

# Minutes of Board of Education Regular Meeting

## The Board of Trustees Joliet Township High School District 204

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A Board of Education Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Joliet Township High School District 204 was held Tuesday, December 19, 2023, beginning at 7:00 PM at the District Administrative Center, 300 Caterpillar Drive, Joliet, Illinois.

### **I. Call to Order and Roll Call – 4:30 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 Stiff called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m. in the Board Room at the District Administrative Center, 300 Caterpillar Drive, Joliet, Illinois. Members Present Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick (*arrived at 4:36 p.m.*), Mr. Matt Kennedy, Mrs. Michelle Stiff, Mrs. Christine Lynn (*arrived at 4:49 p.m.*), Mrs. Lorraine Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Angela Huntington, and Mr. Dan Coffey.

Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer moved that the board go into Executive Session for the purpose of personnel, negotiating matters, and student discipline. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy 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 Stiff reconvened the meeting into Regular Session at 7:06 p.m. in the Board room at the Administrative Center, 300 Caterpillar Drive, Joliet, Illinois and asked for roll call. Members Present: Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, and Mr. Fitzpatrick.

#### **A. Pledge of Allegiance**

President Stiff Welcomed all guest present and watching livestream.

#### **B. Welcome Visitors**

### **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.*

Mrs. Terra Santillo shared her concern with having bathrooms locked during the school day.

#### **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 November 14, 2023 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Payroll, Organizations & Activity, and Cafeteria Report - *Policy 4:60*
- C. Freedom of Information Request(s) - *Policy 2:250*
- D. Check Register - *Policy 4:60*

A motion was made by Mr. Kennedy to approve the Consent Agenda with the removal of Hopewell Schools and Himes, Petrarca & Fester from the Check Register. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lynn 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. Kennedy to approve Hopewell School and Himes, Petrarca & Fester on the Check Register. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coffey and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, 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  
No Correspondence.

- B. Legislative Report  
Dr. Gusman shared that starting January 1, 2024 there will be State mandates that will take place. Dr. Guesman assured the Board that we are ready, and that training is going to take place with the Will County Health Department for the Narcan mandate.

- C. Public Hearing for 2023 Tax Levy

President Stiff asked for a motion to the Public Hearing on the 2023 Tax Levy.

Dr. Huntington made a motion to open the Public Hearing for the 2023 Tax Levy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Fitzpatrick, and Mrs. Lynn. Nays: None.

President Stiff asked for public comment. No public comment.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynn to close the Public Hearing on the 2023 Tax Levy. The motion was seconded by Dr. Huntington and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, and Mr. Fitzpatrick. Nays: None.

- D. Pathways to Progress Presentation, *Mr. Ade Akisanya, Behavioral Health Specialist, National Hookup of Black Women*  
Mr. Ade Akisanya shared the Pathways to Progress program.
- E. JTHS Infant Childcare Center Update - *Mrs. Deb Clark, Infant Childcare Director*  
Mrs. Clark gave an update on the Childcare Center.
- F. English Language Learner (ELL) Program Update - *Mr. Paul Oswald, Curriculum Director*  
Mr. Oswald gave an update on the ELL program.
- G. Action Plan 2.1 Update - *Dr. Karla Guseman, Superintendent*  
Dr. Gusman presented the update and recommendations for Action Plan 2.1.

#### **VIII. Action Items**

- A. Approval of the Pathways to Progress Program Partnership  
A motion was made by Mr. Kennedy to approve the Pathways to Progress Program as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lynn and carried. Comments. Roll call vote. Ayes: Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Lynn, and Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer. Nays: None.
- B. ISBE Discipline Improvement Plan  
A motion was made by Mrs. Lynn to approve the ISBE Discipline Improvement Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and carried. Comments. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Fitzpatrick, and Mrs. Lynn. Nays: None.
- C. Adoption of the 2023 Tax Levy  
A motion was made by Mrs. Lynn to approve the Adoption of the 2023 Tax Levy as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Huntington and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, and Mr. Fitzpatrick. Nays: None.
- D. Resolution Authorizing a Supplemental Tax Levy to Pay the Principal of and Interest on Outstanding Limited Bonds of the District  
A motion was made by Dr. Huntington to approve the Resolution Authorizing a Supplemental Tax Levy to Pay the Principal of and Interest on Outstanding Limited Bonds of the District as presented. 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. Nays: None.

E. Black and Bronk Farm Lease

A motion was made by Mr. Kennedy to approve the Black and Bronk Farm Lease as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lynn 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.

F. Summer Food Service Program

A motion was made by Dr. Huntington to approve the Summer Food Service Program as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and carried. Comments. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Lynn, and Mr. Coffey. Nays: Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer and Dr. Huntington.

G. Summer School Fees Request

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

H. Revised 2024-2025 School Calendar

A motion was made by Mr. Kennedy to Revise 2024-2025 School Calendar as presented. The Motion was seconded by Dr. Huntington and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Lynn, and Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer. Nays: None.

I. Disposal of Equipment

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

J. Donations

A motion was made by Mr. Kennedy to approve the Donations as presented. 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, Mr. Kennedy, and Mr. Fitzpatrick. Nays: None.

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

1. Five Year Review

a. 5:210 Resignations

2. Draft Updates

a. 2:20 Powers and Duties of the Board of Education;  
Indemnification

b. 4:10 Fiscal and Business Management

c. 4:30 Revenue and Investments

- d. 4:60 Purchases and Contracts
- e. 5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria
- f. 5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting
- g. 6:15 School Accountability
- h. 6:20 School Year Calendar and Day
- i. 6:30 Organization of Instruction
- j. 6:50 School Wellness
- k. 6:60 Curriculum Content
- l. 6:65 Student Social and Emotional Development
- m. 7:60 Residence
- n. 7:70 Attendance and Truancy
- o. 8:30 Conduct on School Property
- p. 2:110 Qualification, Term, and Duties of Board Offers
- q. 2:120 Board Member Development
- r. 2:200 Types of Board of Education Meetings
- s. 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure
- t. 2:220E2 Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting
- u. 2:220E6 Log of Closed Meeting Minutes
- v. 4:130 Free and Reduced-Price Food Services
- w. 4:160 Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds
- x. 5:190 Teacher Qualifications
- y. 5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal
- z. 5:220 Substitute Teachers
- aa. 5:250 Leaves of Absence
- bb. 5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves
- cc. 6:230 Library Media Program
- dd. 6:270 Guidance and Counseling Program
- ee. 7:160 Student Appearance
- ff. 7:270 Administering Medicines to Students
- gg. 7:285 Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program
- hh. 7:290 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention

A motion was made by Mr. Kennedy to approve the Second Reading of Board Policies as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lynn and carried. Comments. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumyer, Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, and Mr. Kennedy.

#### L. Updated Job Description

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

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

##### 1. Professional Resignation Request(s)

- a. Michael Schneider, Task Force Substitute, West campus, effective December 22, 2023
  - b. Ashley Rangel, Assistant Boy's Tennis Coach, effective December 1, 2023
- 2. Professional Retirement Request(s)
  - a. James Burkey, Special Education, AVAC, effective June 30, 2028
- 3. Professional Leave of Absence Request(s)
  - a. Tecara Parker, Principal, West Campus, is requesting a leave of absence effective November 7, 2023 through December 29, 2023  
Medical-Personal
  - b. Bridget Hughes, Teacher, Health and Medicine, West Campus, requesting a leave of absence effective April 23, 2024 through May 24, 2023  
Medical-Maternity
  - c. Melanie Boseo, Counselor, PPS, West Campus, requesting a leave of absence effective November 30, 2023 through December 15, 2023  
Medical-Family
  - d. Michelle Smith, Teacher, Freshman Academy, Central Campus, on an approved leave is requesting and extension through February 21, 2024  
Medical-Personal
  - e. Timothy Morrison, Teacher, Freshman Academy, Central Campus, is requesting a leave of absence effective February 7, 2024 through February 22, 2024  
Medical-Paternity
  - f. f. Christopher Wild, Teacher, PPS, West Campus, is requesting a leave of absence effective January 29, 2024 through February 9, 2024  
Medical-Paternity
  - g. Samantha Manering, Teacher, Arts & Communications, Central Campus, is requesting a leave of absence effective January 8, 2024 through February 6, 2024  
Medical-Personal
- 4. Professional Additional Assignment Request(s)
  - a. Nick Ratajczak- Winter Credit Recovery-Health- Central Campus- Effective December 20, 2023
  - b. Sam Olea- Winter Credit Recovery-Health- West Campus- Effective December 20, 2023
  - c. Christine Edwards- Winter Credit Recovery- English- Central Campus- Effective December 20, 2023
  - d. Joe Fekech- Winter Credit Recovery-Social Studies- Central Campus- Effective December 20, 2023

- e. Teresa Gibson- Winter Credit Recovery-Social Studies- West Campus- Effective December 20, 2023
- f. Erin Drzymalla- Winter Credit Recovery-Social Science (Inst)/Math- Central Campus-Effective December 20, 2023
- g. Elizabeth Gillespie- Winter Credit Recovery-Social Science (Inst)/Social Studies- West Campus- Effective December 20, 2023
- h. Katie Markun- Winter Credit Recovery- Math-West Campus- Effective December 20, 2023
- i. Robin English- Winter Credit Recovery- English-West Campus- Effective December 20, 2023
- j. Susana Vera Winter Credit Recovery- Math- West Campus- Effective December 20, 2023
- k. Jacob Babich- Winter Credit Recovery-Math- Central Campus- Effective December 20, 2023
- l. Bobbie Sue Chavez- Winter Credit Recovery-Math- Central Campus- Effective December 20, 2023
- m. Patrick Higgins- Winter Credit Recovery-Math- Central Campus- Effective December 20, 2023
- n. Laura Paramo- Winter Credit Recovery-Math- Central Campus- Effective December 20, 2023
- o. Juan Torrez- Winter Credit Recovery-Math- West Campus- Effective December 20, 2023
- p. Meghan Culp- Winter Credit Recovery-Math- West Campus- Effective December 20, 2023
- q. Mario Guzman- Winter Credit Recovery-Math- West Campus- effective December 20, 2023
- r. Gloria Vivanco- Winter Credit Recovery-Math- West Campus- Effective December 20, 2023
- s. Michael O'Malley- Winter Credit Recovery-Math- West Campus- Effective December 20, 2023
- t. Laura Allison- Winter Credit Recovery- English- West Campus- Effective December 20, 2023
- u. Kelly Halusek- Winter Credit Recovery- English- Central Campus- Effective December 20, 2023
- v. Stephanie Phillips-Summer School- Blended Econ/Government- Central Campus- Effective June 1, 2024
- w. Ken Poort- Summer School- Blended Econ/Government- West Campus- Effective June 1, 2024
- x. Gandhi Schlote- Summer School- Blended Econ/Government- Central Campus- Effective June 1, 2024
- y. Erin Drzymalla- Summer School- Instructional Social Studies- Central Campus- Effective June 1, 2024

5. Professional Extra Pay Recommendation(s)

Activities, Athletics & Volunteers-Central Campus

- a. Amaria Hickman, Freshman Cheer (fall/winter)

- b. Jayden Perez, Assistant Girls Wrestling
- c. Nathaniel King, Volunteer Girls Basketball
- d. Marcus McCullum, Volunteer Girls Wrestling

Activities, Athletics & Volunteers – West Campus

- a. Mallory Paolucci, Volunteer Dance
  - b. Justin Corcoran, Volunteer Boys Basketball
  - c. Abel Farias- Robotics- Head
  - d. Noah Fabris- Robotics- Assistant
6. Professional Employment Recommendation Recommendation(s)
- a. Lissett Leija, Task Force Substitute, Central Campus, Daily rate \$200, effective December 20, 2023
7. Classified Resignation Request(s)
- a. Mary Dotson, Security, Central Campus, effective November 10, 2023
  - b. Ralph Smith, Bus Driver, Transportation, District, effective December 01, 2023
  - c. Kathleen Mazurkiewicz, Bus Driver, Transportation, District effective December 01, 2023
  - d. Kelly Bonner, Bus Aide, Transportation, District, effective December 4, 2023
  - e. Kyla Gulas, Service Worker, Cafeteria, West Campus, effective December 8, 2023
  - f. Glenn Sternal, Security, Central Campus, effective December 13, 2023
  - g. Ivelisses Collado, Security, Central Campus, effective December 13, 2023
8. Classified Termination Request(s)
- a. Skylar Ellis, Security, West Campus, effective November 30, 2023
9. Classified Leave of Absence Request(s)
- a. Stephanie Thomas, Office Staff, West Campus, requesting an intermittent leave of absence effective October 20, 2023 through February 1, 2024  
Medical-Family
  - b. Vicky Aguirre, Assistant Cook, Cafeteria, Pathway Campus, requesting a leave of absence effective November 3, 2023 through December 4, 2023  
Medical-Personal
  - c. Charles Ball, Maintenance Mechanic, Central Campus, on an approved leave of absence, requesting an extension through February 29, 2024  
Medical-Personal



- d. Pamela Terry, Paraprofessional, Special Services, Central Campus, is requesting a leave of absence effective November 7, 2023 through December 1, 2023  
Medical-Personal
10. Classified Change of Status Recommendation(s)
- a. Thomas Ryan, Cafeteria Custodian-District Office to Special Custodian for Administration and Transportation, Tom will receive an additional \$2.50 per hour effective July 1, 2023
11. Classified Employment Recommendation(s)
- a. Anthony Willis, Bus Driver, Transportation, District, Step 6 \$20.24 per hour effective December 20, 2023
  - b. Kevin Bertolotti, 2nd Shift Heating Operator, Building and Grounds, Central Campus, Step 1 \$25.46 per hour effective December 20, 2023
  - c. Russell Orban, Heating Operator, Building and Grounds, Central Campus, Step 1 \$25.46 per hour effective December 20, 2023
  - d. Joi Harper, Service Worker, Cafeteria, West Campus, Step 1 \$15.22 per hour, effective December 20, 2023
  - e. Nathaniel Thomas, 2nd Shift Custodian, Buildings and Grounds, Central Campus, Step 1 \$17.90 per hour effective December 20, 2023
  - f. Ahmmad Farhan, 2nd Shift Custodian, Building and Grounds, Central Campus, Step 1 \$25.46 per hour effective December 20, 2023
  - g. Sandrell Lucas, Service Worker, Cafeteria, West Campus, Step 1 \$15.22 per hour effective December 20, 2023

A motion was made by Dr. Huntington to approve Personnel Reports 1-4 & 6-11. 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. Kennedy to approve Personnel Reports item 5 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lynn and carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Lynn and Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer. Nays: None. Abstain: Dr. Huntington.

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

Mr. Kennedy 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. Kennedy that Student W232407 be expelled from all District 204 programs until January 2025. The Board of Education then stayed the expulsion so Student W232407 may continue their education through Lincoln School for the duration of the recommended expulsion. Student W232407 may reenroll at Joliet Township High School District 204 in January 2025. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Stiff and carried. Roll call vote: Ayes: Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Lynn, and Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer. Nays: None.

A motion was made by Mr. Kennedy that Student W232408 be expelled from all District 204 programs until January 2025. The Board of Education then stayed the expulsion so Student W232408 may continue their education through Lincoln School for the duration of the recommended expulsion. Student W232408 may reenroll at Joliet Township High School District 204 in January 2025. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lynn and carried. Roll call vote: Ayes: Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Fitzpatrick, and Mrs. Lynn. Nays: None.

## **IX. Unfinished Business**

No Unfinished Business

## **X. New Business**

### **A. Locked Bathrooms and No Passes**

Mr. Coffey discussed his concern regarding locked bathrooms at Joliet West.

## **XI. Board Reports**

- Dr. Huntington shared her participation in Strategy 2.2
- Dr. Huntington shared her participation in the Parent Teacher Advisory Committee
- Mr. Kennedy shared that he attended the Winter Wonderland event at Joliet Central
- Mr. Kennedy shared that he enjoyed participating in the Special Olympics basketball game
- Mr. Kennedy thanked Mr. Pereiro for making accommodations for Chaney Monge School to use the gym at Joliet Central

## **XII. Announcements/Public Comment**

- Dr. Guseman shared that we currently have approximately 800 volunteers for the MLK day of service.
- Mrs. Stiff shared that the board attended the IASB Triple I Conference in November.
- Mrs. Stiff shared that she had the opportunity to attend the Educational Pipeline event where Dr. Guseman was a part of the panel.
- Mrs. Karol Brandolino approached and shared the concerns she has with the District regarding her son.
- Ms. Jalien Werner approached and shared continued information regarding Mrs. Brandolino's concerns.

Upon a motion by Mr. Kennedy and seconded by Mrs. Lynn, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Lynn, Mr. Beene, Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, and Ms. Guerrero Neumayer.

Mrs. Michelle Stiff  
President

Mrs. Lorraine Guerrero Neumayer,  
Secretary