

OHIO COMMUNITY GRADE SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT #17

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Ohio Grade School District #17 was held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M.

1.1 Roll Call

Grade School Board members present: Fitzpatrick, Gonigam, Albrecht, Reuter, Hull

Grade School Board member not present: Piper, Walker

Administrators present: Superintendent Donnelly, Principal Wilt

Board Recording Secretary: Kelly Becker

Other attendees: Megan Hellrung

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Albrecht, seconded by Reuter to approve the agenda as presented. The vote was unanimous. Motion Carried.

II. CONSENT ITEMS IN ENCLOSED IN PACKET

2.1 Approval of Minutes for the February 17, 2026 Regular meeting and approved and retained the Closed Session minutes.

2.2 Approval of Treasurer's and Activity Account Reports for February.

2.3 Approval of Payment of Bills for February (\$50,892.92) which were prepared 3/10/2026 at 11:12 AM, Payroll (\$117,513.64).

Motion made by Gonigam, seconded by Hull to approve consent items in packet as presented.

Roll call; Yes; Gonigam, Albrecht, Reuter, Hull, Fitzpatrick

Nay: none. Motion Carried.

III. PUBLIC SESSION

3.1 None

IV. OLD/NEWS BUSINESS

- 4.1 I. Welcome & Introductions
- II. Review of Mission, Vision, and School Commitments
- III. Strategic Pillars: Review & Discussion
- IV. Alignment and Feedback
 - Discussion of alignment with Mission and Vision

- Initial Board feedback on proposed pillars
- V. Strategic Planning Timeline & Next Steps
- March
 - Board review and approval of strategic pillars
 - Administrative team, Pat, and key staff develop goal statements, strategies and desired outcomes for each pillar
 - April
 - Board review of goals, strategies, and desired outcomes
 - June
 - Board approval of Strategic Plan including goals, strategies, and desired outcomes
 - August
 - Launch the Strategic Plan to our community
 - Back-to-School theme: "Small School-Big Difference"
 - September-October
 - Develop detailed work plan admin team and school staff
 - November
 - Board approval of work plan

Mission, Vision and School Commitments: Superintendent Donnelly introduced Pat Halloran who has been working with Superintendent Donnelly and the Mission, Vision School Commitments committee (Small School-Big Difference). Mr. Halloran was there to discuss the Board's role in Strategic Planning. Tonight we will be voting on the Strategic Pillars. The pillars are Teaching and Learning, Student Development and School Community. Mr. Halloran then went through the Strategic Planning Monthly Timeline and Next Steps. By November we will start to see these plans come together. Superintendent Donnelly stated that we need to start building leaders within our Grade School and Middle School students.

V. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- 5.1 Attendance Update: February's attendance went down slightly to 95% with a yearly average at 95.657%.
- 5.2 State Testing: IAR (Illinois Assessment Readiness) for grades 3rd-8th on March 9th-13th. In addition Grades 5 & 8 will be taking the ISA (Illinois Science Assessment). In the March newsletter we had some suggestions for the parents/guardians to make testing a positive experience.
- 5.3 Ohio Schools Kindergarten Pre-Registration will be held the week of April 13-April 17, 2026 in the Ohio Schools office between the hours of 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM that whole week. Child must be 5 on or before Sept 1st to be eligible to attend school in the fall. All the information needed was in the March Newsletter if you need to refer back.
- 5.4 Reminder of Homecoming Week Schedule this week: 3/16/26. Students will participate in a week of homecoming activities with the entire community invited to attend the annual homecoming basketball game on Friday, March 20 at 6:00 PM. Bring the family for a night of fun!
- 5.5 Principal's Breakfast: The Principal's Breakfast was held on

Friday, March 13 at 7:30 AM. There was an awards assembly for grades 6-8 at 8:05 AM. Mr. Wilt informed the Board that the Middle School had 18 out of 24 that made the Honor Roll.

- 5.6 Pastries with Parents: Was held on Friday, March 6th at 7:20 AM.
- 5.7 Spring Break: Early dismissal on Friday, March 27th 2:00 PM kicks off spring break, with school back in session on Tuesday, April 7th, 2026.
- 5.8 Reminder Family Skate Night: Family Skate Night will be held on Thursday, March 19th. K-5 families will skate from 5-6 PM, and 6-12 grade families will skate from 6-7 PM. This is always a great family night!
- 5.9 The BVEC Art Show was held on Saturday, March 7th in Depue. Ms. Fehlhafer and the students did a great job!

Acrylic:

- 1st Place-Vinnie Rossi
- 2nd Place-Vinnie Rossi
- 2nd Place-Mason Cirrincione
- 3rd Place-Mason Cirrincione

Colored Pencil:

- 1st Place-Mya Bell

Marker:

- 1st Place-Hayden Borden

Mixed Media:

- 1st Place-Leah Bell
- 2nd Place-Mason Cirrincione
- 3rd-Mason Cirrincione
- Honorable Mention-Marshall Cirrincione

Oil Pastel

- **2nd Place**-Vinni Rossi
- **3rd Place** Marshall Cirrincione

Printmaking

- **1st Place**-Landyn Gibbons
- **2nd Place**-Rabecca May
- **3rd Place**-Tony Sieghartner

Watercolor

- **2nd Place**-Brooklyn Pratt

Watercolor Abstract

- **1st Place**-Miranda Albrecht
- **2nd Place**-Payton Adams
- **3rd Place**-Lily Sieghartner
- **Honorable Mention**-Caiden Bornsheuer

- 5.10 Sports Update: Track practice started on March 9. We have 7 students out for track.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- 6.1 Enrollment: Pre-K thru 8: 85 students HS: 18 students TOTAL-103
- 6.2 Staffing Update: We are still seeking candidates for our Grade School special education opening and special education transportation driver. We have 3 interviews for the special education position the week of March 16th. Mrs. Zerfas submitted her letter of resignation on 2/27/26. An anticipated opening for the 4th grade position has been posted internally. We have updated our job descriptions for our Main Office Assistant and Bookkeeper positions in anticipation of those openings. Mrs. Hughes

(Main Office Assistant) anticipates she'll be student teaching in January of 2027 and Mrs. Fehlhafter (Bookkeeper) will retire in February of 2027. We would like to start a new Main Office Assistant in December of 2026 to allow for training. I would like to post the Bookkeeper opening soon so we can potentially start someone in July of 2026 at the beginning of FY27 to allow time for training, and so they become familiar with FY27 finances.

- 6.3 Building Project Update: Initial masonry work will begin over spring break so they can prepare molds for the decorative work above the entry doors. The balcony railing design has been finalized and the completed project should look very similar to our existing railing with increased height. All projects are anticipated to begin in early June. We received an estimate of over \$60,000 to replace the railings around the exterior window wells. We also received an estimate for \$4,295 to remove the rust, prime with rust inhibitive epoxy metal primer and paint with a topcoat finish. I would recommend moving forward with the painting option.
- 6.4 Teacher Negotiations start in April with our first meeting on April 9, 2026 at 4:00 PM.

7. **CLOSED SESSION**

- 7.1 Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8)
- 7.2 The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body. (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6))

CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Albrecht, seconded by Reuter to convene to Closed Session at 6:26 P.M.

The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL

Grade School Board Members present: Fitzpatrick, Gonigam, Albrecht, Reuter, Hull

Grade School Board members not present: Piper, Walker

Administrators present: Superintendent Donnelly, Principal Wilt

Secretary present: Becker

RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

Motion by Albrecht, seconded by Reuter to reconvene to regular session at 6:42 P.M.

The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL

Grade School Board Members present: Fitzpatrick, Gonigam, Albrecht, Reuter, Hull

Grade School Board members not present: Piper, Walker

Administrators present: Superintendent Donnelly, Principal Wilt

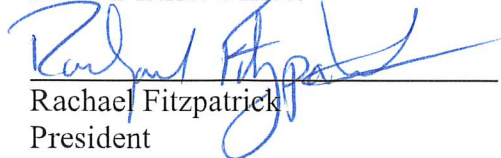
Secretary present: Becker

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

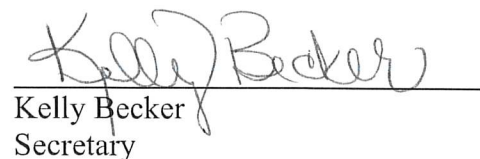
- 8.1 Motion by Gonigam, seconded by Reuter to approve Ohio Grade School as School Wide Title I school (required for grants).
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- 8.2 Motion by Gonigam, seconded by Hull to approve District Consolidated Plan (required for grants).
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- 8.3 Motion by Hull, seconded by Albrecht to approve the resignation of Sarah Zerfas, 4th grade teacher, effective at the end of the 25-26 school year.
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- 8.4 Motion by Gonigam, seconded by Hull to approve Strategic Plan Pillars.
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- 8.5 Motion by Reuter, seconded by Albrecht to approve updated job descriptions for Main Office Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper.
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- 8.6 Motion by Gonigam, seconded by Hull to approve employment of Abie Hughes as Preschool Bus Monitor for the 26-27 school year.
Roll Call: Albrecht, Reuter, Hull, Fitzpatrick, Gonigam
Nay: none. Motion Carried.
- 8.7 Motion by Reuter, seconded by Albrecht to approve Intergovernmental Agreement for Provision of Shared Speech Language Pathologist Services with Bureau Valley Community Unit School District No. 340 for the 2026-2027 school year.
Roll Call: Reuter, Hull, Fitzpatrick, Gonigam, Albrecht
Nay: none. Motion Carried.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- 9.1 Motion by Gonigam, seconded by Reuter to adjourn this meeting at 6:46 PM. The vote was unanimous, whereupon the meeting was declared adjourned. The next Regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the District Office.



Rachael Fitzpatrick
President



Kelly Becker
Secretary