EVERGREEN PARK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 231
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 26, 2026

The May 26, 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. Also physically present: Mr. Thomas O'Malley, Superintendent; Mr. Matt Dugan, Principal; Mr. Terry Masterson, Facilities Director.

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Zofkie.

4. **Communications**.

5. **Approval of Minutes**.

   5.1. April 28, 2026. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mr. Kress, to approve the open and closed session minutes of the Board meeting on April 28, 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. Mr. Dugan commented on:

   - Honors Night and recognized Ben Nesler, Mike Thomas, and Rachael Mayo for their efforts.
   - AP testing. Two hundred fifty-five students took 398 Advanced Placement tests, which is an increase of 13 students and 24 tests over last year.
   - Tony Knight baseball game and scholarship announcement.
   - Stampede provided a lunch for staff during staff appreciation week and end-of-year ice cream treats for students.
   - Student recognitions. Twenty-one students earned the Mustang Pride award, seven students recognized for perfect attendance in 2025-26 including one student who achieved 4 years of perfect attendance.
   - OSHA 30-hour safety certification was earned by 27 students in the HVAC class.
   - Graduation on May 20. Ann Sekula, Terry Masterson, Alex Nine, the facilities staff and all who helped with graduation were thanked for their efforts.

   Mr. Dugan summarized the School Improvement Plan for 2026-27, noting that targeted interventions are included for attendance and tardies.

   6.2. Presentations.

   - Tina Ward presented a recap of LRC use and activities available to students throughout the year. Frank Murray, director of the Evergreen Park Public Library, was also present to discuss and encourage participation in the community reading challenge from June 1–July 31, 2026.
   - Tim Moran highlighted the year in public relations. He reviewed the publications and activities, which included newsletters, press releases, social media postings on five platforms, alumni relations, updating the website, and work with social media/marketing interns.

7. **Facility Director's Report**. Mr. Masterson reported that the HVAC unit on the third floor has been installed.

   He also provided an update on the work at the sports complex. The demo is almost complete and reconfiguration is in progress. The splash pad is running and being enjoyed.

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

- Year-end institute breakfast where highlights of an amazing year were celebrated, and Vern Estes was recognized on his retirement.
- Graduation comments. Mr. O'Malley was proud to hear parents' comments about the great experiences their children had, which is due to the dedicated faculty and support staff.
- Recruitment is more important than ever.

8.1. Monthly Financial Report. This month's bills of $1,022,804 are in line with the budget. Mr. O'Malley commented that the improvements to the expanded fitness center, including adding an 8-lane bowling alley, have been done in a fiscally responsible manner with no property tax increase.

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

8.3. School Improvement Plan. A motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Mr. Kress, to approve the 2026-27 school improvement plan. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

8.4. Health Insurance Renewal. Mr. O'Malley informed the Board that the renewal rate of 7% is very favorable.

A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve the renewal of health, dental, and life/LTD insurance. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

8.5. AERO Budget. A motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve the FY27 AERO budget. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

8.6. Overnight Field Trips. A request for the Madrigals to attend the Milliken Vocal Fest in September and a request for the wrestling team to participate in a tournament in December will be included on the consent agenda.

9. **Committee Reports**.

- AERO. Mrs. Zofkie reported that Dr. Roseland's contract has been extended to 2031.
- SCOPE. Mr. Marsan reported that the governor's proposed budget was reviewed. There was discussion about SCOPE dues, budget, and meeting dates.
- IASB. Mrs. Kutschke encouraged the Board to read the IASB Journal and to review Senate Bills 415 and 416 addressing biometrics and use of AI.
- Foundation. Mr. Kress reported that the response to the golf outing on June 5 has been very good with numerous sponsors and more than 100 golfers.

10. **Closed Session**. At 7:36 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

11. **Open Session**. At 8:12 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Mr. Marsan, to reconvene in open session. Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

12. **Action Items**.

12.1. Approve Certified Staff. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve employment, contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment requirements, of William Merchantz for the 2026-27 school year. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

12.2. Approve Coaching Staff. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to approve employment, contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment requirements, of assistant football coach Olando White and assistant girls basketball coach Jessica Potter. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

12.3. Approve Temporary Summer Employees. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to approve summer employment in maintenance of Dan Gleeson and Gerald O'Hare, in technology of Tyler Schied and Christopher Bennet and in theater camp of Lisa Banos-Cruz, Bill Moore, Antonio Cruz, Samantha Doyle, Mac Kazin, Brianna Mooney and Gil Oliva, contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment requirements. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

12.4. Approve a Volunteer. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve Alexandra Martinez as a volunteer for the summer Bridge program, contingent upon successful completion of a criminal background check. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

12.5. Approve Director of Public Relations. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to approve Michael Glennon as director of public relations, effective July 1, 2026. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

12.6. Approve 2026-27 Employment Agreements. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve the 2026-27 employment agreements for administrators and union-exempt employees. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

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

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

12.8. Appoint Student Ambassadors. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to appoint Ryan Brennan and Emily Mills as student ambassadors to the Board of Education for the 2026-27 school year. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

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

- Payroll: April 15, 2026: $624,373.88
  April 30, 2026: $541,350.26
- Monthly Bill List: $1,022,804.84 (Education Fund: $435,715.58; Building Fund: $397,148.29; Debt Service Fund: $3,158.53; Transportation Fund: $85,547.74; Capital Projects Fund: $0; Tort Fund: $0; Life Safety Fund: $101,234.70)
- Destruction of closed session audio recording dated November 19, 2024
- Overnight field trips for Madrigals on September 20-21 and the wrestling team on December 4-5, 2026

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 June 23, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Professional Development Room.

15. **Adjournment**. At 8:18 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Kress, 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