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

The March 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 6:30 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 (arrived at 6:38 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**.

5. **Approval of Minutes**.

   5.1. February 24, 2026. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to approve the open and closed session minutes of the Board meeting on February 24, 2026. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

6. **Principal's Report**.

   6.1. Achievements. Topics covered by Mr. Dugan include:

   - The annual NHS talent show whose ticket sale proceeds were donated to the organization I Am ALS. He recognized Ben Nesler, Amy Kazin, Alex Nine and Jim Donato for their efforts.
   - The Snowball retreat attended by more than 100 students and recognized the Student Leadership sponsors, Katie Hyland, Katie O'Connor, Tom Guerra, Jason Fundukian, and Carl Raczka who are sponsors of this event.
   - The Cambridge Test ACT prep workshop of 2.5 hours that 99 juniors will attend. Mrs. Meg Schillo was recognized for her work to provide this opportunity.
   - Student participation in extracurricular activities is currently 70%, which is an increase over the last 2 years. Credit was given to Mrs. Kazin, club sponsors, and athletic coaches for encouraging students to get involved.

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

   - Prom committee. The committee is planning the menu and decorations. Fundraisers will give students the opportunity to reduce the cost of the tickets. Formalwear will be available for interested students.
   - Spring sports current standings.
   - Snowball retreat. Students heard three speakers and enjoyed the overall experience.
   - Talent show received good feedback.
   - Science Olympiad team is going to state competition.
   - Students are enjoying participating in March Madness events sponsored by the LRC and the Music Department.
   - The lockdown video is in the final stage of editing and expected to be ready soon.

Mr. Symanski arrived.

   6.3. Presentation.

   - Athletic Department. Athletic Director Jim Soldan gave a presentation highlighting the achievements and successes of this year's athletic teams. He also reported on weekly eligibility records.
   - Sunshine Fund. Vicky Tracy reported on the activities and support provided by the Sunshine Committee to financially help District students and families in need.

7. **Facility Director's Report**. Mr. Masterson reported that the Health/Life Safety inspection revealed no violations. He commended the custodial and maintenance staff for their efforts to keep the building safe and clean.

   Mr. Masterson summarized contracts for upcoming renovations and recommended Board approval of contracts with Brunswick, Cosgrove Construction, Garland, Midwest Educational Furnishings, and Trico Mechanical for renovations at the high school and sports complex.

   7.1. Contracts. A motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve contracts with Brunswick, Cosgrove Construction, Garland, Midwest Educational Furnishings, and Trico Mechanical for projects at the high school and the sports complex. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

8. **Superintendent's Report**. Mr. O'Malley recognized and commented on the following:

   - Vicky Tracy and the Sunshine Committee. He said this committee is unique to our school, and he is grateful to the committee and our staff for their support of the committee's work.
   - Jim Soldan for his presentation and commending him for his focus on the importance of student-athletes' GPA.
   - Jolie Burns-Casey for her chairmanship of the successful all-school reunion attended by more than 400 alumni.
   - Kevin Schwer, Steve Stump, and Jack Jerozal for the work they have done on the pool restoration project.
   - Staffing authorization that will be presented for Board approval and recommends retaining all current staff for next year.
   - Counselors for their student scheduling efforts and Mr. Dugan and Mrs. Meg Schillo for their work on the master schedule to accommodate student course requests.

   8.1. Monthly Financial Report. This month's bills of $628,853 are in line with the budget.

   8.2. IHSA Membership Renewal. A motion was made by Mr. Symanski, seconded by Mr. Kress, to approve renewal of membership in the Illinois High School Association. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

   8.3. 2026-27 School Fees. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve the 2026-27 school fees as recommended by the superintendent. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

9. **Committee Reports**.

   - Facility Committee. Mr. Marsan reported that the Facility Committee met to discuss the 2026-27 projects previously reported on by Mr. Masterson.
   - Finance Committee. Mrs. Kutschke reported that the Finance Committee met to review the proposed projects and fund balances. The fund balances are currently healthy, but the Board will need to keep a close eye on the future.
   - AERO. Mrs. Zofkie reported that the 6-year strategic plan was approved and will be available on AERO's website.
   - SCOPE. Mr. Marsan reported that current proposed legislation was reviewed. He stated that SCOPE actively represents school district members' interests in Springfield.
   - IASB. Mrs. Kutschke reported that IASB is watching bills regarding support staff unemployment, cell phone use in school, an adult changing station, and the Property Tax Relief Grant.
   - Foundation. Mr. Kress reported that the alumni golf outing will be held on June 5, 2026; tickets are available. Scholarship application submissions are being accepted; winners will be announced at Honors Night on May 4. A hall of fame honoree has been chosen for recognition this year. There is an open position on the Foundation board.

10. **Closed Session**. At 7:11 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to recess to closed session regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of an employee, student residency/discipline and other matters relating to individual students, and collective bargaining. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

11. **Open Session**. At 8:18 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Symanski, seconded by Mr. Marsan, to reconvene in open session. Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

12. **Action Items**.

    12.1. Approval: Coach. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to approve employment, contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment requirements, of head boys soccer coach Diego Rivas. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

    12.2. Tenure Confirmation. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Mr. Symanski, to confirm tenure status of Jessica Belanger, Julia Mackel, Nicole Ormins, Carl Raczka, Anera Reid, Carlos Ruiz, and Rob Rymek effective beginning the 2026-27 school year. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

    12.3. Staffing Authorization. A motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Merikay Marzoni, to authorize staffing for the 2026-27 school year as recommended by the superintendent. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

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

    - Payroll: February 15, 2026: $553,662.00
      February 28, 2026: $563,630.14
    - Monthly Bill List: $628,853.41 (Education Fund: $369,026.48; Building Fund: $173,161.35; Debt Service Fund: $3,158.35; Transportation Fund: $79,929.12; Capital Projects Fund: $0; Tort Fund: $0; Life Safety Fund: $3,577.93)
    - Destruction of closed session audio recording dated September 24, 2024
    - 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

14. **Announcements**. The next Board meeting will be held on April 28, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Professional Development Room.

15. **Adjournment**. At 8:22 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