

**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 Mr. Lopez at 7:16 PM on Monday, February 24, 2025.

ROLL CALL

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

CLOSED SESSION

The closed session of the regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Mr. Lopez, at 6:16 PM on Monday, January 27, 2025 in the Library Learning Center at Ideal Elementary School, 9901 W. 58th Street, Countryside, IL 60525

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

The Board met in closed session for the purpose of discussing negotiations and a personnel matter.

Ms. Mares moved to return to general session, seconded by Mr. White. The motion carried with a voice vote. The Board returned to general session at 6:58 PM on January 27, 2025.

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Ganan shared that D105 has two recipients of the ISBE Those Who Excel Award. This is one of the most prestigious awards an Illinois Educator can receive. Spring Ave Library Media Specialist, Joanna Marek, is being honored in the Student Support Personnel category, and Ideal/Spring Ave Assistant Principal, Rachel Skala, in the School Administrator category.

Dr. Ganan congratulated the District 105 Speech Team for their 3rd place overall finish at the West 40 Speech and Drama Festival. 25 D105 students brought the house down with some stellar performances to secure the trophy, including Second Place finishes for Hazel Murphy, Isabella Guerrero, and Estella Perez. Also earning a Second Place finish was our combination 5th grade/6th grade team in the Reader's Theater event, including Colette Goggin, Brian Downs, Eileen Gilmartin, Grace Erickson, Reagan Naddy, Sofia Fitzgerald, Jane Potter, Jack Eder, Liyana Qureshi, and Sienna Casamassimo. Earning First Place finishes for D105 were the duets of Geneva Barrette and Katie Springer; and Bea Scouffas and Sydney Kail; along with the trio of Reagan McGrogan, Avery Nelson, and Cece Mraz. Our solo performers who earned First Place finishes were Alexa Fey, Sofija Delevic, and Tommy Chapiesky. Special recognition goes to Dalia Brazeau and Anna Dulyaba, whose duet performance earned a First Place finish with a rare perfect score. Our talented coaches who guided these performers through many practices and rehearsals include Mrs. Gjoni, Mr. Driscoll, Mr. Sullivan, Mrs. Heaven, Ms. Sieracki, Ms. Swiecicki, Mr. Novick, Mrs. Smetana, Ms. Wagner, Mrs. Neadly, Mr. Walsen, and Mrs. Musillami. It was another great year for Speech Team in District 105.

GMS Math teacher, Kevin O'Toole, took a team of students to the annual Nazareth Academy Math Competition this month. The 8th grade team consisting of Aiden Ligas, Lan Huynh, Gavin Foley, Bea Scouffas, and Scott Oh, brought home a 1st place finish. For the Individual Event, Lan Huynh placed 3rd, Aiden Ligas 5th, and Gavin Foley 7th.

GMS Math teacher, Katie Courtney, took a team of students to the annual Fenwick Math Competition. The students representing D105 were Colin Blentlinger, Grant Vongluekiat, Alex Badrov, Bea Scouffas, Bodie Metz, Gavin Foley, Frank Adelphia, Geneva Barrette, Lan Huynh, and Scott Oh. They had a great showing and brought home a 3rd place finish! For the Individual Event, Colin Blentlinger placed in the top 10 students overall out of more than 100 students.

Our 4th-8th grade D105 Math Teams competed in the D101 Math Olympiad this month. The 4th and 5th grade team brought home two 3rd-place individual trophies and placed 3rd overall. The 6th grade team placed 1st overall and brought home the 2nd-place individual trophy. Our 7th and 8th grade team brought home 3rd 2nd, and 1st place (a three-way tie) individual trophies and placed 2nd overall.

The Gurrie wrestling team hosted the 2025 IESA Regional Tournament this month. The team finished in 3rd place as a team and sent the following wrestlers to the sectional tournament in Deerfield, IL on Saturday: Regional Champions/Sectional Qualifiers, Aden Wagner & Jonah Borling, and Sectional Qualifiers, Dean Achterkirchen (3rd), Gavin Dorich (2nd), Marco Solis (2nd), Brandon Syfert (2nd), Alex McComb (3rd), and Danny McComb (3rd). Congratulations to all the wrestlers who competed and thank you to the staff for managing the admissions, concession stand, and mat tables throughout the tournament.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Mrs. Young 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.

There was one community member that addressed the Board. Ms. Marian Honel-Wilson, President of the LaGrange CommUNITY Diversity Group addressed the Board to inform the community of Summer Scholarship program. Applications are due by March 1, 2025. Applications are available on the website www.communitydiversity.org.

PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Spring Avenue Shines: Building a Writing Community – Amy Read and Spring Avenue Staff

Spring Avenue staff and students presented to the Board. They shared how Spring works to build a writing community in the classroom and beyond each day. Students shared excerpts from some of their writing from this year.

General Education Classroom Staffing Plan 2025-26 – Dr. Brian J. Ganan

Dr. Ganan presented the FY25 Classroom Staffing Plan to the Board. He explained that the 1st-6th Grade Staffing Model is consistently applied to all four elementary schools. The current grade level class size enrollment guideline: K-4th = 24, 5th-6th = 28, Staff may be added or reassigned at a later date based on enrollment data. We use January enrollment data to establish a baseline. The Growth Index is calculated by comparing January enrollment data to September enrollment data over previous five school years. We use this information to calculate a growth/decline factor to use for projections. Projected enrollment is Hodgkins-105, Ideal-256, Seventh Avenue-174, and Spring Avenue-313. Projected FTE by building: Hodgkins-7, Ideal-14, Seventh Avenue-12, and Spring Avenue-15. Gurrie enrollment: 7th Grade-136 and 8th Grade-136.

At this point, the recommendation is to keep a total of 42 FTE for general education teachers, no increase or decrease in general education FTE.

EL Staffing Plan 2025-26 – Dr. Socorro Mendoza

Dr. Socorro Mendoza presented a staffing plan for the EL department for the 25-26 school year. There is no need for any changes in the FTE staffing plan at this time.

Student Services Staffing Plan 2025-26 – Jennifer Sabourin and Ellie Ambuel

Jennifer Sabourin presented the FY25 Student Services Staffing Plan to the Board. The Board voted to assume administration responsibility for the Intermediate CD (Communication Development) program starting in the 2025-26 school year. This class is currently run by LADSE and housed in the Seventh Avenue building. While there will be financial benefits for D105, the core reason for this decision is that it is better all around for students and staff. Director of Student Services Jennifer Sabourin and LADSE staff members agree that this will allow students to build stronger connections within the community, fostering a deeper sense of belonging for our CD students and the teachers and paraprofessionals that work in the CD classroom.

Mid-Year Student Performance Presentation – Kathryn Heeke

Kathryn Heeke presented assessment data to the board to check in on mid-year student progress. Ms. Heeke shared that in both Math and Reading, D105 progress results are at or above the highest progress results we have seen to date.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Second Reading of Press Policy 117

Dr. Ganan addressed the Board. Press Policy Issue 117 includes 15 policy updates. The majority of updates are minor changes in language. Several of these language changes have been

made to align with other recently adopted policy revisions and updates in school code. Some highlights of Press Policy Issue 117 are as follows:

1) Press Policy 2:120, Board Member Development

- The inclusion of training on student outcomes as part of the mandatory professional development for school board members.

2) 4:150, Facility Management and Building

- A change in the Standards for Buildings and Grounds project cost needed for Board approval. The requirement for board approval has been changed from \$12,500 to \$17,500.

3) Policy 5:10, Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment

- Policy is updated to align with recent updates to the Illinois Human Rights Act (IHRA) that prohibits discrimination on Reproductive health decisions and family responsibilities.

4) 6:60 Curriculum Content

- Mandates instruction on dangers of fentanyl for grades 6-8. We provide substance abuse education through Candor Health.

Engagement Letter for Annual Audit with Evan, Marshall and Pease

Mr. Steven Smidl shared with the Board the Engagement Letter with Auditors Evan, Marshall, and Pease. Services will be provided for the year ended June 30, 2025, 2026, and 2027.

Electricity Agreement for FY26-FY28

Mr. Steven Smidl presented to the Board. The district has participated in the natural gas and electricity buying program with the Illinois Gas Cooperative (IGC) since the 1990's. The IGC program allows the district to purchase energy at an index rate with the ability to convert to a fixed rate for a specified period. The district's current index/fixed agreement contract expires in June 2025. It is recommended that the district enter into a standard index agreement with the ability to convert to a fixed rate. See charts below. Seeking approval from the Board to grant the Directory of Business Services the authority to enter into standard index agreement through June 2028 with the ability to convert to a fixed rate agreement at any time during the term of the agreement.

Lyons Township School Treasurer's Office Update

Steven Smidl presented to the Board. After presenting on the services of the Lyons Township School Treasurer's Office in January, the trustees had a special meeting to select a search firm for a new treasurer for the TTO. However, at that same meeting, the trustees received an alternative option to enter an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Proviso Township School Treasurer's Office to curb on long term operational costs but maintain the same level of services and investing power. At the last official meeting, the Proviso Township School Treasurer presented the distinct options to the board with a recommendation to select a new treasurer to help with transitions. We are to receive an update on the possibility of this alternative option by the next board meeting on March 11, 2025.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Lopez, 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 –January 27, 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, Lopez, Mares, Sherman, White, Young, Bryck; ABSENT: None; NAY: None.

ACTION ITEMS

****Approval of Employment***

Motion by Mrs. Young, seconded by Dr. Sherman, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the employment of the following:

- 1) Lizeth Tatiana Herrera Uribe, Night Custodian at Spring Avenue School, at an hourly rate of \$15.75, effective February 5, 2025;
- 2) Madeline Jacobs, ECE Paraprofessional at Hodgkins Preschool, at an hourly rate of \$15.25, pending background check results;
- 3) Ankica Keserovic, Paraprofessional at Spring Avenue School, at an hourly rate of \$15.25, effective February 20, 2025; and
- 4) Jocelyn Ramirez, ECE Paraprofessional at Hodgkins Preschool, at an hourly rate of \$15.25, effective February 12, 2025.

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

****Approval of Resignation***

Motion by Dr. Sherman, seconded by Mrs. Hartman, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the resignations for the following:

- 1) Kemyiah Allgood, Lunchroom Monitor at Spring Avenue School, effective January 23, 2025; and
- 2) Sharon Dadepogu, ECE Paraprofessional at Hodgkins Preschool, effective February 21, 2025.

And the Resignation for Retirement of the following::

- 1) Amy Read, Principal of Spring Avenue School, effective June 30, 2025.

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

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

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

- 1) Eilidh Hall, Principal of Ideal School. intermittent leave beginning on June 10, 2025 through September 23, 2025, utilizing 60 sick days.

It is anticipated that Mrs. Hall will work the following half days (18 total): July 7-10, July 14-17, July 21-22, July 28-31, and August 4-7, 2025 and the following full days (3 total): June 24-26, 2025.

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

****Second Reading and Adoption of Press Policy 117***

Motion by Mr. White, seconded by Ms. Mares, that the Board of Education of School District 105 adopt the recommended policy updates of Press Policy 117 as presented.

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

****Approval of Communications Development CD Programming Recommendation***

Motion by Ms. Mares, seconded by Mr. White, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the recommendation for the Communications Development Program as presented.

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

****Approval of the Audit Engagement for FY25 through FY27 with Evans, Marshall and Pease, P.C.***

Motion by Mrs. Bryck, seconded by Mr. Lopez, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the Audit Engagement for FY25 through FY27 with Evans, Marshall and Pease P.C.

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

****Approval of Authority to Enter Negotiations for Energy Contract Agreement FY26-FY28***

Motion by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Mrs. Young, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the authority to enter negotiations for energy contract agreement FY26-FY28.

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

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- Approval of General Education Staffing Plan 2025-26
- Approval of EL Staffing Plan 2025-26
- Approval of Student Services Staffing Plan 2025-26
- Lyons Township Treasurer's Office Discussion
- Next School Board Meeting will be held at Gurrie Middle School on March 24, 2025 at 7:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. White moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Mares. The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 PM on Monday. February 24, 2025.

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

Board President

Board Secretary