

Austintown Board of Education

April 21, 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. 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

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: _____

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

2. WORK SESSION

- Code of Conduct
- Preschool
- Mobile Medical RV
- Athletics Advertising
- Board Owned Property

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: Mrs. Berdis, Y/N; 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 4/21/2026 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. 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 3/19/2026

B. FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

C. DONATIONS

- a. \$45 from Tom Cucaro AMS Special Education class
- b. \$100 from VFW Auxiliary Post 4237 to Fitch JROTC
- c. \$500 from American Legion Post 737 to Fitch JROTC
- d. \$300 from Meijer to Austintown Middle School
- e. \$750 from American Legion 9th District of Ohio to Fitch Concert Choir's Tour
- f. \$2,263.95 in the form of two outdoor benches from Austintown PTA to Austintown Middle School

D. ITEMS FOR DISPOSAL

<u>Identification Number</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Method of Disposal</u>
1BAKGCKA95F219579	School Bus	Transporation	Transportation	Scrap
000368	Table Saw	Woodshop	Fitch	Scrap
005270	Table Saw	Woodshop	Fitch	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

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSENT ITEMS

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

A. PERSONNEL

1. Resignations

- a. Haley Castellano, AEA Intervention Specialist, effective 7/31/2026, personal
- b. Bailey Doran, AEA Teacher, effective at the end of the contract year, personal
- c. Joseph McMahon, AEA Teacher Leader Supplemental, effective at the end of the contract year
- d. Alisha Harris, OAPSE Food Service Worker, effective 4/13/2026, job change
- e. Kelly Moreno, OAPSE Food Service Kitchen Manager, effective 4/17/2026, job change
- f. Katelyn Thornton, OAPSE Food Service Worker, effective 3/18/2026, personal

2. Resignations for the Purpose of Retirement

- a. Janet Polish, Administrator effective July 1, 2026, after 33 years of service with Austintown Schools
- b. David James, OAPSE Bus Driver, effective at the end of the contract year, after 13 years of service with Austintown Schools

3. OAPSE Appointments

- a. Lisa Modarelli-Johnston, Bus Driver effective 4/1/26
- b. Jesse Daum, Custodian at AMS; 12-month, 8-hours daily, replacing Kathy Mirto effective 7/1/2026

4. OAPSE Transfers

- a. Robin Guzzo, Involuntary Temporary Transfer to assume the role of AMS Kitchen Manager for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year, effective 4/20/26

B. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

- a. Samantha Sweeney - FMLA Maternity - 8/24/26-11/16/26
- b. Rebecca Caruso, Half-day unpaid on 5/6/2026
- c. Amanda Zanchi, Half-day unpaid on 4/2/2026 and three (3) unpaid days: 4/15/26, 4/16/26 and 4/17/26

C. SUMMER FOOD SERVICE STAFF EXTRA HOURS

- a. Julie Carson
- b. Tammie Conroy
- c. Julie Eldridge
- d. Tammy Emerick
- e. Mary Gamberale
- f. Regina Locicero
- g. Jennifer Merrigan
- h. Susan Parish
- i. Serena Raynish
- j. Chelsie Sheets
- k. Kim Tremayne

D. CLASSIFIED NON-TEACHING SUBSTITUTE PERSONNEL

Custodian -Sweeper Cleaner

- a. Jesse Daum - substitute 3/23/26 through 6/30/26
- b. Lana Gay
- c. Sharmayne Gay

Food Service

- a. Mary Gamberale
- b. Jennifer Merrigan

E. LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTES

- a. Noah Davies, Long Term Substitute Teacher - effective 3/23/26
- b. Logan Pugh, Long Term Substitute Teacher - effective 3/25/26

F. STUDENT TRIPS

- a. Group: Camp Fitch- AIS Grade 5- First Group (110 students)
Departing: 5/4/26
Returning: 5/6/26
Location: 12600 Abels Road, New Springfield, PA 16430
Transportation: ALSD Bus
Expenses: Self Pay
Chaperones: AIS Staff & Fitch High School Students

Purpose: Outdoor Educational Experience
Contact: Robin Vickers, AIS Building Principal

- b. Group: 2027 Virginia Festival of Arts and the NATO festival Nations Parade
Departing: 5/22/27
Returning: 5/25/27
Location: Virginia
Transportation: Premier Tour & Travel
Expenses: Self pay
Chaperones: Jeremy McClaine - Director, Emily McClaine, Caleb Baldwin - Assistant Director
Emily Baldwin, Mike Mirto, Rachel Mirto
Purpose: Band Competitions
Contact: Jeremy McClaine - Director
- c. Group: AIS Grade 5- Second Group (120 students)
Departing: 5/6/26
Returning: 5/8/26
Location: 12600 Abels Road, New Springfield, PA 16430
Transportation: ALSD Bus
Expenses: Self Pay
Chaperones: AIS Staff & Fitch High School Students
Purpose: Outdoor Educational Experience
Contact: Robin Vickers, AIS Building Principal

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

9. AEA REDUCTION IN FORCE (RIF)

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Reduction in Force (RIF) of the following teaching personnel at the end of the 2025-2026 school year resulting from the restructuring of positions due to financial reasons, and direct the Treasurer to take any necessary action in connection with the same including providing notice to employees prior to 4/30/2026, and carry out any function necessary to implement this action in accordance with the current bargaining unit agreement and/or applicable law:

- Jenna Riccardo, 5th Grade Math/Science

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. CONTRACT RENEWALS

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Food Service Bid Contract Renewals for the 2026-2027 school year:

- Bajco North, LLC dba Papa John's - Pizza
- Prairie Farms Dairy - Dairy products
- Nickles Bakery - Bread products

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. AGREEMENT

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following agreement with the Mahoning County Board of Developmental Disabilities for payment for the Leonard Kirtz Summer Program:

The Mahoning County Board of Developmental Disabilities (DD) hereby enters into a contract with the Austintown School District for payment of the summer program in the amount of \$4,400.00 per student for the following students 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

12. AGREEMENT

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following contractual agreement with ACCESS for Internet Access Services:

This agreement (the "Agreement") is made and entered into as of 3/30/2026 (the "Effective Date") by and between **ACCESS (SPIN #143025648)**, a membership organization having its principal place of business at 493 Bev Road, Unit 1, Boardman, OH 44512 ("**ACCESS**") and, **AUSTINTOWN LOCAL SCHOOLS** an Ohio school district, having its principal place of business at 700 S. Raccoon Road, Austintown, OH 44515. ("**User**").

WHEREAS, **ACCESS** wishes to provide Internet access to **User** subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement;

NOW it is agreed 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

13. AGREEMENT

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following contractual agreement for the purpose of HPC assisting the District in managing the District's Ohio Medicaid School Program ("MSP") to procure Federal Medicaid Reimbursement for the District- provided Medicaid eligible services:

The MSP reimbursement is received through the Ohio Medicaid Agency ("ODM"), providing the District obtains and maintains its MSP Provider status from ODM.

The term of this Agreement shall be for three years, commencing on July 1, 2026 and ending on July 30, 2029 at a fee not to exceed \$35,000 per 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

14. AGREEMENT

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following Agreement by and between the Austintown Local Schools ("District") and United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley:

WHEREAS, the United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley and the Austintown Local School District agree to enhance education opportunities to selected pre-kindergarten students.

Therefore, the parties mutually agree to the Scope of Services as presented in the Memorandum of Agreement between Austintown Elementary School and the United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley. The United Way Success By 6 Initiative will commence on 8/10/2026 and end no later than 8/21/2026 with financial support for 6 units at \$4,500 each at a cost not to exceed \$27,000 to be provided by the Youngstown Mahoning Valley United Way.

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. AGREEMENT

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the changes to the contractual agreement made by and between the Austintown Local School District ("District") and the Supplemental Educational Services, Inc. (SESINC) for the period beginning July 1, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2026 due to an increased Title I budget because of a reallocation of funds. The following Title I services will be increased:

- a. St. Christine School Title I Services
- b. St. Rose School Title I Services
- c. ACLD School Title I Services
- d. Valley Christian Title I Services
- e. IAY Title I Services

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. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into as an agreement between the Austintown Local School District (herein the "Board") and the Austintown Education Association OEA/NEA (herein the "Association").

WHEREAS, the Board and the Association are parties to a collective bargaining agreement that is in effect from August 29, 2024 to August 28, 2027, and

WHEREAS, the Board and the Association believe it to be mutually advantageous to temporarily modify the Agreement; and

NOW THEREFORE, the Board and the Association agree as follows:

One of the Athletic Supplementals for Assistant Tennis Coach (Boys) at Fitch High School, contractually compensated at 9%, shall be used to add an Assistant Cheerleading Coach position at Fitch High School. The Athletic Supplementals for the Assistant Cheerleading Coach at Fitch High School, compensated at 8%, and the newly added Assistant Cheerleading Coach position at Fitch High School, compensated at 9%, which add together to be contractually compensated at a total of 17%, will be split into the following two (2) positions compensated at 8.5% each:

Assistant Cheerleading Coach
Assistant Cheerleading Coach

This MOU will be in effect for 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. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Austintown Local School District ("Board") and the Austintown Education Association, OEA/NEA:

WHEREAS, the Board and the Association are parties to a collective bargaining agreement that is in effect from August 29, 2024 to August 28, 2027, and

WHEREAS, the Board and the Association believe it to be mutually advantageous to temporarily modify the Agreement; and

NOW THEREFORE, the Board and the Association agree as follows:

The Athletic Supplemental for two Boys Assistant Soccer Coach positions at Fitch High School, contractually compensated at 5.5% each, will be combined into the following one position:

Fitch Assistant Boys Soccer Coach 11.0%

This MOU will remain in effect for the 2026-2027 school year. The necessity for the combined positions shall be revisited for need prior to the start of the 2027-2028 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

18. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Austintown Local School District ("Board") and the Austintown Education Association, OEA/NEA:

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into as an agreement between the Austintown Local School District (herein the "Board") and the Austintown Education Association OEA/NEA (herein the "Association").

WHEREAS, the Board and the Association are parties to a collective bargaining agreement that is in effect from August 29, 2024 to August 28, 2027, and

WHEREAS, the Board and the Association believe it to be mutually advantageous to temporarily modify the Agreement; and

NOW THEREFORE, the Board and the Association agree as follows:

One of the Athletic Supplementals for Girls Basketball (7th) at Austintown Middle School, contractually compensated at 10%, shall be used to add an Assistant Volleyball Coach position at Fitch High School, compensated at 10%.

This MOU will be in effect for 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

19. RESOLUTION

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following resolution declaring transportation impractical for the student listed below:

WHEREAS the student(s) identified below have been determined to be residents of this school district, and eligible for transportation services; and

WHEREAS after a careful evaluation of all available options, it has been determined that it is impractical to provide transportation for these student(s) to their selected school(s); and

WHEREAS the following factors as identified in Revised Code §3327.02 have been considered:

1. The time and distance required to provide the transportation
2. The number of pupils to be transported
3. The cost of providing transportation in terms of equipment, maintenance, personnel, and administration
4. Whether similar or equivalent service is provided to other pupils eligible for transportation
5. Whether and to what extent the additional service unavoidably disrupts current transportation schedules
6. Whether other reimbursable types of transportation are available; and

WHEREAS the option of offering payment-in-lieu of transportation is provided in Ohio Revised Code: Therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Austintown Board of Education hereby approves the declaration that it is impractical to transport the students identified herein and offers the parent(s)/guardian(s) of students named on the attachment, payment-in-lieu of transportation.

Previously Determined Impractical for 25/26:

2026/2027 school year

Student First	Student Last	Parent(s)	School	Grade
Joshua	Lehman	Tina & Patrick Lehman	Heartland Christian	10
Teigan	Sabel	Craig & Tahnee Sabel	Heartland Christian	3
Zayne	Sabel	Craig & Tahnee Sabel	Heartland Christian	2
Isabella	Skaggs	Heather & Brian Skaggs	St. Charles	6
Theona	Skaggs	Heather & Brian Skaggs	St. Charles	3
Gabriella	Francis	Kayla Francis	Heartland Christian	2

New for the 2026/2027 school year

Student First	Student Last	Parent(s)	School	Grade
Louis	Ciccione II	Michael & Emily Ciccione	Holy Family	K
Jimena	Little	John & Teliya Little	Akiva Academy	1

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. RESOLUTION- SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Lowellville Local School District ("Board") is in need of a Treasurer for Fiscal Year 2027 (July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027); and

WHEREAS, the Board and the Austintown Local School District Board of Education ("Austintown Board") are both boards of education and political subdivisions in the State of Ohio, legally authorized by Ohio Revised Code Sections 3313.222 and 9.482 to enter into shared services agreements upon such terms as are agreeable, when authorized by their respective legislative actions; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Andrea Apisa serves as the Assistant Treasurer of Austintown; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to facilitate a cooperative financial cost sharing arrangement, the Board and the Austintown Board would like to share the services of the Assistant Treasurer of Austintown, Andrea Apisa, and enter into a Shared Services Agreement to facilitate this arrangement whereby Andrea Apisa will serve as the Treasurer of the Lowellville School District; and

WHEREAS, the term of the Shared Services Agreement is from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the Board agrees to pay the Austintown Board a fee to utilize Andrea Apisa's services as Treasurer in accordance with the terms of the Shared Services Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby approves the Shared Services Agreement with the Austintown Board effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board appoints Andrea Apisa to serve as the Treasurer through the Shared Services Agreement with the Austintown Board effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes the Board President to execute the Shared Services Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is hereby found and determined that all formal action of the Board of Education concerning and/or relating to the adoption of this Resolution was taken in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public and in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

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. BOARD POLICY- RE-ADOPTION/REVISION

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve re-adoption/revision of the following board policies:

PO8500 Food Services

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. PUBLIC MEETING FOR MAY, 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

23. TREASURER COMMENTS

24. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

25. BOARD COMMENTS

26. 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