

**OHIO COMMUNITY GRADE SCHOOL  
BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT #17**

**A**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Ohio Grade School District #17 was held on Tuesday, April 15, 2025

**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, Reuter, Piper, Gonigam

**Grade School Board members not present:** Hansen, Albrecht, Cassidy

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

**Board Recording Secretary:** Kelly Becker

**Other attendees:** Kristen Ryan, Sarah Siebert

**1.2 Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Reuter, seconded by Piper to approve the agenda as amended.

The vote was unanimous. Motion Carried.

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

2.1 Approved the Minutes for March 18, 2025 Regular Board Meeting as corrected.

2.2 Approved Treasurer's and Activity Account Report for March.

2.3 Approved Payment of March Bills (\$22,116.41) which were prepared 4/8/2025 at 1:29 PM and Payroll 4/4/25 & 3/20/25 (\$113,964.32).

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

Roll call; Reuter, Piper, Gonigam, Fitzpatrick

The vote was unanimous. Motion Carried.

**III. PUBLIC SESSION**

3.1 Ms. Ryan made a statement to the Board concerning the increase of insurance coverage. The administration and Union Representatives met with the school's agent from Gallagher, and she provided insurance options. The renewal increase was 16% but the agent had negotiated that down to 10% and was still working on it. Ms. Ryan stated that all the schools around us pay for the employee insurance. She is asking the Board to reopen the Teacher's Contract and negotiate the insurance allowance paid by the Board.

**IV. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

None

**V. PRINCIPAL REPORT**

5.1 Attendance Update: Our attendance went back up to 95.8% this month with our yearly being 95.3%

5.2 Sports Physicals: Ohio Schools will host the annual Sports Physical Clinic (for grades 4-11) on Tuesday, May 13th through OSF St. Francis Hospital from 1-3 pm. This is a **FREE** sports physical exam provided to your child at NO COST to you; parents do not need to attend. If your child does not receive the sports physical through the school, and are planning on participating in any sporting event during the 25/26 school year, you will be responsible for getting their physical through your own family physician.

- 5.3 End of Year: We have a very busy April/May ahead of us with many events scheduled. Below are some of the key dates:

- K-5 Field Trip to the Discovery Center- April 25, 2025
- 8th Grade Trip to Springfield- May 1, 2025
- 5th Grade Conservation Day- Friday, May 2, 2025
- Spring Concert - Friday, May 9, 2025 @ 7:00 PM.
- Blood Drive- Monday, May 12, 2025
- Grad Walk - Friday, May 16, 2025 @ 2:00
- GS Graduation - Saturday, May 17, 2025 at 1:00 PM in the auditorium.
- 6-12 End of Year Reward Trip to Malibu Jacks - May 22, 2025
- 6-12 Awards Program/NHS Induction Ceremony - May 27, 2025 @ 8:15

- 5.4 Homecoming Update: K-12th grade students participated in Homecoming activities the week of March 17th. The week concluded with a basketball tournament, welcoming back alumni, and a High School dance. The basketball tournament was well attended and everyone had a great time. Congratulations to the Alumni for being the big winners this year!
- 5.5 The Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement with Amboy Jr. High expires this year. We recommend moving forward with a new 2 year agreement that includes the following sports: girls volleyball, boys basketball, girls basketball, boys/girls track. We have had good numbers so far in boys basketball so Ohio has continued to offer that at Ohio but if the numbers would decrease, the agreement allows for Ohio to participate in boys basketball at Amboy.

## VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- 6.1 Enrollment: Pre-K thru 8: 82 HS-20 Total-102
- 6.2 Employee Health Insurance: Meetings to obtain insurance quotes were held on 4/3/25 and 4/10/25 with insurance representatives. Next steps include scheduling a meeting with our Union representatives and Board representatives to discuss the preferred option and to determine if changing insurance consultants is necessary. The new policy would take effect June 1, 2025 and open enrollment would occur in the month of May. The superintendent will need approval to move forward with the preferred option as determined by the meeting between our Union and Board representatives.
- 6.3 Building Project Updates: Abatement work in the library/tech room is scheduled to begin on May 29th and conclude by June 6, 2025. Construction will begin the following week. Additional summer projects include tuckpointing and replacement of the water heater that provides hot water to the cafeteria.
- 6.4 Transportation: The leases for our two 65 passenger buses end this summer. Central States Bus Sales has prepared a lease for us for a new 71 passenger Bluebird gasoline bus that will be serviced locally. The 14 passenger 2022 white bus was delivered on 4/4/25. Trading in the existing 2017 Chevy 29 passenger and replacing it with a 2022 Microbird 28 passenger were also discussed.
- 6.5 Paid Student-Teacher Agreement: In an effort to recruit and retain high-quality teachers, a paid student-teacher agreement could be utilized. Our district could pay student teachers in exchange for a commitment to work for the district when we have openings and anticipated openings.

## VII. Convened into Closed Session for the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10) and litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the Closed Meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)

- 7.1 Motion made by Reuter, seconded by Gonigam to convene Closed Session at 6:25 P.M.

**ROLL CALL**

Grade School Board Members present: Fitzpatrick, Reuter, Piper, Gonigam

Grade School Members Not Present: Hansen, Albrecht, Cassidy

Administrator Present: Superintendent Donnelly, Principal Wilt

Board Recording Secretary: Kelly Becker

**RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION**

- 7.2 Motion by Gonigam, seconded by Piper, to reconvene to regular session at 6:29 P.M.  
The vote was unanimous: Yay Motion carried.

**ROLL CALL**

Grade School Board Members present: Fitzpatrick, Reuter, Piper, Gonigam

Grade School Members Not Present: Hansen, Albrecht, Cassidy

Administrator Present: Superintendent Donnelly, Principal Wilt

Board Recording Secretary: Kelly Becker

**VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

- 8.1 Motion by Reuter, seconded by Gonigam to approve Food Service Agreement with Princeton School District for 2025-2026 school year.  
Roll call; Yes; Reuter, Piper, Gonigam, Fitzpatrick  
Nay: None. Motion carried.
- 8.2 Motion by Piper, seconded by Reuter to approve Bus Lease Agreement with Central State Bus.  
Roll call; Yes; Piper, Gonigam, Fitzpatrick, Reuter  
Nay: None. Motion carried.
- 8.3 Motion by Reuter, seconded by Gonigam to approve yearly IESA Contract and fees (\$275.00).  
Roll call; Yes; Gonigam, Fitzpatrick, Reuter, Piper  
Nay: None. Motion carried.
- 8.4 Motion by Gonigam, seconded by Piper to approve approve for Administration to move forward with Health Insurance Renewal once the numbers have been received from Insurance companies and they have Administration approval and Union approval.  
Roll call; Yes; Fitzpatrick, Reuter, Piper, Gonigam  
Nay: none. Motion Carried.
- 8.5 Motion by Gonigam, seconded by Reuter to approve the appointment of Architectural Firm: Architects Richard L. Johnson Rockford, IL Architect Scott Johnson.  
Roll call; Yes; Reuter, Piper, Gonigam, Fitzpatrick  
Nay: none. Motion Carried.
- 8.6 Motion by Reuter, seconded by Piper to approve a contract with Hallie Monroe for School Nurse and Hearing and Vision Screening Services for 2025-2026 school year.  
Roll call; Yes; Piper, Gonigam, Fitzpatrick, Reuter  
Nay: none. Motion Carried.

- 8.7 Motion by Gonigam, seconded by Reuter to approve Sports Physicals at Ohio Schools for grades 4-11 on Tuesday, May 13th through OSF Hospital from 1-3 PM.  
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- 8.8 Motion by Reuter, seconded by Gonigam to approve the Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement with Amboy Junior High for Grade School Sports. This is in effect for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school terms.  
Roll call; Yes; Gonigam, Fitzpatrick, Reuter, Piper  
Nay: none. Motion Carried.
- 8.9 Motion by Reuter, seconded by Piper to approve Paid Student-Teacher Agreement.  
Roll call; Yes; Fitzpatrick, Reuter, Piper, Gonigam  
Nay: none. Motion Carried.
- 8.10 Motion by Gonigam, seconded by Piper to approve the 2025-2026 school calendar.  
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- 8.11 Motion by Reuter, seconded by Gonigam to approve Administrative Office Assistant contracts for the 2025-2026 school year.  
Roll call; Yes; Reuter, Piper, Gonigam, Fitzpatrick  
Nay: none. Motion carried.
- 8.12 Motion by Reuter, seconded by Piper to approve 5% raise for non certified custodial, paraprofessional, food service staff, and bus drivers Beginning July 1, 2025.  
Roll call: Yes; Piper, Gonigam, Fitzpatrick, Reuter  
Nay: none. Motion carried.
- 8.13 Motion by Reuter, seconded by Gonigam to approve moving the May meeting from Tuesday, May 20, 2025 to Monday, May 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM.  
Nay: none. Motion carried.

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

- 9.1 Motion by Gonigam, seconded by Piper to adjourn this meeting at 6:40 PM. The vote was unanimous, whereupon the meeting was declared adjourned. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be **Monday, May 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM** in the District Office.

  
Rachael Fitzpatrick  
President

  
Kelly Becker  
Secretary