EVERGREEN PARK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 231
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 27, 2026

The January 27, 2026, 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. Tom Schergen, 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 announced that the AERO Karaoke is January 28, 2026, at Oak Lawn High School.

   4.1. Audit Presentation. Mr. Sebastian Dabrowski of Baker Tilly presented the annual audit. He was complimentary of the Business Office's responsiveness and preparation for the audit. The District again received an unmodified opinion, which is the highest assurance that the auditor can assign and consistent with auditor's opinions in previous years. He also confirmed that the District is one of very few districts in the state that is debt free. He anticipates that the District will again earn a perfect 4.0 financial profile score and the state's highest rating of Recognition.

5. **Approval of Minutes**.

   5.1. December 16, 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 December 16, 2025. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

6. **Principal's Report**.

   6.1. Achievements. Mr. Dugan commented on:

   - Institute day on January 7. He recognized Meg Schillo and the division chairs for preparing sessions on building quality assessments, ACT prep, common summative assessments and accommodations for assessments.
   - Snowflake event for middle school students on January 19.
   - Honor roll status for the first term achieved by 58% of the student body.
   - Mustang Pride breakfast on January 22 recognizing 22 students.
   - Receiving the AP School Honor Roll Bronze award from the College Board for the past school year. The Silver award was missed by 1%.

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

   - Snowflake event for middle school students. Student leaders are hoping for more middle school participation in the future.
   - Winter Spirit Week in progress.
   - Pack the Place for boys and girls basketball games.
   - Folkloric Club assembly performance.
   - Dance team going to state competition and wrestling team winning second place in conference

   6.3. Presentation. Jim Donato, technology director, reported on:

   - The new Rival5 phone system.
   - Server upgrades that modernized the infrastructure.
   - The new ParentSquare communication system.
   - Introduction of the Skyward Qmlative student records system.

   Mr. O'Malley thanked Mr. Donato for his hard work calling him a driving force in technology.

7. **Facility Director's Report**. Mr. Masterson commented on the following:

- Plans for work at the sports complex are progressing.
- Future replacement of the HVAC system on the third floor, which will greatly enhance energy costs.
- Application for a maintenance grant of $50,000 that is recommended for Board approval.

7.1. School Maintenance Grant. A motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve the School Maintenance Project Grant application. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

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

- Commending the custodial/maintenance staff for clearing snow after the storm
- Explaining that the District will again be abating $1,009,530 back to the taxpayers as a result of the Property Tax Relief Grant that was approved by the Board last year. However, it is not known if the grant will be offered in the future.

8.1. Monthly Financial Report. This month's bills of $715,416 are in line with the budget.

8.2. FOIA Requests. Four requests were received, and responses have been sent in accordance with FOIA.

8.3. Overnight Field Trip. Mr. O'Malley recommended Board approval on the consent agenda of the request for the annual Snowball overnight field trip.

9. **Committee Reports**.

- SCOPE. Mr. Marsan reported on topics discussed at the SCOPE meeting including the delay in property tax distribution, a review of past and upcoming legislation, and ISBE accountability system.
- IASB. Mrs. Kutschke reported that the IASB 2026 legislative priorities are fulfillment of state and federal funding commitments, curricular mandate reform, and support for student achievement tools.
- Foundation. Mr. Kress reported that scholarship applications will be available soon. Winners will be announced at Honors Night. Plans for the next golf outing are under discussion. The all-school reunion is February 28, 2026.

10. **Closed Session**. At 7:11 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, 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, Mr. Kress, Ms. Marzoni, Mr. Schergen, Mr. Symanski

11. **Open Session**. At 7:59 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to reconvene in open session. Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

12. **Action Items**.

12.1. Student Residency. A motion was made by Mr. Symanski, seconded by Mr. Kress, to approve the decision and written order in Student Residency Case 260114-1 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

12.2. Student Residency. A motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve the decision and written order in Student Residency Case 260114-2 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

12.3. Student Residency. A motion was made by Mr. Symanski, seconded by Mr. Kress, to approve the decision and written order in Student Residency Case 260115-1 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

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

    - Payroll: December 15, 2025: $644,269.25
      December 31, 2025: $564,726.74
    - Monthly Bill List: $715,416.71 (Education Fund: $394,644.64; Building Fund: $239,050.80; Debt Service Fund: $2,583.25; Transportation Fund: $79,138.02; Capital Projects Fund: $0; Tort Fund: $0; Life Safety Fund: $0)
    - Snowball overnight field trip from March 20-22, 2026

    Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

14. **Announcements**. The next Board meeting will be held on February 24, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Professional Development Room.

15. **Adjournment**. At 8:03 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