

**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 7:09 PM on Monday, January 27, 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 started the announcements for each school:

Gurrie 8th graders have had an impactful and exciting start to the new year as they prepare for their journey into high school. In social studies, they completed a service-learning project by crafting essays and volunteer plans that focused on creating a more perfect union that they presented with great success. LT has been visiting to share the exciting academic and extracurricular activities that await them next year. During the last week of January, students began the next step in their transition by meeting with counselors to select classes and plan for this exciting new chapter.

Ideal: Ideal and Spring Ave started by thanking Mr. Hood for filling in as Assistant Principal at Spring Ave and Ideal while Mrs. Skala has been on leave. He added that Mr. Hood has been a great addition to both teams and is always willing to jump in and support students. Ideal and Spring have truly enjoyed working with and learning from Mr. Hood.

Spring Avenue hosted its annual Math and Science fair in January, which was a huge success. Over 70 students showcased science projects, and many more participated in interactive activities. The gym became a hub of hands-on exploration, where students created cup towers, raced Lego cars, shopped at the Lions Grocery Store to sharpen math skills, tested their senses at the sensory station, and discovered rainbows in glass prisms. Thank you to the PTO, parent volunteers, D105 judges, and LTHS students for making this event so memorable.

Hodgkins student leaders are busy planning their first reading around the world event, which will be held on February 27th. During the week prior to the event, each classroom will adopt a different country from around the world to study its culture, customs, flags, and food. On the evening of the 27th, each room will read a dual-language book in the language of that classroom's country. Countries and languages will be chosen to represent the diverse backgrounds of Hodgkins and D105 students and families. This event will teach students about passports, travel, and other skills of global connectedness. It also aligns with the Portrait of a Hodgkins student and being a global citizen.

Seventh Avenue: One of the best parts of the Seventh Avenue school day is coming together each morning in the gym for morning assembly. Different staff members lead Morning Assembly each week, and Kindergarten had their turn last month. The Kindergarten students and teachers showcased their writing in their author's chair. Each Seventh Avenue classroom has an author's chair purchased by PTO. Sharing final pieces of writing in the author's chair has become a special part of the Seventh Avenue culture.

Mr. White highlighted the Gurrie Wrestling event and all the excitement that it created.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Mr. Lopez 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 the fifth annual FREE Building Inclusive Community Conference that is being held on February 8, 2025 at LTHS South Campus. The Key Note Speaker is Nestor Gomez, Positive Impact of Touching Immigration Stories, LTHS Steppers, and the LTHS Bailando ConTodos Dance Group.

PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ideal School Presentation – Panther Buddies

Ideal students presented to the Board all about the Panther Buddies Program. They brought their paper chains filled with their Hopes and Dreams for the school year.

Services of Lyons Township School Treasurer's Office – Steven Smidl

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.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Strategic Plan Development Team

Dr. Ganan presented to the Board. We had over 20 staff members, and 15 parent/community members express an interest in joining this work. A total of 32 representatives were chosen for these groups. (Again, CEC has asked for the team to be comprised of an equal (or nearly equal) number of participants from each stakeholder group. They will join 15 administrators for this incredibly important work. This, unfortunately, meant that we could not include everyone who expressed an interest. While this decision was quite difficult, it was guided by the need to have a team that is representative of each community, grade level of students and programs. The decision was also made based on who is able to attend each meeting. I connected with those who were interested, but we were unable to add to the team. I offered to meet with each person individually. The team's first meeting is tomorrow, January 28th. It is a virtual meeting. I am truly looking forward to this process and setting new goals for continuous improvement.

First Reading 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.

Expanding Special Education Programming

Dr. Ganan, Jennifer Sabourin, and the Board discussed the possibility of the District acquiring the responsibility for the Primary Communication Development (CD) classroom in the FY26 school year. This classroom is currently run by our special education cooperative, LADSE, and is housed at Seventh Avenue School. Some of the benefits shared by administration include an increased sense of belonging for CD classroom students and staff members, taking ownership of the students that D105 serves, and anticipated financial savings for D105. No decision has been made regarding this matter. Further information will be shared followed by a board discussion at the February 24th school board meeting.

Miller Rate and Operational Funds Expenditure Report

Steven Smidl presented to the Board. Public Act 103-0394 is an updated ruling from the Miller Ratio where operational funds cannot exceed 2.0 times the annual average of expenditures. This act focuses on specific operational funds for a three-year annual period where a district's cash reserves exceed 2.5 times the average annual expenditures must adopt an operational reserve reduction plan. Operational funds shall include the district's education, transportation, and operations and maintenance funds. Providing the following attachment, La Grange School District 105 has a 1.173 cash reserve balance based on the annual financial reports from 2022-2024. The district does not need to adopt an operational funds reserve reduction plan.

Vulnerability Monitoring and Remediation

To enhance our district's cybersecurity posture, we propose engaging in a 12-month Managed Services Solution focusing on vulnerability monitoring and remediation. The contract includes regular scans of up to 250 assets (including servers, endpoints and network devices) to identify and prioritize vulnerabilities at a cost of \$995/month. Additionally, it provides 14 hours of vulnerability management, remediation work, along with detailed monthly reporting that includes recommendations for future risk reduction at \$2,970/month. We recently decided not to renew our Managed Services contract which was \$3,300/month for the support of our district phone system and have instead taken that support back in house therefore it represents a manageable expense while providing significant protection against damage from potential cyber threats. This proactive approach safeguards sensitive data, reduces breach risks, and aligns with our strategic technology goals. We recommend Board approval of this partnership.

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 –December 16, 2024
- 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 Mr. White, seconded by Mrs. Young, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the employment of the following:

- 1) Meshell Wilson, Lunchroom Monitor at Gurrie Middle School, at an hourly rate of \$15.00, pending background check results.

And the following Long-Term Substitute Teachers:

- 1) Ethan Celnik, Long-Term Substitute Physical Education Teacher, at a daily rate of \$155.00 for the first ten days of work and \$247.71 (Bachelors Degree rate) on the eleventh day, effective March 21, 2025 through June 5, 2025; and
- 2) Christopher Panepinto, Long-Term Substitute Math Interventionist Teacher, at a daily rate of \$295.13 (Masters rate) effective immediately on January 8, 2025 through approximately April 4, 2025.

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

Approval of Resignations/Dismissal

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

- 1) Araceli Almeida, Lunchroom Monitor at Gurrie Middle School, effective January 6, 2025;
- 2) Steven Bowdry, Night Custodian at Spring Avenue School, effective January 30, 2025; and
- 3) Canyon Novick, Math Teacher at Gurrie Middle School, effective June 6, 2025.

And the dismissal of the following:

- 1) Dawn Marchese, ECE Paraprofessional at Hodgkins Preschool, effective January 16, 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 Dr. Sherman, seconded by Mrs. Hartman, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the Leave of Absence Request for the following:

- 1) Jennifer Kiley, PE Teacher at Hodgkins School and Seventh Avenue Elementary Schools, beginning March 24, 2025 through June 5, 2025, or the last day of student attendance for the 2024-25 school year; and.
- 2) Deanna Przybylek, Preschool For All Teacher at Hodgkins Elementary School, effective tentatively May 27, 2025 through June 5, 2025, or the last day of student attendance for the 2024-25 school year and the start of the 2025-26 school year for a total of 60 workdays. Tentative dates for school year 2025-26 are August 20, 2025 through October 30, 2025.

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

Adoption of School Year 2025-26 School Calendar

Motion by Mrs. Hartman, seconded by Ms. Mares, that the Board of Education of School District 105 adopt the School Calendar draft for School Year 2025-26, which includes a total of 182 teacher days, 176 student days and 5 emergency days.

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

Adoption of Resolution to Transfer Funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund and Education Fund to the Debt Service Fund

Motion by Ms. Mares, seconded by Mrs. Bryck, that the Board of Education of School District 105 adopt the resolution approving the transfer of \$395,000 from the Education Fund and \$1,321,790 from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Debt Service Fund for FY25 bond payment principal of \$1,382,455 and interest of \$334,335.

The amount to be transferred is \$1,716,790 and it will be used to pay the FY25 interest of \$334,335 and principal of \$1,382,455. \$147,495 will be used from debt service fund balance to make the total payments for FY25 of \$1,864,285.

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

Adoption of Resolution to Transfer Funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund

Motion by Mrs. Bryck, seconded by Mr. Lopez, that the Board of Education of School District 105 adopt the resolution approving the transfer of \$1,800,000 from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund.

This will designate the money to be used for future capital improvements that are aligned to the long range facility plan that was completed with Arcon associates in the fall of 2022. This includes the final payments towards the AC Project and Fire Panels and Alarms. The amount to be transferred is \$1,800,0000.

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

Approval of Master Service Agreement with Chicago Computer Network

Motion by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Mr. White, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the 12-month Master Service Agreement with Chicago Computer Network for Vulnerability, Monitoring, and Remediation as presented.

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

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- Second Reading and Adoption of Press Policy 117
- Next School Board Meeting will be held at Spring Avenue Elementary School School on February 24, 2025 at 7:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Dr. Sherman moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Mares. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM on Monday. January 27, 2025.

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

Board President

Board Secretary