

Minutes of Board of Education Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Joliet Township High School District 204

A Board of Education Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Joliet Township High School District 204 was held Tuesday, April 15, 2025, beginning at 7:00 PM at the District Administrative Center, 300 Caterpillar Drive, Joliet, Illinois.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call - 5:00 PM

II. Closed Session

Closed Session is to discuss and consider items such as student discipline, collective negotiating matters, acquisition of land, pending legal matters, and/or personnel for the appointment, employment, pay, discipline, performance, or dismissal as designated by school board policy 2:200.

President Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. in the Board Room at the District Administrative Center, 300 Caterpillar Drive, Joliet, Illinois. Members Present Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick, Mr. Matt Kennedy, Mrs. Michelle Stiff, Mrs. Christine Lynn, Mrs. Lorraine Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Angela Huntington, and Mr. Dan Coffey.

Mrs. Stiff moved that the board go into Executive Session for the purpose of personnel, negotiations, security procedures and student discipline. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lynn and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mr. Fitzpatrick, Dr. Huntington, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Stiff, and Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer. Nays: None.

III. Call to Order and Roll Call - Regular Meeting - 7:00 PM

President Kennedy reconvened the meeting into Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. in the Board room at the Administrative Center, 300 Caterpillar Drive, Joliet, Illinois and asked for roll call. Members Present: Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, and Mr. Coffey.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Welcome Visitors

President Kennedy welcomed all guest in person and watching livestream.

President Kennedy asked for a moment of silents for SSG Jose Duenez, Jr. A proud 2017 graduate of Joliet Central High School.

IV. Public Comment on Any Agenda Item

Members of the public may make comments to the Board of Education on any item listed on the agenda. The time allotted to comment is limited to five minutes, unless the Board President decides to shorten public comment to conserve time and give

the maximum number of individuals opportunity to speak as designated by school board policy 2:230.

V. Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda is used for those items that usually do not require discussion or explanation before Board of Education action. It may also include items for which the law requires board action but which the board rightfully delegates to the staff.

- A. Minutes of March 18, 2025 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Minutes of March 18, 2025 Special Board Meeting
- C. Payroll, Organizations & Activity, and Cafeteria Report - *Policy 4:60*
- D. Check Register - *Policy 4:60*
- E. Freedom of Information Request(s) - *Policy 2:250*

A motion was made by Dr. Huntington to approve the Consent Agenda with the removal of Hopewell Schools from the Check Register. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lynn and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, and Mr. Coffey. Nays: None.

A motion was made by Mrs. Stiff to approve the remaining Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coffey and carried. Roll Call vote. Ayes: Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. and Guerrero Neumayer. Abstain: Dr. Huntington. Nays: None.

VI. Recognition and Awards

- A. Central Campus – No Recognition This Month
- B. West Campus
2025 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching Finalist
Alyssa Greenwald

VII. Superintendent Reports

- A. Correspondence
No Correspondence.
- B. Legislative Report
Dr. Guseman gave an update on the US Department of Education directive to States to certify in compliance with Title IV of the civil act of 1964.
- C. Educational Services Update: 504 Program and Services - *Mrs. Jamila Cage, Director of Special Services*
Mrs. Cage gave an update on 504 programs and services.
- D. Master Facility Plan Update: Joliet West Phase 3 - Dr. Ilandus Hampton, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, Nidhi Shah, RA: Project Manager, Wight & Company, Carmine Calabria, Designer, Wight & Company, and David Norris, Preconstruction Manager, Gilbane Building Company
An update of the Master Facility Plan Update for Joliet West Phase 3.

VIII. Action Items

- A. Agreement between Joliet Township High School and Shrub Oak International School
A motion was made by Mrs. Stiff to approve the Agreement between Joliet Township High School and Shrub Oak International School. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lynn and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. Lynn, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, and Mrs. Stiff. Abstain: Mr. Coffey.
- B. Agreement between Joliet Township High School and New Lenox School District
A motion was made by Dr. Huntington to approve the Agreement between Joliet Township High School and New Lenox School District. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coffey and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, and Dr. Huntington. Nays: None.
- C. Agreement between Joliet Township High School and Hillmann Pediatric Therapy
A motion was made by Mrs. Lynn to approve Agreement between Joliet Township High School and Hillmann Pediatric Therapy. The motion was seconded by Dr. Huntington and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, and Mr. Coffey. Nays: None.
- D. Agreement between Joliet Township High School and Educational Equity Consultants
A motion was made by Mrs. Stiff to approve the Agreement between Joliet Township High School and Educational Equity Consultants. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Lynn, and Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer. Nays: None.
- E. Agreement between Joliet Township High School and Legacy Fine Arts Inc.
A motion was made by Mr. Coffey to approve the Agreement between Joliet Township High School and Legacy Fine Arts Inc. The motion was seconded by Dr. Huntington and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Fitzpatrick, and Mrs. Lynn. Nays: None.
- F. Disposable of Equipment Request(s)
A motion was made by Dr. Huntington to approve the Disposable of Equipment. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Stiff and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Fitzpatrick. Nays: None.
- G. Substitute Pay Rate Recommendation
A motion was made by Dr. Huntington to approve the Substitute Pay Rate. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lynn and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes:

Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, and Mr. Kennedy.

H. Personnel Reports - *Policy 5:30; 5:180; 5:185; 5:210*

1. Professional Resignation Request(s)
 - a. Nicole A. Walker, ELA Teacher, Pathways, effective June 30, 2025
 - b. Quetzalli Jacobo, Fearless Females, West, effective May 30, 2025
 - c. Bhatti Maham, Fearless Females, West, effective May 30, 2025
 - d. Nicole Thurzo, AVAC Coordinator, AVAC, effective March 31, 2025
 - e. Amanda Herrera-Ford, Director of Human Resources, effective June 30, 2025
 - f. Bralio Guzman, Asst. Boys Soccer Coach, Central, effective May 30, 2025
2. Professional Retirement Request(s)
 - a. Andrew Harris, Special Education Teacher, River Valley, effective March 17, 2025
 - b. Darren Meyers, Teacher, Central Campus, effective June 30, 2029
 - c. Eugene Martin, Industrial Technology Teacher, Central Campus, effective June 30, 2026
 - d. Gregory Thompson, Dean-PPS, West Campus, effective June 30, 2029
3. Professional Leave of Absence Request(s)
 - a. Andrea Lopez, Counselor, PPS, West Campus, is requesting a leave of absence effective August 15, 2025 through December 31, 2025
Medical-Maternity
 - b. Sharon Eichensehr, Teacher, Arts & Communications, Central Campus, is requesting a leave of absence effective April 17, 2025 through May 19, 2025
Medical-Personal
4. Professional Change of Status Request(s)
 - a. Lizbeth Perez, Math Teacher, Central to Math Interventionist, effective August 15, 2025; due to New Position
 - b. Karla Gomez-James, School Counselor, Central to EL/Bilingual Instructional Coach, Central, effective August 15, 2025; due to the change of status of Susana Montano
5. Professional Extra Pay Recommendation(s)
West Campus- Athletics
 - a. Dan Tito, Head Football

- b. Eric Carlson, Assistant Football
- c. Shawn West, Assistant Football
- d. Patrick Lauer, Assistant Football
- e. Robert Elkins, Assistant Football
- f. Tisha Evans, Head Girls Flag Football
- g. Breanna Blackmon, Assistant Girls Flag Football
- h. John Karczewski, Assistant Girls Flag Football
- i. Michael O'Malley, Assistant Girls Flag Football
- j. Chris Lincoln, Head Girls Volleyball
- k. Alan Stewart, Head Boys Soccer,
- l. Renae Batsch-Haaker, Head Girls Cross Country
- m. Patrick Haaker, Assistant Girls Cross Country
- n. Michael Brower, Head Boys Cross Country
- o. Tony Kochev, Assistant Boys Cross Country
- p. Nick Koenig, Head Girls Swimming
- q. Elizabeth Covelli-Reyes, Head Girls Tennis
- r. Jeremy Kreiger, Head Boys Basketball
- s. Breanna Blackmon, Head Girls Basketball
- t. Robert Elkins, Assistant Girls Basketball
- u. Mychae Bailey, Assistant Girls Basketball
- v. Ernest Myers, Assistant Girls Basketball
- w. Awais Arain, Head Boys Wrestling
- x. Erik Murray, Head Girls Wrestling
- y. John Lizzio, Head Girls Bowling
- z. Amanda Ashmus, Assistant Girls Bowling
- aa. Reggie Lee, Head Boys Bowling
- bb. Nick Koenig, Head Boys Swimming
- cc. Erik Murry, Volunteer Flag Football
- dd. Tracy Cameron- Head Cheer
- ee. Tracy Cameron- Head Sideline Cheer

Central Campus – Activities

- a. Rachel Ellis- Technical Director- Spring

6. Professional Additional Assignment Recommendation(s)

Spring Credit Recovery- West Campus- Effective 06/01/2025

- Julia Baker- USH/AP HUG
- Grace Burrus- Pre-AP World History
- Ken Poort- Government/Economics
- Elizabeth Gillespie- SS Instructional
- Andrew Smothers- English Instructional
- Veryl Boykin- English
- Israel Velazquez- Algebra 1
- Juan Torrez- Algebra 1
- Mario Guzman- Geometry

- Nicholas Koenig- Geometry
- Jacob Babich- Advanced Algebra
- Susana Vera- Instructional Math
- Rosie Cabrera- Bilingual Math

Spring Credit Recovery- Central Campus- Effective 06/01/2025

- Lily Vellenga- USH/Pre-AP World History
- Miguel Silva- Government/Economics
- Kelly Halusek- English
- Christine Edwards- Instructional English
- Derrick Morin- Algebra 1
- Jennifer Heisler- Algebra 1
- Michael O'Malley- Algebra 1 Honors
- Erin Rodgers- Geometry
- Bobbie Sue Chavez- Geometry
- Patrick Higgins- Advanced Algebra
- Matt Hurst- Instructional Math
- Laura Flaherty- Bilingual Math
- Gloria Vivanco- Bilingual Math

Summer School- Effective 06/03/2025

- Yvette Justice- Counselor
- Greg Thompson- Dean
- Ken Poort- Social Studies
- Mike O'Malley- Math
- Katie Markun- INS Math
- Laura Allison- English
- Angela Vainikos- English
- Terra Meyer- English
- Melissa Stapleton- English
- Robin English- INS English
- Barb Campbell- Clerical
- Ghandi Schlote- Social Studies
- Stephanie Phillips- Social Studies
- Susana Vera- INS Math
- Laura Flaherty- Multilingual
- Sylvestre Paramo- Multilingual
- Stacy Moore- English
- Elizabeth Cole- English
- Luna Hilal- English
- Joanie Stofan- INS English
- Patrick Higgins- Math
- Natalie Mander- Math
- Israel Velazquez- Math

- Lizbeth Perez- Math
- Mike Carnahan- Math

Summer Enrichment- Effective 06/01/2025

- Andrew Smothers- Teacher
- Christine Edwards- Teacher
- Phan Mathis- Paraprofessional
- Regina White- Paraprofessional

Summer School- River Valley Detention Center- Effective 06/01/2025

- Jacob Niemann
- Stephanie Bonner
- George Shimko
- Neil Hodge- working 1st week for G. Shimko and sub as needed

Extended School Year- Effective 06/01/2025

Teachers:

- Kevin O'Connell
- Megan Hechler
- Matt Hurst
- Eric Lindstrom
- Darcy Burns
- Jessica Betts
- Tyler Theobald
- Kerry Wells
- Paul Chovanec
- Ignacio Torres
- Kacey Stockdell- June only
- Jenn Flynn-July only

Paraprofessionals:

- Simone Martin
- Lisa Talarico
- Fatima Ortiz
- Sandra Holmes
- Tracey Massey
- Shannon McKinney
- Billy Veal
- JaShon Foster
- Bianca Lee
- Carlotta McLaurin

- Jen Hernandez
- Rebecca Bernickus
- Julia De La Rosa
- Tinesha King
- Lisa Murray
- Linda Santillo
- Heather Jaskowiak

Speech Language Pathologist

- Elise Piagentini- July
- Jackie Tyler- June

7. Professional Employment Recommendation(s)

- Quetzalli Jacobo, Bilingual Social Worker, West Campus, effective August 15, 2025, Step C-1 \$67,187; due to New Position
- Gabrielle Garrett, PPS Coordinator, West Campus, effective July 1, 2025, Salary \$118,500; due to change of status of Julie Adelman
- Elise Arriaga, Math Teacher, Central Campus, effective August 15, 2025, Step A-1 \$53,621; due to change of status of Lizbeth Perez
- Raul Munoz, Bilingual Math Teacher, Central Campus, effective August 15, 2025, Step C-1 \$67,187; due to change of status of Laura Flaherty
- Barbara Burns, School Psychologist, Pathways Campus, effective August 15, 2025, Step F-9 \$83,128; due to retirement of Alexandria Fotopoulos
- Sheleah Blissett, Director of Special Services, District, effective July 1, 2025, Salary \$150,000; due to change of status of Jamila Cage

8. Classified Retirement Request(s)

- Arlene Day, Bus Driver, Transportation, District, effective May 30, 2025
- Jane Stengle, Security, West Campus, effective June 06, 2025
- Regina White, Instructional Paraprofessional, Special Services, West Campus, effective September 05, 2025

9. Classified Resignation Request(s)

- Dawn Divis, Office Staff I, Educational Services, District effective March 30, 2025
- Riley Regis, Computer Maintenance Technician, Technology, District, effective April 24, 2025
- Juanita Lopez, Security, Central Campus, effective April 02, 2025

- d. Sonja Hoyle, Service Worker, Cafeteria, effective April 04, 2025

10. Classified Leave of Absence Request(s)

- a. Danielle Walsh, Office Staff, PPS, Central Campus, is requesting a leave of absence effective March 31, 2025 through April 11, 2025
Medical-Personal

11. Classified Employment Recommendation(s)

- a. Kevin Deufel, Bus Driver, Transportation, Step 1 \$20.91 per hour effective April 16, 2025
- b. John Greenidge, Security, Central Campus, Step 4 Lane C \$17.87 per hour effective April 16, 2025
- c. Timothy Moore, CTE-Instructional Paraprofessional, Special Services, Central Campus, Step 4 Lane D, \$18.99 per hour effective April 16, 2025
- d. Wesley Minton, Office Staff I, Educational Services, District, Step 9 \$19.80 per hour effective April 16, 2025
- e. Noel Mendoza, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, Central Campus, Annual Salary \$105,000, effective July 07, 2025
- f. Carmen Gamino, CTE-Instructional Paraprofessional, Special Services, Central Campus, Step 4 Lane B \$17.00 per hour effective April 16, 2025
- g. Lakisha Blackmon, CTE-Instructional Paraprofessional, Special Services, West Campus, Step 4 Lane B \$17.00 per hour effective April 16, 2025
- h. Maribel Maguire, Office Staff 1, Educational Services, District, Step 8 \$19.44 per hour, effective April 21, 2025

12. Classified Termination Request(s)

- a. Dana Lowe, Child Care Instructor, Central Campus, effective April 15, 2025
- b. Daron Williams, Security, Central, effective March 19, 2025

A motion was made by Mrs. Stiff to approve the Personnel Reports. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coffey and carried. Comments. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. Lynn, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, and Mrs. Stiff. Nays: None.

I. Student Discipline Recommendation(s) – *Policy 7:190*

Mr. Coffey began by saying, “after receiving and deliberating the information contained in the hearing officer’s report, the Board of Education is charged with deciding:

- 1. Whether removing the child from his or her learning environment is in the best interest of the school;

2. What the rationale is for the specific duration of the recommended expulsion;
3. Whether all appropriate and available behavioral and disciplinary interventions were exhausted; and
4. Whether the continued presence in school would either; (a) pose a threat to the safety of other students, staff, or members of the school community, or (b) substantially disrupt, impede, or interfere with the operation of the school.

The Board of Education must then convene into public session to formally vote on the motion to expel, if the expulsion is the consensus arrived at during executive session.”

A motion was made by Mr. Coffey that Student C242516 be expelled from all District 204 programs until January 2027. The Board of Education then stayed the expulsion so Student C242516 may continue their education through Lincoln School for the duration of the recommended expulsion. Student C242516 may reenroll at Joliet Township High School District 204 in January 2027. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and carried. Roll call vote: Ayes: Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, and Mr. Coffey. Nays: None.

A motion was made by Mr. Coffey that Student W242517 be expelled from all District 204 programs until January 2026. The Board of Education then stayed the expulsion so Student W242517 may continue their education through Lincoln School for the duration of the recommended expulsion. Student W242517 may reenroll at Joliet Township High School District 204 in January 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and carried. Roll call vote: Ayes: Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, and Dr. Huntington. Nays: None.

IX. Unfinished Business

No Unfinished Business.

X. New Business

No New Business.

XI. Board Reports

Dr. Huntington shared that she attended the Salute to Service, sharing it was a great event.

Mr. Coffey shared he attended the Top 25 Student Banquet, sharing it was a great event.

Mr. Coffey shared he was in Springfield advocating for Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and education.

Mrs. Guerrero-Neumayer shared she was in Springfield for Social Advocacy Work, and that Joliet Township was well represented at this event as well.

Mrs. Guerrero-Neumayer reminded everyone that April is sexual assault awareness month.

Mr. Fitzpatrick shared he attended the Top 25 Student Banquet, sharing it was a great event.

XII. Announcements/Public Comment

Dr. Guseman shared that the Salute to Service was a wonderful event, and the umbrella gift was appreciated. Dr. Guseman thanked Kristine Schlismann and her team for coordinating the event.

Dr. Guseman thanked Mr. Griglione for his work in coordinating the Top 25 Students banquet.

Dr. Guseman shared that she attended the monthly meeting with the CED regarding the internship expansion program. 50 students have been placed with 27 of them being JTHS students.

Dr. Guseman shared two upcoming events:

- CEO Trade Show, April 30th at JJC 5:00 p.m.
- Kermes is May 1st at Joliet Central

Upon a motion by Dr. Huntington and seconded by Mrs. Stiff, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Mr. Matthew Kennedy
President

Mrs. Christine Lynn,
Secretary