE faculty (including courses taught by high school teachers who are credentialed IHE adjuncts). Upon successful completion of the course, the student will receive both high school graduation credit and college credit from the cooperating IHE. Stark State College and the District will comply with all the laws, rules and timelines associated with College Credit Plus.

The District and Stark State College agree to the following as listed in the MOU:

1. Student Requirements
2. Program Requirements:
3. Financial Structure

The term of this agreement shall be for the 2026-2027 academic year, including the Summer session in 2026-2027. This agreement cannot be used by either party to limit participation of a student enrolling in courses that are not part of this agreement.

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).

2026-2/18-16 Calendar Amendment

Mr. Sherwood moved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to amend the 2025-2026 calendar to change March 13, 2026 from a Professional Development Day to a regular school day.

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).

2026-2/18-17 Public Meeting for March, 2026

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

Work Session: March 19, 2026 at the BOE Office Conference Room beginning at 5:00 PM

Regular Session: March 19, 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).

2026-2/18-18 Treasurer's Comments

N/A

2026-2/18-19 Superintendent's Comments

N/A

2026-2/18-20 Board Comments

N/A

2026-2/18-21 Adjournment

Mr. Marcum moved to adjourn at 6:36PM.

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