

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 18, 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 August 18, 2025 in the Middle School Library.

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Palan at 6:00 p.m.

Members present: Vicki Gawlinski
Christine Horn
Jerry Loitz
Dave Marshalek
Sarah Toma
Mike Wells

Member absent: Tim Markland

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

Audience of 13

APPOINTMENT OF A PRESIDENT PRO TEM:

In President Markland's absence, a motion was made by C. Horn, seconded by J. Loitz, to appoint Vicki Gawlinski as President Pro tem for this meeting. Voice vote, all yes. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

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

1. Minutes of the regular board meeting of July 21, 2025.
2. Financial Reports for July, 2025.
3. Direction to pay the August vendor bills in the amount of \$392,284.95.
4. Approval of the July payroll in the amount of \$324,661.67.
5. Approval of the District #6 Sub Pay Rate: \$135 per day.
6. To approve Stephanie Brower-Burke for MS Paraprofessional (Special Needs) at \$17.33 per hour, Dave Rademacher as 8th grade boys basketball coach (\$4,268), Laura Riojas as ES Office Assistant (\$19.60 per hour) and Maggie McGonigle as ES Special Education Teacher (\$52,232).

7. To approve the 2025-26 Mentors: Lee Bell, Jennifer Capizzano, Jennifer Anglin, Lee Ellen Palan and Tracy Hood (payment as per the CBA).
8. Approval of the 2025-26 Support Staff Handbook as presented.
9. To approve the annual route raises (5.5%) for GP Bus Drivers.

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

AUDIENCE TO PERSONS SCHEDULED IN ADVANCE: Mrs. Glenn and Ms. Planeta placed yard signs congratulating the HS students that earned college credit in the AP class they took last year. Abby Garcia and Lilly Johnson were in attendance as two of the students who successfully earned credit for their AP Euro class.

Next, the district's attorney, John Fester, presented the options before the board when beginning the superintendent search process. Mr. Markland asked him to come in and explain to the board members the three methods that are available to fill the position. First, the board can go it alone and fill the position themselves by advertising, interviewing and selecting candidates without any outside help. This method will cost the least but take the most time and may not produce many quality applicants. Second, the board can hire a search firm. A search firm has broader access to a much larger network of candidates and would do all of the advertising, screening, background checks and interview management to get the pool down to about three to five candidates for the board to interview. Mr. Fester provided a list of four search firms he was familiar with and suggested if they go this route to begin interviewing the firms as soon as possible. Hiring a search firm would be costly, though, an investment between \$15,000 and \$20,000. The third method would be to get help from the Illinois Association of School Boards, which is similar to hiring a search firm but much less costly. The IASB would get a different pool of candidates than a professional search firm since they do not have as broad a reach. Mr. Fester told the board they would be wise to choose their preferred process by September and get the process started soon. Ideally, they should be done with the search by January. The board thanked Mr. Fester for his time and for coming down to explain the superintendent search process in depth.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS: Administrators reports are attached. Mrs. Glenn thanked the custodians, the office staff and Dr. Palan and had a great first day with the staff and students.

Superintendent: Dr. Palan's report included:

1. All job descriptions are almost completed.
2. A Social Media Presentation will be held on September 8th. There will be three sessions during the day for students and a meeting at night for the parents. It will be advertised on social media to try to get a good turnout.
3. Grant Park #6 Leadership Initiatives and academic target goals for the 2025-26 school year derived from the annual retreat are in place.
4. A preliminary enrollment report will be available soon as there are still students coming in and going out of the district.

APPROVAL OF THE TEMPORARY OCCUPANCY PERMIT:

Motion was made by D. Marshalek, seconded by C. Horn, to approve the temporary occupancy permit for the modular unit, as presented, for the 2025-26 school year. Roll Call: D. Marshalek - yes; C. Horn - yes; J. Loitz - yes; S. Toma - yes; M. Wells - yes; and V. Gawlinski – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF TENTATIVE ANNUAL 2025-2026 BUDGET:

Dr. Palan reviewed the overall budget, as well as a review of the individual projected fund balances. He stated CPPRT revenue is unknown at this point and that is a big source of funds. The tentative budget shows revenue at \$7,213,700 and expenditures at \$7,511,600. The \$297,900 deficit is due to the ES vestibule project. The Transportation Fund shows a deficit but is offset by a surplus in Working Cash. Motion was made by M. Wells, seconded by S. Toma, to accept the tentative annual 2025-26 budget and place it on display in the district office for a minimum of thirty days. Roll Call: M. Wells – yes; S. Toma - yes; C. Horn - yes; J. Loitz - yes; D. Marshalek - yes; and V. Gawlinski - yes. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER (SPRING 2026) TO THE GP ATHLETIC PROGRAM:

A survey was sent out last year to determine interest in MS Soccer since GP is the only conference school that does not have this program. The cost for a coach’s stipend and uniforms will be about \$5,000-\$6,000. Games are in place but transportation will be challenging. Motion was made by J. Loitz, seconded by M. Wells, to approve adding Middle School Soccer in Spring 2026 to the Grant Park Athletic Program. Roll Call: J. Loitz - yes; M. Wells - yes; C. Horn - yes; D. Marshalek - yes; S. Toma - yes; and V. Gawlinski – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President: No report

Building and Grounds: A punch list needs to be reviewed for the ES Vestibule/Office project; Healy Bender will have the HVAC design ready very soon; and quotes for the ES parking lot drainage issue are being evaluated.

Technology: No report

Kankakee Area Special Education Co-op: No report

Kankakee Area Career Center: At the recent meeting it was announced that there are now 19 schools and 850 students at the Career Center and Prairie State College is now offering dual credit.

IASB-Three Rivers Division: No report

Chamber of Commerce: No report

Communications Committee: Ms. Gawlinski and Ms. Planeta are finalizing the style book.

FFA/Ag Alumni: No report

Finance Committee: A meeting will be scheduled in September to review the budget.

Student Representatives: Students will be in attendance next month.

Board Communications: Stephanie Brower-Burke was introduced as the new MS Paraprofessional and comes to the district with ten years experience.

COMMUNITY FORUM AND OTHER: None

ADJOURN:

Motion was made by J. Loitz, seconded by M. Wells, at 6:47 p.m. to adjourn. Voice vote, all yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Jerry Loitz
Secretary

Tim Markland
President