

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 22, 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 September 22, 2025 in the Middle School Library.

The meeting was called to order by President Markland at 6:00 p.m.

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

Member 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 13

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

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

1. Minutes of the regular board meeting of August 18, 2025.
2. Financial Reports for August, 2025.
3. Direction to pay the September vendor bills in the amount of \$350,473.68.
4. Approval of the August payroll in the amount of \$321,231.58.
5. Approval of resignations of Christa Baker (ES Paraprofessional) and Matt Russell (HS Boys' Basketball).
6. To approve Angie Franco (8th grade Girls' Basketball Coach at \$4,268), Peter Barrera (6th grade Boys' Basketball Coach at \$1,684), Rhiannon Currier and Jenni Hoekstra (HS Student Council Co-Sponsors at \$624 each) Kim Wells (HS Cheerleading Sponsor at \$2,407), Mark Boccia (MS Student Council Sponsor at \$720) and Kelly Lara (Volunteer MS Girls' Basketball Coach-pending proper certification).

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

AUDIENCE TO PERSONS SCHEDULED IN ADVANCE:

PRESENTATION OF THE FY 2024 AUDIT:

Mr. Russ Leigh, of Russell Leigh and Associates, presented the report on the audit of Fiscal Year 2025, explaining the fund balances and financial condition of the district at the year's end. He said it was a clean audit with no findings. The three operating funds, Education, Operations and Maintenance, and Transportation, are all in solid shape with all of the funds having over a year of cash on hand. Mr. Leigh warned that revenue will most likely decline in the transportation fund this year, as well as reduced Corporate Personal Property Tax revenue. As every district in Illinois, the pension liability was extremely underfunded and the state may turn to the local taxing bodies in the future to cover this shortfall. The audit will be placed on file in the District Office. Motion was made by M. Wells, seconded by S. Toma, to approve the FY 2025 audit as presented. Roll Call: M. Wells – yes; S. Toma - yes; V. Gawlinski - yes; C. Horn - yes; J. Loitz - yes; D. Marshalek - yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS: Administrators' reports are attached. Ms. Planeta stated there is one new bus driver now as he passed all required testing. Mrs. Glenn added that there was positive feedback from the staff for the safety drills last week.

Superintendent: Dr. Palan's report included:

1. Most job descriptions have been updated at this point and are being reviewed.
2. Overview of the School Improvement Plans:
Mrs. King and Ms. Goedke presented the goals for K-2nd grade. They are going back to basics with ELA and math and will focus on early interventions. Ms. Planeta shared the goals for 3rd – 5th grades. Together they detailed the academic and non-academic goals for the year. Ms. Planeta will also meet with all students individually over the course of the year to see how they are progressing.
Mrs. Glenn shared the details of the plan for MS and HS. She will review this plan monthly with the staff for ongoing input and critique. The goals are separated by academic, culture/climate and attendance.
3. GP has been named a "Top Ten Most Admired School District" by an educational magazine. The article will be published in November
4. August total enrollment is 456, Pre-K through 12th grade.

OPENING OF THE FY 2026 BUDGET HEARING:

Motion was made by V. Gawlinski, seconded by S. Toma, at 6:20 p.m. to open the FY 2026 budget hearing. Voice vote, all yes. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSING OF THE FY 2026 BUDGET HEARING:

Dr. Palan reviewed the FY '26 budget that has been on display for 30 days and stated that there have been a couple of changes since the tentative budget was presented. Costs for repairs to the ES parking lot drainage issue and the superintendent search cost have been added. The budget presented shows a deficit of \$319,900 in the O&M fund due to the many projects being undertaken. Some local funds will be used for some of these projects. The

overall budget shows revenues of \$7,228,700 and expenditures of \$7,548,600. The Transportation fund shows a deficit due to an increase in the cost of the bus leases over the last few years but is offset by a surplus in Working Cash. Dr. Palan stated that he will likely amend this budget in the spring after more of the construction costs are known.

Following this discussion, a motion was made by C. Horn, seconded by J. Loitz, at 6:25 p.m. to close the FY 2026 budget hearing. Voice vote, all yes. Motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF THE FY 2026 BUDGET:

Motion was made by M. Wells, seconded by S. Toma, at 6:26 p.m. to accept the superintendent's recommendation to adopt the budget for the 2025-26 school year as presented. Roll Call: M. Wells – yes; S. Toma – yes; V. Gawlinski – yes; C. Horn – yes; J. Loitz – yes; D. Marshalek – yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #092225 REGARDING KANKAKEE AREA SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE BY-LAWS:

Motion was made by V. Gawlinski, seconded by J. Loitz, to approve Resolution #092225 pertaining to the proposed amendments to the Kankakee Area Special Education Cooperative By-Laws which admits Mومence back into the Coop. 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.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President: No report

Building and Grounds: The baseball field is being re-sodded at a cost of less than \$2,000.

Technology: No report

Kankakee Area Special Education Co-op: No report

Kankakee Area Career Center: No report

IASB-Three Rivers Division: No report

Chamber of Commerce: Community parks are getting a facelift and will be completed by the spring.

Communications Committee: No report

FFA/Ag Alumni: Students participated in a Forestry competition last week.

Finance Committee: No report

Student Representatives: NHS Blood Drive is on October 1st; Post Prom held a mum fundraiser; Pink Night will be on October 24th and preparations have already begun; HS Soccer, Golf and Volleyball have had some successes in their seasons.

Board Communications: None

COMMUNITY FORUM AND OTHER: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by V. Gawlinski, seconded by C. Horn, at 6:59 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; C. Horn - yes; J. Loitz – 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 7:31 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 7:32 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 MOU WITH GP #6 ASSOCIATION:

Motion was made by D. Marshalek, seconded by M. Wells, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Grant Park #6 Education Association regarding adding MS Soccer and changing the stipend for MS Student Council. Roll Call: D. Marshalek - yes; M. Wells - yes; V. Gawlinski - yes; C. Horn - yes; J. Loitz- yes; S. Toma - yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH FIRM:

Motion was made by J. Loitz, seconded by V. Gawlinski, to approve Pezanoski Consulting as the firm the board would like to conduct the superintendent search process for a fee not to exceed \$15,000. 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.

ADJOURN:

Motion was made by D. Marshalek, seconded by M. Wells, at 7:33 p.m. to adjourn. Voice vote, all yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Jerry Loitz
Secretary

Tim Markland
President