

**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, January 20, 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, Reuter (6:20 PM), Hull, Walker

**Grade School Board members not present:** Albrecht, Piper

**Administrator present:** Superintendent Donnelly, Principal Wilt

**Board Recording Secretary:** Kelly Becker

**Other attendees:** Kristen Ryan

**1.2 Approval of Agenda**

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

**II. CONSENT ITEMS IN ENCLOSED IN PACKET**

2.1 Approved the minutes of the November 18, 2025 Regular Meeting as presented.

2.2 Approved the Treasurer's and Activity Account Reports from November & December.

2.3 Approved Payment of Bills \$42,470.64 prepared on 1/13/26 at 12:23 PM (December) and Payroll for 1/5/26 (\$57,663.94).

Already approved in the November meeting to pay the November bills (\$72,818.26) and payroll for 12/5/25 (\$62,247.11) & 11/20/25 (\$56,863.80).

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

Roll call: Yea: Gonigam, Hull, Walker, Fitzpatrick

Nay: none. Motion carried

**III. PUBLIC SESSION**

None

**IV. OLD/NEWS BUSINESS**

None

**V. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

5.1 Attendance Update: November's Attendance was 94.5% with the year average 96.05% and December was 95.3% with the year average being 95.9%.

5.2 Blood Drive: On Friday, January 23rd, the National Honor Society is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive. This is our second one for the year due to a shortage of blood at this time.

- 5.3 Middle School and High School Awards were held on Friday, January 16, 2026. The High School Awards were at 12:00 PM and the Middle School's were held at 8:05 AM following the Principal's Breakfast.
- 5.4 The PTO will be having a Mother/Son Night on Friday, January 23rd from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM.
- 5.5 John Ourth Student Recognition Breakfast: Payton Adams was chosen as the Ohio Grade School District #17 recipient. The event will be held at Streator High School on February 25.
- 5.6 Sports Update: Girls BB is underway. We have 2 girls participating in the Amboy Co-op. The first game was January 15th.

## **VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- 6.1 Enrollment: Pre-K thru 8: 85 students HS: 19 students TOTAL-104
- 6.2 Mission, Vision and School Commitments: Stakeholder meetings were conducted on 9/30/25 and 10/29/25. Superintendent Donnelly went through a handout included in the packet to review the mission, vision and commitment statements that were developed. Pat Halloran will attend the February meeting to discuss the Board's role in the strategic planning process and to help us develop work tasks and specific areas of focus.
- 6.3 County School Facility Occupation Tax (One-Cent Sales Tax): Several Superintendents from Bureau County Schools met on December 10, 2025 to discuss the one-cent sales tax for Bureau County. Boards of Education that represent more than 50% of the student enrollment in a county may approve a resolution to place a County School Facility Tax question on the ballot. A majority of voters in the county are required to approve the tax. School districts can use the funds generated for school facility purposes and potentially school resource officers and mental health professionals. The estimated revenue for Ohio Grade School would be approximately \$34,750 per year. The superintendents in Bureau County have been asked to have discussions with our boards to gauge the level of support for the one-cent sales tax. The Board is interested in Superintendent Donnelly looking more into the County School Facility Occupation Tax.
- 6.4 School Maintenance Project Grant: Our School Maintenance Project Grant was approved. Superintendent Donnelly met with the architect to rework the proposal for the railing upstairs around the auditorium. Since this is the center of our school, Superintendent Donnelly would like the railing to be completely safe and aesthetically pleasing. We are actively collecting proposals, and we'll move forward with scheduling the work included in the grant application.
- 6.5 USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant: Our Regional Office of Education (ROE) is considering submitting a cohort application for this grant to cover 85% of the cost of the technology necessary to be part of the RISE Network. The RISE Network would allow us to partner with other districts and agencies to provide additional courses, virtual field trips, professional development, access to healthcare resources, etc. The estimated cost of equipment is \$40,000-\$55,000 so if the grant is awarded, our cost would be \$6,000-\$8,250. It is anticipated there will be a cost of approximately \$5,000 (split between all districts who opt in) to hire a professional to assist with the grant application. The superintendents of ROE #28 have been asked to have discussions with our boards to gauge our interest in pursuing this grant. The Board is interested in Superintendent Donnelly moving forward with this process.
- 6.6 Administrator Evaluations: It's that time again for both the annual Superintendent and Principal Evaluations. Board members were asked to complete Superintendent Donnelly's evaluation and submit it to the Board president. Superintendent Donnelly will complete Mr. Wilt's evaluation.

## **VII. CLOSED SESSION**

- 7.1 The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)

### **CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION**

Motion made by Reuter, seconded by Hull to convene to Closed Session at 6:41 P.M.

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

Grade School Board members not present: Albrecht, Piper

Administrator Present: Superintendent Donnelly, Principal Wilt (after roll call and brief discussion both were asked to step out for a short time for Board discussion).

Board Recording Secretary: Kelly Becker

### **RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION**

Motion by Hull, seconded by Walker to reconvene to regular session at 6:57 P.M.

The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

Grade School Board members not present: Albrecht, Piper

Administrator Present: Superintendent Donnelly, Principal Wilt

Board Recording Secretary: Kelly Becker

## **VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

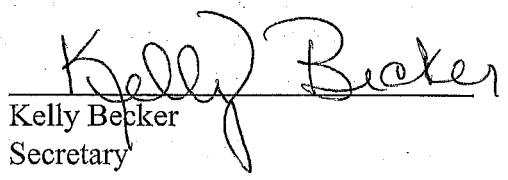
- 8.1 Motion by Walker, seconded by Gonigam to approve Transportation Director/Bus Driver/Custodian Contract with Trisha Maynard effective August 1, 2026  
Roll call: Yea: Hull, Walker, Fitzpatrick, Gonigam, Reuter  
Nay: none. Motion carried  
The vote was unanimous. Motion Carried.
- 8.2 Motion by Gonigam, seconded by Reuter to approve medical leave for 4th Grade teacher Sarah Zerfas effective April 13, 2026 through the end of the 2025-2026 School Year.  
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

- 8.3 Motion by Reuter, seconded by Walker to approve 4th Grade Substitute Teacher contract with Chantel Brennen effective April 13, 2026 through the end of the 2025-2026 school year  
Roll Call: Reuter, Hull, Walker, Fitzpatrick, Gonigam  
Nay: none. Motion Carried.
- 8.4 Motion by Reuter, seconded by Hull to approve Mission, Vision and Commitment Statements.  
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- 8.5 Motion by Walker, seconded by Gonigam to approve the second and final reading of Board Policy Updates Issue October 2025, #120.  
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- 8.6 Motion by Hull, seconded by Reuter to approve (Closed Session Minutes Six Month Review) and to continue to retain all of the Closed Session minutes per recommendation by Superintendent Donnelly.  
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

- 9.1 Motion by Reuter, seconded by Gonigam to adjourn this meeting at 7:00 PM. The vote was unanimous, whereupon the meeting was declared adjourned. **The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the District Office.**

  
Rachael Fitzpatrick  
President

  
Kelly Becker  
Secretary