

**EVERGREEN PARK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 231**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 28, 2023**

The February 28, 2023, 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 LRC Professional Development Room.

Students were paired with the following Board members and administrators for this student leadership meeting:

Mr. Larry Symanski, President	Helen Joyce
Mrs. Mary Zofkie, Vice President	Gabrielle Smith
Mrs. Maryann Kutschke, Secretary	Abby Rech
Mr. Michael Kress	Katie Downey-McGurk
Mr. Thomas Marsan	Karalyn Burke
Ms. Laura McRae	Maggie Tracy
Mr. Thomas Schergen	Jamia Head
Mr. Thomas O'Malley, Superintendent	Jack Donnelly
Mr. William Sanderson, Principal	Charley Burns
Mr. Terry Masterson, Facilities Director	Charley Burns
Student Ambassador	Kai Odom
Student Ambassador	Micky Joyce

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Student President Helen Joyce.
2. **Roll Call.** On roll call, the following members were present: Mr. Larry Symanski, Mrs. Mary Zofkie, Mrs. Maryann Kutschke, Mr. Thomas Marsan, Ms. Laura McRae. Absent: Mr. Michael Kress, Mr. Thomas Schergen. On roll call, the following student Board members were present: Helen Joyce, Gabrielle Smith, Abby Rech, Katie Downey-McGurk, Maggie Tracy, Jamia Head. Absent: Karalyn Burke. Also present: Mr. Thomas O'Malley, Superintendent; Jack Donnelly, Student Superintendent; Mr. William Sanderson, Principal; Mr. Terry Masterson, Facilities Director; Charley Burns, Student Principal and Student Facilities Director; Student Ambassadors Kai Odom and Micky Joyce.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance.** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Joyce.
4. **Communications.** Mr. Symanski welcomed the students and commented that the Board is excited for the return of the student leadership meeting following a hiatus due to COVID.
5. **Approval of Minutes.**
  - 5.1. January 24, 2023, Special Meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Tracy, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the open and closed session minutes of the special Board meeting on January 24, 2023. Motion carried on a roll call vote.  
  
Yes: Ms. Joyce, Ms. Smith, Ms. Rech, Ms. Downey-McGurk, Ms. Tracy
  - 5.2. January 24, 2023, Regular Meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Head, seconded by Ms. Downey-McGurk, to approve the open and closed session minutes of the regular Board meeting on January 24, 2023. Motion carried on a roll call vote.  
  
Yes: Ms. Joyce, Ms. Smith, Ms. Rech, Ms. Downey-McGurk, Ms. Tracy
6. **Principal's Report.**
  - 6.1. Achievements. Ms. Burns reported on the following
    - New student drop-off rules for 99<sup>th</sup> Street parking lot
    - Straight A luncheon
    - Mustang Pride breakfast
    - Freshman registration of 209 eighth grades
    - December staff members of the month Terence Masterson, Mark Smyth, and Ron Zimmerman
    - Honor Roll for Term 1 that incorporated 66% of the student body
  - 6.2. Student Ambassador Report. Student Ambassadors Kai Odom and Micky Joyce reported on topics discussed at the Principal's Advisory meeting including:
    - Registration for 2023-24. Overall the process worked well and students found the course guide helpful in choosing classes. Students would like more time to discuss after graduation plans with their counselors.
    - School musical performances were well attended.

- Spirit week. The assembly will be optional. A staff vs. students volleyball game is planned. Students voted on the spirit day themes. The week will culminate in the Spring Fling dance.
  - NHS talent show, which raises money for a charity each year.
  - Staff Member of the Month.
7. **Director of Facilities Report.** Student Director of Facilities Charley Burns reported on the RFP for landscape services.
- 7.1. Landscape Contract. A motion was made by Ms. Tracy, seconded by Ms. Downey-McGurk, to approve the RFP submitted by Fox Landscape to provide services for 3 years. Motion carried on a roll call vote.
- Yes: Ms. Joyce, Ms. Smith, Ms. Rech, Ms. Downey-McGurk, Ms. Tracy
8. **Superintendent's Report.** Student Superintendent Jack Donnelly congratulated Amy and Ken Kazin on the wonderful performance of *The Lightning Thief, the Percy Jackson Musical*.
- 8.1. Monthly Financial Report. The monthly bills totaled \$553,907 and are in line with the budget.
- 8.2. FOIA. One FOIA request was submitted by Local Labs requesting teacher salaries for 2020, 2021, and 2022. A response has been sent in accordance with FOIA.
- 8.3. PPS Center Renovation. Mr. Donnelly reported on meetings with the Facility and Finance Committees to review the PPS Center renovation project.
- A motion was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Tracy, to approve a contract with Cosgrove Construction and a contract with Stromsland, DeYoung, Prybys Architecture Group for renovation of the PPS Center. Motion carried on a roll call vote.
- Yes: Ms. Joyce, Ms. Smith, Ms. Rech, Ms. Downey-McGurk, Ms. Tracy
- 8.4. Property Tax Relief Grant. A motion was made by Ms. Head, seconded by Ms. Downey-McGurk, to approve the resolution partially abating the 2022 tax levy as a result of the property tax relief grant. Motion carried on a roll call vote.
- Yes: Ms. Joyce, Ms. Smith, Ms. Rech, Ms. Downey-McGurk, Ms. Tracy
9. **Committee Reports.**
- Facility Committee. Ms. Downey-McGurk reported that the Facility Committee met to review capital projects for the 2022-23 school year. Following discussion of the plan for renovation of the PPS Center, the consensus was to recommend Board approval of a contract with Cosgrove Construction. Mr. O'Malley also provided an update on the current projects and future needs at the sports complex to the committee.
  - Finance Committee. Ms. Rech reported that Mr. O'Malley reviewed the financial projections, noting that a review of the FY 2022 audited figures shows that the District is ahead of previous projections. Also discussed were the roofing project and projected costs of current and future needs at the sports complex. The Property Tax Relief Grant resolution to abate \$1,088,546 was reviewed. Plans were presented for the renovation of the PPS Center.

At 7:20 p.m., the student portion of the meeting ended.

**Ratify Votes.** A motion was made by Mrs. Zofkie, seconded by Ms. McRae, to ratify the votes cast by the student Board members as the designated delegates of the elected members of the Board of Education for this Board meeting. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

10. **Closed Session.** At 7:32 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Zofkie, seconded by Mr. Marsan, to recess to closed session regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of an employee. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

11. **Open Session.** At 8:07 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Zofkie, seconded by Mr. Marsan, to reconvene in open session. Motion carried on voice vote.

12. **Action Items.**

- 12.1. Employment: Certified. A motion was made by Mrs. Zofkie, seconded by Mr. Marsan, to approve employment, contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment requirements, of Director of Special Education Mary Kerrigan. Motion carried on roll call vote.

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

- 12.2. Employment: Paraprofessional. A motion was made by Mrs. Zofkie, seconded by Mr. Marsan, to approve employment, contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment requirements, of paraprofessional Bonnie Witowski. Motion carried on roll call vote.  
Yes: Mr. Symanski, Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Marsan, Ms. McRae
- 12.3. Employment: Custodian. A motion was made by Mr. Marsan, seconded by Mrs. Zofkie, to approve employment, contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment requirements, of custodian Nicasio Perez. Motion carried on roll call vote.  
Yes: Mr. Symanski, Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Marsan, Ms. McRae
- 12.4. Employment: Coaches. A motion was made by Mr. Marsan, seconded by Ms. McRae, to approve employment, contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment requirements, of head soccer coach Carlos Bucio and head girls and boys volleyball coach Brian Zofkie. Motion carried on roll call vote.  
Yes: Mr. Symanski, Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Marsan, Ms. McRae
- 12.5. Employee Discipline. A motion was made by Mrs. Zofkie, seconded by Mr. Marsan, to issue disciplinary consequences to employee 1734 as discussed in closed session. Motion carried on roll call vote.  
Yes: Mr. Symanski, Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Marsan, Ms. McRae
- 12.6. Retirement Request. A motion was made by Mrs. Zofkie, seconded by Ms. McRae, to make a one-time exception to the collective bargaining agreement to approve the request of Bruce Scaduto to retire at the end of the 2026-27 school year. Motion carried on roll call vote.  
Yes: Mr. Symanski, Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Marsan, Ms. McRae
13. **Consent Agenda.** A motion was made by Mr. Marsan, seconded by Ms. McRae, to approve the consent agenda to include:
- Payroll: January 15, 2023: \$541,711.76  
January 31, 2023: \$545,944.02
  - Monthly Bill List: \$553,907.43 (Education Fund: \$354,886.67; Building Fund: \$124,107.70; Debt Service Fund: \$2,583.25; Transportation Fund: \$67,798.68; Capital Projects Fund: \$0; Tort Fund: \$0; Life Safety Fund: \$4,531.13)
  - Destruction of closed session audio recording dated August 24, 2021
- Motion carried on roll call vote.  
Yes: Mr. Symanski, Mrs. Zofkie, Mrs. Kutschke, Mr. Marsan, Ms. McRae
14. **Announcements.** The next Board meeting will be held on March 28, 2023, at 7 p.m. in the Board Room.
15. **Adjournment.** At 8:13 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Kutschke, seconded by Mrs. Zofkie, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

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President

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Secretary

Sheri Sochacki  
Recording Secretary