EVERGREEN PARK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 231
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 25, 2026

The August 25, 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, Mrs. Tracy Ricks. Absent: Mr. Tom Schergen. Also physically present: Mr. Thomas O'Malley, Superintendent; Mr. Matt Dugan, Principal; Student Ambassadors Ryan Brennan, Emily Mills. Absent: Mr. Terry Masterson, Facilities Director.

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

4. **Communications**. Mrs. Zofkie welcomed Mrs. Ricks and the student ambassadors to the Board.

5. **Approval of Minutes**.

   5.1. June 23, 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 June 23, 2026. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

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

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

6. **Principal's Report**.

   6.1. Achievements. Mr. Dugan commented on:

   - The new electronics policy that requires that cell phones are stored in lockers all day.
   - New staff orientation.
   - Institute programs and events during the first two days of school. The frosh/transfer student orientation also took place on day two. Fifty-eight clubs and sports participated in the extracurricular fair and participation is growing.
   - AP tests taken by 203 students with 82% achieving a score of 3 or higher.
   - Registration is 99% complete with 857 students registered.
   - More than 100 students participated in Senior Sunrise. Mrs. Kazin and Mrs. Kazmierowicz were thanked for their efforts.
   - Jamari Jeffries was recognized at the CTGI conference this summer.
   - In recognition of the 25th anniversary of 9/11, a 3.4-mile walk is being planned.

   6.2. Student Ambassador Report. Student ambassadors Ryan Brennan and Emily Mills reported on:

   - Freshmen/transfer student orientation.
   - Senior Sunrise that was well attended.
   - First football game that was well attended by students.
   - New student mentor program for juniors and seniors. The application process has started; applicants will be interviewed.

7. **Facility Director's Report**. In Mr. Masterson's absence, Mr. O'Malley reported that the construction projects are nearing completion. The English Department is enjoying their new office. In addition to the new lab, the band hall washrooms were renovated. At the sports complex, the bowling alley is 98% complete, the upstairs bathrooms and fitness center are done, and the downstairs bathrooms are almost done.

   Mr. O'Malley expressed his appreciation to our custodial staff who have done a great job preparing the building for the opening of school.

8. **Superintendent's Report**. Mr. O'Malley thanked the staff for their efforts during the first two days and the great job of welcoming the students back. He also commented on the remarks of a transfer family who said they were welcomed by everyone.

   8.1. Monthly Financial Report. This month's bills of $2,779,732 are in line with the budget. Two million dollars was spent on capital improvements.

   8.2. FOIA Requests. Responses have been sent for five FOIA requests received this month.

   8.3. Resolution: Debt Fund Transfer. A motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve the resolution authorizing a permanent interfund transfer for FY26 of $33,178.77 from the Education Fund to the Debt Service Fund. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

   8.4. Tentative Budget. A motion was made by Mr, Kress, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve the tentative 2026-27 budget. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

   8.5. Resolution: Appoint Township Trustee. A motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Ms. Kutschke, to approve the resolution appointing Thomas O'Malley as Trustee of Schools for Evergreen Park High School. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

   8.6. Overnight Field Trip. Mr. O'Malley presented his recommendation to approve the softball team's request for an overnight field trip to a tournament in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, during spring break.

9. **Committee Reports**.

   - Facility Committee. A meeting will be scheduled in the next few weeks.
   - Finance Committee. A meeting will be scheduled in the next few weeks.
   - Policy Committee. After reporting on the IASB-recommended changes consisting mostly of updated language and footnotes, Mrs. Zofkie presented the Policy Committee recommendation that the Board adopt PRESS Issues 121, 122 and policy 2:70 on the consent agenda.
   - AERO. The next meeting will be September 16, 2026.
   - SCOPE. The next meeting will be September 28, 2026.
   - IASB. Mrs. Kutschke reported that today is the first day that Board candidates can begin circulating their election petitions. She also reported on passing of Senate Bill 3070, which provides for students to take two years of CTE courses in place of the foreign language requirement.

10. **Closed Session**. At 7:02 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, student residency, and collective bargaining. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

11. **Open Session**. At 7:26 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, seconded by Mr. Kress, to reconvene in open session. Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

12. **Action Items**.

   12.1. Employment: Coach. A motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to approve employment, contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment requirements, of assistant football coach Brandon White. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

   12.2. Extracurricular Appointments. A motion was made by Mr. Kress, seconded by Ms. Marzoni, to appoint Carl Raczka as a co-class sponsor, Antonio Cruz as fall play choreographer, and Dave Pierce as weight room supervisor. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

   12.3. Independent Contractor Approval. A motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Mr. Kress, to approve the employment contract for Deb Schillo for the 2026-27 school year. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

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

- Payroll for:
  - June 15: $157,401.51
  - June 30: $210,584.11
  - July 15: $138,789.27
  - July 31: $140,211.11
- Monthly bills for:
  - June: $2,011,786.86 (Education Fund: $382,406.64; Building Fund: $1,608,452.92; Debt Service Fund: $3,158.52; Transportation Fund, $14,329.29; Capital Projects Fund: $0; Tort Fund: $0; Life Safety Fund: $3,439.50)
  - July: $2,779,732.11 (Education Fund: $241,240.26; Building Fund: $2,474,001.06; Debt Service Fund: $3,158.52; Transportation Fund, $26,492.26; Capital Projects Fund: $0; Tort Fund: $0; Life Safety Fund: $34,840.00)
- Destruction of closed session audio recordings dated January 28 and February 25, 2025
- Overnight field trip to a softball tournament to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee
- August 18, 2026, Policy Committee summary notes
- PRESS Issues 121, 122, and Policy 2:70
- Destruction of closed session recordings dated January 28 and February 25, 2025
- Policy Committee notes
- PRESS Issues 121, 122, and Policy 2:70

Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

14. **Announcements**. The next Board meeting will be held on September 29, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Professional Development Room.

15. **Adjournment**. At 7:30 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Marzoni, 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