EVERGREEN PARK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 231
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 24, 2026

The February 24, 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. Mike Kress, Ms. Merikay Marzoni, Absent: Mr. Tom Marsan, Mr. Tom Schergen, Mr. Larry Symanski (arrived 6:32 p.m.). 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 commented that the musical, *Seussical, the Musical*, presented the previous weekend, was fabulous.

   Paster Doyle addressed the Board regarding student advancement.

5. **Approval of Minutes**.

   5.1. January 27, 2026. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to approve the open and closed session minutes of the Board meeting on January 27, 2026. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

6. **Principal's Report**.

   6.1. Achievements. Mr. Dugan's report included:

   - Comments on the Discipline Plan, which is being presented for Board approval.
   - Freshman registration held on three dates. He thanked the staff who worked registration.
   - Use of Parent Square, which has increased communication.
   - ACT prep and thanks to Meg Schillo for coordinating and organizing these IDEA sessions.
   - Trades fair that was attended by more than 70 students during IDEA period. He thanked those who organized this opportunity and encouraged students to attend.
   - Winter Spirit Week. He recognized Amy Kazmierowicz and Jim Soldan for their efforts in planning the assembly and pack-the-place games.
   - Success of winter sports teams and competitive clubs. Six groups competed downstate this season.

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

   - The success of the girls basketball team and the successful seasons of other sports teams who competed downstate.
   - The enjoyable and successful performances of *Seussical, the Musical* and the popular character lunch.
   - Update on the lockdown training video, which is nearing completion.
   - Winter Spirit Week and successful assembly.
   - Promoting participation in the Snowball retreat.

7. **Facility Director's Report**. Mr. Masterson reported that plans are underway for multiple projects including the home economics room, English office, and at the Sports Complex.

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

   - The successful internship program lead by Terrence Masterson.
   - The time devoted to and the talent showcased in *Seussical, the Musical,* and the opportunity to involve younger students.
   - Coaches of the Year Jason Fundukian and George Shimko, voted this recognition by their colleagues.

   Mr. O'Malley reminded the Board that, although they do not need to approve another resolution, the District is again taking advantage of the Property Tax Relief Grant and will be rebating $1,009,000 to the residents. The District will not be incurring debt for upcoming projects and will be using fund balances.

8.1. Monthly Financial Report. This month's bills of $538,000 are in line with the budget.

8.2. FOIA Requests. Four FOIA requests were received this month. Responses have been sent in accordance with FOIA.

8.3. School Calendar. A motion was made by Mr. Symanski, seconded by Mr. Kress, to approve the 2026-27 school calendar. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

8.4. AERO Classroom Use. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mr. Symanski, to approve the AERO classroom use agreement for the 2026-27 school year. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

8.5. Discipline Improvement Plan. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve the Discipline Improvement plan as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

8.6. Proven IT Contract. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mr. Kress, to approve a contract with Proven IT for copier and printer equipment. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

9. **Committee Reports**.

- Policy Committee. Mrs. Zofkie reported that the committee reviewed PRESS Issue 120 and recommends Board adoption of the policies as discussed by the committee.
- AERO. Mrs. Zofkie reported that the AERO strategic plan was concluded in six meetings and will be voted on in March.
- IASB. Mrs. Kutschke's report covered topics addressed in the Governor's budget address, which included Evidence-Based Funding shortfall, MCAT funding, Teacher Vacancy Grant Pilot Program funding, a new social media platform fee earmarked for K-12 education, and the initiative to ban cell phones in K-12 schools during classroom instruction.
- Foundation. Mr. Kress reported that the all-school reunion is on Saturday, February 28. Hall of Fame nominees will be accepted until March 31. The time frame for scholarship applications is March 2 through March 31. The annual golf outing will be on June 5 at Coyote Run.

10. **Closed Session**. At 7:04 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mr. Kress, 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. Kress, Ms. Marzoni, Mr. Symanski

11. **Open Session**. At 7:31 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. Retirement Letter. A motion was made by Mr. Symanski, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to accept the letter of intent to retire at the end of FY 2030 from Abra Petraitis. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

12.2. Memoranda of Understanding. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve the memoranda of understanding regarding the school psychologist position and reimbursement for a driver education certification program. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

12.3. Approval: Certified Staff. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mr. Kress, to approve employment, contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment requirements, of school psychologist Sydney Winters for the 2026-27 school year. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

12.4. Approval: Coaching Staff. A motion was made by Mr. Symanski, seconded by Mr. Kress, to approve employment, contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment requirements, of assistant girls soccer coach Diego Rivas. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

12.5. Approval: Extracurricular Assignment. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to appoint Jim Ramazinski and Matt Pashakarnis as spring weight room supervisors. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

12.6. Approval: Volunteer. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mr. Symanski, to approve Michael Jones as football volunteer, contingent upon successful completion of a criminal background check. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

12.7. Employee Discipline. A motion was made by Mr. Symanski, seconded by Mr. Kress, to issue disciplinary consequences to Employee #2281 as discussed in closed session. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

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

- Payroll: January 15, 2026: $588,044.99
  January 31, 2026: $638,715.28
- Monthly Bill List: $538,078.61 (Education Fund: $359,772.85; Building Fund: $103,544.99; Debt Service Fund: $2,461.90; Transportation Fund: $72,298.87; Capital Projects Fund: $0; Tort Fund: $0; Life Safety Fund: $0)
- Destruction of closed session audio recording dated August 20, 2024
- Policy Committee summary notes
- Policies included in PRESS Issue 120 as recommended by the Policy Committee

Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

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

15. **Adjournment**. At 7:36 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mr. Kress, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

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President

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Secretary

Sheri Sochacki
Recording Secretary