

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
FOR THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
EVERGREEN PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
February 19, 2025

1. A Regular Meeting for the Board of Education of Evergreen Park Elementary School District 124 was called to order at 6:02 p.m. on February 19, 2025 in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Administrative Center, Evergreen Park, IL.

The following Board Members were physically present at roll call:

Mrs. Colleen Klimczak
Mr. Michael Aumiller
Mrs. Denise Jones
Mrs. Rachel Marroquin
Mr. David Sheppard
Mrs. Lauren Dowden
Dr. Michael Thomas

Also present: Dr. Jenna Woodland, Dr. Ashley Carlson, Mrs. Patricia Roberts, Ms. Rebecca Tyrrell, Mr. Eric Grossi, Mr. Daniel Lee, Dr. Matthew Banach, Dr. Jenna Moller, Mr. Jim Hennessy, Mrs. Carrie Berry, Mr. Scott Liska, Mrs. Haley Vermeer, Mrs. Kathleen Kasprovicz, Ms. Julia Hemry, Ms. Christina Lavin, Ms. Meagan Franko, Mr. John Jensen, Mr. Djimon Smith, Ms. Amanda Hattar, Ms. Jean Hector, and Recording Secretary Ms. Sonia Hernandez

2. President Klimczak led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Consideration was made by the Board to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Aumiller and seconded by Dr. Thomas to approve the agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Mrs. Colleen Klimczak	yea
Mr. Michael Aumiller	yea
Mrs. Denise Jones	yea
Mrs. Rachel Marroquin	yea
Mr. David Sheppard	yea
Mrs. Lauren Dowden	yea
Dr. Michael Thomas	yea

MOTION CARRIED (7-0)

4. Under Staff Reports:

Dr. Jenna Woodland:

- Directed attention to Mrs. Samantha Morek, President of the D124 Foundation, who announced the following:
 - The Grinch Breakfast was a huge success!
 - About 450 people registered

- Thanks to all volunteers!
 - Football Sweepstakes has concluded
 - Profit close to \$2500
 - Paid out 26 cards for \$660
 - Monthly Food Drives are ongoing
 - Southwest School this month
 - Working on new Spring Fundraiser ideas
- Directed attention to Ms. Jean Hector, Administrative Assistant to the Department of Student Support Services, who spoke in representation of the E.P. Schools Federal Credit Union. The following was mentioned:
 - E.P. Schools Federal Credit Union Education Grant
 - Three \$1000 grants are awarded each year
 - ✓ One is awarded to A.E.R.O
 - ✓ One is awarded to the Evergreen Park Community High School
 - ✓ One is awarded to the Evergreen Park Elementary SD124
 - Any employee of the above facilities may apply
 - 14 proposals were received
 - Winning Proposal – Empowering STEM Learning with Sphero Mini Robots, by Teresa Bianchi, Technology Teacher at Northeast School

Ms. Hector presented Ms. Bianchi with a large presentation check, in the amount of \$1,000. Ms. Hector reported that the objective of the winning proposal is to enhance students' engagement in proficiency in STEM Education by integrating the mini robots and their accessories into the classroom, these tools will provide hands on inquiry based learning opportunities that develop critical thinking, collaboration and coding skill, and prepare students for the demand of technology driven future. Ms. Bianchi expressed appreciation and excitement for the opportunity, and stated that students (K-5) will program the mini robots on their school device. She added that there will be mazes on the floor, and the students will create a code and program the robots to work.

- Directed attention to Dr. Jenna Moller, Principal of Central Middle School, who provided Central Middle School Updates, and expressed excitement with this year's progress. The following was included:
 - CMS Behavior Progress Monitoring
 - Comparison of Behavioral Referrals Chart Shared (23-24 vs 24-25), depicting positive changes
 - What we have done:
 - ✓ Consistent and clear consequences with follow through
 - ✓ De-escalation professional learning
 - ✓ Consistent incentive criteria for PBIS tier 1 assemblies
 - ✓ Out-of-the Blue Days
 - ✓ Increased visibility of our expectations
 - ✓ Consistency with LiveSchool
 - ✓ Intentional advisory schedule
 - ✓ Share trends and tips regarding behavior in our weekly newsletter
 - ✓ Discuss behavior and discipline scenarios at staff meetings
 - ✓ Monthly school improvement team and PBIS tier 1 team meetings to discuss progress and review data

- What we will continue to do:
 - ✓ Focus on tier 2 and 3 intervention fidelity
 - ✓ Common language via Disrespect, Disruption, and Defiance profiles
 - ✓ Continue de-escalation professional learning
 - ✓ Continue to work with teachers on HQT1 practices
 - ✓ Continue to assess in-school intervention support
- We will always have work to do, but today we pause to celebrate our wins!

After the presentation, the Members of the Board complimented and thanked the Central Middle School Administrative Team for an excellent job, as the improvement from the previous year is substantial! Dr. Woodland expressed pride with the Central Middle School Team. A video was shared of students expressing appreciation towards teachers, staff, volunteers and Administrators, and sharing activities/celebrations/rewards they love.

- Provided Registration Updates for 2025-26 School Year as follows:
 - Registration window is from Monday, March 3, and will close on Sunday, March 30
 - 50% off Registration fees if Registered by end of day March 30, 2025 (do not have to pay by that day, only register)
 - Open Residency Verification Evening later in Spring (one for CMS and one for Elementary)
 - Postcards will be sent out to those who have passed the Residency process

After the update, Dr. Woodland thanked the Members of the Board for approving the discount for those who register early.

Business Office
Mr. Eric Grossi:

- Reported that a Freedom of Information Request was received from South Cook News, and it has been completed
- Shared the Monthly Financial Report as of January 2025. The following was mentioned:
 - Statement of Expenditures
 - Salaries up by 33% due to 3 payrolls last month
 - Statement of Revenues
 - Did not receive any of the expected 2nd tax payments yet
 - Received CPPRT funds
 - Received some grant revenues
 - Working Cash \$6,230,513.77 is transfer from Bond proceed
 - Fund Balance Report
 - As result of the above, Education Fund Balance is down, as expected
- Provided an update on the Property Tax Relief Grant. The following was mentioned:
 - District 124 has applied for the 2024-2025 Property Tax Relief Grant

- This will generate \$1,843,000 in tax abatements for the 2024 and 2025 Levy Years
- In return, the district will start to receive \$1,567,479 annually added to its Evidence Based Funding (State Revenue)
- Tonight we have a Resolution to be signed so that we can officially accept the grant.

Human Resources

Mrs. Patricia Roberts:

- Shared recruitment updates. The following was mentioned:
 - 100% fill of Certified Positions is main goal
 - With approximately 11 retirements and other factors like resignations, we are strategically recruiting for needed positions for SY 25-26, with a bigger emphasis on CMS. We continue to use every effort in increasing diversity as well.
 - Virtual & In-Person Job Fairs
 - ✓ October
 - ✓ February
 - ✓ March
 - ✓ April
 - Supporting and mentoring student teachers Curriculum GYO Program
 - Employee Referral Program
 - Boost Posting on all Social Media Platforms and others i.e. Golden Apple

Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Ashley Carlson:

- Expressed excitement and assured that the Project Tree Program is important and valued. Provided the following update on Project Tree for the 2025-2026 School Year:
 - Maximize instructional minutes by keeping students in their home schools.
 - No longer require students to start early each day.
 - Provide additional flexibility to master schedules at the elementary level.
 - Maintain accelerated math in grades 4-7, providing students the opportunity to earn high school credit in eighth grade.
 - Maintain accelerated ELA in grades 6-7, providing students the opportunity to earn high school credit in eighth grade.
 - Maintain both grade level and single subject acceleration when appropriate.
 - Provide Pull out ELA enrichment groups at grades 4 and 5. Students will get their core instruction from the classroom teacher, and will be pulled out for enrichment by the PT teacher.
 - Expand in class enrichment programming to include K-3. Third grade students will receive the in class enrichment, which is a change from their previous pull out programming.
 - Expand access for students who would benefit from enrichment/acceleration.
 - Continuum of Project Tree Services – Chart Shared of what this will look like
 - The main difference is at the 3rd grade level from a pull out model to an Enrichment model within the classroom

After the update Mr. Aumiller assured that Project Tree is not being cancelled, but instead growing. Dr. Woodland spoke on equity and access for all, and stated that

each school should have the same resources. Dr. Thomas added that Enrichment allows students to have access to show their potential, and spoke positively of the program.

- Directed attention to Ms. Amanda Hattar, who spoke in regards to the New Mentoring Program. The following was included:
 - Dr. Don Parker is leading his 10-week P.O.W.E.R. mentoring program at CMS for six 8th graders and one 7th grader (additional Tier 3 Intervention for students with behavioral issues)
 - P.O.W.E.R. stands for
 - Perseverance
 - Ownership
 - Wisdom
 - Excellence
 - Respect
 - Completed 3 weeks, and students want to address anger management, responsibility, and study skills.
 - At the end of each session, students write a commitment card that is shared with the deans, and if students follow through on their commitment, Dr. Parker rewards them.
 - Mid-end of program: we will review referral and behavior data on each student.

Student Support Services

Ms. Amanda Hattar:

- Spoke in regards to the 2nd Annual Special Olympics. Announced the following:
 - Event Date: May 27
 - Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 - Location: Evergreen Park Sports Complex
 - Registration is open for students with intellectual disabilities and without (ages 6 to 12)
 - Submit Registration Form by March 11th
 - Practices begin week of March 24 (8 weeks, excluding Spring Break)
 - Practices will take place at the schools
 - 20 Teachers have volunteered to be Coaches

5. Public Comments:

- President Klimczak shared the following reminders about the logistics of the Public Comments portion of every meeting:
 - Out of respect to all, the Board adheres closely to the 3 minute limit for comments
 - The Board does not respond to Public Comments at Board Meetings, but the Board hears them
 - If there is a specific question that comes up that the Board can respond to after the meeting, the Board will do so, or in the next couple of days

6. Board Reports:

- Mrs. Lauren Dowden provided a report of the January A.E.R.O. Governing Board Meeting. The following was mentioned:
 - Positive updates
 - Resolution that recognizes a St. Lawrence Student who raised money for presents for every student at A.E.R.O., and still had money left over
 - New coffee stand for faculty and staff that is run by students, proceeds to go back to the school
 - Lengthy Financial Report
- Mrs. Klimczak spoke on the Judy Mulchrone Scholarship and reported on past year amounts/requirements, and asked the Members of the Board for their input on grade levels and amounts/requirements for this school year. A lengthy discussion took place. The following was determined:
 - Anyone can nominate a current CMS student who they believe is a worthy recipient of scholarship funds
 - Self-nominations are acceptable
 - The criteria for selection include a demonstrated commitment to intramural and interscholastic sports at Central Middle School, particularly volleyball; good sportsmanship; a dedication to academic study; good citizenship
 - All CMS students are eligible, GPA is no longer recorded
 - Encourage teachers to recommend students
 - Option to send video or complete application
 - Request amount, but will not exceed \$600 per student
 - Mr. Aumiller suggested creating another scholarship (Board Contribution) For Central Middle School students who are interested in fine arts or academic related camp opportunities for the summer
- Mrs. Marroquin and Mr. Sheppard provided an update on the Board Policy Committee Meeting of February 10. The following was mentioned:
 - New Policy 8:35 regarding Immigration Enforcement Activities by Federal Agencies, recommended by the Board Policy Committee for immediate adoption

7. Consent Agenda items 1 through 7 were reviewed by the Board and, thereafter, a motion was made by Dr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Aumiller to approve the following items as recommended:

1. Approve Monthly Transaction Reports for January 2025
2. Approve Fund Balance Reports for January 2025
3. Approve Expenditure Report and Projected Payroll Report for February 2025
4. Approve Board Minutes from the Special Meeting of January 14, 2025
5. Approve Board Minutes from the Regular Meeting of January 22, 2025
6. Approve Destruction of Closed Session Tapes from October 2020

7. Personnel Recommendations:

a. Additions:

1. Crystal Adaya, Permanent Substitute Teacher (Non-Union) - CMS, effective February 3, 2025
2. Rihanna Cole, Lunch/Recess Supervisor - NW, effective February 18, 2025
3. Arianna Isidoro, Lunch/Recess Supervisor - CMS - effective February 18, 2025
4. Bernadette Harris, Lunch/Recess Supervisor - CMS, effective February 19, 2025

b. FMLA Leave of Absence:

1. Lynette Messina, Art Teacher - NW/SE, effective May 30, 2025
2. John Gasior, District Maintenance Technician, effective March 4, 2025

c. Resignation:

1. Denise Gilmore, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, effective January 17, 2025

FUND	IMPREST ACCOUNT January, 2025	EXPENSES January, 2025	PROJECTED PAYROLL February, 2025	TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENSES February, 2025
EDUCA- TION	0.00	37,062.87	1,626,560.48	2,255,524.29
BUILDING	0.00	28,225.95	92,272.36	170,169.46
BOND/INT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TRANS.	0.00	0.00	0.00	127,132.19
IMRF	0.00	0.00	64,958.18	64,958.18
TORT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
WK. CASH	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRE PREV. & SAFETY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS:	0.00	65,288.82	1,783,791.02	2,617,784.12

A roll call vote was taken with the following response:

Mrs. Colleen Klimczak	yea
Mr. Michael Aumiller	yea
Mrs. Denise Jones	yea
Mrs. Rachel Marroquin	yea
Mr. David Sheppard	yea
Mrs. Lauren Dowden	yea
Dr. Michael Thomas	yea

MOTION CARRIED (7-0)

8. Consideration was made by the Board to approve Summer School Principals. A motion was made by Mrs. Marroquin and seconded by Dr. Thomas to approve Summer School Principals (Mrs. Carrie Berry and Mrs. Haley Vermeer). A roll call vote was taken with the following response:

Mrs. Colleen Klimczak	yea
Mr. Michael Aumiller	yea
Mrs. Denise Jones	yea
Mrs. Rachel Marroquin	yea
Mr. David Sheppard	yea
Mrs. Lauren Dowden	yea
Dr. Michael Thomas	yea

MOTION CARRIED (7-0)

9. Consideration was made by the Board to approve .5 Project Tree Teacher for Northeast School. A motion was made by Dr. Thomas and seconded by Mrs. Dowden to approve .5 Project Tree Teacher for Northeast School. A roll call vote was taken with the following response:

Mrs. Colleen Klimczak	yea
Mr. Michael Aumiller	yea
Mrs. Denise Jones	yea
Mrs. Rachel Marroquin	yea
Mr. David Sheppard	yea
Mrs. Lauren Dowden	yea
Dr. Michael Thomas	yea

MOTION CARRIED (7-0)

10. Consideration was made by the Board to approve TBE Split Position for Northeast and Central Middle School. A motion was made by Mrs. Marroquin and seconded by Dr. Thomas to approve TBE Split Position for Northeast and Central Middle School. A roll call vote was taken with the following response:

Mrs. Colleen Klimczak	yea
Mr. Michael Aumiller	yea
Mrs. Denise Jones	yea
Mrs. Rachel Marroquin	yea
Mr. David Sheppard	yea
Mrs. Lauren Dowden	yea
Dr. Michael Thomas	yea

MOTION CARRIED (7-0)

11. Consideration was made by the Board to approve Property Tax Grant Resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Aumiller and seconded by Dr. Thomas to approve Property Tax Grant Resolution. A roll call vote was taken with the following response:

Mrs. Colleen Klimczak	yea
Mr. Michael Aumiller	yea
Mrs. Denise Jones	yea
Mrs. Rachel Marroquin	yea
Mr. David Sheppard	yea
Mrs. Lauren Dowden	yea
Dr. Michael Thomas	yea

MOTION CARRIED (7-0)

12. Consideration was made by the Board to approve 1st Reading of Revised Board Policies 6:270, 7:10, 7:100, 7:180, 7:200, and 8:10 as recommended by the Illinois Association of School Boards. A motion was made by Mrs. Marroquin and seconded by Dr. Thomas to approve 1st Reading of Revised Board Policies 6:270, 7:10, 7:100, 7:180, 7:200, and 8:10 as recommended by the Illinois Association of School Boards. A roll call vote was taken with the following response:

Mrs. Colleen Klimczak	yea
Mr. Michael Aumiller	yea
Mrs. Denise Jones	yea
Mrs. Rachel Marroquin	yea
Mr. David Sheppard	yea
Mrs. Lauren Dowden	yea
Dr. Michael Thomas	yea

MOTION CARRIED (7-0)

13. Consideration was made by the Board to approve 2nd Reading and Adoption of Revised Board Policies 6:270, 7:10, 7:100, 7:180, 7:200, and 8:10 as recommended by the Illinois Association of School Boards. A motion was made by Dr. Thomas and seconded by Mrs. Jones to approve 2nd Reading and Adoption of Revised Board Policies 6:270, 7:10, 7:100, 7:180, 7:200, and 8:10 as recommended by the Illinois Association of School Boards. A roll call vote was taken with the following response:

Mrs. Colleen Klimczak	yea
Mr. Michael Aumiller	yea
Mrs. Denise Jones	yea
Mrs. Rachel Marroquin	yea
Mr. David Sheppard	yea
Mrs. Lauren Dowden	yea
Dr. Michael Thomas	yea

MOTION CARRIED (7-0)

14. Consideration was made by the Board to approve 1st Reading of Revised Board Policy 7:150 as recommended by the Board Policy Committee. A motion was made by Dr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Sheppard to approve 1st Reading of Revised Board Policy 7:150 as recommended by the Board Policy Committee A roll call vote was taken with the following response:

Mrs. Colleen Klimczak	yea
Mr. Michael Aumiller	yea
Mrs. Denise Jones	yea
Mrs. Rachel Marroquin	yea
Mr. David Sheppard	yea
Mrs. Lauren Dowden	yea
Dr. Michael Thomas	yea

MOTION CARRIED (7-0)

15. Consideration was made by the Board to approve 2nd Reading and Adoption of Revised Board Policy 7:150, as recommended by the Board Policy Committee. A motion was made by Dr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Sheppard to approve 2nd Reading and Adoption of Revised Board Policy 7:150, as recommended by the Board Policy Committee. A roll call vote was taken with the following response:

Mrs. Colleen Klimczak	yea
Mr. Michael Aumiller	yea
Mrs. Denise Jones	yea
Mrs. Rachel Marroquin	yea
Mr. David Sheppard	yea
Mrs. Lauren Dowden	yea
Dr. Michael Thomas	yea

MOTION CARRIED (7-0)

16. Consideration was made by the Board to approve 1st Reading of New Board Policy 8:35 as recommended by the Board Policy Committee. A motion was made by Dr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Sheppard to approve 1st Reading of New Board Policy 8:35 as recommended by the Board Policy Committee. A roll call vote was taken with the following response:

Mrs. Colleen Klimczak	yea
Mr. Michael Aumiller	yea
Mrs. Denise Jones	yea
Mrs. Rachel Marroquin	yea
Mr. David Sheppard	yea
Mrs. Lauren Dowden	yea
Dr. Michael Thomas	yea

MOTION CARRIED (7-0)

17. Consideration was made by the Board to approve 2nd Reading and Adoption of New Board Policy 8:35, as recommended by the Board Policy Committee. A motion was made by Dr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Sheppard to approve 2nd Reading and Adoption of New Board Policy 8:35, as recommended by the Board Policy Committee. A roll call vote was taken with the following response:

Mrs. Colleen Klimczak	yea
Mr. Michael Aumiller	yea
Mrs. Denise Jones	yea
Mrs. Rachel Marroquin	yea
Mr. David Sheppard	yea
Mrs. Lauren Dowden	yea
Dr. Michael Thomas	yea

MOTION CARRIED (7-0)

18. At 7:28 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Aumiller and seconded by Dr. Thomas to recess to Closed Session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or legal counsel to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1). (Conference Room). A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Mrs. Colleen Klimczak	yea
Mr. Michael Aumiller	yea
Mrs. Denise Jones	yea
Mrs. Rachel Marroquin	yea
Mr. David Sheppard	yea
Mrs. Lauren Dowden	yea
Dr. Michael Thomas	yea

MOTION CARRIED (7-0)

19. At 8:35 p.m. the Board Members returned to Open Meeting with the following members returning:

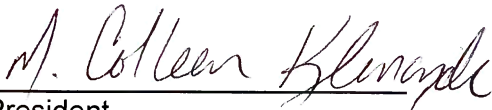
Mrs. Colleen Klimczak
Mr. Michael Aumiller
Mrs. Denise Jones
Mrs. Rachel Marroquin
Mr. David Sheppard
Mrs. Lauren Dowden
Dr. Michael Thomas

20. At 8:36 p.m. a motion was made by Dr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Aumiller to adjourn the meeting. A roll call vote was taken with the following response:

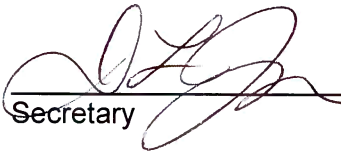
Mrs. Colleen Klimczak	yea
Mr. Michael Aumiller	yea
Mrs. Denise Jones	yea
Mrs. Rachel Marroquin	yea
Mr. David Sheppard	yea
Mrs. Lauren Dowden	yea
Dr. Michael Thomas	yea

MOTION CARRIED (7-0)

21. The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on March 19, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Administrative Center, 2929 West 87th Street, Evergreen Park.



President



Secretary