EVERGREEN PARK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 231
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2025

The November 18, 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, Ms. Merikay Marzoni, Mr. Tom Schergen. Absent: Mr. Mike Kress, Mr. Larry Symanski. Also physically present: Mr. Thomas 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 invited comments from the Board and audience. There were no comments.

   Mrs. Zofkie said she would like to clarify points related to the interim superintendent position and future leadership of the District. She stated that the Board will be approving an interim contract with Superintendent O'Malley for the 2025-26 school year and presented facts related to the superintendent's interim position.

   - Salary. Mr. O'Malley's daily rate is average for interim positions based on the current range in Illinois. He is also serving the District as CSBO. By using the current interim superintendent model over the 3-year period from 2025-26 through 2026-27, the District is saving approximately $490,836, which significantly benefits the taxpayers.
   - Experience. Mr. O'Malley is an experienced administrator having served 37 years in education and 25 years as an administrator.
   - Superintendent Search. The Board previously interviewed several qualified superintendent candidates but didn't find one who met the Board's requirements. The Board will begin another search in the fall of 2026 but cautioned that they will not hire just anyone. They are looking for the right person to lead the District.

5. **Approval of Minutes**.

   5.1. October 28, 2025. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to approve the open and closed session minutes of the Board meeting on October 28, 2025. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

6. **Principal's Report**.

   6.1. Achievements. Mr. Dugan commented on:

   - Presentation of *Little Shop of Horrors* on November 6 and 7, and the senior citizens dinner on November 6. He recognized Ann Sekula, Anna Papasideris, Amy Kazin, and Logan Scalf for their efforts.
   - Parent-teacher conferences were held on November 10. He recognized Alex Nine and Jim Donato for their technical support.
   - The annual veterans' breakfast, sponsored by NHS, was held on November 10. He recognized Ben Nesler, the NHS students, Logan Scalf, and the choir for their contributions to the successful event.
   - On November 10 the musical theater concert was presented.
   - The 8th grade open house was led by 100 students. The Facilities Department was recognized for their efforts to prepare the building.
   - Wellness Week, which focused on mental health awareness.

   6.2. Student Ambassador Report. Student ambassadors Jade Alfano and Jazmin Ayala commented on:

   - Open House, which was a positive experience. Many student volunteers participated. Adding hands-on experiences was suggested for the future.
   - *Little Shop of Horrors*, which sold out both nights. Students were able to use 5-Star points to purchase tickets.
   - Students would like to hear more speakers during Wellness Week.

6.3. Presentation. Curriculum Director Meg Schillo presented recommendations for three new courses for the 2026-27 school year. Recommended are College Writing 2, Heritage Spanish 2, and AP Computer Science A.

Math Department Chair Jim Smith displayed a spreadsheet showing how data is being tracked and how student data is being used in the Math, English, and Science Departments to make tangible decisions.

6.4. New Courses. A motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve new courses College Writing 2, Heritage Spanish 2, and AP Computer Science A for the 2026-27 school year. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

7. **Facility Director's Report**. Mr. Masterson reported that the work on the new prop shop is expected to be completed by the end of November. The existing prop shop will then be renovated. He also reported that the height of the softball fence was increased to 10 feet.

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

- Extended thanks to the student ambassadors for representing the student body, Jim Smith for preparing valuable information, and Meg Schillo for all her behind-the-scenes work as curriculum director.
- Recognized maintenance engineer Steve Stump who recently completed the IASBO Certified Professional Supervisor program.
- Recognized Ben Nesler for coordinating the Veterans' Breakfast
- In honor of School Board Members Day on November 15, Mr. O'Malley recognized the efforts and commitment of the Board members. Certificates were given to each of them by the student ambassadors.

8.1. Monthly Financial Report. This month's bills of $603,684 are in line with the budget.

8.2. FOIA Requests. Two FOIA requests were received this month and responses have been sent.

8.3. Tentative Levy. Mr. O'Malley stated that the tentative levy amount is $22,195,041

A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mr. Schergen, to approve the resolution regarding estimated amounts necessary to be levied for the year 2025. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

8.4. Workers' Compensation Renewal. Mr. O'Malley presented the Workers' Compensation proposal, which decreased by $4,218 over the previous year.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve the annual premium quote of $73,712 from Alliant for renewal of Workers' Compensation insurance. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

9. **Committee Reports**.

- AERO. Mrs. Zofkie reported that meetings with two teams, community/parents and staff/administration, are in progress to develop a new strategic plan that is expected to be approved by March.
- Foundation. Ms. Marzoni reported that the scholarship fundraiser at 115 Bourbon Street was very successful. One hundred ninety-six people attended, which is the highest number to date. She also reminded the Board of the upcoming all-school reunion on February 28, 2026.

10. **Closed Session**. At 7:03 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 roll call vote.

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

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

12. **Action Items**.

12.1. Approval of Coaches. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to approve employment, contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment requirements, of Jake Urban as assistant girls track coach and Darius Thomas as assistant wrestling coach. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

12.2. Approval of Extracurricular Assignments. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to approve appointment of Jim Ramazinski and Brian Zofkie as winter weight room supervisors. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

12.3. Interim Superintendent Contract. A motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve a contract with Thomas O'Malley to serve as interim superintendent for the 2026-27 school year. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

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

- Payroll: October 15, 2025: $686,294.66
  October 31, 2025: $558,127.09
- Monthly Bill List: $603,684.89 (Education Fund: $439,801.45; Building Fund: $102,221.03; Debt Service Fund: $5,166.50; Transportation Fund: $56,495.91; Capital Projects Fund: $0; Tort Fund: $0; Life Safety Fund: $0)
- Destruction of closed session audio recordings dated May 28, 2024

Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

14. **Announcements**. The next Board meeting will be held on December 16, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Professional Development Room.

15. **Adjournment**. At 7:17 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, 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