

**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 September 16, 2026 for a Work Session and at 7:00 PM for the September 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

2026-9/16-1 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

2026-9/16-2 Work Session

- PTA Council Introduction-Mrs. Smrek introduces Jen McNatt as the new PTA Council President
- Wright Engineering- Eric Wright discussed the mechanical upgrades and budget for Fitch High School
- Township-the board discussed the potential agreement with the township and the district to shave fuel costs
- Athletics- the board discussed the athletic fields and maintaining trash removal after events
- Open Enrollment-discussed enrollment, primarily resident enrollment and open enrollment and the trends relative to the last five years

2026-9/16-3 Executive Session

Mr. Marcum motioned to recess to Executive Session at 6:36 PM for the purpose to discuss Employment, appointment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, compensation of a public employee and 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, Yes; Mr. Porter, Yes; Mr. Sherwood, Yes; Mrs. Smrek, Yes. The motion carried (5-0).

The Executive Session ended at 7:02PM.

2026-9/16-4 Recall to Order

The Board returned to Regular Session at 7:07 PM.

2026-9/16-5 Agenda Approval

Mr. Marcum moved to approve the agenda for the 9/16/2026 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).

2026-9/16-6 Public Comments

None

2026-9/16-7 Principal Report

Andrew Scarmack, AMS Principal- Mr. Scarmack gave an update on each building

2026-9/16-8 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 8/20/2026
- b. Special Sessions held on 9/2/2026

B. FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

C. Approve the Fiscal Year 2027 Permanent Appropriation Measure and Certificate of Estimated Resources

D. TRANSFERS AND ADVANCES

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Amount</u>
001-0000 General Fund	002-9003 Bus Retirement Fund	\$182,437.40

E. APPROVE THE DISPOSAL OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

<u>Tag Number</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Method of Disposal</u>
00395	Drill Press	Woodshop	Fitch	Scrap

F. DONATIONS

- a. \$150 from Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church to Fitch Food Pantry
- b. \$933 from Volleyball Boosters to Athletics
- c. \$500 from AFHS Class of 1976 to Concert Choir Tour
- d. \$1452.24 from Girls Soccer Boosters to Athletics for Uniforms and HUDL
- e. \$435 from Football Boosters to Athletics for Football Helmets

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).

2026-9/16-9 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. Morgan Ainsworth, AEA Title I PBIS Specialist (K-2), effective 2026-2027 school year, job change
- b. Nichole Mock, Bus Driver, effective 9/11/2026
- c. Kenneth Kilpatrick, AMS Track Assistant Boys Coach, effective 8/24/2026, personal
- d. Jenna Riccardo AMS Basketball Girls Grade 7 Supplemental, effective 9/11/26, personal

2. OAPSE Appointments

- a. Melissa Coughran, Bus Aide for AM/PM; 9-month, 3.5-hour position replacing Candace Colbert effective 9/4/26

- b. Amanda Fagnano, Food Service:3-hour position replacing Cindy Marzullo effective 9/9/26
- c. Michael Hughes, IT Technician (6-12); 10-month, 5.75 hours, new position effective 9/8/26
- d. Daniel Dowdy , IT Technician (K-5); 10-month, 5.75 hours, new position effective 9/21/26
- e. Brittany Grima, AES Paraprofessional Lunch/Recess Aide; 9-month, 5.75 hours replacing Holly Brady effective 9/9/26
- f. Tiffany Lowe, AES Special Education Paraprofessional; 9-month, 5.75 hours replacing Stephanie Miles effective 8/25/26
- g. Nicole Wolf, AIS Special Education Paraprofessional; 9-month, 5.75 hours replacing Patricia Cohol effective 8/25/26
- h. Denetra Butler, AES Special Education Preschool Paraprofessional, 9-month, 7 hours, 4 days a week, new position effective 8/24/2026
- i. Hannah Meech, AIS Special Education Child-Specific Paraprofessional, 9-month, 5.75 hours, replacing Kaylee Lazich, effective 8/27/26

3. OAPSE Transfers

- a. Gary Slatinsky, Bus Driver to Bus Aide position, new AM/PM Route, 3.5 hours effective 8/25/26

B. AEA LATERAL ADVANCEMENT FOR SALARY SCHEDULE

AEA salary column advancement in accordance with the AEA CBA 9.0421

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| a. Caleb Baldwin | B15 to M |
| b. Troy Balint | M to M30 |
| c. Kelly Bobovnik | B15 to M |
| d. Kristin Chahine | B15 to M |
| e. Kaylee Clark | B to M |
| f. John Drummond | B to M |
| g. Paul Farr | M15 to M30 |
| h. William Fleming | B15 to M |
| i. Carly Griffin | B15 to M |
| j. Isabella Kelty | B to B15 |
| k. Lori Leecue | B15 to M |
| l. Diana Machel | M to M15 |
| m. Carly Neher | B15 to M |
| n. Krista Moltchan | B to M |
| o. Danielle Mordocco | M15 to M30 |
| p. Tracie Odom | B to M |
| q. Anthony Parker | M to M15 |
| r. Danielle Berben | B to M |
| s. Wendy Russo | M to M15 |
| t. Kaitlin Slater | B to M |
| u. Jason Stroh | B to M |
| v. Samantha Sweeney | M15 to M30 |
| w. Monica Theis | B15 to M |
| x. Heidi Thompson | B15 to M |
| y. Melissa Dellagatta | Correction to salary column: Masters to Masters plus 15 effective 8/22/25 |

C. NON-BARGAINING UNIT PERSONNEL

AES Instructional Support Staff

- a. Kayleigh Burk, AES Intervention Tutor at \$20 per hour, limited to 28.75 hours per week, effective 8/27/26

AMS Instructional Support Staff

- b. Lisa Hershey, Tutor funded by the ATSI Grant at \$25 per hour, 7.5 hours per day, effective 9/8/2026
- c. Johnathan Bacak, Saturday School Teacher at \$20 per hour, 3-hours as needed, minimum one Saturday per month

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

- d. James Bengé
- e. Roxanne Stoner

Substitute Bus Aide at the rate of \$16.00 per hour as needed

- f. Roxanne Stoner

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

Custodian

- g. Tammy Baytos
- h. Lana Gay
- i. Sharmayne Gay
- j. Larry Iagulli
- k. Jaden Karr
- l. Robert Millich
- m. Maryjo Savage
- n. Heather Scott

Food Service

- o. Gina Anderson
- p. Maureen Casey
- q. Angela Fossesca
- r. Kimberlee Kelly
- s. Allyson King
- t. Linda Kurfis
- u. Barbara Linert
- v. Jodi McBride
- w. Stephanie Van Valien
- x. Pamela Ventimiglia

Paraprofessional

- y. Beth Kennedy
- z. Heather Scott
- aa. Pamela Ventimiglia
- bb. Carmella Yakell

D. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

- a. Adrienne Hetmanski - Intermittent FMLA - effective 8/25/26
- b. Dawn Rhoades - Intermittent FMLA - effective 8/25/26
- c. Tammy Chmelik-FMLA - 8/25/2026-9/8/2026
- d. Jodi Baylor - Intermittent FMLA - effective 8/26/2026
- e. Jaclyn Pandrea Unpaid days: 10/22/26 and 10/23/26
- f. Steven Diana - FMLA- 9/8/26-12/1/26

E. NON-BARGAINING STIPEND POSITIONS FOR 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

- a. Megan Ladner, District EL Teacher at \$1,000
- b. Gina Cardillo, Falcon Media General Manager at \$3,498
- c. Andrea Reed, State Testing PD Liaison, Grant Funded at \$3,700
- d. William Price, Football Equipment Manager at \$1500

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

One asterisk () denotes longevity percentage / two asterisks (**) denotes maximum longevity percentage*

FITCH

- a. Brian Beany, Basketball Head Varsity Boys - 29%**
- b. Luke Kelty, Basketball Varsity Assistant Boys - 15%
- c. John Hudson, Basketball Freshman Boys - 16%**
- d. Jacob Kilroy, Football Offensive Assistant - 10%
- e. John Burd, Wrestling Head Coach - 26%**

AMS

- f. Steven Ward, Basketball Boys Grade 7 (blue) - 10%
- g. Brian Forgac, Wrestling Head Coach (blue) - 15%**

G. ACTIVITY AND ATHLETIC VOLUNTEERS

- a. Mark Barnette, Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- b. Alexandria Fisher, Volleyball

H. ATHLETIC EVENT STAFF

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| a. Nathaniel Armstrong | s. Kenneth Kilpatrick |
| b. Johnathan Bacak | t. Kari Knight |
| c. Margaret Bennett | u. Ross Linert |
| d. Deborah Berni | v. Ellen Mancini |
| e. Tracy Boyd | w. Joseph McMahon |
| f. Melissa Crump | x. Cathy Mellott |
| g. Thomas Deluca | y. Karma Minkewicz |
| h. Carrie Eckert | z. James Penk |
| i. Rebecca Feicht | aa. Michelle Stewart |
| j. Lisa Fitzgerald | bb. Gerald Tarr |
| k. Debra Fuller | cc. Barbara Tomic |
| l. Margaret Gannon | dd. Jessica Tomic |
| m. Vicki Gleydura | ee. Brenda Wensyel |
| n. Barbara Gonda | ff. Roxanne Alexander |
| o. Jennifer Hykes | gg. Amanda Krygowski |
| p. Brittney Inglis | hh. Veronica Mosley |
| q. Robert Jones | ii. Amy Tibolla |
| r. John Jones | jj. Heather Braunstein |

I. STUDENT TRIPS

- a. Who: Fitch High School Concert Choir
- What: Fitch High School Choir Trip
- Where: New York City
- When: April 15, 2027 - April 18, 2027
- Transportation: Barrons Motor Coach

Expenses: Funds to be paid for fully by students, donations, and fundraiser
Chaperones: Bill Klein, Megan Klein, Jackie Rutledge, Laura Frost
Contact: Bill Klein, Choir Director

- b. Who: High School Varsity Volleyball
What: Quad Match at Westlake HS
Where: Westlake, OH
When: 9/11-9/12
Transportation: School Bus drop off at Hotel and Pick up at Westlake HS.
Parents Carpooling in the morning from the hotel to Westlake HS.
Hotel: Hyatt at Westlake
2020 Crocker Road, Westlake, OH, 44145, US
Expenses: Booster Club
Chaperone(s): Kylee Herberger
Contact: Kylee Herberger

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).

2026-9/16-10

Mr. Sherwood moved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the 2-year contract for Colin Reidy, Athletic Trainer from 7/1/2026 to 6/30/2028.

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).

2026-9/16-11 Resolution

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is required - in accordance with Federal and State law (i.e., the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act ("IDEA"), 34 C.F.R. 300.201, Ohio Revised Code 3323.08, and Ohio Administrative Code 3301-51-01) – to adopt and implement written policies and procedures approved by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce ("DEW"); and

WHEREAS, in December 2024, the DEW released updated Special Education Model Policies and Procedures ("Model Policies") that an educational agency can adopt to meet the preceding legal requirement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby adopts the DEW's Model Policies, and agrees to use the written policies and procedures in accordance with the IDEA and the Ohio Operating Standards for Ohio Educational Agencies Serving Children with Disabilities (hereafter referred to as the "Operating Standards"); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education agrees to use the required special education forms that are located on the DEW's website; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board acknowledges that the Model Policies, while comprehensive, do not include every requirement set forth in the IDEA, the regulations implementing IDEA, the Operating Standards, the Ohio Revised Code ("ORC"), and/or the Ohio Administrative Code ("OAC"), and the Board recognizes its obligation to follow these laws, regardless of whether their provisions are restated in the Model Policies; and

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to notify the DEW of the Board's adoption of the Model Policies through the DEW's Monitoring System by uploading a copy of this Board resolution by November 30 for each subsequent school year.

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).

2026-9/16-12 Board Policy-Revision

Mr. Sherwood moved, Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the revision of the following board policy to allow the use of traditional bicycles and prohibit electric modes of travel (i.e. e-bikes, e-scooters, etc.):

PO5514- Use of Bicycles, E-Bikes, Scooters, E-Scooters, and other personal transportation devices.

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

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

2026-9/16-13 Public Meeting for October, 2026

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

Work Session: October 15, 2026 at the BOE Office Conference Room beginning at 5:00 PM

Regular Session: October 15, 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).

2026-9/16-14 Treasurer's Comments

None

2026-9/16-15 Superintendent's Comments

None

2026-9/16-16 Board Comments

None

2026-9/16-17 Adjournment

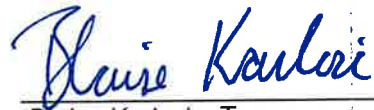
Mr. Marcum moved to adjourn at 7:19PM.

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