

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 21, 2025, beginning at 7:00 PM at the District Administrative Center, 300 Caterpillar Drive, Joliet, Illinois.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call - 6:00 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 5:06 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 and student discipline. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Stiff 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 7:01 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. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, and Mr. Coffey. Absent: Mr. Kennedy.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Welcome Visitors

Vice President Guerrero Neumayer welcomed all guest in person and watching livestream.

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 17, 2024, Regular Board Meeting
- C. Payroll, Organizations & Activity, and Cafeteria Report - *Policy 4:60*
- E. Freedom of Information Request(s) - *Policy 2:250*
- D. 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 Mr. Coffey and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, and Dr. Huntington. Nays: None.

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

VI. Recognition and Awards

- A. Central Campus – *No Recognition This Month*
- B. West Campus – *No Recognition This Month*

VII. Superintendent Reports

- A. Correspondence
 - Dr. Guseman shared correspondence for Illinois Vision 2030.
- B. Legislative Report
 - No Legislative Report.
- C. Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee Presentation – *Dr. Brett Marcum, Assistant Principal Joliet West and Mr. Steve Locke, Assistant Principal Joliet Central*
 - Dr. Marcum and Mr. Locke shared information and shared suggested changes from the committee.
- D. JTHS Student Attendance Update Action Plan 3.2 - *Mrs. Tecara Parker, Principal Joliet West and Mr. Shad Hallihan, Principal Joliet Central*
 - Mrs. Parker and Mr. Hallihan gave an update on JTHS attendance initiatives.
- E. Educational Services Update - *Mrs. Dianne McDonald, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services, Dr. Jeff Riley, Assistant Principal Joliet Central, and Dr. Sean Hackney, Assistant Principal Joliet West*
 - Mrs. McDonald, Dr. Riley, and Dr. Hackney gave an update on Educational Services.

- F. Winter Credit Recovery Report
Dr. Guseman shared the report for the 2024-2025 Winter Credit Recovery Program.

VIII. Action Items

- A. A Resolution Supporting Illinois Vision 2030
A motion was made by Dr. Huntington to approve the Resolution Supporting Illinois Vision 2030. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lynn and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, and Dr. Huntington. Nays: None.
- B. Revised 2025-2026 School Calendar
A motion was made by Mrs. Stiff to approve the Revised 2025-2026 School Calendar. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coffey and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Lynn, and Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer. Nays: None.
- C. Asbestos Abatement for Joliet Central and Joliet West Renovation Projects
A motion was made by Dr. Huntington to approve the Asbestos Abatement for Joliet Central and Joliet West Renovation Projects. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Stiff and carried. Comments. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Fitzpatrick, and Mrs. Lynn. Nays: None.
- D. Joliet Central and Joliet West Construction Projects
A motion was made by Mrs. Stiff to approve the Joliet Central and Joliet West Construction Projects. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lynn and carried. Comments. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, and Mr. Fitzpatrick. Nays: None.
- E. Request of Disposal
A motion was made by Mr. Coffey to approve the Request of Disposal. The motion was seconded by Dr. Huntington and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, and Mrs. Stiff. Nays: None.
- F. Approval of Donation(s)
A motion was made by Mr. Coffey to approve Donations. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Stiff and carried. Comments. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mrs. Lynn, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, and Mrs. Stiff. Nays: None.
- G. Position Elimination Recommendation
A motion was made by Mr. Coffey to approve the Position Elimination Recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lynn and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, and Mr. Coffee. Nays: None.

H. 2025-2026 Staffing Requests for ELL/Bilingual Program

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynn to approve 2025-2026 Staffing Requests for ELL/Bilingual Program. The motion was seconded by Dr. Huntington and carried. Comments. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, and Dr. Huntington. Nays: None.

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

1. Professional Resignation Request(s)

- a. Sharon Alexander, English Curriculum Director, District, effective June 30, 2025
- b. Lissett Leija, Math Teacher, Central Campus, effective January 3, 2025
- c. Nick Davis, Assistant Badminton, West Campus, effective December 13, 2024
- d. Jessica Wilkinson, AVAC/Transition Coordinator, effective June 30, 2025

2. Professional Leave of Absence Request(s)

- a. Marie Ryan, Teacher, Special Education, Central Campus, is requesting a leave of absence effective December 3, 2024 through January 21, 2025
Medical-Personal
- b. Laura Pritz, Teacher, BMIS, Central Campus, is requesting a leave of absence effective May 16, 2025 through May 30, 2025
Medical-Maternity

3. Professional Staff Overloads Recommendation(s)

West Campus- Effective 2nd Semester

- 2/11 overload for Justin Moscato (IT)
- 2/11 overload for Jo Anne Pierce (ELL)
- 2/11 overload for John Barber (IT)
- 2/11 overload for Joseph Cruz (IT)
- 2/11 overload for Brian Bell (IT)
- 2/11 overload for Noah Fabris (IT)
- 2/11 overload for Christina Hackett (Business)
- 2/11 overload Kerri Chavez (English)
- 2/11 overload Carolyn Hipp (Special Education)
- 2/11 overload Ryann Hager (FACS)
- 2/11 overload Timi Hensel (Math)
- 2/11 overload Dan Tito (Social Science)
- 2/11 overload Ryan Starceovich (Applied Life)
- 2/11 overload for Shannon Hubbart (Social Studies)
- 2/11 overload for Laura Allison (English)
- 2/11 overload Andrew Smothers (Special Education)
- 2/11 overload Robin English (Special Education)

Pathways Campus- Effective 2nd Semester

- 2/11 overload for Jacob Niemann (Special Education)
- 2/11 overload for Neil Hodge (Special Education)
- 2/11 Antoinette Benard (Special Education)

Central Campus- Effective 2nd Semester

- 2/11 overload for Elizabeth Murray (Special Education)
- 2/11 overload for Sandra Green (Math)
- 2/11 overload for Matthew Hall (Math)
- 2/11 overload for Matthew Mullin (Math)
- 2/11 overload for Sean McKeown (Special Education)
- Extended Day assignment for McKeown, Sean

4. Professional Extra Pay Recommendation(s)

Central Campus- Athletics

- a. Timothy Holland, Assistant Boys Volleyball
- b. Vicente Paramo, Assistant Girls Wrestling
- c. Bryce Harris, Volunteer Boys Track

West Campus- Athletics

- a. Traci Thirdgill, Volunteer Girls Basketball
- b. Braden Neverman, Assistant Boys Volleyball
- c. Julianne Hobson, Assistant Badminton

5. Professional Salary Advancement Request(s)

- a. Danielle Litko, West Campus, from C-9 to D-9
- b. Kamron Majerus, Central Campus, from A-9 to B-9
- c. Kelly Newton, Central Campus, from B-4 to C-4
- d. Ulises Ornelas, Central Campus, from C-7 to D-7
- e. Kelsey Polcyn, West Campus, from C-4 to D-4
- f. Joslyn Collins, Central Campus, from F-12 to G-12
- g. Tracey Ivan, West Campus, from F-24 to G-24
- h. Nisse Freyer, Central Campus, from E-18 to G-18
- i. Lenora Maurice, West Campus, from F-5 to G-5

6. Professional Additional Assignment Request(s)

Virtual Tutoring Program- Online- Effective 01/08/2025

- a. Steven Zeko- Physics/Biology
- b. Dipti Goel- Chemistry

7. Classified Retirement Request(s)

- a. Joseph Lockwood, Heating Operator, Buildings and Grounds, District, effective February 4, 2025

8. Classified Resignation Request(s)

- a. Jeannine Gronlund, Assistant Cook, Cafeteria, Central Campus effective December 13, 2024
- b. Katherine Rothermel, Instructional Paraprofessional- Detention, PPS, West Campus effective January 21, 2025

9. Classified Leave of Absence Request(s)
 - a. Gail Smith, Security, West Campus, is requesting leave of absence effective February 3, 2025 through March 31, 2025
Medical-Personal
10. Classified Employment Recommendation(s)
 - a. Claudia Herrera, Service Worker, Cafeteria, West Campus, Step 1 \$15.45 per hour effective January 22, 2025
 - b. Frank Zeimetz, Instructional Paraprofessional, Pathways Campus, Step 1 Lane B \$16.00 per hour effective January 22, 2025
 - c. Lisa Thomas, Instructional Paraprofessional, Special Services, AVAC/ Transition Center, Step 4 Lane C \$17.87 per hour effective January 22, 2025
11. Classified Change of Status Recommendation(s)
 - a. Richard Furlane, Bus Driver, Transportation, to Bus Aide. Transportation, Step 5 \$21.02 effective January 8, 2025
12. Classified Termination Request(s)
 - a. Gerald Schneider, Custodian, Buildings and Grounds, West Campus, effective December 23, 2024
 - b. Maria De Souza, Security, West Campus, effective January 09, 2025
 - c. Jeffrey Woo, Application and Instructional Specialist and Trainer, Technology, District, effective June 30, 2025. -
Due to elimination of position

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

H. 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 W242510 be expelled from all District 204 programs until January 2026. The Board of Education then stayed the expulsion so Student W242510 may continue their education through Lincoln School for the duration of the recommended expulsion. Student W242510 may reenroll at Joliet Township High School District 204 in January 2026. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lynn and carried. Roll call vote: Ayes: Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Fitzpatrick, and Mrs. Lynn. Nays: None.

A motion was made by Mr. Coffey that Student W242511 be expelled from all District 204 programs until January 2027. The Board of Education then stayed the expulsion so Student W242511 may continue their education through Lincoln School for the duration of the recommended expulsion. Student W242511 may reenroll at Joliet Township High School District 204 in January 2027. 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: Mr. Fitzpatrick.

IX. Unfinished Business

No Unfinished Business.

X. New Business

A. First Reading of Board Policies - *Policy 2:240*

1. 7:190e Student Behavior

A request was made to change “Distribution of Illegal Substances” to “Distribution of Prohibited Substances”.

B. JTHS Attorney Costs

There was a request to survey the surrounding school districts on what lawyer they are using and the cost.

XI. Board Reports

Dr. Huntington shared that she attended the Ribbon Cutting for the new culinary rooms at Joliet Central and how amazing the workspace is for students and staff.

Mrs. Lynn shared that she attended the Ribbon Cutting for the new culinary rooms at Joliet Central and how beautiful they are.

Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer shared that she attended the MLK Day of Service and the MLK Bunch.

XII. Announcements/Public Comment

Dr. Guseman thanked the committee for the MLK Day of Service and shared how well the event was attended and the work that was completed.

Dr. Gusman also complimented the MLK Brunch that was held on Saturday, January 18th.

Dr. Guseman shared the following events coming soon:

- Freshman Preview for Class of 2029 on Wednesday January 28th.
- State of the District, February 5 at 5:00 pm at Joliet Central
- Community Connections, February 20 from 6-7 at Joliet West

Upon a motion by Mrs. Stiff and seconded by Mr. Coffey, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Mr. Matthew Kennedy
President

Mrs. Christine Lynn,
Secretary