

**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 April 21, 2026 for a Work Session and at 6:00 PM for the April 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

2026-4/21-1 Call to Order

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

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

2026-4/21-2 Work Session

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

2026-4/21-3 Executive Session

No executive session

2026-4/21-4 Recall to Order

The Board returned to Regular Session at 6:01 PM with all members present.

2026-4/21-5 Agenda Approval

Mr. Marcum moved to approve the agenda for the 3/19/2026 Board of Education Regular Session.

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

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

2026-4/21-6 Public Comments

No public comments

2026-4/21-7 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 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</u>
1BAKGCKA95F219579	School Bus	Transporation	Transportation	Scrap
000368	Table Saw	Woodshop	Fitch	Scrap
005270	Table Saw	Woodshop	Fitch	Scrap

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

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

2026-4/21-8 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. 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

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).

2026-4/21-9 Aea Reduction In Force (RIF)

Mr. Sherwood moved, 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

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

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

2026-4/21-10 Contract Renewals

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

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).

2026-4/21-11 Agreement

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

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

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

2026-4/21-12 Agreement

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

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

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

2026-4/21-13 Agreement

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

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

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

2026-4/21-14 Agreement

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

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

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

2026-4/21-15 Agreement

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

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

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

2026-4/21-16 Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Sherwood moved, Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to 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:

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.

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

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

2026-4/21-17 Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Marcum moved, 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.

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

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

2026-4/21-18 Resolution

Mrs. Smrek moved, 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.

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

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

2026-4/21-19 Resolution

Mr. Sherwood moved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to 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	Ciccone II	Michael & Emily Ciccone	Holy Family	K
Jimena	Little	John & Teliya Little	Akiva Academy	1

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

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

2026-4/21-20 Resolution- Shared Service Agreement

Mr. Marcum moved, 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.

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

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

2026-4/21-21 Board Policy- Re-Adoption/Revision

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

PO8500 Food Services

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

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

2026-4/21-22 Public Meeting for May, 2026

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

Work Session: May 13, 2026 at the BOE Office Conference Room beginning at 3:30 PM

Regular Session: May 13, 2026 at Austintown Middle School beginning at 4:30 PM

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

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

2026-4/21-23 Treasurer's Comments

N/A

2026-4/21-24 Superintendent's Comments

N/A

2026-4/21-25 Board Comments

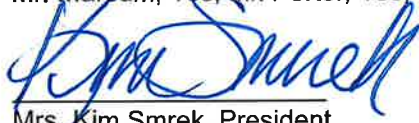
N/A

2026-4/21-26 Adjournment

Mr. Marcum moved to adjourn at 6:14PM.

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

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



Mrs. Kim Smrek, President
Austintown Board of Education



Blaise Karlovic, Treasurer
Austintown Board of Education