EVERGREEN PARK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 231
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 28, 2025

The January 28, 2025, 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 Makayla Knight and Rosebud Summers.

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

4. **Communications**. There were no comments from the Board or the audience.

5. **Approval of Minutes**.

   5.1. December 17, 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 December 17, 2024. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

6. **Principal's Report**.

   6.1. Achievements. Mr. Dugan commented on:

   - Illinois State Scholar breakfast honoring 24 scholars and their parents
   - January 6 institute day. Mr. Dugan recognized Meg Schillo and the division chairs for planning the day's sessions.
   - Snowflake event for middle school students.
   - Honor roll status was achieved by 524 students, 58% of the student body.
   - Mustang Pride breakfast honoring 24 students.
   - Straight A lunch for 142 students.

   6.2. Student Ambassador Report. Makayla Knight and Rosebud Summers reported on:

   - Unaccompanied Minors' singing engagements in the community.
   - SSC Band Festival at EPCHS.
   - AERO Karaoke Night fundraiser at Argo High School.
   - Seniors' second semester.
   - Snowflake for middle school students.
   - Rehearsals for *Cinderella* are underway and will be presented in 1 month.

   6.3. Presentations. The following presentations were given:

   - Mary Kerrigan, director of student services, presented information on:
     - Enrollment figures in special education.
     - MVCC field trip for seniors to explore career opportunities.
     - English language learners.
     - Homebound tutoring.
     - ACT and AP accommodations.
     - Professional development.
     - Incoming students with IEPs or 504 plans.
   - Jim Donato, director of technology, presented information on:
     - AV upgrades in the auditorium, cafeteria, and pool
     - Network upgrades including a new wireless system
     - Auto-generating attendance calls
     - Tardy kiosk
     - Cashless cafeteria
   - Colleen McWalter reported on the activities and future plans of the Sunshine Committee to financially help students and families in need.

7. **Facility Director's Report**. Mr. Masterson reported on:

- The purchase of a scissors lift.
- Consideration of holding graduation ceremonies on the football field.
- The efforts of Steve Stump and Kevin Schwer to repair two heating units that broke down during the extreme cold.
- The efforts of all custodians to clear snow, spread salt, and keep the building clean.

8. **Superintendent's Report**. Mr. O'Malley thanked the presenters for their reports. He commented on:

- The recent e-learning day and the efforts of Jim Donato, Alex Nine, and Jim Smith to provide technology support and the efforts of all the staff.
- Wrestling conference dual championship and congratulated the coaches on building a strong program.
- Clap outs for Suzy Summers going to the All-State Chorus finals and the dance team going to state competition.
- The third year of AERO Karaoke fundraising event.
- *Cinderella* to be presented on February 28, March 1 and 2.
- Mustang Showdown basketball matchups at EPCHS on February 2.

8.1. Monthly Financial Report. This month's bills of $616,684 are in line with the budget.

8.2. FOIA Request. South Cook News submitted a FOIA request. A response has been sent in accordance with FOIA.

8.3. Property Tax Relief Grant Resolution, FY 24, Year 2. Following Mr. O'Malley's review of the process and requirements of the Property Tax Relief Grant, a motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mr. Symanski, to approve the resolution abating 2024 property taxes in the amount of $993,605. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

8.4. Property Tax Relief Grant Resolution, FY25. Mr. O'Malley further explained the second resolution and said that since 2019, the District has returned $9,591,000 to the taxpayers. The grant money is earmarked for capital projects. The grant money makes it possible to invest in capital improvements without issuing bonds; therefore, the District is completely debt free.

A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mr. Symanski, to approve the resolution abating 2024 property taxes in the amount of $1,009,530 and abating 2025 property taxes in the amount of $1,009,530. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

8.5. PTAB Settlement. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to approve the settlement of the 2020-23 PTAB appeal filed by First Midwest Bank/Old National Bank. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

9. **Committee Reports**.

- AERO. Mrs. Zofkie reported on the following:
  - AERO was given a top score by the auditors.
  - Dr. Roseland is posting a very popular newsletter on AERO's website.
  - The damage the kitchen sustained was repaired over the break. and tile will be replaced over the summer. Insurance is covering the costs.
  - The Governing Board approved a resolution in recognition of a St. Laurence student who raised $11,000 for AERO. Funds were used to provide a holiday party with gifts for each AERO student.
- SCOPE. Mr. Marsan reported that an attorney presented information on the problems with the two-tier pension system that will require future legislation to change. Bills of interest were also discussed.
- IASB. Mrs. Kutschke spoke about IASB's request that school boards pass a resolution called Vision 2030. She encouraged the Board to read the IASB email and supporting documents.
- Foundation. Mr. Kress reported that the Foundation scholarship application will be available soon. The golf outing date is June 6, 2025, and plans are underway for an all-school reunion. The date and venue have not yet been confirmed.

10. **Closed Session**. At 7:50 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Symanski, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, 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. Symanski

11. **Open Session**. At 8:11 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Kress, 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 Ms. Kutschke, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve employment of assistant wrestling coach Matt Pashakarnis and assistant girls soccer coach Tom Fitzer. 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 Mr. Kress, seconded by Mr. Symanski, to approve the consent agenda to include:

    - Payroll: December 15, 2024: $611,081.22
      December 31, 2024: $538,822.73
    - Monthly Bill List: $616,684.14 (Education Fund: $400,707.47; Building Fund: $129,205.74; Debt Service Fund: $2,583.25; Transportation Fund: $84,187.68; Capital Projects Fund: $0; Tort Fund: $0; Life Safety Fund: $0)

    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 February 25, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the Professional Development Room.

15. **Adjournment**. At 8:13 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mr. Marsan, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

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President

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Secretary

Sheri Sochacki
Recording Secretary