

**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, October 21, 2025 District Office.

**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, Hull, Walker

**Grade School Board Members Not Present:** Reuter, Piper

**Administrator Present:** Superintendent Donnelly

**Board Recording Secretary:** Becker

**Other attendees:** Kristen Ryan

1.2 **Approval of Agenda**

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

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

- 2.1 Approved Minutes as presented for the September 16, 2025 Regular Board meeting.
- 2.2 Approved of Treasurer's and Activity Account Reports.
- 2.3 Approved of Payment of September Bills (\$41,732.26) which were prepared 10/15/2025 at 11:17 AM and Payroll (\$121,197.42).

Motion made by Gonigam, seconded by Walker to approve consent items in packet as presented.  
Roll call; Yes; Gonigam, Albrecht, Hull, Walker, Fitzpatrick  
Nay: none. Motion Carried.

**III. PUBLIC SESSION**

None

**IV. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

None

**V. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

- 5.1 Attendance Update: September Average was 95.6 and for the year 96.35
- 5.2 Parent/Teacher Conferences: Will be held Wednesday, October 22nd and Thursday, October 23rd from 3:15-7:00 PM.
- 5.3 Principal's Breakfast: The Principal's Breakfast was held on Friday, October 17th at 7:30 AM with the Grades 6-8 Honors Assembly at 8:05 AM.

5.4 Trunk or Treat: This has become a tradition (weather permitting). It is going to be held on Friday, October 31st, 2025 at 8:10 AM on the East blacktop, and that day is also an early dismissal (12:00 PM).

5.5 Sports Update: Boys' Basketball and cheerleading are underway. Their season opener was the annual Malden Tournament on Wednesday, October 15th, Thursday, October 16th and Friday October 17th. Boys placed 3rd with Levi Forristall chosen as All American Player. Our cheerleaders tied for 1st and Charleigh Phillbrook and Rosie Bolin were chosen as All American Cheerleaders. Congrats to all! Girls' volleyball finished up their season the first week of this month.

## VI. **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

6.1 Enrollment: Pre-K thru 8: 85 students HS: 19 students TOTAL-104

6.2 Levy Information Handout. The combined rate for Ohio Grade School District #17 and Ohio High School District #505 for the 2024 levy was 5.29 which was a .07 reduction from the prior year. Based on information from the Bureau and Lee County Clerks, the Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) is estimated to increase by 1.9% for the 2025 Levy year. Four potential options have been calculated based on the estimates provided by the County Clerks for the Board to review. Truth in Taxation is not required for any of the recommended options. See handout for detailed information including the 2024 rates of our neighboring districts. The Board advised on what they would like Superintendent Donnelly to move forward with.

6.3 Audit Update: The FY25 audit is not yet complete. The auditor anticipates completion by November 15, 2025. ISBE has been notified of the anticipated timeline.

6.4 School Maintenance Project Grant Update: Application opens October 16, 2025 and is due by January 30, 2026. The Building Committee met on October 15, 2025 to determine which projects to include in the School Maintenance Project Grant Application. Superintendent Donnelly went through the Building Committee's recommendations and the board agreed to proceed with the Building Committee's recommendations.

6.5 Updated 25-26 Seniority and RIF List: They are in your packet for review. Approval of these items is recommended in Action Items.

6.6 Staffing Update: Cheyenne DePatis resigned as paraprofessional effective October 2, 2025. Mr. Wilt and Mrs. Donnelly conducted interviews. Cara Brookins started October 3, 2025. Cheyenne has agreed to continue driving until October 31st. Superintendent Donnelly is actively trying to find someone to take Cheyenne's place and looking into bus service options.

6.7 Mission/Vision Update: A group of 9 stakeholders met on September 30, 2025 and worked together to generate a draft mission statement for our school. At the next stakeholder meeting on October 29, 2025, the goal is to finalize our mission statement and generate vision statements for both districts.

- Mission: Defines our purpose, guiding principles and how we intend to operate in the present
- Vision: Defines our long-term aspirations and our desired future state.

6.8 Food Service Update: Mrs. Carr has been offering more hot breakfasts which have been well received. We have an existing Food Service Agreement with Princeton Elementary Schools (PES), and they are having some difficulty storing the extra items Mrs. Carr has been requesting. We are able to join the LaSalle County Area Purchasing Cooperative and have the extra food delivered directly to us. It is possible that working through the Cooperative next year could be a better option than continuing the Food Service Agreement with PES since we would receive the same discounts

and all food would be delivered directly to us. The first step is to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with LaSalle County Area Purchasing Cooperative which is listed in the Action Items.

6.9 Graduation: The last day of school without snow days will be May 20th with a noon dismissal. Graduation is normally the Saturday before that last day which would be Saturday, May 16, 2026 (Finals would be the week before). Grade School Graduation will be held at 1:00 PM and High School Graduation will be at 2:00 PM.

## **VII. CLOSED SESSION**

No need to go into Closed Session

## **VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

8.1 Motion by Gonigam, seconded by Albrecht to approve the 2025-2026 updated Seniority List.  
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

8.2 Motion by Walker, seconded by Hull to approve the 2025-2026 updated RIF List.  
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

8.3 Motion by Albrecht, seconded by Gonigam to approve Jennifer Donnelly and Jason Wilt as authorized signers on behalf of the district with Heartland Bank and Trust Company.  
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

8.4 Motion by Walker, seconded by Hull to accept with regrets the resignation of Cheyenne DePatis as paraprofessional effective October 2, 2025.  
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

8.5 Motion by Gonigam, seconded by Walker to approve the employment of paraprofessional Cara Brookins effective October 3, 2025.  
Roll call; Yes; Albrecht, Hull, Walker, Fitzpatrick, Gonigam  
Nay: none. Motion Carried.

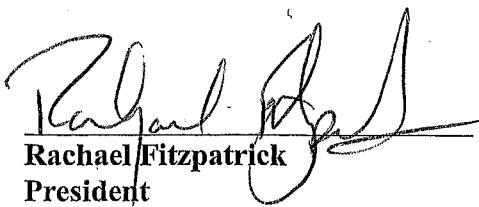
8.6 Motion by Walker, seconded by Gonigam to approve the FY26 School Maintenance Project Grant Application.  
Roll call; Yes; Hull, Walker, Fitzpatrick, Gonigam, Albrecht  
Nay: none. Motion Carried.

8.7 Motion by Hull, seconded by Walker to approve Intergovernmental Agreement with LaSalle County Area Purchasing Cooperative.  
Roll call; Yes; Walker, Fitzpatrick, Gonigam, Albrecht, Hull  
Nay: none. Motion Carried.

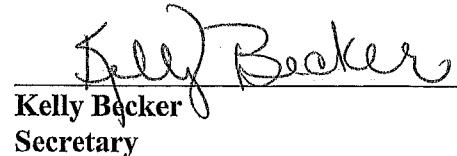
8.8 Motion by Hull, seconded by Walker to approve graduation date and time May 16, 2026 @ 1:00 for Grade School Graduation.  
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

9.1 Motion by Walker, seconded by Hull to adjourn this meeting at 6:45 PM. The vote was unanimous, whereupon the meeting was declared adjourned. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 6:00 PM the Distinct office.



Rachael Fitzpatrick  
President



Kelly Becker  
Secretary