

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MARCH 19, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Grant Park Community Unit School District No. 6 Board of Education, Kankakee County, State of Illinois, was held on March 19, 2025 in the Middle School Library.

The meeting was called to order by President Markland at 6:00 p.m. and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Members present: Vicki Gawlinski
Christine Horn – arrived 6:09
Jerry Loitz
Tim Markland
Dave Marshalek
Shari Ohm
Mike Wells

Member absent: None

Also present: Dr. John Palan, Superintendent
Ms. Tracy Planeta, ES Principal
Mr. Kyle Nevills, MS/HS Principal
Mrs. Sue Anderson, Recording Secretary

Audience of 25

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by M. Wells, seconded by V. Gawlinski, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Minutes of the regular board meeting of February, 2025.
2. Financial Reports for February, 2025.
3. Direction to pay the March vendor bills in the amount of \$242,346.28.
4. Approval of the February payroll in the amount of \$353,301.65.
5. To approve Jessica Schmitt as 4th Grade Instructor for the 2025-2026 school year contingent on licensure approval and Hadleigh Loitz as Girls PE Instructor (\$42,849) for the 2025-2026 school year.
6. To accept the resignation of: Kelsey Albrecht effective at the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year.

Roll Call: M. Wells – yes; V. Gawlinski - yes; J. Loitz – abstain; D. Marshalek – yes; S. Ohm – yes; and T. Markland - yes. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE TO PERSONS SCHEDULED IN ADVANCE: Adam Fick spoke on behalf of the Ag Ed Alumni Association. They are requesting a Board of Education member attend their meetings to collaborate with them and build the relationship between the school and the Association. The Board said they would discuss this arrangement in the closed session and relay the decision as soon as possible.

Seniors Ethan Barnas and Aaron Herz were recognized and presented with certificates for being named Illinois State Scholars. They are in the top 10% in academics across the entire state. Mr. Nevills commended them on this achievement as well as their time and commitment to the school and community.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS: Administrators reports are attached. Ms. Planeta relayed activities for Read Across America last week in the ES. She has incentive rewards planned and will have conversations with each student regarding the upcoming IAR testing. Mr. Nevills will also be rewarding students with field trips for the IAR and ACT/SAT testing. The HS has been mandated to change back to the ACT this year with science as one of the components to the test. Since this is new teachers have been holding review sessions for the students to better prepare them for the test.

Superintendent: Dr. Palan's report included:

1. The Statement of Economic Interest from the Kankakee County Clerk for BOE members is due soon.
2. MS Gym Air Conditioning project will take place over spring break.
3. Dedication of Preschool Center in Shari Ohm's name will be scheduled for a date in May. Mrs. Ohm was a pioneer in getting pre-school to the district.
4. The Strategic Plan is updated every five to six years and discussions should be started soon regarding the timeline.
5. February enrollment remained the same over January.

Architect Jake Been from Healy Bender was in attendance to discuss the potential timeline for the mechanical and roofing renovation work at the ES. He presented a three year tentative project schedule and explained to the Board the various options and timelines for each phase of the project. He also provided a current procurement timeline for each of the many mechanical units required but warned that this could easily change by the time the district's project is in progress. Approval to move the design phase forward will be needed in April. The bid phase for the mechanical project could happen around Thanksgiving. Construction could begin in early 2026 with much work being done in the summer of 2026. Asbestos abatement will need to be woven into the project. Board members were extremely appreciative of the schedule presented and now have a better understanding of the process going forward.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President: No report

Building and Grounds: The ES vestibule project will be quoted soon. This project is intended to increase security and visibility at the office. ID's will be scanned outside before anyone can enter the building. The renovations will also provide a walkway for the preschoolers away from all of the windows. Also discussed was the need for a plan to get the current boilers through next winter since those projects will potentially take place next summer. More information is being gathered for a new scoreboard for the main gym. This is needed to satisfy the new IHSA regulations requiring a shot clock. The scoreboard under consideration can also be used for many other purposes including graduation videos, movies, etc.

Technology:

APPROVAL TO PURCHASE TEACHER LAPTOPS:

Motion was made by S. Ohm, seconded by C. Horn, to approve the purchase of teacher laptops at a cost of \$73,279 for the 2025-2026 school year. Roll Call: S. Ohm – yes; C. Horn – yes; V. Gawlinski – yes; J. Loitz – yes; D. Marshalek – yes; M. Wells – yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Kankakee Area Special Education Co-op: No report

Kankakee Area Career Center: No report

IASB-Three Rivers Division: No report

Chamber of Commerce: Discussion at the recent meeting included exploring putting electric on the phone poles.

Communications Committee: No report

Student Representatives: U.S. History classes took a field trip to Springfield and participated in many tours; NHS induction ceremony will take place soon; NHS projects include an ice cream float fundraiser, a blood drive and Build-A-Bear donations; Student Council will be sponsoring a book drive; Scholastic Bowl completed their season; and the HS play was once again well-attended and very successful.

Board Communications: None noted

Finance/Transportation Committee: Three options were reviewed for future transportation needs for the district. After much consideration the committee decided to explore an external company to service the transportation. Most of the small area schools are utilizing this path due to the lack of drivers and the increasing cost of bus leases.

APPROVAL TO RELEASE BID FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES:

Motion was made by M. Wells, seconded by C. Horn, to approve the bid release for transportation services for the 2025-2026 school year. Roll Call: M. Wells – yes; C. Horn – yes; V. Gawlinski – yes; J. Loitz – yes; D. Marshalek – yes; S. Ohm – yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY FORUM AND OTHER: There were no comments or questions from the audience.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by J. Loitz, seconded by V. Gawlinski, at 7:03 p.m. to go into Executive Session for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-0057.

Roll Call: J. Loitz - yes; V. Gawlinski - yes; C. Horn – yes; D. Marshalek - yes; S. Ohm – yes; M. Wells – yes; and T. Markland - yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING:

President Markland declared the closed session was over at 8:00 p.m. and the meeting would continue in Open Session.

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:

Motion was made by V. Gawlinski, seconded by J. Loitz, at 8:01 p.m. to approve the Executive Session minutes as read. Roll Call: V. Gawlinski - yes; J. Loitz - yes; C. Horn – yes; D. Marshalek – yes; S. Ohm – yes; M. Wells – yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE REEMPLOYMENT OF THE CERTIFIED STAFF FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR:

Motion was made by S. Ohm, seconded by C. Horn, to approve the superintendent’s recommendation for the reemployment of certified staff for the 2025-26 school year as presented. Roll Call: S. Ohm - yes; C. Horn - yes; V. Gawlinski - yes; J. Loitz - yes; D. Marshalek - yes; M. Wells – yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

Motion was made by T. Markland, seconded by V. Gawlinski, at 8:03 p.m. to adjourn. Voice vote, all yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Jerry Loitz

Secretary

Tim Markland

President