EVERGREEN PARK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 231
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 25, 2025

The February 25, 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. Mike Kress, Ms. Merikay Marzoni, Mr. Larry Symanski. Absent: Mr. Tom Marsan, Mr. Tom Schergen. Also physically present: Mr. Thomas O'Malley, Superintendent; Mr. Matt Dugan, Principal; Mr. Terry Masterson, Facilities Director; Student Ambassador Rosebud Summers. Absent: Student Ambassador Makayla Knight.

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

4. **Communications**. Mrs. Zofkie reminded the Board that Cinderella would be presented this weekend.

   4.1. Audit Presentation. Mr. Nick Cavaliere of Baker Tilly presented the annual audit. He was complimentary of the District's fiscal responsibility and said the District is in a healthy financial position. The District again received an unmodified opinion, which is the highest assurance that the auditor can assign and consistent with last year's opinion. An unmodified opinion was also assigned for the single audit required for ESSER compliance.

   4.2. Credit Union Grant. After expressing the credit union's thanks for providing space at EPCHS for their office, Mrs. Anna Papasideris presented a check to the recipients of this year's grant, art teachers Mrs. Libby McArthur and Mr. Tom Guerra, who will use the funds for equipment and materials for a graphics production lab.

5. **Approval of Minutes**.

   5.1. January 28, 2025. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Mr. Symanski, to approve the open and closed session minutes of the Board meeting on January 28, 2025. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

6. **Principal's Report**.

   6.1. Achievements. Mr. Dugan commented on:

   - Freshman registration and thanked the support staff and counselors for their hard work.
   - Black History month all-school assembly featuring the South Chicago Dance Theatre's presentation of "Dancing Through the Great Migration."
   - Trades Fair during IDEA period organized by the counselors and industrial technology teachers.

   6.2. Student Ambassador Report. Rosebud Summers reported on recent standings of winter sports, awards earned at the South Suburban College art show, and achievements of the chess and Scholastic Bowl team.

   6.3. Presentation. Athletic Department Presentation. Athletic Director Jim Soldan gave a presentation highlighting the achievements and successes of this year's athletic teams. He also reported on weekly eligibility records.

7. **Facility Director's Report**. Mr. Masterson's facility report included:

   - Details and pricing are being finalized for the cafeteria roof project.
   - Plans to resurface and stripe the parking lot during the summer.
   - Demo to start soon on the bleachers. The new bleachers will seat 455 and include ADA-designated spots.

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

   - The coaches and extracurricular sponsors and the directors, Jim Soldan and Amy Kazin, who devote a tremendous amount of time to our students.
   - The counselors, Meg Schillo, and Terrence Masterson for the internship program, which is providing students with exposure to future careers.
   - Scholastic Bowl and Mathletes for their success in recent competitions.
   - The cast of *Cinderella.*

8.1. Monthly Financial Report. This month's bills of $552,000 are in line with the budget. Mr. O'Malley credited the Board for their financial stewardship. He also reported that the District partnered with District 124 to send a postcard to the residents informing them of the Property Tax Relief Grant abatements.

8.2. FOIA Requests. Three requests were received this month. Responses were sent in accordance with FOIA.

8.3. Overnight Field Trips. Requests were received to approve the annual Snowball retreat from March 21–23 at Camp Manitoqua and the annual cheer camp from July 11–13 at Carthage College.

8.4. School Calendar. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Mr. Symanski, to approve the 2025-26 school calendar. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

9. **Committee Reports**.

- Policy Committee. Mrs. Zofkie reported on the committee's review of PRESS Issue 117. The committee recommends adoption of most of the changes with the exception of Policy 4:30 and some of the suggested changes to Policies 6:60 and Policy 8:10.
- SCOPE. Mr. O'Malley reported that a representative from the National Association of School Administrators spoke about the potential changes under the new federal administration. She addressed the topics of funding, the Department of Education, and School Choice.
- IASB. Mrs. Kutschke reported on:
  - The Governor's comments on the Nation's Report Card, nationally ranking Illinois 8th grade reading scores and math scores second and fifth respectively. High school graduation rates have reached a 14-year high. She congratulated our dedicated teachers, administrators, parents, and students.
  - SB1605 passed unanimously that provides that agriculture-related courses shall satisfy prerequisite requirements to graduate from high school.
  - Illinois is considering legislation to ban the use of cell phones in K-12 schools.
- Foundation. Mr. Kress reported that the golf outing is June 6, the all-school reunion will be held in February 2026, and the Foundation is accepting nominees for the Hall of Fame.

10. **Closed Session**. At 7:52 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mr. Kress, 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. Kress, Ms. Marzoni, Mr. Symanski

11. **Open Session**. At 8:16 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Mr. Kress, 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 Mr. Kress, to approve employment, contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment requirements, of instrumental music teacher Colin Curatolo. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

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

- Payroll: January 15, 2025: $563,624.08
  January 31, 2025: $616,463.76
- Monthly Bill List: $552,999.66 (Education Fund: $342,105.58; Building Fund: $141,605.09; Debt Service Fund: $2,583.25; Transportation Fund: $66,705.74; Capital Projects Fund: $0; Tort Fund: $0; Life Safety Fund: $0)
- Destruction of closed session audio recording dated August 22, 2023
- Overnight field trips for Snowball from March 21-23, 2025, and cheer camp from July 11-13, 2025
- Policy Committee summary notes
- Policies included in PRESS issue 117 as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

14. **Announcements**. The next Board meeting will be held on March 25, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the Professional Development Room.

15. **Adjournment**. At 8:19 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Mrs. 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