

**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, November 18, 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, Gonigam, Albrecht, Reuter, Hull, Walker

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

**Administrator present:** Superintendent Donnelly

**Board Secretary:** Kelly Becker

**Other attendees:** Kristen Ryan

**1.2 Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Albrecht, seconded by Reuter to approve the agenda with a correction. The vote was unanimous. Motion Carried.

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

2.1 Approved the minutes of the October 21, 2025 Regular Meeting.

2.2 Approved the Treasurer's and Activity Account Reports.

2.3 Approved the Payment of October Bills (\$140,920.80) which were prepared on 11/10/2025 at 3:26 PM, additional bill added (\$90,477.95) prepared 11/18/25 at 10:54 AM and Payroll (\$117,024.66).

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

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

Nay: none. Motion carried.

**III. PUBLIC SESSION**

None

**IV. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

None

**V. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

5.1 Attendance Update: We are at 97% for the month of October and 96.57% average for the year.

5.2 School Report Card Update: The Illinois State Board of Education recently released the annual Illinois Report Card. The Report Card contains school performance data from the 2024-25 school year for every public school in the state and is used to determine each school's annual Summative Designation. We are proud to say Ohio Grade School District #17 has been awarded the designation of Commendable by the Illinois State Board of Education.

- 5.3 Thanksgiving Feast: K-5 and Seniors will be held on November 25, 2025. Our PTO and kitchen ladies do a great job on this.
- 5.4 Pastries With Parents: Thank you to our PTO for hosting Pastries With Parents on November 6, 2025. We had a great turnout as we have always had in the past.
- 5.5 Veterans Day: We had our annual Veterans Day Program on November 11, 2025 at 2:05 PM. Our kids and Ms. Gallagher do a great job putting on this program.
- 5.6 Sports Update: Eighth Grade Night will be held on our last home game which is Thursday, November 20th. We will be honoring 8th Grade Boys Basketball players: Paul May and Stevie Philbrook. The Cheerleaders are also doing a Mini Bulldogs Cheerleading Camp on Saturday, November 15th from 9:00 AM to 11AM and will be performing on November 20th at halftime of the 8th grade game. We will be hosting the BVEC Conference BB Tournament this year. Games will be on 12/6, 12/9 & 12/11.

## VI. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- 6.1 Enrollment: Pre-K thru 8: 85 students HS: 19 students TOTAL-104
- 6.2 Operational Funds Report: This report includes the average expenditures over the last three years in the educational, transportation, and operations and maintenance funds as well as the cash reserve balances for FY 25. The cash reserve balance to expenditures ratio is 1.194 which is under 2.5 so a reserve reduction plan is not required.
- 6.3 Levy Information: Bureau County provided an updated estimated Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) on November 5, 2025. The levy request was updated based on the most current estimated EAV with a target rate of 3.22. See the Levy Rate and EAV Comparison document.
- 6.4 Transportation Update: Johannes Bus Service is able to provide special education transportation while we continue to look for a driver. Kendra Walker provided her letter of resignation for her position as Transportation Director and Bus Driver effective June 30, 2026. The opening has been posted.
- 6.5 Audit Update: The Audit and Annual Financial Report are complete and were submitted to ISBE. There were two findings. The first finding was a general lack of segregation of incompatible duties because one person is responsible for various accounting duties. The second finding was that the District does not have anyone in management who can prepare the annual financial statements. Both of these findings are due to the small size of our district. The auditor completes the annual financial statements for the district.
- 6.6 We are deeply saddened by the passing of Dennis Grobe, who served as a substitute in our school. Dennis was a wonderful presence in our building, and both our staff and students will miss him greatly. In his memory, his family has created a memorial fund here in Ohio, with all donations supporting our Student Emergency Fund. This fund will help meet the needs of our students—something Dennis cared deeply about. We are grateful for the impact he made on our school community and for the generosity of his family during this difficult time.
- 6.7 "Santa's Elves is still going strong, with Dee Huges continuing to lead the program. It's truly a wonderful program and we are thankful we are able to continue helping our families!"

**VII NO CLOSED SESSION NEEDED**

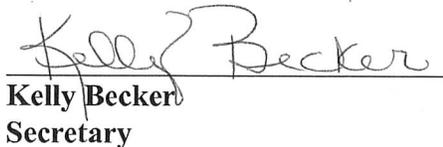
**VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

- 8.1 Motion by Albrecht, seconded by Gonigam to approve the FY25 Levy as proposed.  
Roll call; Yes: Albrecht, Reuter, Hull, Walker, Fitzpatrick, Gonigam  
Nay: none. Motion carried.
- 8.2 Motion by Hull, seconded by Reuter to approve Transportation Agreement with Johannes Bus Service, Inc. effective November 1st, 2025.  
Roll call; Reuter, Hull, Walker, Fitzpatrick, Gonigam, Albrecht  
Nay: none. Motion carried.
- 8.3 Motion by Reuter, seconded by Walker to accept the FY25 Audit.  
Roll call; Yes; Hull, Walker, Fitzpatrick, Gonigam, Albrecht, Reuter  
Nay; none. Motion carried.
- 8.4 Motion by Albrecht, seconded by Reuter to accept with regrets the resignation of Kendra Walker as bus driver and transportation director effective June 20, 2026.  
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- 8.5 First Reading of Board Policy Updates Issue #120.  
No action needed.
- 8.6 Motion by Reuter, seconded by Hull to approve the cancellation of the December Board meeting due to no Action Items, and give approval to the administration to pay November bills and payroll.  
Roll call; Yes; Walker, Fitzpatrick, Gonigam, Albrecht, Reuter, Hull  
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Walker, seconded by Hull to adjourn this meeting at 6:25 PM. The vote was unanimous, whereupon the meeting was declared adjourned. **The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 6:00 PM. The meeting will be held in the District Office.**

  
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Rachael Fitzpatrick  
President

  
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Kelly Becker  
Secretary