EVERGREEN PARK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 231
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 29, 2026

The September 29, 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, Mrs. Tracy Ricks. Absent: Mr. Tom Schergen. Also present: Mr. Tom O'Malley, Superintendent; Mr. Matt Dugan, Principal; Mr. Terry Masterson, Facilities Director; Student Ambassador Emily Mills. Absent: Ryan Brennan.

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

4. **Communications**. There were no comments.

5. **Approval of Minutes**.

   5.1. August 25, 2026. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve the open and closed session minutes of the special Board meeting on August 25, 2026. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

   5.2. August 25, 2026. A motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Mr. Kress, to approve the open and closed session minutes of the regular Board meeting on August 25, 2026. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

6. **Public Hearing.**

   6.1. Open Hearing. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to open the public hearing to receive audience comments on the 2026-27 school budget. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

   6.2. Public Hearing. Mr. O'Malley's presentation highlighted the exceptional financial status of the District, which includes anticipating another 4.0 perfect financial profile score from ISBE, holding in reserve 12 months of operating expenses, and being 100% debt free, which is very rare. Mr. O'Malley reviewed budgeted revenues and expenditures, revenue sources, operating fund, and reserves. He credited the Board of Education for their financial stewardship of the District. Capital projects on both campuses are fully funded without adding a tax burden on the taxpayers via a bond issue.

   Mrs. Zofkie invited comments from the audience. Hearing no comments from the Board or the audience, Mrs. Zofkie continued with the meeting.

   6.3. Close Hearing. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mr. Kress, to close the public hearing on the school budget and return to regular session. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

   6.4. Approve Budget. A motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Mr. Kress, to approve the 2026-27 school budget and associated resolutions. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

7. **Principal's Report**.

   7.1. Achievements. Mr. Dugan reported on the homecoming week activities that included powderpuff football, decorating contests for windows, hallways, and classroom doors, spirit days, class Olympics, pep assembly, sweet treats during lunch provided by Stampede, movie night, Fan Fest before the football game on Friday, and the dance on Saturday night.

   Other topics included the new Mustang Mentors program, Straight A lunch recognizing 170 students, the first annual 9/11 memorial run/walk, and status of the sports teams.

   7.2. Student Ambassador Report. Student ambassador Emily Mills reported on homecoming activities, including a video that was produced by the interns and went viral.

8. **Facility Director's Report**. Mr. Masterson reported on the status of current projects. The Mustang statue has been erected on the field and the stand has been refurbished. Work on the sports complex is almost complete. Training on the new equipment is currently being conducted. A 15-ton HVAC system will be installed above the small gym to replace a failing unit. An application for a $50,000 maintenance grant is being prepared, which will defray some of the cost.

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

- A lengthy email he received from a resident who raved about the facility and all it offers.
- Athletic Director Jim Soldan arranging a school store to offer staff options of spirit wear to choose from.
- The first Shadow Day attended by 50 students. He recognized the efforts of Jim Ramazinski, Mike Glennon, and Tim Moran to coordinate this activity.
- Homecoming week activities. He thanked all of the sponsors and staff who contributed to this event but especially Amy Kazin and Amy Kazmierowicz who were instrumental in the planning and execution of the week's activities.
- Maintenance staff who place flags around the campus to mark special dates. This is noticed and appreciated by the community.
- The very enthusiastic student section at the homecoming game.

9.1. Monthly Financial Report. The monthly bills of $870,639 are in line with the budget

9.2. Compensation Report. The annual compensation report was presented to the Board and will be posted on the website as required.

9.3. FOIA. Ten FOIA requests were handled since the last Board meeting. Responses have been sent in accordance with FOIA.

9.4. Overnight Field Trips. The Music Department submitted a request for approval of a trip to Nashville and Memphis during spring break 2028. Approval is included on the consent agenda.

9.5. Resolution Ratifying Proposed Amendments to the AERO Special Education Cooperative Articles of Joint Agreement. Mr. O'Malley reported that the Articles of Joint Agreement needed to be updated and recommended adoption of the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve the resolution ratifying proposed amendments to the AERO Special Education Cooperative Articles of Joint Agreement. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

9.6. PTAB Resolution. Mr. O'Malley explained a new process for PTAB objections that now requires a separate resolution for each objection filed. The resolution is included on the consent agenda.

10. **Committee Reports**.

- Facility Committee. Mr. Marsan reported that the Facility Committee met to review capital projects for the 2026-27 school year. He credited Mr. Masterson with saving the District hundreds of thousands of dollars due to his engineering ability and vast knowledge of construction.
- Finance Committee. Mrs. Kutschke reported that the Finance Committee also met to review capital projects. She complimented Mr. O'Malley for presenting a very clear, easy to understand budget presentation and thanked him for his financial leadership.
- AERO. Mrs. Zofkie reported that AERO currently has the smallest number of vacancies and the smallest number of contracted services ever. Enrollment at AERO has increased by 38%. Legislators will be touring the AERO facility and an application for a DCEO grant is being prepared to construct an addition of 20 classrooms. Member districts would not be required to contribute additional funds.
- SCOPE. Mr. Marsan reported that upcoming legislation was presented at the meeting.
- IASB. Mrs. Kutschke asked the Board members to review the email she sent and share their thoughts on the resolutions that will be presented at the Delegate Assembly of the November conference so that her vote represents the opinion of the Board.
- Foundation. Mr. Kress reported that preparations for the scholarship fundraiser on November 22 are in progress. Ms. Marzoni commented that the Foundation was well represented at homecoming. The Foundation Committee is looking for new members.

11. **Closed Session**. At 7:22 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, student residency, and collective bargaining. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

12. **Open Session**. At 7:54 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to reconvene in open session. Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

13. **Action Items.**

    13.1. Employment: Coach. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve employment, pending successful completion of pre-employment requirements, of assistant boys basketball coach Luke Moustakas and assistant wrestling coach Isabeau Shalack. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

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

    - Payroll: August 15, 2026: $134,172.36
      August 31, 2026: $634,814.44
    - Monthly Bill List: $870,639.21 (Education Fund: $293,296.59; Building Fund: $527,753.46; Debt Service Fund: $3,158.53; Transportation Fund: $37,258.63; Capital Projects Fund: $0; Tort Fund: $0; Life Safety Fund: $9,172.00)
    - Destruction of closed session audio recording dated March 25, 2025
    - Music Department trip to Nashville and Memphis during spring break 2028
    - Meeting notes for the Finance and Facilities Committees
    - Meijer PTAB resolution

    Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

15. **Announcements.** The next regular Board of Education meeting will be October 27, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Professional Development Room.

16. **Adjournment**. At 7:57 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