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 6:00 PM for the October 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

2026-10/7-1 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

2026-10/7-2 Work Session
- Mission Statement
- Veteran's Day
- District Owned Property

2026-10/7-3 Executive Session
Mr. Sherwood 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 consider legal matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or regulations or state statutes

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).
The Executive Session ended at 5:57PM.

2026-10/7-4 Recall to Order
The Board returned to Regular Session at 6:02 PM.

2026-10/7-5 Agenda Approval
Mr. Marcum moved to approve the agenda for the 10/7/2026 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).

2026-10/7-6 Public Comments
None

2026-10/7-7 Principal Report
David Phillips, Fitch High School Principal- Mr. Phillips gave an update on each building

2026-10/7-8 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 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

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).

2026-10/7-9 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. 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 Ortz, 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
c. Roxanne Stoner

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

d. Cortia Battee Jackson
e. Dominique Fox
f. Roxanne Stoner

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

Food Service

g. 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%

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).

2026-10/7-10 Agreement
Mrs. Smrek moved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to 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").

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).

2026-10/7-11 Agreement
Mr. Sherwood moved, Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following resolution:

> 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

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).

2026-10/7-12 Memorandum of Understanding
Mr. Sherwood 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:
>
> 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.

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).

2026-10/7-13 Public Meeting for November, 2026
Mrs. Smrek moved for the following day, date, time, and location for the October, 2026 Board of Education meeting to take place:

Work Session: November 18, 2026 at the BOE Office Conference Room beginning at 5:00 PM
Regular Session: November 18, 2026 at Austintown Middle School beginning at 6:00 PM

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).

2026-10/7-14 Treasurer's Comments
None

2026-10/7-15 Superintendent's Comments
None

2026-10/7-16 Board Comments
None

2026-10/7-17 Adjournment
Mr. Marcum moved to adjourn at 6:13PM.
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