EVERGREEN PARK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 231
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 20, 2024

The August 20, 2024, regular meeting of the Board of Education of Evergreen Park Community High School District 231 was held at Evergreen Park Community High School in the Professional Development Room.

1. **Call to Order**. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Mary Zofkie.

2. **Roll Call**. On roll call, the following members were physically present: Mrs. Mary Zofkie, Mrs. Maryann Kutschke, Mr. Tom Marsan, Mr. Mike Kress, Ms. Merikay Marzoni, Mr. Larry Symanski, Mr. Tom Schergen. Also physically present: Dr. Michael Riordan, Superintendent; Mr. Matt Dugan, Principal; Mr. Terry Masterson, Facilities Director; Student Ambassadors Makayla Knight and Rosebud Summers.

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Zofkie.

4. **Communications**. Mrs. Zofkie welcomed the student ambassadors. She commented that a teacher approached her to say that they experienced the best start of the school year in their entire teaching career.

   Mrs. Kutschke commented on visiting the EP Historical Commission Museum. Mr. Dugan said that Mr. Nesler will be taking senior students to the museum.

   Mr. Bill Hronec addressed the Board to express his concerns about funds being spent on campus improvements. Mrs. Zofkie asked him to leave his phone number so that a meeting could be arranged to discuss his concerns.

5. **Approval of Minutes**.

   5.1. June 25, 2024. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve the open and closed session minutes of the Board meeting on June 25, 2024. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

   Yes: Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Marsan, Mr. Kress, Ms. Marzoni, Mr. Schergen, Mr. Symanski

6. **Principal's Report**.

   6.1. Achievements. Mr. Dugan's comments regarding the opening of school included:

   - Welcoming new staff
   - August 7 institute day program. He thanked Dr. Riordan, Mr. McCarthy, and Mrs. Zofkie for addressing the staff at the beginning of the program.
   - Implementation of the 5-Star app for hallway passes
   - Extracurricular fair and orientation for incoming freshmen and transfer students
   - AP testing. One hundred forty-three students scored a 3 or higher.
   - Registration completed for 923 students

   6.2. Student Ambassador Report. Student ambassadors Rosebud Summers and Makayla Knight reported on the following topics:

   - Summer musical that was an enjoyable experience
   - Activities fair that was very successful in recruiting new participants
   - Freshman orientation
   - Leadership day
   - Homecoming theme will be Fairy Tales
   - Staff interviews that the student ambassadors participated in
   - Instagram senior page to inform students of events and activities

7. **Facility Director's Report**. Mr. Masterson reported on the completion of the in-house summer projects including painting and waxing of all classroom floors. He also reported on the renovation projects. The locker rooms are substantially completed and the pool roof, turf installation and shock pad, track, and LED stadium lighting have been completed. Operation of the new video scoreboard has been incorporated into the curriculum. Mr. Masterson reported that he received a grant from Commonwealth Edison of $64,000 toward the installation of the LED lights, which significantly reduced the cost to the District. He commended the custodians and Gail Knieps for doing a great job on the summer projects.

8. **Superintendent's Report**. Dr. Riordan said that it has been a fantastic 8 weeks, and he appreciated the warm welcome from the staff. He thanked Mr. Dugan and Mr. Masterson and their respective teams for their efforts to prepare for the opening of school.

   8.1. Monthly Financial Report. Dr. Riordan explained that the July financial report was not included in the packet due to glitches in the rollover of the system. The report will be included in the next Board packet.

   8.2. FOIA Requests. A response has been sent in accordance with FOIA to the Association who requested compensation data on administrators, union-exempt employees, and new staff.

   8.3. Worth Township Treasurer's Office Governance. Dr. Riordan discussed the law changing the governing structure of township treasurer's offices. An elected three-person board will transition to a board comprising appointed representatives from each member school district. The Board will take action to appoint a representative at the September meeting.

   8.4. Tentative Budget. Dr. Riordan presented the tentative budget. Surplus funds will be invested in future campus improvements.

   A motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve the tentative 2024-25 school budget. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

   Yes: Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Marsan, Mr. Kress, Ms. Marzoni, Mr. Schergen, Mr. Symanski

   8.5. Waste Disposal Contract. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mr. Kress, to approve a 3-year contract with Republic Services for waste removal services. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

   Yes: Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Marsan, Mr. Kress, Ms. Marzoni, Mr. Schergen, Mr. Symanski

9. **Committee Reports**.

- Facility Committee. Dr. Riordan proposed scheduling meetings for the Finance and Facility Committees in mid-September. He will confirm dates with Mr. Marsan and Mrs. Kutschke.
- AERO. Mrs. Zofkie reported that the defective flooring was completely replaced during the summer at no cost, and that the teacher contract was settled.
- SCOPE. SCOPE will host a meeting with the assessor's office for member schools to discuss the recent increase in property tax.
- IASB. Mrs. Kutschke will present to the Board for their input the final proposed resolutions that will be considered at the November conference. Dr. Riordan reminded the Board to let the Superintendent's Office know if they are interested in registering for any of the optional workshops.
- Foundation. The golf outing turn-out was the largest to date and a profit of $16,000 was realized. The scholarship fundraiser will be held on November 17 at 115 Bourbon Street.

10. **Closed Session**. At 7:40 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Symanski, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to recess to closed session regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of an employee and collective bargaining. Motion carried on roll call vote.

    Yes: Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Marsan, Mr. Kress, Ms. Marzoni, Mr. Schergen, Mr. Symanski

11. **Open Session**. At 8:15 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to reconvene in open session. Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

12. **Action Items**.

   12.1. Employment: Certified. A motion was made by Mr. Symanski, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve employment of teachers Matthew Pashakarnis, Michael Reid, Logan Scalf, and social worker Jessica Belanger. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

   Yes: Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Marsan, Mr. Kress, Ms. Marzoni, Mr. Schergen, Mr. Symanski

   12.2. Employment: Coaches. A motion was made by Mr. Symanski, seconded by Mr. Schergen, to approve employment, contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment requirements, of coaches Andrez Moscato, assistant wrestling, Kelly Harrigan, assistant cheer, Tom Fitzer, assistant soccer, Katie Allgaier, head cross country, and Kelsey Ryan, assistant volleyball. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

   Yes: Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Marsan, Mr. Kress, Ms. Marzoni, Mr. Schergen, Mr. Symanski

12.3. Extracurricular Assignments. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to approve extracurricular assignments for Amy Kazmierowicz, Student Government, Kelsey Ryan, creative writing, Bonnie Witowski, co-class sponsor, and Mark Smyth, assistant athletic director. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Yes: Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Marsan, Mr. Kress, Ms. Marzoni, Mr. Schergen, Mr. Symanski

12.4. MOU: Choir/Substitute Teacher. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mr. Kress, to approve an MOU with the Association regarding the choir/substitute teacher position for the 2024-25 school year. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Yes: Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Marsan, Mr. Kress, Ms. Marzoni, Mr. Schergen, Mr. Symanski

12.5. Agreement: Independent Contractor. A motion was made by Mr. Symanski, seconded by Mr. Kress, to approve an agreement with Deb Schillo to provide services related to professional development, mentoring, and evaluations. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Yes: Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Marsan, Mr. Kress, Ms. Marzoni, Mr. Schergen, Mr. Symanski

13. **Consent Agenda**. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mr. Mr. Schergen, to approve the consent agenda to include:

- Payroll for
  - June 15 $124,858.03
  - June 30 $152,147.20
  - July 15 $158,969.87
  - July 31 $118,740.04
- Monthly bills for
  - July totaling $792,393.57 (Education Fund: $638,370.65; Building Fund: $90,550.51; Debt Service Fund: $2,583.25; Transportation Fund: $60,889.16; Capital Projects Fund: $0; Tort Fund: $0; Life Safety Fund: $0)
  - August totaling $253,234.97 (Education Fund: $155,486.15; Building Fund: $77,146.47; Debt Service Fund: $2,583.25; Transportation Fund: $18,019.10; Capital Projects Fund: $0; Tort Fund: $0; Life Safety Fund: $0)

Destruction of closed session audio recordings dated January 24 and February 28, 2023.

Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Yes: Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Marsan, Mr. Kress, Ms. Marzoni, Mr. Schergen, Mr. Symanski

14. **Announcements**. The next Board meeting will be held on September 24, 2024, at 7 p.m. in the Professional Development Room.

15. **Adjournment**. At 8:21 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

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President

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Secretary

Sheri Sochacki
Recording Secretary