EVERGREEN PARK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 231
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 30, 2025

The April 30, 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. Tom Schergen, Mr. Larry Symanski. Also physically present: Mr. Tom 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.** Mrs. Zofkie reminded the Board that May 7 is the art show and spring concert, which will be Ken Kazin's last before retiring. She also reminded them to RSVP for the Music Department Banquet. There were no comments from the audience.

5. **Approval of Minutes**.

   5.1. March 25, 2025. 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 25, 2025. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

   Abstain: Mr. Schergen, Mr. Symanski

6. **Election Results**. A motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Mr. Symanski, that the Board of Education adopt and ratify the canvass of the school board election already performed by the Cook County Clerk and declare that Mr. Marsan, Ms. Marzoni, Mr. Schergen, and Mrs. Zofkie have each been elected to serve a 4-year term. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

7. **Oath of Office**. The Oath of Office was administered by Mrs. Kutschke to newly elected Board members Mr. Marsan, Ms. Marzoni, Mr. Schergen, and Mrs. Zofkie.

8. **Adjourn Sine Die**. At 7:06 p.m., Mrs. Zofkie called for adjournment sine die. A motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Mr. Symanski, to adjourn sine die. Motion carried on voice vote.

9. **New Board Organization**

   9.1. **Call to Order**. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by President Pro Tem Mrs. Zofkie with Mr. Marsan acting as secretary pro tem.

   9.2. **Roll Call**. On roll call, the following members were physically present: Mr. Kress, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Marsan, Ms. Marzoni, Mr. Schergen, Mr. Symanski, Mrs. Zofkie. Also physically present: Mr. O'Malley, Superintendent, Mr. Dugan, Principal; Mr. Masterson, Facilities Director; Student Ambassadors Makayla Knight and Rosebud Summers.

   9.3. **Nomination of President**. Mrs. Zofkie was nominated to serve as Board president. On roll call vote, Mrs. Zofkie was elected. She assumed office and presided over the meeting.

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

   9.4. **Nomination of Vice President**. Mrs. Kutschke was nominated to serve as Board vice president. On roll call vote, Mrs. Kutschke was elected and immediately assumed office.

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

   9.5. **Nomination of Secretary**. Mr. Marsan was nominated to serve as Board secretary. On roll call vote, Mr. Marsan was elected and immediately assumed office.

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

10. **Board Meeting Schedule**. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Mr. Symanski, to approve the schedule of Board meetings from July 2025 through June 2027 at 6:30 p.m. in the Professional Development Room. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

11. **Principal's Report**.

    11.1. Achievements. Mr. Dugan commented on:

    - Disco Glow Night, attended by 120 students, more than half of whom used 5-Star points instead of paying for a ticket. He acknowledged the efforts of Amy Kazin, Amy Kazmierowicz, class sponsors and the Maintenance Department for the success of the evening.

- Kevin Knapik was voted Teacher of the Year, and Declan Smyth was voted Staff Member of the Year by the students.
- The counselors and Technology Department were recognized for their organization and technical support on April 9 testing day.
- Staff vs. students volleyball game on April 17.
- Eleven qualifiers will compete in the IHSA state tournament, which will be held at EPCHS on Saturday.
- Success at recent student competitions including the ABC program (Advice Beyond the Classroom) and IHSA state competition for Mathletes, FBLA and Journalism.

11.2. Student Ambassador Report. The student ambassadors reported on:

- Disco Glow night, which the students enjoyed
- Senior class trip to Sky Zone
- Overnight trip to Six Flags on May 10
- Promoting Senior Decision Day on Instagram

11.3. Presentations.

- Tim Moran, PR director, reported on the new website, highlighting new features and editing options.
- The instructional coaches Colleen McWalter, Jim Smith, Mike Thomas, and Michelle Vucsko presented their activities this year including an overview of professional development opportunities, ACT prep activities, and reading specialists who provide support to struggling readers. Mr. Dugan thanked the coaches and Meg Schillo for identifying needs, customizing professional development to meet the needs, and the overall impact they are making.

12. **Facility Director's Report**. Mr. Masterson provided an update on facilities work including new panels for the upper façade, cafeteria work, repaving, planting of arborvitae and evergreen trees on the east side of the football field, new rigging and relocation of ductwork in the gyms.

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

- The e-sports team who will compete in the state tournament, hosted by EPCHS for the third year. He credited Dan Truffa for his efforts and the growth of the program.
- Mathletes and sponsor Maria Vinci who has done a great job.
- Instructional coaches for the good work they do.
- The student ambassadors, thanking them for their contributions to the Board and the school.
- 20 students who participated in the ABC program this year, which is an early morning commitment by the students.
- Jim Smith for his work and leadership on negotiations.

13.1. Monthly Financial Report. The budget was reviewed at the Finance Committee meeting. Bills are in line with the budget.

13.2. FOIA Requests. A request from Postal Source for mailing equipment information and a request from the Illinois Department of Employment Security for job titles, wages, grade levels taught and special education teacher were received. Responses have been sent in accordance with FOIA.

13.3. Overnight Field Trip. Mr. O'Malley recommended Board approval on the consent agenda of the Music Department request for a trip to Disney World from April 6-10, 2026.

13.4. Abate Emergency Days. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to approve abatement of emergency days from the 2024-25 school calendar. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

13.5. Letter of Engagement. A motion was made by Mr. Symanski, seconded by Mr. Kress, to approve the Baker Tilly Letter of Engagement to conduct the annual audit for FY 25. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

14. **Board Reports**.

- Finance Committee. Mrs. Kutschke reported on the Finance Committee meeting. Mr. O'Malley provided a financial update, and the scope of capital projects was reviewed. Mrs. Kutschke reported that capital projects have come in under budget. She thanked Mr. O'Malley and Mr. Masterson.
- SCOPE. Mr. Marsan reported that legislative updates were presented.
- IASB. Mrs. Kutschke reported that there is support for increasing Evidence Based Funding and for paying student teachers during their assignment.

- Foundation. Mr. Kress reported that registration is open for the golf outing on June 6 at Coyote Run. Scholarship winners have been identified and will be announced at Honors Night.

15. **Closed Session**. At 7:47 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to recess to closed session regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of an employee, collective bargaining, and semiannual review of unreleased closed session minutes. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

16. **Open Session**. At 8:23 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to reconvene in open session. Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

17. **Action Items**.

    17.1. Approval: Certified Staff. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to approve employment, contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment requirements, of teachers Kylie Galbraith, Dakota Panico, Declan Smyth, and Madison Sukalo. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

    17.2. Approval: Coach. A motion was made Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Mr. Symanski, to approve employment, contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment requirements, of assistant cheer coach Nia Martin. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

    17.3. Employee Discipline. A motion was made by Mr. Symanski, seconded by Mr. Kress, to issue disciplinary consequences to employee #2254 and to employee #2091 as discussed in closed session. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

    17.4. Reclassification of Closed Session Minutes. A motion was made by Mrs. Marzoni, 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. Schergen, Mr. Symanski

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

    - Payroll: March 15, 2025: $553,599.78
      March 31, 2025: $574,425.79
    - Monthly Bill List: $564,407.35 (Education Fund: $321,716.75; Building Fund: $170,344.69; Debt Service Fund: $2,583.25; Transportation Fund: $69,762.66; Capital Projects Fund: $0; Tort Fund: $0; Life Safety Fund: $0)
    - Destruction of closed session audio recording/s dated October 24 and October 30, 2023
    - Music Department trip to Disney World, April 6-10, 2026

    Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

19. **Announcements**. The next Board meeting will be held on May 27, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the Professional Development Room.

20. **Adjournment**. At 8:27 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, 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