

EVERGREEN PARK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 231
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 14, 2021

The December 14, 2021, 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 7:00 p.m. by President Larry Symanski.
2. **Roll Call.** On roll call, the following members were physically present: Mr. Larry Symanski, Mrs. Mary Zofkie, Mrs. Maryann Kutschke, Mr. Chris Brett, Mr. Thomas Marsan, Ms. Laura McRae. Absent: Mr. Thomas Schergen. Also physically present: Mr. Thomas O'Malley, Superintendent; Mr. William Sanderson, Assistant Superintendent/Principal; Mr. Terry Masterson, Facilities Director; Student Ambassador Mary Grace Kane; absent, Mallik Kelly.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance.** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Symanski.
4. **Communications.** Mr. Brett congratulated the Madrigals who were featured on the EP Podcast.

Dr. Tina Ward distributed a book to the Board for a reading project that is jointly sponsored by the LRC and EP public library and will include a tour of the restaurant Unidad for the Culinary Arts club.
5. **Approval of Minutes.**
 - 5.1. November 16, 2021. A motion was made by Mrs. Zofkie, seconded by Mr. Marsan, to approve the open and closed session minutes of the Board meeting on November 16, 2021. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Yes: Mr. Symanski, Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Marsan, Ms. McRae
Abstain: Mr. Brett
6. **Principal's Report.** Mr. Sanderson reported that Friday is the last day of school, and two weeks are remaining in the term after winter break.
 - 6.1. **Student Ambassador Report.** Student ambassador Mary Grace Kane reported on discussion at the Principal's Advisory meeting that included the following topics:
 - Creating a staff member of the month program to give students a venue for expressing appreciation
 - Extended LRC hours have been useful for students
 - Efforts to involve more students in spirit days
 - Teachers not consistently applying the policy, especially in AP classes, to allow students to retake tests and to submit makeup work until the end of the term
7. **Facility Director's Report.** Mr. Masterson reported on current projects that will be completed over break. Air conditioning is being installed in the pool balcony, and two locker rooms are being renovated with new lockers, floors, ceiling, lighting, and a coaches' office.
8. **Superintendent's Report.** Mr. O'Malley commented on the following:
 - Toy drive for underprivileged families sponsored by NHS students and sponsor Ben Nesler
 - The Madrigals on their busy performance schedule
 - Teacher Pat Doran for recognizing student Chaz Barnes' unique ability to multiply large numbers in his head. He has been featured in the Patch and will appear on Good Day, Chicago.
 - Expressed thanks and commended the staff and Support Squad for their hard work to ensure student success in difficult circumstances
 - 8.1. **Monthly Financial Report.** Mr. O'Malley reported that the monthly bills totaled \$489,950 and are in line with the budget.
 - 8.2. **FOIA Request.** A request from Smart Procure for purchasing records has been fulfilled in accordance with FOIA.
 - 8.3. **Resolutions: 2021 Tax Levy.** Mr. O'Malley explained the tax levy and the process by which the District generates revenue through property taxes.

A motion was made by Mrs. Zofkie, seconded by Mr. Marsan to approve the resolution adopting the tax levy for 2021 and the resolution authorizing reduction of certain fund levies for the 2021 levy year. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Yes: Mr. Symanski, Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Brett, Mr. Marsan, Ms. McRae

- 8.4. Resolution: Property Tax Relief Grant. District 231 is again eligible for the Property Tax Relief Grant. Over the last 3 years, \$2.7 has been abated to the taxpayers. This year, the abatement amount is \$839,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Brett, seconded by Ms. McRae, to approve the resolution partially abating the 2021 tax levy as a result of the Property Tax Relief Grant. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Yes: Mr. Symanski, Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Brett, Mr. Marsan, Ms. McRae

- 8.5. Overnight Field Trip. Mr. O'Malley recommended approval on the consent agenda of an overnight field trip request to attend the ILMEA All-State Festival in Peoria from January 26-29, 2022.

9. **Committee Reports.**

- AERO. Mrs. Zofkie updated the Board on the bidding process currently in progress for the construction of the new AERO facility. She also reported on the plans and timeline of the search for a new executive director.
- Foundation. The Mustang Derby races are still in progress to raise funds for the Scholarship Committee.

10. **Closed Session.** At 7:29 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Brett, seconded by Mr. Marsan, to recess to closed session regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of an employee, litigation, and collective bargaining. Motion carried on roll call vote.

Yes: Mr. Symanski, Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Brett, Mr. Marsan, Ms. McRae

11. **Open Session.** At 8:06 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Zofkie, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to reconvene in open session. Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

12. **Action Items.**

- 12.1. Employment: Paraprofessionals. A motion was made by Mr. Brett, seconded by Mrs. Zofkie, to approve employment of paraprofessionals José Cardenas and Kevin Brennan contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment requirements. Motion carried on roll call vote.

Yes: Mr. Symanski, Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Brett, Mr. Marsan, Ms. McRae

- 12.2. Resignation. A motion was made by Mrs. Zofkie, seconded by Ms. McRae, to accept the resignation of paraprofessional Sara Torres. Motion carried on roll call vote.

Yes: Mr. Symanski, Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Brett, Mr. Marsan, Ms. McRae

- 12.3. Employment: Coaches. A motion was made by Mr. Brett, seconded by Mr. Marsan, to approve employment, contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment requirements, of Edgar Montelongo as head girls soccer coach and Matt Majchrowicz as assistant girls soccer coach. Motion carried on roll call vote.

Yes: Mr. Symanski, Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Brett, Mr. Marsan, Ms. McRae

- 12.4. LRC Supervisors. A motion was made by Mrs. Zofkie, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to approve Karen Hewitt and Geordie Lux to provide LRC evening supervision. Motion carried on roll call vote.

Yes: Mr. Symanski, Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Brett, Mr. Marsan, Ms. McRae

- 12.5. Volunteer Coach. A motion was made by Mr. Marsan, seconded by Ms. McRae, to approve John Majka as a wrestling coach volunteer, contingent upon successful completion of a criminal background check. Motion carried on roll call vote.

Yes: Mr. Symanski, Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Brett, Mr. Marsan, Ms. McRae

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

- Payroll: November 15, 2021: \$470,998.24
November 30, 2021: \$486,254.56
- Monthly Bill List: \$489,950.11 (Education Fund: \$347,770.92; Building Fund: \$73,195.48; Debt Service Fund: \$2,500.46; Transportation Fund: \$51,142.25; Capital Projects Fund: \$975.00; Tort Fund: \$0; Life Safety Fund: \$14,366.00)
- Destruction of closed session audio recording dated June 23, 2020
- Overnight field trip to ILMEA All-State Festival in Peoria from January 26-29, 2022

Motion carried on roll call vote.

Yes: Mr. Symanski, Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Brett, Mr. Marsan, Ms. McRae

14. **Announcements.** The next Board meeting will be held on January 25, 2022, at 7 p.m. in the Professional Development Room.
15. **Adjournment.** At 8:15 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Zofkie, seconded by Mrs. Kutschke, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

President

Secretary

Sheri Sochacki
Recording Secretary