

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
LA GRANGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 105  
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the District 105 Board of Education was called to order by Dr. Robert Sherman at 7:00 PM on Monday, April 28, 2025.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Sheila Bryck, Amy Flaherty Hartman, Candice Mares, Robert Sherman, Bryan White, Kelly Young; Late: None, Absent: Elias Lopez.

**CLOSED SESSION**

There was not a Closed Session Meeting on this evening.

**BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Ganan shared announcements for each school:

Gurrie Shines Beyond the Classroom: D105 is proud to celebrate several recent student accomplishments that highlight the talent and dedication of our Gurrie Tigers. The Gurrie Band earned a Division 1 "Superior" rating at this year's Band-o-Rama. Congratulations to Mr. Tabor and our amazing musicians! Sydney Hartman achieved an impressive placement in the Junior Scholastic contest "Can You Find Mapman?", finishing in the top 25 out of over 3,500 entries. Student artwork is currently on display at the La Grange Public Library, showcasing the creativity and skill of our young artists.

History at Hodgkins: Last month, Hodgkins 4th graders took the lead in their wax museum projects. They selected historical figures, conducted research, dressed up as their chosen figures, and created informational boards. The entire school community was invited to the library, where the presentations were held, to learn about these historical figures.

Ideal Saves the Turtles: Ideal spent the month of April participating in the annual 'Ideal Read Experience.' On April 15th, Ideal welcomed Sarah Thomson, author of Save the Turtles, for a visit with students. Students then created projects at home about saving turtles using recycled materials. On April 25th, students had the opportunity to see turtles and other ocean life in action with an all-school field trip to the Shedd Aquarium! A huge thank you to Mrs. Hobe for planning the author visit and field trip and to the Ideal PTO for sponsoring the author and a show for all students at the Shedd.

Seventh Avenue students will be presenting "We're All Wonders" to the Board this evening. We are excited to hear from them.

D105 Foundation Scholarships: Each year, the D105 Foundation awards scholarships to one former D105 student from each elementary totaling four annual scholarships. The Foundation is proud to announce that this year's winners are Melina Lopez-Hodgkins, Sebastian Nevarez-Ideal School, Noemi Arredondo-Seventh Avenue School, and London Muscolino-Spring Avenue School.

## **PUBLIC PRESENTATION**

Dr. Sherman read the following policy on public comment procedures.

“The Board understands the importance of public comments as a means of direct communication between our community and the school board. We share a passion for decision making that best educates our students while keeping them safe. To that end, let's remember to keep this portion of the meeting functioning with mutual respect. Here are some guidelines to keep in mind for our public comments portion of the agenda:

- Each person will be allotted 3 minutes for their comments.
- You must state your full name when making a public comment.
- The audience will respect the speaker and the board by remaining silent until it is their turn to make a public comment.
- You should not expect an immediate verbal response from the Board during public comments.

A member of the community addressed the Board. Mrs. Jean O'Brien, a Seventh Avenue parent, spoke to the Board about the difficulty of navigating the registration process on the website. She suggested that this be easier to utilize. The District will be transitioning to a new website for the upcoming school year.

## **PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### ***Seventh Avenue School Student Presentation – “We’re All Wonders”***

Seventh Avenue students and staff presented Social-Emotional Data as their presentation to the Board. They presented in a round table fashion demonstrating how Seventh Avenue has used “Wonder Wheels” to facilitate conversations about social emotional topics this year,

### ***Technology Presentation – Trish Murphy***

Trish Murphy, Director of Technology, presented to the Board. The Tech Planning Committee was comprised of the following members: Martin Almeida, Trish Murphy, Susan Calder, Robin Petrak, Priscilla Drenning, Israel Diaz, Amy Read, Barb Hobe, Tracy Renaghan, Joanna Marek, Madison Wagner, Jim McMahon, and Bethany Walsh. Mrs. Murphy presented that the Greatest Areas of Need include: Developing District-wide guidance around the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The stages are: 1) Guidance and Policy, 2) Organizational Learning, 3) Improvement and Transformation.

The proposed 2025-26 Budget is \$1,318,957. This is a slight decrease compared to the FY24-25 approved budget. This budget again includes the EdTech Software line items from the Curriculum and Instruction (C & I) Budget to the Technology Budget which re-allocates \$214,500 from C&I to Technology. The Technology Plan will be approved at the May 19, 2025 Board Meeting.

## **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### ***Lyons Township Treasurer's Office Update***

Mr. Steven Smidl presented to the Board. He shared that based on the recommendation to withdraw from the Lyons Township School Treasurer's Office (LTTO), there are a couple of updates that occurred since the last meeting. The Proviso Township Treasurer's Office (PTTO) did accept three Lyons Township School Trustee districts which includes La Grange School District

105. The total count of districts that are withdrawing from the LTTO is seven. In order to officially withdraw from the LTTO, a resolution must be completed by the Board and select a new treasurer. Since District 105 is going to utilize the services of the PTTO, Paul Bellasario was listed as the new treasurer starting on July 1. The board will take action on the approval of the resolution. Once a resolution is approved, the district did receive an intergovernmental agreement from the PTTO after their trustees voted to allow District 105 into the fold to receive services. This will be on an annual basis, so the district is not locked into any long-term agreement. The board will take action on the approval of the IGA starting July 1. During the next two months, the district will work on transitioning cash positions, bank accounts, and identifying outstanding checks before the end of the fiscal year. The last update is the status of the new treasurer for the township. This position will be vital as they will execute the transfer of funding from Lyons to Proviso on July 1, 2025. Additional meetings will be set up with the search firm to identify candidates.

Next steps:

- 1) Continue to work with the LTTO and district auditors to identify an agreeable cash position to transfer funds to the PTTO on July 1, 2025; and
- 2) Work with other LTTO Trustees on selecting a new treasurer.

### ***FY26 Insurance Premium Renewals***

Mr. Steven Smidl addressed the Board. The district has approximately 240 individuals eligible for medical insurance, with 172 employees participating in some level of medical plans. Every spring, the District receives renewal rates from our broker, Vista National, for the benefits we offer. We can then make decisions along with the District's insurance committee as to how to move forward.

Medical Insurance: The District currently offers four health insurance options through BCBS: a traditional PPO, two PPOs with a high deductible that qualify under the law for a Health Savings Account (HSA) and one HMO (Blue Advantage HMO). BCBS came to the District's insurance broker, Vista National, asking for a 8.98% increase in premiums. Originally BCBS said they could not negotiate this rate down but instead could look at credits. The District asked Vista to go back to BCBS for another review and BCBS came back with a 8.42% increase in premiums plus a credit of \$20,000. Combining out medical and dental plans together does provide a savings through BCBS. The District also held an insurance committee meeting to discuss the plan offerings and renewal. The renewal was presented to the committee and we all agreed we had the most value in keeping this status quo at this time. The insurance committee discussed adjustments to the plan which will look at educational outreach to those that have insurance or considering it in the future.

Dental Insurance: Our dental plan renewal came back with a 8.4% increase in premiums. As mentioned in the medical section, having BCBS as our dental insurance provider provides a 1% savings to our medical premiums. The insurance committee recommends moving forward with keeping dental as is with BCBS. The District is in favor of this recommendation as it does not correlate to a financial increase.

Vision Insurance: The vision program is in a rate guarantee with BCBS, using the EyeMed network until July 1, 2026. The Insurance Committee does not see a current need to change the benefit or carrier. The recommendation is to continue with BCBS/EyeMed under the rate guarantee. The District recommends staying the course with the vision offering

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Dr. Sherman, seconded by Mr. White, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

A. - Approval of Minutes, Regular, General, and Special –March 24, 2025

B. - Administrative Reports

- 1.) Curriculum/Instruction/Professional Development
- 2.) Business and Finance
- 3.) Technology
- 4.) FOIA

C.- Approval of Payment of Bills/Payroll

D.- Approval of Substitute List

On roll call, members voting AYE: Hartman, Mares, Sherman, White, Young, Bryck;  
ABSENT: Lopez; NAY: None.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### ***Approval of Employment***

Motion by Mr. White, seconded by Mrs. Hartman, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the employment of the following:

- 1) Irene Almeida, Night Custodian at Spring Avenue School, at an hourly rate of \$15.75, pending background check results;
- 2) Maria Isabel Garcia, Math Teacher at Gurrie Middle School, at an annual salary of \$63,254.80, effective August 18, 2025;
- 3) Adam King, STEM Teacher at Gurrie Middle School, at an annual salary of \$60,925.30, effective August 18, 2025;
- 4) Christina King, Communications Development Teacher at Seventh Avenue School, at an annual salary of \$53,506.73, effective August 18, 2025; and
- 5) Christopher Panepinto, Grade 4 Co-Teacher , Long-Term Substitute at Spring Avenue School, at a daily rate of \$281.08 effective April 9, 2025 through the end of the 2024-25 school year.

On roll call, members voting AYE: Mares, Sherman, White, Young, Bryck, Hartman; ABSENT: Lopez; NAY: None.

### ***Approval of Change of Position***

Motion by Mrs. Hartman, seconded by Mrs. Young, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the change of position of the following:

- 1) Delaney Arreguin, Kindergarten Teacher at Spring Avenue School to Kindergarten Teacher at Ideal Elementary School, effective August 18, 2025, at a new annual salary of \$49,949.10 for the 2025-26 School Year per the current Teacher Contract.

On roll call, members voting AYE: Mares, Sherman, White, Young, Bryck, Hartman; ABSENT: Lopez; NAY: None.

### ***Approval of Resignation***

Motion by Mrs. Young, seconded by Mr. White that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the resignations for the following:

- 1) Monica Hoffman, School Social Worker at Hodgkins Elementary School, effective June 6, 2025; and
- 2) Maritza Lara, Floater Night Custodian at Spring Avenue and Seventh Avenue Schools, effective April 11, 2025.

On roll call, members voting AYE: Sherman, White, Young, Bryck, Hartman, Mares; ABSENT: Lopez; NAY: None.

### ***Approval of Leave of Absence Request***

Motion by Ms. Mares, seconded by Mrs. Bryck, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the Leave of Absence Request for the following:

- 1) Elisabeth Childers, Teacher at Ideal Elementary School, beginning September 8, 2025 returning to work on November 3, 2025, utilizing 19.5 sick days and 4 personal days.
- 2) Fernando Gonzalez, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, beginning March 26, 2025 through approximately June 26, 2025.
- 3) Charlotte Kopecki, School Social Worker at Seventh Avenue Elementary School, beginning September 19, 2025 and returning to work on January 5, 2026, utilizing 60 sick days and 2 personal days.
- 4) Kathy McHugh, Building Secretary at Seventh Avenue School, beginning April 10, 2025 for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year, utilizing 44 sick days.
- 5) Elizabeth Mercado, Paraprofessional at Hodgkins School, starting April 28, 2025 through June 5, 2025, utilizing 7 sick days, 3 personal days, and 2 floating holidays.

On roll call, members voting AYE Young, Bryck, Hartman, Mares, Sherman, White; ABSENT: Lopez; NAY: None.

### ***Approval of New Administrator Contract for Principal at Spring Avenue Elementary School***

Motion by Mrs. Bryck, seconded by Dr. Sherman, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the Administrator contract for Martne McCoy, Principal at Spring Avenue School.

On roll call, members voting AYE Bryck, Hartman, Mares, Sherman, White, Young; ABSENT: Lopez; NAY: None.

### ***Approval of One-Time Salary Adjustment in Base Salary for District Administrator***

Motion by Dr. Sherman, seconded by Mr. White, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the one-time salary adjustment for the Administrator as listed.

- 1) Socorro Mendoza, Director of English Learners, \$7,000 increase, effective May 1, 2025.

On roll call, members voting AYE Hartman, Mares, Sherman, White, Young, Bryck; ABSENT: Lopez; NAY: None.

### ***Approval of FY26 Administrator Salary Increases***

Motion by Mr. White, seconded by Mrs. Hartman, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the FY26 Administrator salary increases as presented. These increases align with the teachers' collective bargaining agreement. This aligns to a 4.52% increase for FY26:

Susan Calder \$ 130,854.38, Fernando Gonzalez \$ 86,001.67, Eilidh Hall \$ 135,638.34, Erin Hall \$ 149,964.75, Kathryn Heeke \$ 169,179.27, Lorena Mendoza \$ 135,562.44, Socorro Mendoza \$ 125,425.36, Patricia Murphy \$ 150,052.28, Svetlana Popovic \$ 131,869.23, Jennifer Sabourin \$ 144,028.56, Rachel Skala \$ 89,754.17, and Steven Smidl \$ 143,715.00

On roll call, members voting AYE Mares, Sherman, White, Young, Bryck, Hartman; ABSENT: Lopez; NAY: None.

***Approval of MOU with District 105 Teachers' Association***

Motion by Mrs. Hartman, seconded by Mrs. Young, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the District 105 Teachers' Union in reference to National Board Certification for teachers and related service providers as presented.

On roll call, members voting AYE Mares, Sherman, White, Young, Bryck, Hartman; ABSENT: Lopez; NAY: None.

***Approval of FY26 Insurance Premium Renewal***

Motion by Mrs. Young, seconded by Ms. Mares, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve FY26 Medical, Dental, and Vision insurance rates as presented.

On roll call, members voting AYE Sherman, White, Young, Bryck, Hartman, Mares; ABSENT: Lopez; NAY: None.

***Approval of Milk Procurement Bid Award***

Motion by Ms. Mares, seconded by Mrs. Bryck, that the Board of Education of School District 105 award the bid to Prairie Farms for a three-year contract for school years 2026-2028. Milk rates are as follows: white milk- 31 cents, chocolate milk- 33 cents, strawberry-33 cents and lactose free- 89 cents per carton.

On roll call, members voting AYE Bryck, Hartman, Mares, Sherman, White, Young; ABSENT: Lopez; NAY: None.

***Approval of School Building Main Entrance Intercom Systems***

Motion by Mrs. Bryck seconded by Dr. Sherman, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the purchase and installation of Verkada Intercom Systems through Modern Media Tech, LLC for \$14,080.00 as presented.

On roll call, members voting AYE Hartman, Mares, Sherman, White, Young, Bryck; ABSENT: Lopez; NAY: None.

***Approval of School Building Camera Upgrades***

Motion by Dr. Sherman, seconded by Mr. White, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the purchase of Verkada security cameras, licensing, and cloud storage from CDW for \$49,923.07 as presented.

On roll call, members voting AYE Mares, Sherman, White, Young, Bryck, Hartman; ABSENT: Lopez; NAY: None.

### ***HVAC Services for New School Building Chillers***

Motion by Mr. White, seconded by Mrs. Hartman, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the HVAC services from F.E. Moran for \$115,795.00 as presented.

On roll call, members voting AYE Mares, Sherman, White, Young, Bryck, Hartman; ABSENT: Lopez; NAY: None.

### ***Approval of Resolution to Withdraw from Lyons Township Treasurer's Office***

Motion by Mrs. Hartman, seconded by Mrs. Young, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the resolution to withdraw from Trustees of Schools of Township 38 North, Range 12 East, effective July 1, 2025 as presented.

On roll call, members voting AYE Sherman, White, Young, Bryck, Hartman, Mares; ABSENT: Loprz; NAY: None.

### ***Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Proviso Township Treasurer's Office***

Motion by Mrs. Young, seconded by Ms. Mares, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Proviso Township Treasurer's Office as presented.

On roll call, members voting AYE: Young, Bryck, Hartman, Mares, Sherman, White; ABSENT: Lopez; NAY: None.

### ***Acceptance of Resignation of School Board Member***

Motion by Ms. Mares, seconded by Mrs. Bryck, that the Board of Education of School District 105 accept the resignation of School Board Member, Elias Lopez, effective April 27, 2025.

On roll call, members voting AYE: Bryck, Hartman, Mares, Sherman, White, Young; ABSENT: Lopez; NAY: None.

## **BOARD REORGANIZATION MEETING**

### ***Recognition of Exiting Board Members***

Dr. Ganan acknowledged the School Board Members for their dedication to the La Grange School District 105 Community. He expressed his gratitude for the leadership, guidance and commitment they have shown throughout their time serving on the D105 Board of Education.

### ***Canvass of Board Election - Election Results Resolution***

Motion by Dr. Sherman, seconded by Mr. White, that the Board of Education of School District 105 adopt the following resolution declaring results of the April 1, 2025 Consolidated Election.

The Cook County Clerk, having completed a canvass of all votes cast for School La Grange Elementary 105, 4 yr hereby certifies the following vote totals:

Kelly Young	26.85%
Megan Goggin	24.64%
Daniel Barrett	24.44%
James Kosenesky	24.08%

On roll call, members voting AYE: Hartman, Mares, Sherman, White, Young, Bryck;  
ABSENT: Lopez; NAY: None.

### ***Oath of Office***

Dr. Sherman administered the Oath of Office to the four incoming Board Members.

### ***Adjournment of Old Board***

Motion by Dr. Sherman, seconded by Ms. Mares, that the old Board of Education of School District 105 be adjourned sine die.

On roll call, members voting AYE: Mares, Sherman, White, Young, Bryck, Hartman;  
ABSENT: Lopez; NAY: None.

### ***New Board Convenes and Roll Call***

Present: Daniel Barrett, Sheila Bryck, Megan Goggin, James Kosenesky, Bryan White, Kelly Young; Late: None, Absent: One vacant position due to the resignation of Mr. Elias Lopez.

### ***Nomination/Election of President Pro Tem***

Dr. Ganan was appointed to serve as President Pro Tem.

### ***Matters Pertaining to Reorganization of the Board***

### ***Nomination/Election of President***

Dr. Ganan asked for nominations for the office of President. Mr. White was nominated. All Board members voted in favor of Mr. White for School Board President.

Motion by Mrs. Bryck, seconded by Mr. Barrett, that the Board of Education of School District 105 appoint Mr. White as the President of the La Grange School District 105 Board of Education.

On roll call, members voting AYE: Barrett, Bryck, Goggin, Kosenesky, White, Young;  
NAY: None; ABSENT: None;

Mr. White assumed the duties as the newly elected President and conducted the elections of the other officers.

### ***Nomination/Election of Vice-President***

Mr. White asked for nominations for the office of Vice-President. Mrs. Goggin nominated Mrs. Bryck. Mrs. Bryck respectfully declined the nomination as she would prefer to fill the position of Board Secretary once again. The Board agreed to table the Vice-President nomination at this time.

### ***Nomination/Election of Secretary***

Mr. White asked for nominations for the office of Secretary. Mrs. Bryck was nominated. All Board members voted in favor of Mrs. Bryck for School Board Secretary. Mrs. Bryck accepted this position.

Motion by Mrs. Goggin, seconded by Mr. Barrett, that the Board of Education of School District 105 appoint Mrs. Bryck as the Board Secretary of the La Grange School District 105 Board of Education.

On roll call, members voting AYE: Barrett, Bryck, Goggin, Kosenesky, White, Young;  
NAY: None; ABSENT: None.



***Establishment of Day, Time and Location of Regular Board Meetings***

The Board will set the schedule of meetings for the entire FY26 fiscal year at the May 19, 2025 Board of Education Meeting.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

- Approval of FY26 Regular Board Meeting Schedule
- Approval of Educational Support Personnel (ESP) Contract
- First Reading Press Policy 118
- General Transportation Contract
- Next School Board Meeting will be held at Gurrie Middle School on Monday, May 19, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. White moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Young. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM on Monday. April 28, 2025.

On roll call, members voting AYE: Barrett, Bryck, Goggin, Kosenesky, White, Young;  
NAY: None; ABSENT: None.

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Board President

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Board Secretary