

**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 7:04 PM on Monday, March 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. White, at 6:14 PM on Monday, March 24, 2025 in the Library Learning Center at Gurrie Middle School, 1001 S. Spring Avenue, La Grange, 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 employment compensation.

Mr. White moved to return to general session, seconded by Mrs. Young. The motion carried with a voice vote. The Board returned to general session at 6:58 PM on March 24, 2025.

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Ganan shared the following: The Gurrie wrestling team hosted the 2025 IESA regional tournament this past weekend. The team finished in third place as a team and will be sending the following wrestlers to the sectional tournament in Deerfield, IL on Saturday:

Regional Champions/Sectional Qualifiers: Aden Wagner, Jonah Borling

Sectional Qualifiers: Dean Achterkirchen (3rd), Gavin Dorich (2nd), Marco Solis (2nd)

Brandon Syfert (2nd), Alex McComb (3rd), Danny McComb (3rd)

Congratulations to all of the wrestlers who competed this weekend and thank you to the staff for managing the admissions, concession stand, and mat tables throughout the tournament.

The SCOTY, School Citizen of the Year Award recognizes students that have been chosen by their schools as ‘good school citizens and models for others to emulate.’ Grades and activities are important considerations, but are only one part of the selection process including how students support each other, the school and community. In D105, we recognize on 6th grade students from each elementary school and one 8th grader at Gurrie. This is one of the most significant awards a students can earn in their time in D105. *Hodgkins-Mia Angelina Dominguez, Ideal-Lucas Morales, Seventh-Nina Brnjos, Spring-Kailey (Kiki) Tapalla, and Gurrie-Kyrie Nesbitt*

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.

PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Gurrie Middle School Leadership Project Presentation – Ms. Lorena Mendoza and Gurrie Students

Gurrie Middle School Students Colin Cassidy, Vanessa Garcia-Mancha, Lan Huynh, Makaela McGinnis, Evelyn Mendoza, Bodie Metz, Emma Morgado, Khyiree Nesbitt, Xcaret Nogueta-Nunez, and Joselyn Sanchez presented to the Board. They shared a project they worked on about the lunch program. They shared that they learned research skills, decision making and evaluation, data collection and analysis, collaboration, and the bidding process.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Transportation Bid Update

Mr. Steven Smidl presented to the Board. Eleven school districts that neighbor between Lyons Township or in Summit area developed a comprehensive, cooperative bid to provide general transportation services for the upcoming school year. The recommendation to go out to bid was based on the new law passed for districts that had ten years with a singular vendor to go out to competitive bid for services instead of maintaining another one-year renewal with the current vendor. With the bid available for transportation vendors, there was only one bid that submitted which was First Student. The increase with this new bid award would be a 21% increase for the initial year. However, the following years of the contract will be aligned to CPI with a capped increase at 5% which is aligned to how the district can budget through tax capped allocations. Negotiations on the contract are ongoing as the group is looking for a reduced first year increase and have fixed pricing increases for the subsequent years of the contract at 6%. The districts are working with First Student on contract language which we hope will provide an official contract at the April board meeting.

Fire Alarm and Panel Project Bid Award

Mr. Steven Smidl presented to the Board.. The district's architectural firm, ARCON Associates Inc., and the mechanical electrical engineers, CS2 Design Group, collaborated with the district on a bid proposal to support the upcoming summer project to replace and upgrade the fire alarms and panels across the district buildings. This project is associated with the district's long-term capital improvement plan. With scope of work and ongoing programming for the summer, the goal is to complete the majority of buildings during the summer and complete the final work during the school year to finish by Thanksgiving. The district had its bid opening on March 19, 2025, with a preliminary bid meeting which had a voluntary walkthrough earlier in the month. At the bid opening, we had four proposals. This is the tabulation of those proposals from the respective vendors: Total American Electric Construction Inc. \$ 1,675,500 Construction Inc \$ 1,357,000 Correct Electric \$ 1,233,325 Electrical Systems Inc \$ 1,719,000

With this project, we will allocate 50,000 which was utilized from the School Maintenance Grant and other funding from the Capital Projects Fund for the FY26 budget. From the scope of work and completing all aspects of the bid proposal, the recommendation would be to award the bid to Correct Electric where there is an Action Item to approve.

A letter of recommendation from ARCON is attached within this discussion item.

Lyons Township Treasurer's Office Update

Mr. Steven Smidl presented to the Board. After the ongoing discussions of the Lyons Township School Treasurer's Office (LTTO) and the services provided to La Grange School District 105, the January presentation identified options for the board to mitigate risks from maintaining the current relationship with the LTTO. Currently, five entities have officially withdrawn from the LTTO and there is potential for additional member districts to leave. This will have a higher impact on our pro-rata billing (which is still an unknown risk) and a lower return of the investment pool. With the February board discussion, there was a possibility to have shared services between the Proviso Treasurer while maintaining the LTTO membership. However, with that option unavailable, it is important to look at options that would mitigate risk, maintain services for the district, and financial liquidity.

If the district looked to leave the LTTO, we have internal staff and resources to maintain the business services that we currently utilize since our financial software is independent of the LTTO. The positive to this is that the district has full autonomy of its funds and have efficient oversight of its financial position. However, the district would have to look outside to obtain a new banking partner, investments, obtain a surety bond for the district's treasurer, and complete the banking reconciliation each month. The risks of taking on all treasurer responsibilities is the transition of funds from Cook County, ISBE, and other entities due to a lack of support from the LTTO and its succession plan after July 1. It would also mean a smaller pool of returns regarding investing.

In looking at alternatives to maintain services of the LTTO with a higher investment pool and mitigation of risk, the Proviso Township School Treasurer's office could provide the necessary supports that are consistent with our business office staff. The PTTO has fourteen member districts, which provides a more considerable investment pool (higher returns), costs spread out across more districts, and most importantly, stability of membership and staffing. The PTTO would look to utilize Skyward as a support which would provide additional services the district's business office never had within processes of payroll, accounts payable, and receivables. In looking at the current options, my recommendation is to develop an intergovernmental agreement with the PTTO for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. One or two other districts from LTTO are looking to contract services with the PTTO and this would provide additional stability, cost savings, and consistency for those that withdraw from the TTO during this unknown period of transition.

Next steps:

- Approve a resolution to withdraw from the Lyons Township Treasurer's Office in April.
- Approve an intergovernmental agreement to contract services with the Proviso Township Treasurer's Office for one year in April.

Rental Fees for District Classroom and Community Spaces

Steven Smidl presented to the Board. The board policy, 8:20 Community Use of School Facilities, adopted in May, 2023 focuses on the criteria for community members and organizations obtaining access to school facilities. Within the policy, there is a small number of groups from a for profit basis and non-district entities to utilize facilities on a limited cost basis. However, there were no established fees that provided a systematic structure for incoming applications for approval. This

fee structure would provide a framework for the various groups that abide by board policy. 8:20.

Rental Fees for Occurrence

	Tier I	Tier II	Tier II
Elementary Classroom	N/A	25	50
Elementary Gym (No Locker Room Usage)	N/A	50	100
Elementary Library	N/A	50	100
Elementary Lunchroom	N/A	50	100
Middle School Small Gym (No Locker Room Usage)	N/A	65	130
Middle School Large Gym (No Locker Room Usage)	N/A	85	170
Middle School Cafeteria	N/A	50	100
Middle School Classroom	N/A	25	50
Middle School Lab Classrooms	N/A	50	100
Middle School Library Media Center	N/A	50	100
Middle School Musical Spaces (Band/Choir)	N/A	50	100
Outdoor Spaces	N/A	50	100
Parking Lots used for commercial purpose	N/A	50	100

Rental Fees for Occurrences is based on utilization of two hours per occurrence and an additional charge of 10 dollars (Tier II) and 20 dollars per additional hour (Tier III).

Tier I: Organizations directly connected with District 105 (PTO, Boy/Girl Scouts, Continuing Education Classes); Governmental Bodies representing Countryside, Hodgkins, and La Grange which have entered into an IGA with the district prior to the requesting building use. Community-based, religious, educational, or governmental organizations when the facility use supports district parents. Police/Fire Department, Parenting Classes'; Non-profit civic, social, or educational organizations when the facility use supports district residents

Tier II: For-Profit organizations when the facility use supports district residents: Dance Studios, Club Sports Tier III: Out of District organizations The focus is to have a structured system in place to provide facilities for community organizations and those that need space which can serve a common purpose in education.

Food Service Management Company (FSMC) Fixed Price per Meal Contract Renewal for FY26

Steven Smidl presented to the Board. Last year, the district developed an RFP for Food Procurement for FY25. The winning bid of that contract, Gourmet Gorilla, obtains the contract through this year with the eligibility of one-year renewal contracts through FY29. This is the first renewal contract for the district and Gourmet Gorilla. The district had to obtain approvals from ISBE to qualify for the renewal with the vendor which included accountability from both Gourmet Gorilla and the district in terms of their established commodities credits, reimbursement meals of the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. Once ISBE receives, reviews the renewal package and approves, the district can move forward with the renewal contract. With the renewals established within the contract tying into CPI-Food Away from Home but not to exceed 5%, the price increase is for FY26 fixed meal rates is 3.6%

	<u>FY25</u>	<u>FY26</u>
Breakfast	1.83	1.90
Lunch	3.28	3.40

Overall, Gourmet Gorilla abided by their contract in terms of communication in terms of listening to constructive feedback on menu items or preparation. They are providing an eclectic, diverse menu that serve the students organic meals that provide the necessary nutritional support.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Mrs. Young, 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, Lopez, Mares, Sherman, White, Young, Bryck; ABSENT: None; NAY: None.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Employment

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

- 1) Orfelinda Lopez, Lunchroom Monitor at Spring Avenue, at an hourly rate of \$15.00, effective March 14, 2025;
- 2) Mary Ellen Staelgraeve, Kindergarten Teacher at Ideal Elementary School, at an annual rate of \$60,838.65 (prorated), effective March 4, 2025; and
- 3) Johana Carolina Taborda Barragan, Night Custodian at Spring Avenue School, at an hourly rate of \$15.75, effective April 9, 2025.

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

Approval of Resignation

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

- 1) Shawna Epich, Resource Teacher at Hodgkins Elementary School, effective June 6, 2025;
- 2) Amy Kerrigan, Reading Teacher at Ideal Elementary School, effective June 6, 2025;
- 3) Ivona Pedzinska-Browne, Math / STEM Teacher at Gurrie Middle School, effective June 6, 2025;
- 4) Kayla Salinas, Night Custodian at Spring Avenue School, effective April 11, 2025; and

- 5) Cynthia Turza, Kindergarten Teacher at Ideal Elementary School, effective February 28, 2025.

and the Resignation for Retirement of the following:

- 1) Donald Suich, Lead Custodian at Hodgkins Elementary School, effective August 29, 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 Dr. Sherman, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the Leave of Absence Request for the following:

- 1) Tatjana Zlatanovic, Paraprofessional at Ideal Elementary School, beginning March 14, 2025 through June 5, 2025.

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

Approval of General Education Classroom Staffing Plan 2025-26

Motion by Dr. Sherman, seconded by Ms. Mares, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the General Education Classroom Staffing Plan as presented.

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

Approval of EL Staffing Plan 2025-26

Motion by Ms. Mares, seconded by Mrs. Bryck, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the EL Staffing Plan for 2025-26 as presented.

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

Approval of Student Services Staffing Plan 2025-26

Motion by Mrs. Bryck, seconded by Mr. Lopez, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the Student Services Staffing Plan for 2025-26 as presented.

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

Food Service Management Company (FSMC) Fixed Price per Meal Contract Renewal for FY26

Motion by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Mrs. Young, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the renewal contract with the FSMC vendor Gourmet Gorilla for FY26 as presented.

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

DuPage West Cook (DWC) Member School District Resolution

Motion by Mrs. Young, seconded by Mr. White, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the DWC Member School District Resolution, approve the proposed amendments to the DWC Intergovernmental Agreement as presented.

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

Fire Alarm and Panel Project Contract

Motion by Mr. White, seconded by Mrs. Hartman, that the Board of Education of School District 105 award the bid to Correct Electric for \$1,233,325.00..

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

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- School Board Reorganization Meeting
- Milk Procurement Bid Award
- Transportation Contract for FY26
- Declaration of Closed Session Minutes
- Next School Board Meeting will be held at Seventh Avenue School on April 28, 2025 at 7:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ms. Mares moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. White. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM on Monday, March 24, 2025.

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

CLOSED SESSION

The Board of Education returned to closed session and was called to order by Mr. White, at 8:01 PM on Monday, March 24, 2025 in the Library Learning Center at Gurrie Middle School, 1001 S. Spring Avenue, La Grange, 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 employment compensation.

Mr. White moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Young. The motion carried with a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM on March 24, 2025.

Board President

Board Secretary