

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Grant Park Community Unit School District No. 6 Board of Education, Kankakee County, State of Illinois, was held on January 26, 2026 in the Middle School Library.

The meeting was called to order by President Markland at 5:30 p.m. and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

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

Members absent: None

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

Audience of 28

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by V. Gawlinski, seconded by J. Loitz, at 5:30 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: V. Gawlinski - yes; J. Loitz – yes; C. Horn – yes; D. Marshalek - yes; S. Toma - yes; M. Wells - yes; and T. Markland - yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING:

President Markland declared the closed session was over at 5:55 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 5:56 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. Toma - yes; M. Wells – yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

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

1. Minutes of the regular and special board meetings from December 2025.
2. Financial Reports for December, 2025.
3. Direction to pay the January vendor bills in the amount of \$247,647.11.
4. Approval of the December payroll in the amount of \$402,404.59.
5. Approve the following recommendations for employment: Mark Boccia as MS Soccer Coach (\$2265 plus TRS) and Ashley Moseley as MS Soccer Assistant Coach (\$1215 plus TRS).
6. Approval of the 2026-27 Chromebook purchase of \$44,298.98.
7. Approval of the 2026-27 school calendar, as presented, contingent on ISBE approval.

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

AUDIENCE TO PERSONS SCHEDULED IN ADVANCE: Mrs. Chrissy Pickens, ES STEM teacher, presented detailed projects her students are working on in class to learn how to design, build, communicate and collaborate. Two students demonstrated the tools used to help them solve problems. Mrs. Pickens teaches that failure is okay because it helps students to create a growth mindset. Ms. Planeta thanked the students for participating in the STEM presentation.

Next, Mrs. Glenn introduced the four Illinois State Scholars: Emily Voigt, Lina Piperas, Sam VanKalker and Preston Wallace. This award is for the best academic achievement in the State and combines ACT scores, cumulative GPA and other activities.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORTS: Administrators’ reports are attached.

Superintendent: Dr. Palan’s report included:

1. HLS Pre-construction meeting was held last week and timelines for the projects were presented. The asbestos abatement will take place over spring break and the remainder of the ES construction project will begin as soon as school is out. The project is expected to be completed on August 14th. Information will be disseminated to the teachers and via the Messenger to keep everyone apprised of the progress.
2. School Maintenance Grant has been approved in the amount of \$50,000 and will offset the cost of the AC Chiller.
3. The renewal information for the 14 passenger bus for 2026-27 was not yet available. Dr. Palan is looking into buying an additional activity bus or a passenger van to help with the multitude of extracurricular trips.
4. December enrollment remained the same from November.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #12726 TO KEEP EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES CLOSED:

Motion was made by S. Toma, seconded by V. Gawlinski, to maintain the need for confidentiality in executive session minutes as indicated in Schedule A, as presented. Roll Call: S. Toma - yes; V. Gawlinski - yes; C. Horn - yes; J. Loitz - yes; D. Marshalek - yes; M. Wells - yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026:

Mr. Markland outlined the superintendent search process and thanked the board and various stakeholders for their time and commitment to this process. Motion was made by J. Loitz, seconded by V. Gawlinski, to approve Dr. Sean McNichols as Superintendent of Schools effective July 1, 2026. Roll Call: J. Loitz - yes; V. Gawlinski - yes; C. Horn - yes; D. Marshalek - yes; S. Toma - yes; M. Wells - yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President: No report

Building and Grounds: No report

Technology: ERATE will be filed soon with a 20-30% match and upcoming technology purchases include a new server, firewall and access points.

Kankakee Area Special Education Co-op: No report

Kankakee Area Career Center: No report

IASB-Three Rivers Division: The schedule of meetings was presented and April 7th is the Three Rivers meeting in Frankfort.

Chamber of Commerce: At the last meeting the village Christmas decorations were discussed.

Communications Committee: The last meeting was postponed.

FFA/Ag Alumni: The committee voted to pay for students' meals at the various events.

Finance Committee: The next meeting will be held in February or March.

Student Representatives: The Homecoming Dance was held last Saturday; Mr. Osborne and the Math Team hosted the RVC Math Contest; the recent Alumni basketball game was well attended; and the basketball teams are participating in a program coaching the younger players.

Board Communications: None

COMMUNITY FORUM AND OTHER: None

ADJOURN:

Motion was made by J. Loitz, seconded by D. Marshalek, at 6:50 p.m. to adjourn. Voice vote, all yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Jerry Loitz
Secretary

Tim Markland
President