

**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 7:03 PM on Monday, October 28, 2024.

ROLL CALL

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

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

The Board received a letter from a retired teacher, parent, and grandparent, Sue Flaherty. She complimented the Girls' Cross Country Coaches on their positive uplifting program in developing their teams. The girls missed a fourth place state win by a small margin and the coaches were very positive in their talks with the team. The Board thanked Mrs. Flaherty for her letter of appreciation.

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Ganan congratulated Assistant Principal Rachel Skala on the birth of her second son. In her absence, Mr. Edmond Hood, retired Gurrie Principal, will be filling in for her at both Ideal and Spring Avenue Schools.

Highlights at each of the schools include:

Hodgkins: "The Portrait of a Hodgkins Student" which will be presented at this evening's meeting.

Ideal: Library Time at Ideal. This year the students have started reading with dogs in the library. Once a month, 3-4 dogs and their handlers meet in the Ideal Library for some quiet reading time, one grade level at a time. The 6th graders were first to test the program and all grade levels will have the opportunity to read with them throughout the year.

Seventh Avenue: The Seventh Avenue PTO sponsored the One Book/One School program. This year's book is *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. The theme is "We are all Wonders" which helps to build positive social behaviors.

Spring Avenue: This year, Spring Avenue has dedicated faculty meeting time to exploring the new math curriculum with a focus on the progress made with the try it, discuss it, and connect it framework.

Gurrie: In advisory, students have explored time management, test taking strategies, effective communication, and the impacts of bullying and microaggressions. The numerous extracurricular activities at Gurrie further foster this growth by offering students opportunities to build confidence, make new friends, and learn how to collaborate.

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 were no public comments at this meeting.

PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hodgkins School Presentation – “Making the Portrait of a Bulldog Come Alive” – Svetlana Popovic and Hodgkins School Students

This presentation consisted of the four aspects of the Portrait of the Hodgkins Student: Academically Ready, Socially Responsible, Exhibits Habits of Mind, and Global Citizen. Topics included Reads with Understanding, Writes with Clarity, Calculates with Fluency, and Applies Scientific Concepts. This process is coming alive for staff and students.

Math Program Update – Kathryn Heeke

Kathryn Heeke presented to the Board the 2024-25 Pacing Guidelines. She presented Year 1 Implementation Expectations of i-Ready Math and Illustrative Math. Also the Unpacking a Unit planning process of i-Ready Math and Illustrative Math. She presented the emphasis on Implementation with Integrity in relation to Responsiveness and Implementing new resources with fidelity. District Wide Training was held during the summer (Juy/August), Fall Training (October), and Leading New Math implementation training for Admin (October/November). Teachers are reporting an increase in math, students are feeling empowered to share and participate in discussions, and there is high engagement with both online instructional tools and classroom math experiences. The students are excited with the new math programs.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Strategic Plan Development

Dr. Ganan asked that this item be removed from this evening’s agenda. He will come back to the Board next month with a new proposal.

IASB Resolution and Position/Belief Statements Recommendations

Dr. Ganan presented to the Board. It is time to select a delegate to send to the Delegate Assembly during Triple I. (This is an annual event). He presented a description of the resolutions that will be voted on during this meeting. In past year’s the District has aligned with IASB’s recommendations. The first document includes only the resolution and an explanation of IASB’s position on the vote. The second document the entire Resolution Committee Report.

Issue	Brief Description	IASB Stance Support (Y/N)	Brief Explanation of Why "No"
Dual Language	The Seal of Biliteracy should satisfy Illinois world language requirements for high school graduation.	Y	
Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Accountability	Illinois General Assembly should enact legislation that reforms the TIF process	Y	
State Evidence Based Funding (EBF) for Illinois Authorized Charter Schools	Develop an EBF formula to help fund Illinois authorized charter schools. The EBF formula is how Illinois public school state funding is determined.	Y	
Centralized State Agency for Faith's Law Required Background Checks	Recent legislation requires school districts to contact former employers to complete an Employee History Review (EHR) before the district hires the candidate. The review is mainly in regard to sexual misconduct. This resolution would require ISBE or an appropriate agency to create a statewide database as a means to help facilitate the EHR. The District currently uses a third party to facilitate this review.	Y	
Health Care Coverage	ISBE should support changes that require the Illinois Department of Central Management Service to create a health plan for districts to opt into with the goal of providing equitable insurance coverage to all Illinois districts.	Y	
Schools Used as a Polling Place	For safety reasons, this resolution would allow districts to opt out of using school facilities as a polling place.	Y	
Student Cell Phone/Wireless Device Policy	Resolution requires all school districts to adopt a policy on the use of student owned wireless devices.	N	IASB believes this is best left to local governments.
Office of Inspector General	Resolution encourages legislation that would develop a state funded Office of the Inspector General	N	There are currently laws and legal remedies to hold school districts accountable. Therefore, this is not necessary
Faith's Law Employee History Review (EHR) for Current Employees	Resolution requests legislation that would permit individual districts to conduct an Employee History Review for current employees.	N	Committee determined that conducting an EHR on current employees can cause confusion and pose legal and collective bargaining issues. Therefore, employment decisions are best left to each district and its attorneys. (This is not to say that this cannot be done).
Board Candidate Criminal Background Check	Resolution would require all school board candidates to complete a criminal background check before submitting application.	N	Committee determined that requiring background checks for school board candidates creates a different election standard for school board members than other elected officials. This could also create financial and other procedural challenges that could deter candidates from running.

Second Reading of Press Policy 115

Dr. Ganan presented to the Board. As discussed in August, there were only minor changes made to the policies referenced in the Press Policy Memo 115. *Board Policy 2.160: Board Attorney*, *Board Policy 4.70: Resource Conservation*, and *Board Policy 4.80: Accounting and Audits* were all updated in response to IASB's 5-year policy review. The other policies referenced in the Memo 115 have updates to legal references and cross references but no changes to the language of the policy.

West 40 Building Security / Safety Audit / Planning

Dr. Ganan presented to the Board. He presented that safety and security must always be our first priority. He was pleased to learn recently that West 40 has school security professional on staff. He reached out to them to learn more about the services they offer. He was interested in learning if they conduct building safety and security audits as well as provide feedback on current safety plans. They do have experts to support both of these requests.

A few years ago, we had Paul Timms, a school security expert, conduct a safety audit on all of our buildings. In the report, he recommended several security strategies and upgrades for each of our buildings. We moved forward with many of his suggestions. Dr. Ganan felt that the report was not specific enough regarding the unique spaces in each of our buildings. He has asked the experts at West 40 to conduct a highly building specific audit. The goal is to ensure that all areas of each building are as secure as possible in the event of an emergency.

He also recommended that West 40 reviews our building emergency safety plans and provides recommendations. If it is decided that we need to enhance such plans, they are able to guide us through that process. First responders will be included in these discussions.

Tonight, the Board will be asked to approve a contract with West 40 not to exceed \$11,500. The total cost is dependent on the findings, and the extent to which we may need to revise our plans.

FY25 School Maintenance Project Grant

Mr. Steven Smidl presented to the Board. ISBE is making available to all School Districts in the state a maintenance project matching grant of \$50,000. The utilization of this grant is to help offset costs towards our facilities and operations which include emergency projects, Health/Life/Safety (HLS) projects, state priority projects, permanent improvement projects, or other.

This year, the district focuses on this year's application towards Health/Life/Safety to upgrade our fire alarm system and fire panels across all district buildings. This project ties into the district's ten-year project plan for 2025. Before the application can be submitted to West 40 and ISBE, the School Board is required to do the following at a Board Meeting:

- Authorize the School Maintenance Grant Project application
- Reserve local funds for the district's portion of the matching grant for the project.
- Ensure work has not started for the items that are part of the project.

Upon completing the above, the accompanying District Certification must be signed by the Board President. Once that is complete, the application will go to West 40 and then ISBE.

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 –September 23, 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: Lopez, Mares, Sherman, White, Young, Bryck;
ABSENT: Hartman; 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) Steven Bowdry, Night Custodian at Spring Avenue/Gurrie Middle Schools, at an hourly rate of \$15.75, pending fingerprinting results; and
- 2) Madelyn Glasby, Grade 6 Teacher (one year position) at Seventh Avenue School, at an annual salary of \$47,338.00 (prorated), effective November 7, 2024.

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

Approval of Resignation

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

- 1) Donna Johnson, Paraprofessional at Hodgkins Elementary School, effective October 7, 2024; and

RESIGNATION FOR RETIREMENT OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) Barb Hobe, Library Media Specialist at Ideal Elementary School, effective at the end of the 2026-2027 school year.

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

Approval of Leave of Absence Request

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

- 1) Catherine Altobelli, LMS Aide at Spring Avenue School, effective October 1, 2024 through October 11, 2024;
- 2) Angelita Garcia, Lunchroom Monitor at Seventh Avenue School, effective August 26, 2024 through December 20, 2024;
- 3) Margaret Konrath (updated request), School Psychologist for the District, effective September 16, 2024 through December 13, 2024; and

- 4) Louise Kulaga, Teacher at Gurrie Middle School, effective November 26, 2024 through March 26, 2025 (revised).

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

Adoption of Press Policy 115

Motion by Ms. Mares, seconded by Mrs. Bryck, that the Board of Education of School District 105 adopt Press Policy 115 as presented.

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

Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with West 40 for Building Security and Safety Audit / Planning

Motion by Mrs. Bryck, seconded by Mr. Lopez, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with West 40 for Building Security and Safety Audit / Planning as presented.

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

Authorization of FY25 School Maintenance Project Grant

Motion by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Mr. White, that the Board of Education of School District 105 authorize the FY25 School Maintenance Project Grant as presented.

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

Approval of CEC Proposal for the Development of the District's New Strategic Plan

No action taken at this meeting. This will be discussed further at the November Board of Education Meeting.

Approval of Preventative Maintenance

Motion by Mr. White, seconded by Mrs. Young, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the Preventive Maintenance Services from F.E. Moran for \$38,971.00.

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

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- Hodgkins Preschool Presentation
- First Reading Press Policy 116
- Next School Board Meeting will be held at Hodgkins Elementary School on November 25, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. White moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Young. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM on Monday, October 28, 2024.

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

Board President

Board Secretary