EVERGREEN PARK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 231
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 23, 2024

The April 23, 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. Absent: Mr. Tom Schergen. Also physically present: Mr. Thomas O'Malley, Superintendent; Mr. Matt Dugan, Principal; Mr. Terry Masterson, Facilities Director; Student Ambassadors Micky Joyce and Shyair Rowser.

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

4. **Communications**. Mrs. Zofkie invited everyone to attend Honors Night on April 29 and the student art show followed by the spring concert on May 1. She congratulated the Music Department for being one of 32 schools in Illinois recognized as a Best Community for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation. She also congratulated Amy Kazin for winning the Student Activities Directors Award from the Illinois Directors of Student Activities.

5. **Approval of Minutes**.

   5.1. March 26, 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 March 26, 2024. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

   Abstain: Mr. Symanski

6. **Principal's Report**.

   6.1. Achievements. Mr. Dugan commented on:

   - The solar eclipse and thanked Dr. Mike Thomas and the Science Department for arranging for glasses for students and staff to safely view the eclipse.
   - Term 2 parent-teacher conferences were well attended. Rachael Mayo and Jim Donato were recognized for their support in coordinating the conference details.
   - Recognition by Stampede of Sarah Marshall and Vern Estes who were selected by the students as the certified and support staff members of the year respectively. Shout-outs submitted by students will also be included in future faculty meetings.
   - Testing and recognized the counselors and Technology Department for their efforts in implementing the online SAT testing.

   6.2. Student Ambassador Report. Student ambassadors Micky Joyce and Shyair Rowser reported on:

   - The solar eclipse event that most students attended.
   - Online SAT testing. Students felt well prepared and there were no technical issues.
   - Spring sports teams are doing well.
   - Thanks to the Kazins for recognition of the EPCHS Music Department by NAMM as one of the nation's best communities for music education.
   - Students appreciated the opportunity to participate in the student-run Board meeting last month.

   Mrs. Zofkie thanked the ambassadors for their participation and presented gifts from the Board.

   6.3. Presentations.

   6.3.1. Mr. Dugan thanked Mr. O'Malley, Mrs. Schillo, and Mr. Smith for their efforts to expand the Skipper program to include 50 students from CMS, MHR and QM. Mr. O'Malley credited Mr. Dugan for the program's expansion. Skippers will have the opportunity to enroll in Algebra 1 Honors and/or English 1 Honors. Geometry Honors will also be offered for double skippers.

   6.3.2. Division Chairs Mrs. Kazin, Mrs. McWalter, Mr. Smith, Dr. Thomas, and Mr. Nesler reported on the activities, successes, and future plans in each of their departments.

   6.3.3. Mrs. Kazin gave a visual presentation on the Music Department trip to San Antonio.

7. **Facility Director's Report**. Mr. Masterson reported on the status of building renovations.

- The locker room renovation is on schedule.
- The pool roof abatement and demo are almost complete. The next phase will take about 3 weeks with roofing to begin after school ends.
- The turf replacement project is going well and on schedule.
- The video scoreboard structure is now complete.

8. **Superintendent's Report**. Mr. O'Malley:

- Thanked the department chairs who he said aren't given enough credit for their work. Course offerings have grown and AP and dual credit courses are a result of their efforts.
- Thanked Micky Joyce and Shyair Rowser for representing the students at Board meetings.
- Thanked Mr. Truffa for his passion for e-sports, which has fostered expansion of the club and for hosting the state tournament this weekend. Thirteen EP students will compete.
- Recognized Mr. Dugan for nominating Mr. and Mrs. Kazin for the NAMM music award and Mr. Masterson for his expertise in juggling many projects and keeping them on schedule.
- Reminded everyone about Honors Night at 7 p.m. on April 29 preceded by the Hall of Fame induction at 6 p.m.

8.1. Monthly Financial Report. This month's bills of $574,000 are in line with the budget.

8.2. FOIA Request. A FOIA request was submitted by SmartProcure for purchasing records. A response has been sent in accordance with FOIA.

8.3. Abate Emergency Days. A motion was made by Mr. Symanski, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to approve abatement of emergency days from the 2023-24 school calendar. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

8.4. Baker Tilly Letter of Engagement. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve the Baker Tilly Letter of Engagement to conduct the annual audit for FY 24. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

9. **Committee Reports**.

- AERO. Mrs. Zofkie reported collective bargaining agreement negotiations are in progress.
- SCOPE. Mr. Marsan reported that legislation was reviewed with a focus on HB305 regarding the relationship between schools and the Township Treasurer. Mr. O'Malley has already shared his concerns and will discuss further with the office of the representative who sponsored the bill.
- IASB. Mrs. Kutschke reported that registration for the school board conference will open on June 3. The conference dates are November 22 through 24, 2024. Board members have been notified of conference scholarships available to them but must apply by May 20.
- Foundation. Mr. Kress reported that 19 students applied for scholarships and the winners will be announced at Honors Night. The golf outing will be held June 7 at Coyote Run. The tentative date for an all-school reunion is October 2025. Gary Sievers will be inducted posthumously into the Hall of Fame with family in attendance.

10. **Closed Session**. At 7:58 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to recess to closed session regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of an employee, semiannual review of unreleased closed session minutes, and collective bargaining. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

11. **Open Session**. At 8:12 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Symanski, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to reconvene in open session. Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

12. **Action Items**.

12.1. Employment: Coaches. A motion was made by Mr. Symanski, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to approve employment, contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment requirements, of assistant girls basketball coaches Kristen Shimko, Courtney Brown, and Christopher Pardek. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

12.2. Employment: Certified Staff. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Mr. Symanski, to approve employment, contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment requirements, of social studies teachers David Kutschke, and Brian Zofkie. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

12.3. MOU: Recruitment Coordinator. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to approve an MOU with the Association regarding the recruitment coordinator position. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

12.4. Semiannual Review of Closed Session Minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Symanski, seconded by Mr. Kress, to approve the Board's semiannual review of unreleased closed session minutes and the Board's decision to maintain confidential treatment of these closed session minutes. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

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

- Payroll: March 15, 2024: $510,807.93
  March 31, 2024: $527,504.39
- Monthly Bill List: $574,167.64 (Education Fund: $331,670.80; Building Fund: $191,698.58; Debt Service Fund: $2,583.25; Transportation Fund: $48,215.01; Capital Projects Fund: $0; Tort Fund: $0; Life Safety Fund: $0)
- Destruction of closed session audio recording dated October 25, 2022

Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

14. **Announcements**. The next Board meeting will be held on May 28, 2024, at 7 p.m. in the Professional Development Room.

15. **Adjournment**. At 8:17 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Marsan, 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