

**OHIO COMMUNITY GRADE SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT # 17
MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025**

A

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

1.1 Roll Call

Grade School Board members present: Rachael Fitzpatrick, Robert Albrecht, Don Reuter, Rebekah Piper, Bob Gonigam

Administrator present: Superintendent Donnelly, Principal Wilt

Board Recording Secretary: Kelly Becker

Other attendees: Sara Edelfson

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Reuter, seconded by Gonigam to approve agenda as presented.
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

II. CONSENT ITEMS IN ENCLOSED IN PACKET

2.1 Approve the minutes of the April 15, 2025 Regular and Closed Session meetings.
Closed Session minutes will be retained.

2.2 Approval of Treasurer's and Activity Account Reports

2.3 Approval of Payment of April Bills (\$16,564.24) which were prepared on 5/6/25 at 12:30 PM and Payroll (\$117,8023.34)

Motion by Albrecht, seconded by Reuter to approve the consent items.

Roll call: Yea: Albrecht, Reuter, Piper, Gonigam, Fitzpatrick

Nay: none. Motion carried.

III. PUBLIC SESSION

None

IV. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

None

V. SEATING OF NEWLY ELECTED/WRITE-IN AND APPOINTED MEMBERS

5.1 I would like to welcome our newly elected and write-in school board members.
The board and community appreciate your interest and dedication to serve.
The canvassed results are as follows:

NAME	TOTAL YEARS	YEAR TERM EXPIRES
Robert Albrecht	4	2029
Robert Gonigam	4	2029

Andy Hull	4	2029
Michael Walker	2	2027

Motion by Reuter, seconded by Piper to approve the canvass results as presented.

All in favor.

Motion carried.

- 5.2 The Oath of Office was read and signed by all the Board members.
Congratulations!

VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (2 YEAR TERMS)

- 6.1 At this time the Board Secretary took over to run the election for President and Vice President.

1st "Nominations are now in order for the office of President"

Rachael Fitzpatrick was nominated by Robert Albrecht.

"Any 2nd "Nominations for the office of President?"

Are there any other nominations for the office of President?"

"Hearing no further nominations, the nominations for the office of president are closed."

"All in favor of Rachael Fitzpatrick for the office of President raise their hands."

"Rachael Fitzpatrick is elected President of this board of education."

- 6.2 We will now take nominations for Vice President.

1st "Nominations are now in order for the office of Vice President"

Robert Gonigam is nominated by Rachael Fitzpatrick.

2nd "Nominations are now in order for the office of Vice President"

Are there any other nominations for the office of Vice President?"

"Hearing no further nominations, the nominations for the office of president are Closed."

"All in favor of Robert Gonigam for the office of Vice President raise their hands."

"Robert Gonigam is elected Vice President of this board of education."

VII. APPOINT STANDING COMMITTEES (2 YEAR TERMS)

- 7.1 Building Committee (2) Don Reuter, Michael Walker
7.2 Policy (2) Rachael Fitzpatrick, Robert Gonigam
7.3 Sports Co-op (2) Rebekah Piper, Andrew Hull
7.4 Teacher's Contract (2) Rachael Fitzpatrick, Robert Albrecht

VIII. PRINCIPALS REPORT

- 8.1 Attendance Update: Our attendance average went up to 96.8% for April.
EOY average is sitting at 95.5%.
8.2 Grad Walk for our seniors is being held on Friday, May 16th at 2:00 PM and 8th
Grade Graduation will be held on Saturday, May 17 th at 1:00 PM. Congratulations
to our graduates!

- 8.3 Awards: 6-12 Awards Program & NHS Induction Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, May 27 at 8:15 AM with a noon dismissal
- 8.4 Kindergarten Pre Registration: Currently 5 students have officially pre-registered and are working on 3 others
- 8.5 Sports Update: Track is done for the year. A few of our kids qualified for sectionals on Saturday but unfortunately did not move forward to state. They had a great season!
- 8.6 The BVEC is doing some restructuring of the conference to align with IESA beginning in 2026-27. It will impact our girls as far as volleyball and basketball seasons being swapped. The boys' basketball season will be very similar to what it currently is.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- 9.1 Enrollment: Pre-K thru 8: 82 HS: 20 Total: 102
- 9.2 Joint Annual Conference- Joint Annual Conference will be November 21, 22, 23, 2025. Registration and housing will open on Monday, June 2nd. Registration fees are \$540 for the three-day event plus a \$200 housing deposit to reserve lodging.
- 9.3 Local Revenue: The 2024 tax extension reports have been received (payable in FY 2026) and the total (both HS & GS Districts) tax rate for 2024 is 5.29. This is the lowest historical rate since we started tracking in 2004. Also, it is a reduction of .07 from our previous year.
- 9.4 Summer Building Project Update: Abatement work scheduled to begin 5/29/26 on the updating of our library/classroom/designated STEAM area.
- 9.5 Insurance Update: The administration and Union representatives have decided to proceed with Gallagher as our insurance consultant and to continue with our BCBS coverage.
- 9.6 Superintendent Transition Plan: Mrs. Donnelly is contracted through June 30, 2026 with the Grade School District. Current work has started on transitioning Mrs. Donnelly to the Superintendent of Ohio High School District which includes an intergovernmental agreement between the GS and the HS Districts. The next step will be the HS Board working with Mrs. Donnelly to create a contract for the 25/26 school year.
- 9.7 Strategic Plan: Work will begin during the 2025/2026 school year to create a school mission and vision as well as GS and HS strategic plans that are developed with Board, teacher, student, parent and community member input. Superintendent Donnelly would like to involve a mentor of hers. She feels he would bring some positive suggestions to the table.

X. CLOSED SESSION

- 10.1 Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).
- 10.2 The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10)

- 10.3 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).

Motion made by Albrecht, seconded by Gonigam to convene Closed Session at 6:35 P.M.

ROLL CALL

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

Administrator Present: Superintendent Donnelly

Board Recording Secretary: Kelly Becker

RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

Motion by Reuter, seconded by Piper to reconvene to regular session at 6:49 P.M.
The vote was unanimous: Yay Motion carried.

ROLL CALL

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

Administrator Present: Superintendent Donnelly

Board Recording Secretary: Kelly Becker

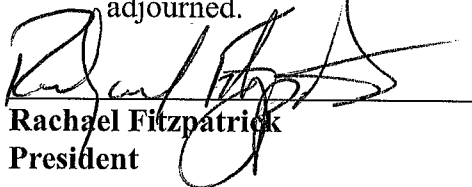
XI. ACTION ITEMS

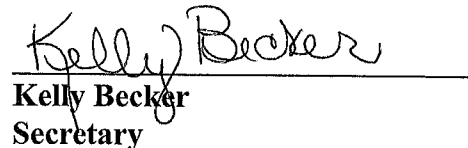
- 11.1 Motion by Reuter, seconded by Albrecht to approve 2025-2026 Board Meeting Dates & Times.
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- 11.2 Motion by Albrecht, seconded by Reuter to approve insurance MOU.
Roll call; Yes; Albrecht, Reuter, Piper, Gonigam, Hull, Walker, Fitzpatrick
Nay: None. Motion carried.
- 11.3 Motion by Piper seconded by Gonigam to approve Intergovernmental Agreement for Provision of Shared Speech Language Pathologist Service with Bureau Valley Community Unit School District No. 340 for the 2025-2026 school year.
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- 11.4 Motion by Walker, seconded by Gonigam to approve Paraprofessional/Spanish Tutor/After School Coordinator Contract for the 2025-2026 school year.
Roll call; Yes; Reuter, Piper, Gonigam, Hull, Walker, Fitzpatrick, Albrecht
Nay: None. Motion carried.

- 11.5 Motion by Piper seconded by Reuter to approve Paraprofessional Contract for the 2025-2026 school year.
Roll call; Yes; Piper, Gonigam, Hull, Walker, Fitzpatrick, Albrecht, Reuter
Nay: None. Motion carried.
- 11.6 Motion by Albrecht, seconded by Gonigam to accept with regrets the retirement of Diane Byers after being with Ohio Schools for 31 years.
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- 11.7 Motion by Gonigam, seconded by Walker to approve Intergovernmental Agreement with Ohio High School District #505 to share a school superintendent for the 2025/2026 school year.
Roll call; Yes; Gonigam, Hull, Walker, Fitzpatrick, Albrecht, Reuter, Piper
Nay: None. Motion carried.
- 11.8 First Reading of Policy Manual Updates #118
No action needed this month.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

- 12.1 Motion made by Piper, seconded Reuter by to adjourn this meeting at 6:53 PM. The vote was unanimous, whereupon the meeting was declared adjourned. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 6:00 PM in the District office. The vote was unanimous, whereupon the meeting was declared adjourned.


Rachael Fitzpatrick
President


Kelly Becker
Secretary