AGENDA

BOARD OF EDUCATION

ESWOOD ELEMENTARY DISTRICT 269

APRIL 28th, 2025

Eswood School Conference Room
304 N. Main Street

REGULAR MEETING

A. 6:00 P.M. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL (All)

C. SEATING OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS (Thad, Sean, Sarah)

a. Appointment of New Board Members (Motion to reappoint TL, SW, SC as members of the Eswood School Board, Second)
b. Oath of Office (All recite)

2:80 Board Member Oath and Conduct Each School Board member, before taking his or her seat on the Board, shall take the following oath of office:

I, (name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I Will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of member of the Board of Education of Eswood Community Consolidated School District 269, in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the laws of the State of Illinois, to the best of my ability.

I further swear (or affirm) that: I shall respect taxpayer interests by serving as a faithful protector of the School District's assets; I shall encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow Board members and others who seek a hearing before the Board, while respecting the privacy of students and employees; I shall recognize that a Board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a public Board meeting; I shall abide by majority decisions of the Board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels;

As part of the Board of Education, I shall accept the responsibility for my role in the equitable and quality education of every student in the School District; I shall foster with the Board extensive participation of the community, formulate goals, define outcomes, and set the course for Eswood Community Consolidated School District 269; I shall assist in establishing a structure and an environment designed to ensure all students have the opportunity to attain their maximum potential through a sound organizational framework; I shall strive to ensure a continuous assessment of student achievement and all conditions affecting the education of our children, in compliance with State law; I shall serve as education's key advocate on behalf of students and our community's school (or schools) to advance the vision for Eswood Community Consolidated School District 269; and I shall strive to work together with the District Superintendent to lead the School District toward fulfilling the vision the Board has created, fostering excellence for every student in the areas of academic skills, knowledge, citizenship, and personal development.

(The Board President will administer the oath in an open Board meeting; in the absence of the President, the Vice President will administer the oath. If neither is available, the Board member with the longest service on the Board will administer the oath.)

D. Elect President Protem (_____ elected _____as Protem, Second/ VOTE)

E. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

a. President (Nominations, Second, Accept/ VOTE)

b. Vice President (Nominations, Second, Accept/VOTE)
c. Secretary (Nominations, Second, Accept/VOTE)
d. Treasurer (Nominations, Second, Accept/VOTE)

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 17th, 2025 MINUTES.

ACTION: Motion to approve the March 2025 Minutes as submitted.

F. AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

G. SPECIAL REPORTS/UPDATES:

FOIA Requests:
ABC: 10 different FOIA REQUESTS in MARCH, (ROE Grouping - 47)
We are requesting the actual electronic data maintained by the district's Treasurer for the annual expenses paid to identified vendors, firms, and individuals for the fiscal years 1998-2024 by the school district, including any predecessor districts that existed at the end of each respective fiscal year and have since consolidated or annexed into the current district. This request specifically excludes salaries, wages, and benefits paid to staff members. We are interested in vendors, firms, and individuals who have received total payments of $500 or more for each fiscal year, regardless of whether this total comes from a single payment or multiple payments.
***RESPONSE PER IASA GUIDANCE:** "This is all available on the ISBE website,https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Annual-Statement-of-Affairs.aspx. This has everything that you are asking for in all your requests."

Architect Chuck Newman: Summer Building Update/School Maintenance Grant.

H. ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Financial Report**s- MARCH TREASURE'S 2025; MARCH REVENUE REPORT 2025, MARCH EXPENDITURE REPORT 2025, February 2025 BMO

ACTION: Motion to approve the Financial Reports as submitted.

2. **BILLS PAYABLE:** MARCH 2025 Bills Payable.

ACTION: Motion to approve the March Bills Payable as submitted.

3. **DISTRICT LITERACY PLAN:** The Illinois Mandated Literacy Plan, stemming from legislative action aimed at addressing low reading proficiency, provides guidance for Pre-K through 12th-grade educators on evidence-based literacy instruction. While not a strict mandate for specific curricula, it urges districts to align their practices with its recommendations, focusing on research-backed methods and professional development to improve literacy outcomes for all students, including those with learning differences. The plan emphasizes early identification and intervention, aiming to ensure equitable

opportunities for students to develop essential literacy skills. Administration is recommending the approval of the District Literacy Plan. PLAN

ACTION: Motion to approve the District Literacy Plan as submitted.

4. **SALARY ADJUSTMENT**: A salary adjustment for Michelle Tofte for the 2024-2025 school year. Mrs. Tofte's placement should be moved from Step 4, Lane 1 to Step 4, Lane 2. This adjustment is necessary because three graduate credits were not accounted for nor applied to her salary calculation due to administrative turnover. To rectify this oversight, the administration recommends a one-time payment of $1,222.25 to Mrs. Tofte in June 2025, following the completion of the 2024-2025 school year. This payment will represent the difference in compensation owed to her.

ACTION: Motion to approve the salary adjustment for Michelle Tofte as submitted.

5. **RESIGNATIONS:** Chris Groth and Sophia Groth will be moving back home to be closer to family. They have submitted their resignations, effective after the last day of school. (May 24th, 2025) CHRIS GROTH RESIGNATION SOPHIA GROTH RESIGNATION

ACTION: Motion to accept the resignations as submitted.

6. **ART POSITION 2025-2026:** Administration had the opportunity to interview 2 applicants for the open Art position, one new, first year certified art teacher and one person with a bachelor's degree willing to be a long term substitute. All applicants visited the school and spent some time in classrooms, as well. After the interviews, the administration is recommending the hire of Kerrie Pullen for this .6 position. She is first year, Bachelor's Degree ($38,700 for full time) $23,220 base salary for .6 position. Hiring Materials

ACTION: Motion to approve the hiring of Kerrie Pullen for the .6 art position starting for the 2025-2026 school year as submitted.

7. **1:1 KINDERGARTEN PARA 2025-2026:** Administration had the opportunity to interview 2 applicants for the open 1:1 paraprofessional position. All applicants visited the school and spent some time in classrooms. After the interviews the administration is recommending the hire of Mycah Cassell for this position, starting her at $19.00/hour. Mycah has a Bachelor's Degree from Columbia University. Hiring Materials

ACTION: Motion to approve the hiring of Mycah Cassell for the 1:1 Kindergarten Paraprofessional position starting for the 2025-2026 school year as submitted.

8. **SUMMER BUILDING WORK/SCHOOL MAINTENANCE GRANT:** Architect Chuck Newman and Eswood Administration are recommending to extend the original boiler room work with GEOSTAR's quote. Geostar is finalizing their proposal to service and provide temperature control improvements to all school HVAC equipment except window air conditioners. The total price for those improvements is expected to be around $115,000. Their price is very similar to that provided by Brian Newell at Kiwan Mechanical Services. Both companies have good reputations. The Rockford location of Geostar and their history with Eswood School are both benefits for the School District. These improvements will meet the requirements of the 2024-2025 maintenance grant, reimbursing Eswood School $50,000 toward this project. Newman's Eswood List of Items

ACTION: Motion to approve the adjustment of the summer building work as submitted.

9. **CONSOLIDATED DISTRICT PLAN 2025-2026**: SY25 Consolidated District plan to submit to the ISBE that will drive all of our grants for the 2025-2026 school year**. Consolidated District Plan**

ACTION: Motion to approve the 2025-2026 Consolidated District Plan as submitted.

10. **BUDGET WORK & SUMMER BILLS:** Administration is asking for approval to begin work on the SY26 district budget from the school board to begin the budget work and to allow administration to pay our July, August and September bills during the time before we have the budget approved. (Two Action items)

    ACTION: Motion to approve budget work to allow administration to build the 2025-2026 district budget.

    ACTION: Motion to approve July, August and September bills to be paid during the time before the 2025-2026 budget is approved by the school board.

11. **DOCTORAL STUDIES:** The administration requests the School Board's approval for doctoral candidates to conduct two research studies within the district. Both studies aim to contribute to a broader understanding of educational practices and stakeholder perceptions.

    1-Doctoral Student-Kirsten Garrigan of Northern Illinois University: Understanding Motivation, Engagement and Compliance: Study involves one-on-one,

45-60 minute 5th-8th grade student interviews to explore factors influencing student motivation and engagement, with the potential to inform strategies for improved student outcomes. Parental consent and student assent will be required. IRB Approved Parent Permission IRB Approval Letter

2-Doctoral Student-Zachary Craft of Aurora University: Study utilizes a survey to examine the impact of school branding on stakeholders, which could provide valuable insights for district communications and community relations. Letter

ACTION: Motion to approve the two doctoral studies as presented.

12. **HAPARA RENEWAL:** Administration is recommending the approval of the Hapara renewal. Hapara enhances online safety and provides guidance by allowing teachers to monitor student activity in real-time, manage browsing by focusing or filtering websites, and directly communicate with students to offer support and redirect them when needed, thus fostering responsible digital citizenship. HAPARA QUOTE

ACTION: Motion to approve the Hapara renewal as submitted.

I DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION THAT MAY COME UP FOR ACTION NEXT MONTH:

1. **SUMMER 2025 Maintenance: Black top Sealing and/or Mulch (Next year's Budget)**

Other Overall Other Discussion Items:

1. ROE 47: ESWOOD **Strategic Plan Work:** June 2025 Strategic Plan Completed and ready for approval.
2. **School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP)**/COPS Safety Grants: FYI- There has been no opportunities for any Safety grants so far this year, 2025.
3. SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: Book Blast Fundraiser-every student receives at least one book, Chess Meets Completed-100 Players over two days, Kindergarten Round up: April 25th-About 6-7 Students in the fall as currently known, Staff Appreciation Week May 5-9th, 6th, 7th and 8th Grade field trips May 9th, Track Meet May 7th, MS Awards May 13th, 2:30pm, Spring Art's Night May 14th- 5:30pm, 8th Grade Graduation-6pm, May 15th, School picnic-11am and Field Day 12-2pm, May 22nd, End of the Year Bowling, Friday, May 23rd/Last Day of School, Staff Luncheon at Double O.
4. GRADUATION: May 15th: Any BOE members want to attend to hand out diplomas?

J. CLOSED SESSION

1. To consider and discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees.

K. ACTION ITEMS FROM CLOSED SESSION

L. ADJOURNMENT