EVERGREEN PARK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 231
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 26, 2025

The August 26, 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 6:30 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. Absent: Mr. Tom Schergen, Mr. Larry Symanski. Also present: Mr. Tom O'Malley, Superintendent; Mr. Matt Dugan, Principal; Mr. Terry Masterson, Facilities Director; Student Ambassadors Jade Alfano and Jazmin Ayala.

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

4. **Communications**. There were no comments.

5. **Approval of Minutes**.

   5.1. June 24, 2025. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to approve the open and closed session minutes of the Board meeting on June 24, 2025. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

6. **Public Hearing.**

   6.1. Open Hearing. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to open the public hearing to receive audience comments on renewal of the e-learning plan. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

   6.2. Public Hearing. Mr. O'Malley said that the e-learning plan, which must be renewed every 3 years, has been updated and reviewed with the Association. Mrs. Zofkie invited comments. Hearing none, Mrs. Zofkie called for a motion to close the public hearing.

   6.3. Close Hearing. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to close the public hearing on renewal of the e-learning plan and return to regular session. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

   6.4. Approve E-Learning Plan. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mr. Kress, to adopt the resolution approving renewal of the e-learning plan. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

7. **Principal's Report**.

   7.1. Achievements. Mr. Dugan's report included comments on:

   - Freshman orientation and parent orientation which were very well attended.
   - Parent Square communication tool. Mr. Donato was recognized for his efforts to initiate use of this tool.
   - Class meetings and activity fairs. Mrs., Kazin, Ms. Sekula, Mrs. Mayo, Mr. Donato and Ms. Nine were thanked for their efforts to organize these successful events.
   - AP scores, which were better than last year. More tests were taken by more students than last year.

   7.2. Student Ambassador Report. Student ambassadors Jade Alfano and Jazmin Ayala reported on discussion items at the Principal's Advisory meeting.

   - Cafeteria suggestions: healthier options, larger portions, a number system to minimize line cutting.
   - Frosh orientation: well organized but not enough time for tours.
   - Senior Sunrise: 110 students attended.
   - Beginning of school: Teachers' expectations are clear but accommodating, and freshmen are adjusting well.
   - Senior parking: Students didn't know when or how to sign up. Next year the information should be sent before the school year ends.
   - iPads: There was a problem with updates, leaving some students unable to complete homework. Technology worked quickly to resolve the issue.
   - Extracurricular Fair: discussed how it could be better organized.

8. **Facility Director's Report**. Mr. Masterson provided an update on summer projects. He reported the following:

- Parking lot work included new LED lighting, additional speed bumps, and signage to enhance safety.
- A pole vault area was created.
- Roofing work over the cafeteria and facia is complete.
- Additional cameras have been installed.
- The main gym has been painted.
- The new addition is underway and expected to be completed by November.

9. **Superintendent's Report**. Mr. O'Malley reported that the school year is off to a great start and credits all staff for creating a welcoming environment. He also recognized the following:

- Maintenance staff for the many summer projects they completed, and Mr. Masterson for the great job he did managing all the work.
- The success of the Evergreen Park Girls 14U Softball team at the Little League Junior Softball World Series that included three EPHS students, Molly Goyke, Addison Mrskos, and Layne Schillo.

9.1. Monthly Financial Report. This month's bills totaled $499,222 and are in line with the budget.

9.2. FOIA. FOIA requests were processed from South Cook News inquiring about participation in a math conference, Smart Procure requesting purchasing information, and Public Data Research requesting current employees' names, job titles, and employment start dates.

9.3. Overnight Field Trip. Mr. O'Malley recommended Board approval on the consent agenda of the request from choir director Logan Scalf to attend the Millikin Vocal Fest with six students.

9.4. Tentative Budget. Mr. O'Malley presented the tentative 2025-26 budget, which is on display in the Business Office. A motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Mr. Kress, to approve the tentative 2025-26 budget. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

9.5. Bullying Policy Review. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mr. Kress, to confirm the Board's biennial review and approval of the District's bullying policy. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

9.6. AERO Classroom Use Agreement. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to approve the AERO classroom use agreement for the 2025-26 school year. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

10. **Committee Reports**.

- Policy Committee. Mrs. Zofkie reported on the Policy Committee meeting and commented that no major changes were included in PRESS Issues 118 and 119.
- IASB. Mrs. Kutschke encouraged the Board to read the IASB email that highlights the spring legislative session.
- Foundation. Mr. Kress reported that the annual fundraiser is scheduled for November 16 at Bourbon Street and the All-School Reunion will be held on February 28, 2026. The Foundation will have a table at Fan Fest on September 26, 2025.

11. **Closed Session**. At 7:06 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to recess to closed session regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of an employee. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

12. **Open Session**. At 7:17 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Marsan, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to reconvene in open session. Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

13. **Action Items.**

13.1. Employment: Certified. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve employment, pending successful completion of pre-employment requirements of special education teacher Brendan Devitto. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

13.2. Employment: Noncertified. A motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Mr. Kress, to approve employment, pending successful completion of pre-employment requirements of paraprofessional Brennan O'Malley. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

13.3. Employment: Coaches. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mr. Kress, to approve employment, pending successful completion of pre-employment requirements of the following coaches: Karl Frixen, assistant girls basketball; Rene Lara, assistant boys soccer; Dakota Panico, assistant cheer; Dave Kutschke, assistant baseball; Brennan O'Malley, assistant boys basketball; and Ree McDonald, Ron Zimmerman, and Madison Sukalo, assistant softball. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

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

- Payroll for:
  - June 15: $141,011.93
  - June 30: $145,669.49
  - July 15: $150,511.17
  - July 31: $128,931.37
- Monthly bills for:
  - June: $884,876.49
  - July: $499,222.31

  Destruction of closed session audio recordings dated January 23 & February 27, 2024
- Overnight field trip to Millikin Vocal Fest
- August 20, 2025, Policy Committee summary notes
- PRESS Issues 118 and 119

Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

15. **Announcements.** The next regular Board of Education meeting will be September 30, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Professional Development Room.

16. **Adjournment**. At 7:22 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Kress, 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