

Austintown Board of Education

October 7, 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

- Mission Statement
- Veteran's Day
- District 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 10/7/2026 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. **PRINCIPAL REPORT-** David Phillips, Fitch High School Principal

8. **TREASURER'S CONSENT ITEMS**

Upon the recommendation of the Treasurer, approve the following items A-C by consent action:

A. MINUTES

- a. Regular Session held on 9/16/2026

B. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- a. September, 2027 Monthly Financial/Expenditure Activity Report
- b. September, 2027 Month End Forecast Report
- c. Purchase Orders over \$15,000 and transfers for the month as submitted

C. DONATIONS

- a. \$500 from MSVC-MOAA to Fitch JROTC
- b. \$300 worth of school supplies from Greenford Christian Church to Austintown Elementary School
- c. \$500 from Tim Welsh Memorial Run to Austintown Local Preschool
- d. \$250 from Home Depot to Austintown Elementary School
- e. \$1,000 from The Salvation Army to Austintown Elementary School
- f. \$500 from Austintown Football Boosters to Fitch Cheerleaders
- g. \$1827.50 from Boys Soccer Boosters to Boys Soccer/Athletics for HUDL and Uniforms

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. **SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSENT ITEMS**

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

A. PERSONNEL

1. Resignations

- a. Anthony Rudolphi, AES Paraprofessional, effective 9/17/26, personal
- b. James Jones, Bus Mechanic, effective 9/18/2026, personal
- c. Chelsie Sheets, Food Service, effective 10/1/2026, job change
- d. Ruth Ann Crago, Food Service, effective 10/5/2026, personal
- e. Justina Meade, Food Service, effective 8/24/26, personal
- f. Kayleigh Burk, AES Tutor, effective 9/25/26, job change
- g. Margaret Mascarella, AES Special Education Paraprofessional, effective 9/28/26, personal
- h. Denetra Butler, AES Paraprofessional, effective 10/1/26, personal

2. Resignations for the Purpose of Retirement

- a. Constance Ortiz, OAPSE Paraprofessional at AES, effective November 1, 2026, with 29 years of dedicated service with the district

3. OAPSE Appointments

- a. Taylor Frenzel, AES Special Education Paraprofessional (P-2) ; 9-month, 5.75-hours, new position, effective 9/29/26
- b. Jennifer Medve, AES Special Education Paraprofessional; 9-month, 5.75-hours, replacing , effective 10/5/2026

4. OAPSE Transfers

- a. Toni Hammond, Transfer from: AES Food Service 3.5-Hour position to: New AES Food Service 3-Hour position effective 9/23/26
- b. Alonda James, Transfer from: Bus Aide 3.5-Hour position to: AIS Paraprofessional; 5.75-Hour position replacing Malynda Carter, effective 9/30/26
- c. Michael Pemberton, Transfer from: AES Custodian Turn Leader to: AES AM Custodian, effective 9/28/26
- d. Olivia Suverison, Transfer from Preschool Paraprofessional to School Bus Driver, effective 9/29/26

5. Amendment

- a. Michael Hughes, Amendment of hours for the IT Technician Support position from 5.75 hours to 8 hours, effective 10/1/2026

B. NON-BARGAINING UNIT PERSONNEL

Bus Drivers in training at the rate of \$16.00 per hour

- a. Cortia Battee Jackson
- b. Dominique Fox

Transportation Substitutes at the rate of \$16.00 per hour as needed

- c. Cortia Battee Jackson
- d. Dominique Fox

Substitutes for Classified Staff at the rate of \$12.00 per hour as needed

Food Service

- e. Holly Stephens

C. SUPPLEMENTAL STIPEND POSITIONS FOR 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

- a. Faith Odom, Speech & Debate at \$1425

D. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

- a. Carla Hamrock - FMLA Intermittent - effective 9.1.26

E. AEA ACADEMIC & OTHER SUPPLEMENTALS 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR (NON-AEA)

The following positions were made available to AEA members with no internal applications received

- a. Jason Long, Speech and Debate Assistant Coach - 10%

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

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

AMS

- a. James Fisher, Football Assistant - 9%
- b. Eric Diefenderfer, Wrestling Head (Red) - 10%

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

The following positions were made available to AEA members with no internal applications received

FITCH

- a. James Goske, Bowling Girls - 9%
- b. Terrance Patterson, Swim Head Coach Boys/Girls - 15%
- c. Greta Barninger, Swim Assistant Boys/Girls - 5%

AMS

- a. Allison Edwards, Basketball Boys Grade 7 (Red) - 10%

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. AGREEMENT

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following contractual agreement between Walden University, LLC and Austintown Local Schools for educational field site experience:

WHEREAS, Walden offers state-approved baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate teacher preparation programs and post-baccalaureate principal preparation programs (the "Programs") and seeks to partner with field sites for educational field experiences for Walden students (the "Students");

WHEREAS, field experiences shall include field experiences and/or demonstration teaching experiences conducted at the Field Site (collectively "Field Experience Program");

WHEREAS, the Field Site is willing to make available its educational and professional resources to such Students; and

WHEREAS, Walden and the Field Site mutually desire to collaborate to provide high quality clinical experiences that are central to the preparation of Students and mutually share responsibility to develop Student knowledge, skills, and professional dispositions to demonstrate a positive impact on Student development and diverse P-12 student learning and development.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants hereinafter set forth it is understood and agreed upon by the parties hereto, as presented.

This agreement shall commence on October 15, 2026 and shall continue for five (5) years (the "Term").

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 contractual agreement made by and between the Austintown Local School District ("District") and Supplemental Educational Services, Inc. (SESINC) for the period beginning July 1, 2026 and ending on June 30, 2027 to provide staff for delivery of Title I services to the Austintown Local School District students at the following:

- ACLD School 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

12. 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:

One of the Athletic Supplementals for Girls Basketball (7th) at Austintown Middle School, contractually compensated at 10%, shall be used to add an Assistant AMS Wrestling Coach position (Girls) at Austintown Middle School, compensated at 8%.

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

13. PUBLIC MEETING FOR NOVEMBER, 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

14. TREASURER COMMENTS

15. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

16. BOARD COMMENTS

17. 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