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

The September 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 6:31 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. Larry Symanski. Absent: Mr. Tom Schergen. 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**. Mrs. Zofkie reminded the Board of the Sounds from the Stadium concert on October 15 and the musical theater concert on October 18.

   Pastor Doyle addressed the Board about the issue of African American male mental health.

5. **Approval of Minutes**.

   5.1. August 26, 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 August 26, 2025. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

6. **Public Hearing.**

   6.1. Open Hearing. A motion was made by Mr. Symanski, seconded by Ms. Kutschke, to open the public hearing to receive audience comments on the 2025-26 school budget. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

   6.2. Public Hearing. Mr. O'Malley's presentation highlighted budgeted revenues, budgeted expenditures by type, estimated ending fund balances, and fund balance projections through 2028. Among other items, funds have been earmarked for technology upgrades, new textbooks, and capital projects at both the school and sports complex campuses. The budget does not add an additional burden on the taxpayers via a bond issue. The District anticipates again receiving a perfect financial profile score of 4 from ISBE. District 231 is in a very healthy financial situation and is one of a very small number of Illinois schools that are completely debt free, which is a credit to the stewardship of the Board of Education.

   Mrs. Zofkie invited comments from the audience. Hearing no comments from the Board or the audience, Mrs. Zofkie called for a motion to close the hearing.

   6.3. Close Hearing. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mr. Kress, to close the public hearing on the school budgeted return to regular session. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

   6.4. Approve Budget. A motion was made by Mr. Symanski, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to approve the 2025-26 school budget and associated resolution. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

7. **Principal's Report**.

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

   - The internship program. Two students are enrolled in the firefighter internship. Last year's intern in the ironworker internship is now an apprentice ironworker.
   - Homecoming activities. Participation in Fan Fest doubled over last year. Mr, Dugan credited Amy Kazin and Amy Kazmierowicz for the successful events and activities and acknowledged the extra efforts of the Facilities Department.
   - Recent activities of the Service Club, Mathletes, band and color guard, and the Folkloric and International clubs.

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

- Homecoming. Students appreciate having the assembly outside and like the Fan Fest better than the parade. The dance was well attended. They recommended better advertising to the students about the smaller activities and adding a staff bracket to the Homecoming Olympics.
- Seniors enjoyed the Senior Sunrise event and have proposed a Senior Sunset event for the end of the year.
- Ideas are being discussed to promote the school store and to have it run by the small business management class.
- A video on lockdown procedures is being created by the student ambassadors to demonstrate how students should react if they are out of the classroom when a lockdown occurs.

8. **Facility Director's Report**. Mr. Masterson provided an update on projects.

- The lights in the Professional Development Room have been repaired.
- The prop shop addition is going well and may be completed by the end of November.

9. **Superintendent's Report**. Mr. O'Malley credited Mr. Dugan for creation of the firefighter internship program and Terrence Masterson for his work overseeing internship programs. He also recognized Tim Moran for his work to produce the annual report magazine and Amy Kazin and Amy Kazmierowicz for their hard work on all the very successful homecoming events.

9.1. Monthly Financial Report. The monthly bills totaled $502,749 and are in line with the budget.

9.2. FOIA. Requests were processed from South Cook News, who requested information on AP scholars and the collective bargaining agreement, Data Research Partners, who requested staff information, and the Education Association, who requested salary information for nonunion employees. Responses have been sent in accordance with FOIA.

9.3. Compensation Report. Mr. O'Malley presented the 2024-25 compensation report to the Board that will be posted on the website as required.

9.4. Overnight Field Trip. Mr. O'Malley recommended Board approval on the consent agenda of the wrestling team's request to attend a tournament in Chatham, Illinois, in December.

10. **Committee Reports**.

- Facility Committee. Mr. Marsan reported that the committee met to review the proposed capital projects for 2025-26 at the high school and sports complex campuses. Projects at the high school include renovation and/or repairs of the English office, classroom 167, third floor HVAC, Butler buildings under the football bleachers, and band hall bathrooms. At the sports complex projects include parking lot restriping and installation of splash pads and a bowling alley.
- Finance Committee. Mrs. Kutschke reported that the Finance Committee met to review the proposed budget and capital projects. Mrs. Kutschke credited Mr. O'Malley and Mr. Masterson with doing a great job with finances and their plans for the sports complex.
- AERO. Mrs. Zofkie reported that the gym at the AERO building has been named the Riordan Gym in honor of the leadership, dedication, and advocacy for the new AERO facility of superintendents Dr. Michael Riordan and Dr. Dan Riordan.
- SCOPE. Mr. Marsan reported that a SCOPE member will serve on a committee to discuss the financial burden that mandates put on districts.
- Foundation. Mr. Kress reminded the Board that the annual fundraiser is scheduled for November 16, 2025, at 115 Bourbon Street. The all-school reunion will be held on February 28, 2026. If anyone is interested, seats on the committee are open.

11. **Closed Session**. At 7:21 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, and collective bargaining.
Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

12. **Open Session**. At 7:29 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Symanski, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to reconvene in open session. Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

13. **Action Items.**

13.1. Approval: Coach. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve employment, pending successful completion of pre-employment requirements, of Manny Torres as an assistant football coach. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

13.2. Approval: Extracurricular Assignments. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to approve Dave Pierce as weight room supervisor, Colleen Termine as co-class sponsor, and Logan Scalf as choreographer. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

13.3. Employee Discipline. A motion was made by Mr. Symanski, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to issue disciplinary consequences to employee #2254 as discussed in closed session. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

13.4. Retirement Request. A motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve the request from Vernon Estes to retire at the end of the 2025-26 school year. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

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

- Payroll: August 15, 2025: $127,848.52
  August 31, 2025: $573,418.15
- Monthly Bill List: $502,749.41 (Education Fund: $252,073.06; Building Fund: $210,089.06; Debt Service Fund: $5,166.50; Transportation Fund: $35,419.93; Capital Projects Fund: $0; Tort Fund: 0; Life Safety Fund: $0)
- Destruction of closed session audio recording dated March 26, 2024
- Overnight field trip to a wrestling tournament in Chatham, Illinois
- Summary notes from the Finance and Facility Committee meetings

Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

15. **Announcements.** The next regular Board of Education meeting will be October 28, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Professional Development Room.

16. **Adjournment**. At 7:34 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Ms. 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