

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, January 20, 2026, 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 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the District Administrative Center, 300 Caterpillar Drive, Joliet, Illinois. Members Present, Mr. Matt Kennedy, Mrs. Michelle Stiff, Mrs. Christine Lynn, Mrs. Lorraine Guerrero Neumayer, and Dr. Angela Huntington. Absent: Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick and Mr. Dan Coffey.

Dr. Huntington moved that the board go into Executive Session for the purpose of personnel and student discipline. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lynn and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Dr. Huntington, Mr. Kennedy, 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, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, and Dr. Huntington. Absent: Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Coffey

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Welcome Visitors

President Kennedy welcomed all guest in person and watching livestream, and thanked JROTC.

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.

No Public Comment.

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 December 16, 2025 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Minutes of December 9, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting
- C. Public Comment Response from December 16, 2026, Regular Board Meeting
- D. Payroll, Organizations & Activity, and Cafeteria Report - *Policy 4:60*
- E. Freedom of Information Request(s) - *Policy 2:250*
- F. Check Register - *Policy 4:60*

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. Stiff and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, and Mrs. Stiff. Nays: None.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynn to approve the remaining Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Stiff and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. Lynn, and Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer. Abstain: Dr. Huntington.

VI. Recognition and Awards

- A. Central Campus
 - Joliet Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training Participants
Beatriz Campa
Laila Chandler
Mónica Delgado
Daisy Herédia
Brianna Hernández
Fernanda Martínez
Rihanna Ross
Jazmine Tena
- B. West Campus
 - Joliet Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training Participants
Marlene Arroyo
Addison Atilano
Layali Carranza
Kaitlyn MacDonald

Melina Martinez
Julia Mucha
Landon Slabaugh
Lyla Thorstad
Aliyah Wright

C. District

Electronics & Robotics students restore Joliet Fire Department
Robots

Nicholas Hicks, Joliet West High School, Freddie the Fire Truck
Jose Zamudio, Joliet West High School, Freddie the Fire Truck
Christian Torres, Joliet Central High School, Andy the Ambulance
Jeremy Martinez Zapot, Joliet Central High School, Andy the Ambulance
Javier Barrios, Joliet Central High School, Andy the Ambulance
Greg Rozman, Joliet Central High School, Andy the Ambulance

VII. Superintendent Reports

A. Correspondence

No Correspondence.

B. Legislative Report

No Legislative Report.

C. Parent-Teacher Advisory Presentation - *Dr. Brett Marcum, Assistant Principal Joliet West, and Mr. Steve Locke, Assistant Principal Joliet Central*

Dr. Marcum and Mr. Locke along with members of the Parent-Teacher Advisory presented the recommendation and review of the student handbook and student discipline.

D. Education Services Update: Multilingual Services Program

Update Presentation - Mr. Edgar Palacios, Director of Multilingual Services and Mrs. Susi Montano, Curriculum Director for English

Mr. Palacios and Mrs. Montano gave an update on Strategy 2.2.

E. Winter Credit Recovery Report

Dr. Guseman shared the Winter Credit Recovery.

VIII. Action Items

A. Action Plan 2-1: Administrative Structure Recommendations

A motion was made by Dr. Huntington to approve the Action Plan 2-1 Administrative Structure Recommendations. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lynn and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, and Mrs. Stiff. Nays: None.

B. Agreement between Joliet Township High School District 204 and Joliet Township High Schools Council 204 of American Federation of Teachers Local 604
A motion was made by Mrs. Stiff to approve the Agreement between Joliet Township High School District 204 and Joliet Township High Schools Council 204 of American Federation of Teachers Local 604 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lynn and carried. Comments. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, and Dr. Huntington. Nays: None.

C. School Maintenance Project Grant
A motion was made by Mrs. Lynn to approve the School Maintenance Project Grant. The motion was seconded by Dr. Huntington and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, and Dr. Huntington. Nays: None.

D. Disposal of Equipment
A motion was made by Dr. Huntington to approve the Disposal of Equipment. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lynn and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Dr. Huntington, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. Lynn, and Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer. Nays: None.

E. Donation(s)
A motion was made by Dr. Huntington to approve the Donations. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Stiff and carried. Comments. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, and Mrs. Lynn. Nays: None.

F. Street Dedication Approval
A motion was made by Mrs. Stiff to approve the Street Dedication Approval. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mrs. Stiff, and Mr. Kennedy. Nays: None.

G. Second Reading of Board Policies - *Policy 2:240*

1. 2:120 Board Member Development
2. 2:150 Committees
3. 2:270 Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited
4. 4:10 Fiscal and Business Management
5. 4:30 Revenue and Investments
6. 4:80 Accounting and Audits
7. 4:140 Waiver of Student Fees
8. 4:190 Targeted School Violence Prevention

9. 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment
10. 5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting
11. 5:100 Staff Development Program
12. 5:190 Teacher Qualifications
13. 5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal
14. 5:220 Substitute Teachers
15. 5:280 Duties and Qualifications
16. 6:20 School Year Calendar and Day
17. 6:40 Curriculum Development
18. 6:60 Curriculum Content
19. 6:130 Program for the Gifted
20. 6:160 English Learners
21. 6:260 Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs
22. 6:300 Graduation Requirements
23. 6:310 High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students
24. 6:315 High School Credit for Students in Grade 7 or 8
25. 6:320 Credit for Proficiency
26. 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities
27. 7:70 Attendance and Truancy
28. 7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment
29. 7:190 Student Behavior
30. 7:290 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention
31. 7:315 Restrictions on Publications; High Schools
32. 7:340 Student Records
33. 8:30 Conduct on School Property

A motion was made by Dr. Huntington to approve Second Reading of Policies. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lynn and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mrs. Stiff, and Mr. Kennedy. Nays: None.

H. Second Reading of Policies - Five Year Review - Policy 2:240

1. 6:280 Grading and Promotion

A motion was made by Dr. Huntington to approve the Seconded Reading of Policies Five Year Review. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lynn and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, and Mrs. Stiff. Nays: None.

I. Second Reading of Policies - Rewritten - Policy 2:240

1. 7:150 Agency and Law Enforcement Requests

A motion was made by Mrs. Stiff to approve the Seconded Reading of Policies Rewritten. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lynn and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, and Dr. Huntington. Nays: None.

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

1. Professional Resignation Request(s)

- a. Jaquan McGee, Assistant Boys Basketball, West Campus, effective January 12, 2026

2. Professional Retirement Request(s)

- a. Jacqueline Horvat, Special Education Teacher, River Valley Detention, effective May 30, 2026
- b. Jennifer Dooley, Teacher, West Campus, effective May 30, 2030
- c. Vernice M. Braasch, Teacher, Central Campus, effective June 30, 2030

3. Professional Leave of Absence Request(s)

- a. Amary Maberry, Teacher, Central Campus, is requesting a leave of absence effective January 31, 2026 through March 28, 2026 Medical-Maternity
- b. Jennifer Darin, Teacher, Central Campus, is requesting a leave of absence effective March 30, 2026 through May 29, 2026 Medical-Maternity
- c. Jacob Niemann, Teacher, Pathways Academy, is requesting a leave of absence effective March 23, 2026 through April 10, 2026 Medical-Paternity
- d. Ashley Errico, Social Worker, Special Education, is requesting a leave of absence effective December 17, 2025 through February 4, 2026 Medical-Personal
- e. Rick Franceschina, Social Worker, Transition, is requesting a leave of absence effective March 30, 2026 through April 10, 2026 Medical-Paternity

4. Professional Salary Advancement Request(s)

- a. Cathryn Black, West Campus, from D12 to E12
- b. Wesley Ringfelt, West Campus, from C15 to D15
- c. Amanda Ringfelt, Central Campus, F20 to G20

- d. Nicholas Ratajczak, Central Campus, E14 to F14
- e. Danielle Maynard, West Campus, D14 to E14
- f. Kenneth Poort, West Campus, D19 to E19
- g. Julie Nettles, Central Campus, B4 to C4
- h. Robert Elkins, West Campus, A4 to B4
- i. Christine Austin, West Campus, E27 to F27
- j. Amanda Wisslead, Central Campus, A4 to B4
- k. Justin Moscato, West Campus, ASE 3% increase

5. Professional Additional Assignment Request(s)

Credit Recovery – English 2 - Effective 12/20/2025

- Kelly Halusek (Central Campus)

Credit Recovery – English 1 and 2 - Effective 12/20/2025

- Gabrielle Wilk (West Campus)

Credit Recovery – English 3/PPJ – Effective 12/20/2025

- Kelly Newton (Central Campus)
- Veryl Boykin (West Campus)

Credit Recovery – English 4/ESL 1/2 – Effective 12/20/2025

- Elizabeth Cole (Central Campus)

Credit Recovery – English 4 – Effective 12/20/2025

- Stacy Moore (West Campus)

Credit Recovery – English 1/Instructional English – Effective 12/20/2025

- Christine Edwards (Central Campus)

6. Professional Extra Pay Recommendation(s)

Central Campus- Athletics

- a. Rick Franceschina, Assistant Girls Softball

Campus Level, Fine Arts & School Related

West

- a. Lori Bowen, Assistant Musical Director

7. Professional Staff Overload Recommendation(s)

Central Campus:

- 2/11 overload for Wilk, Gabrielle (FACS)
- 2/11 overload for Ashmus, Amanda (FACS)
- 2/11 overload for Vollmer, Amy (FACS)
- 2/11 overload for Grzetich, James (Applied Life)

- 2/11 overload for Rashid, Jon (Applied Life)
- Extended Day assignment for Rashid, Jon
- 2/11 overload for Mullin, Matthew (Math)
- 2/11 overload for Heisler, Jennifer (Math)
- 2/11 overload for Hall, Matthew (Math)
- 2/11 overload for Lindstrom, Eric (AVAC)
- 2/11 overload for Piazza, Terrence (Social Studies)

8. Classified Retirement Request(s)

- a. Deborah Salinas, Custodian, Building & Grounds, West Campus, effective December 12, 2025
- b. Ronald Ballard, Bus Driver, Transportation, District, effective December 31, 2025
- c. Paula Simmons, Bus Driver, Transportation, District effective January 07, 2026
- d. Albert Fisher, Maintenance Mechanic, Building & Grounds, West Campus, effective February 02, 2026
- e. Marianna Williams, Bus Monitor, Transportation, District, effective February 20, 2026
- f. Sarah McLaurin, Paraprofessional, AVAC, Transition, effective December 1, 2026
- g. Wendy Davis, IT Network/Media Manager, Technology, District, effective June 30, 2026
- h. Paul Sefcik, IT Computer Technician, Technology, District, effective June 30, 2026

9. Classified Resignation Request(s)

- a. Angelica Urbina, Bus Driver, Transportation, District, effective December 19, 2025
- b. Brian Falada, Girls Bowling Assistant, Athletics & Activities, Central Campus, effective December 11, 2025
- c. Nathaniel Thomas, Custodian, Building & Grounds, Central Campus, effective January 16, 2026
- d. Olga Ochoa, Instructional Paraprofessional, Bilingual, Special Services, Central Campus, effective January 12, 2026

10. Classified Leave of Absence Request(s)

- a. Edward Bell, Bus Driver, Transportation, is requesting a leave of absence effective January 26, 2026 through April 26, 2026

Medical-Personal

- b. Nancy Erzinger, Paraprofessional, Central Campus, is requesting a leave of absence effective December 8, 2025 through January 26, 2026 Medical-Personal
- c. Crystal Jordan, Office Staff, Administrative Center, is requesting an intermittent leave of absence effective December 9, 2025 through June 9, 2026

Medical-Personal

- d. Consuela Bishop, Paraprofessional, Central Campus, is requesting a leave of absence effective January 5, 2026 through March 23, 2026 Medical-Personal
- e. Charlene Alexander, Bus Aide, Transportation, is requesting a leave of absence effective December 1, 2025 through February 20, 2026 Medical-Personal
- f. Susan Guerrero, Administrative Assistant, Business Office, Admin Center, is requesting a leave of absence effective February 11, 2026 through February 27, 2026 Medical-Personal

11. Classified Employment Recommendation(s)

- a. Todd Millsap, Bus Driver, Transportation, District, Step 6 \$23.63 per hour effective January 21, 2026
- b. Bertha Benitez, Service Worker, Cafeteria, West Campus, Step 1 \$15.69 per hour effective January 21, 2026
- c. Michael Alessi, Security, West Campus, Lane A Step 3 \$19.18 per hour effective January 21, 2026

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

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

Mrs. Stiff 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 Mrs. Stiff that Student C252613 be expelled from all District 204 programs until January 2027. The Board of Education then stayed the expulsion so Student C252613 may continue their education through Lincoln School for the duration of the recommended expulsion. Student C252613 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: Dr. Huntington, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. Lynn, and Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer. Nays: None.

L. Approval of Exclusion from District Property and Events
Mrs. Stiff 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 or not a policy was violated.

2. Whether removing the person from all Joliet Township High School properties was in the best interest of the school;
3. Whether the specific duration of the recommended no trespassing was appropriate or other discipline should have been applied;
4. Whether the continued presence on district 204 property 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 no trespassing, if no trespassing is the consensus arrived at during executive session.”

A motion was made by Mrs. Stiff that Ms. Mersa Samy no trespassing is upheld. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, and Mrs. Lynn. Nays: None.

IX. Unfinished Business

No Unfinished Business.

X. New Business

A. First Reading of Recommendation

1. 7:190e Student Behavior
2. Recommended Handbook Changes

XI. Board Reports

Mrs. Lynn shared that she attended boys basketball. She thanked the coaches and fans for their support.

Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer shared that she attended the AABA MLK Brunch, and thanked Dr. Guseman and Mrs. Stiff for their participation.

Mrs. Stiff shared that she also attended the AABA MLK Brunch.

XII. Announcements/Public Comment

Dr. Guseman shared that the two-day institute day was a great way to start the semester off.

Dr. Guseman thanked everyone who attended the Ribbon Cutting at Joliet West of PPS.

Dr. Guseman shared that she was thankful to be a part of the AABA MLK Brunch event.

Dr. Guseman thanked Kristine Schlismann and her committee for the MLK Day of Service. Dr. Guseman also shared that she was sorry that the event had to be cancelled this year.

Dr. Guseman shared that State of the District will be held on Thursday, January 29th at Joliet West from 6:00 – 8:00.

Dr. Guseman shared that Freshman showcase will be at both campuses on Wednesday, January 21.

Upon a motion by Dr. Huntington and seconded by Mrs. Stiff, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Mr. Matthew Kennedy
President

Mrs. Michelle Stiff,
Secretary