

**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 7:02 PM on Monday, December 16, 2024.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**CLOSED SESSION**

There was not a Closed Session Meeting held on this date.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2024 TAX LEVY (TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING)**

Motion by Mrs. Hartman, seconded by Mr. White, that the Board of Education of School District 105 open the Public Hearing.

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

Following a review of the 2024 Tax Levy, the Board President asked for questions from the audience on the levy. There were no questions from the audience. The following motion to close the hearing was made,

Motion by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Mares, that the Board of Education of School District 105 close the Budget Hearing for FY25:

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

**BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Ganan acknowledged the tragedy at Abundant Life Christian School in Madison, Wisconsin. In District 105 will continue work with school safety experts to ensure a safe, supportive learning environment. We have many plans and protections in place. However, we will always be looking for ways to make our schools even safer. As expressed at the last Board meeting, we are currently involved in a couple of projects with national school safety experts from West40, including another safety audit of each building.

Hodgkins teachers conducted their first of many Instructional Rounds with the focus on iReady math implementation, specifically the Try It portion of the lessons. We are so proud that our K-6 staff agreed, planned, and participated in this high-level professional development strategy together. The Learning Walks were also inclusive of our EL teachers, MTSS math teacher, AAD math teacher and paraprofessionals who support our classrooms.

The Ideal staff and community members were able to sponsor 96 Ideal students for the holiday season. Thank you to everyone that was able to support our students.

Seventh Ave has shared that each month they pick a school-wide behavior to improve upon. This month students are working on SPORTSMANSHIP at lunch and recess. Students and staff review what sportsmanship looks like and sounds like each morning during assembly and then grades are given a sportsmanship positive ticket when recess supervisors observe those positive characteristics.

Spring Avenue hosted their second buddy lunch, where 2nd and 5th graders connected with their buddies during lunch and recess. This follows the successful October event with 1st and 6th graders, inspired by positive feedback about meeting expectations in the lunchroom and at recess. The buddy lunch, organized by Lion's PRIDE, aims to strengthen academic and social-emotional learning by fostering connections through a supportive buddy system.

The Gurrie community came together for a fantastic Feast, celebrating with delicious culturally diverse foods and creating 100 blankets for the Ronald McDonald House. Additionally, our food drive was a great success. Two Gurrie staff members Ms. Wagner secured a grant for The Gurrie LLC. They received the Feed Your Need grant from the LBSS Endowment Fund for \$1,500 to purchase audiobooks. Audiobooks are especially helpful to English Language Learners and students with different learning needs. STEAM teacher, Mrs. Browne, secured a \$1,500 grant to purchase a new P1S Bambu Lab 3D Printer and specialty filaments.

## **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.

Mr. Stan Zarnowiecki, 745 S. Ashland Avenue, LaGrange, IL addressed to the Board. He informed the Board he is a resident and also a commissioner with the La Grange Environmental Quality Commission. He was not representing the EQC but he wanted to discuss the district's policy on building and grounds maintenance, specifically the use/practice of dispersing salt on the grounds of the district's buildings. He wanted to bring to the Board's attention the issue as salt is Chloride and Chlorides are known pollutants to our water. He questioned if the maintenance staff goes through any training on the disbursement of salt and what types of products are being used.

## **PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### ***FY24 Annual Financial Report and Independent Audit***

CPA Chris Scalet from Evans, Marshall. And Pease presented his audit findings from this year's financial audit of District 105. District 105 received a 4.0 financial profile rating (the highest rating score possible) and an unmodified opinion for the annual audit.

## **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### ***Acknowledgement of Gifts and Donations***

The Board gratefully acknowledges the donation of:

- Autobarn Subaru of Countryside donated 500 backpacks for students and 30 Learning Kits which included school supplies for classrooms/students
- Autobarn Subaru of Countryside donated \$5,000 towards the Ideal bookroom
- Autobarn Subaru of Countryside donated \$500 to each classroom through the adoptaclassroom.org program

### ***FY26 School Year Calendar***

The School Day/Calendar committee met to discuss a couple drafts of the FY26 calendar. This is a contractual committee that must meet once a year. The group was presented with two drafts of potential D105 calendars along with LT's already adopted calendar. The main difference between the two drafts is school year start and end date. In the first draft, school starts on Monday, August 25th. (Kindergarten would start on Wednesday, August 27th). The second draft has our first day with students on Wednesday, August 20th. (Kindergarten would start on Friday, August 22nd). The last day of school in the first draft is Tuesday, June 2nd. draft two's last day is Thursday, May 28th. The committee (composed of administrators and teaching staff) are recommending Draft 2.

Below are some reasons why the teaching staff prefers this draft:

- The teachers felt strongly about beginning the school year on a Wednesday rather than a full first week.
- Teachers liked how this draft closely aligns with D102's traditional start date (D102 typically begins on that Thursday) and is closely aligned with LT's start date (two days after LT starts).
- Teachers were in favor of having a few additional days added to the first trimester (by starting earlier). Since the beginning of the year focuses on building culture and setting expectations, this allows for more time for academics.

The fall conferences are pushed back one week (as compared to this year's calendar). This is due to two main reasons.

- LT has their conferences on 9/22.
- Staff (especially at Gurrie) advocated for the extra week based on the fact that they only see their students every other day (due to the block schedule). They strongly feel that the extra week will provide them with more feedback for parents at conferences. This still allows for 2.5 weeks for students to work on making improvements prior to the end of the trimester. (Note: winter conferences this year have a 2.5 week period before report cards go out. The team also felt strongly that opening the parent grading portal provides more transparency and opportunity for parents to monitor student progress. Due to feedback from staff, the committee is not in favor of using President's Day as a potential emergency day.

## ***Second Reading of Press Policy 116***

Press Policy Issue 116 includes 4 policy updates. According to our attorney, the only real changes were based on the Title IX updates and changes to 2.265. The Board approved the changes to *Press Policy 2:265, Title IX Grievance Procedure* at the August 19, 2024 school board meeting. This was due to the implementation date of the required changes. This was the major update in Press Policy 115.

The other changes to Title IX related policies were based on ensuring that the District's Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Complaint Manager or designee shall process the a Title IX complaint under *Board Policy 2:270, Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color and National Origin Prohibited*.

## **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 –November 25, 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: Lopez, Mares, Sherman, White, Bryck, Hartman, Lopez; ABSENT: Young; NAY: None.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

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

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

- 1) Maritza Fabiola Lara, Night Custodian at Seventh Avenue and Ideal Schools, at an hourly rate of \$15.75, effective December 5, 2024; and
- 2) Julie Marfoe, Lunchroom Monitor at Ideal Elementary School, at an hourly rate of \$15.00, pending background check results; and
- 3) Anthony Sendzine, LLC Aide at Spring Avenue School, at an hourly rate of \$16.25, effective December 18, 2024.

On roll call, members voting AYE: Mares, Sherman, White, Bryck, Hartman, Lopez; ABSENT: Young; 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 FMLA Leave of Absence Request for the following:

1. Christina Albreski, Grade 4 Teacher at Ideal Elementary School, revised return to work date of February 10, 2025.

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

### ***Approval of Resolution Authorizing Tax Levy***

Motion by Mrs. Hartman, seconded by Ms. Mares, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the Resolution Authorizing Tax Levy on the taxable property of School District 105 for Tax Year 2024 and that a copy of the certificate of tax levy be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

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

### ***Adoption of Certificate of Compliance with Truth in Taxation Act***

Motion by Ms. Mares, seconded by Mrs. Bryck, that the Board of Education of School District 105 adopt the Certificate of Compliance with Truth in Taxation Act as presented.

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

### ***Adoption of Levy Reduction Resolution***

Motion by Mrs. Bryck, seconded by Mr. Lopez, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the adoption of the Levy Reduction Resolution to instruct the County Clerk how to apportion the 2024 Tax Levy extension reductions.

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

### ***Adoption of Resolution for Abatement of Debt Service Tax***

Motion by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Mr. White, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the resolution abating the taxes levied for the year 2024 to pay debt service on the taxable general obligation bonds (alternate revenue source) Series 2010C and general obligation refunding school bonds (alternate revenue source), Series 2020.

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

### ***Establish FY26 and Associated Budget Calendar***

Motion by Mr. White, seconded by Dr. Sherman that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the Resolution establishing fiscal year 2026 and the Associated Budget Calendar.

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

### ***Approval of FY24 Audit***

Motion by Dr. Sherman, seconded by Mrs. Hartman, that the Board of Education of School District 105 accept from Evans, Marshall, and Pease, P.C. the regular, federal, imprest fund, and activity fund audit reports for fiscal year 2024, and hereby file the above audit reports with the office of the Superintendent as a public record of the revenues and expenditures for the above mentioned school funds.

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

### ***Adoption of Press Policy 116***

Motion by Mrs. Hartman, seconded by Ms. Mares that the Board of Education of School District 105 adopt the recommended policy updates of Press Policy 116 as presented..

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

### **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

- Ideal School Student Presentation
- Approval of FY26 School Calendar
- First Reading Press Policy 117
- Next School Board Meeting will be held at Ideal Elementary School on January 27, 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 7:37 pm on Monday. December 16, 2024.

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

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Board President

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Board Secretary