

# 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 17, 2024, 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 5:07 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. Lynn moved that the board go into Executive Session for the purpose of personnel, student discipline, and litigation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Huntington 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 7:02 p.m. in the Board room at the Administrative Center, 300 Caterpillar Drive, Joliet, Illinois and asked for roll call. Members Present: Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, and Mr. Kennedy.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Welcome Visitors

President Kennedy welcomed all guest in person and watching livestream.

President Kennedy also thanked the JROTC for their services at the board meeting.

### 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 November 19, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Minutes of December 10, 2024 Special Board Meeting
- C. Payroll, Organizations & Activity, and Cafeteria Report - *Policy 4.60*
- D. Freedom of Information Request(s) - *Policy 2:250*
- E. 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 votes. 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 to approve the remaining Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer 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  
No Legislative Report.

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

- A. Agreement between Joliet Township High School and Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet Early Childhood Services

A motion was made by Dr. Huntington to approve the Agreement between Joliet Township High School and Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet Early Childhood Services. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Stiff 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. Adoption of the 2024 Tax Levy

A motion was made by Mr. Coffey to approve the Adoption of the 2024 Tax Levy. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer and carried. Comments. Roll call vote. Ayes: Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, and Mrs. Lynn. Nays: Mr. Fitzpatrick.

C. Summer Food Service Program

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

D. Joliet West High School Chiller Replacement

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

E. Joliet Central School Link Addition Bid Release 1

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynn to approve the Joliet Central School Link Addition Bid Release 1. The motion was seconded by Dr. Huntington 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. Request for Disposal

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

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

1. 2:105 Ethics and Gift Ban
2. 2:120 Board Member Development
3. 3:10 Objectives and Strategies
4. 4:30 Revenue and Investments
5. 4:60 Purchases and Contracts
6. 4:150 Facility Management and Building Programs
7. 4:170 Safety
8. 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment
9. 5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited
10. 5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting
11. 5:120 Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest
12. 5:125 Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct
13. 5:230 Maintaining Student Discipline
14. 6:60 Curriculum Content
15. 6:135 Accelerated Placement Program

16. 6:270 Guidance and Counseling Program
17. 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities
18. 7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students
19. 7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment
20. 7:200 Suspension Procedures
21. 8:10 Connection with the Community

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

#### H. Action Plan 2-1 Recommendation

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynn to approve Action Plan 2-1 Recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer 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.

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

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

- a. Melissa Cardone, Assistant Girls Volleyball, West Campus, effective December 3, 2024
- b. Tara Litwicki, Assistant Girls Volleyball, West Campus, effective December 2, 2024
- c. Joe McDonough, Task Force Sub, Central Campus, effective January 22, 2025

##### 2. Professional Retirement Request(s)

- a. Jo Wooten, Director of District Alternative Services, Pathways Academy, effective June 30, 2025

##### 3. Professional Leave of Absence Request(s)

- a. Michael Heilman, Teacher, Special Education, Central Campus, is requesting a leave of absence effective November 18, 2024 through February 10, 2025 Medical-Personal
- b. Jessica-Christine Gunia, Teacher, BMIS, Central Campus, is requesting an intermittent leave of absence effective November 7, 2024 through May 30, 2025 Medical-Personal

##### 4. Professional Additional Assignment Request(s)

Winter Credit Recovery- Math- West Campus- Effective 12/27/2024

- a. Juan Torrez
- b. Mario Guzman
- c. Nicholas Koenig
- d. Michael O'Malley

- e. Tyler Theobald-Special Education

Winter Credit Recovery- Math- Central Campus- Effective  
12/27/2024

- a. Jacob Babich
- b. Bobbie Sue Chavez
- c. Patrick Higgins
- d. Natalie Mander
- e. Matthew Hurst-Special Education
- f. Laura Flaherty-Bilingual Math

Winter Credit Recovery- Social Science- Central Campus -  
Effective 12/27/2024

- a. Miguel Silva
- b. Gia Gomez
- c. Erin Drzymalla-Special Education

Winter Credit Recovery- Social Science- West Campus -Effective  
12/27/2024

- a. Andrew Flaherty
- b. Kenneth Poort
- c. Elizabeth Gillespie-Special Education

Winter Credit Recovery- Science/Applied Life- Effective  
12/27/2024

- a. Jon Rashid- Central Campus
- b. Nick Ratajczak- Central Campus
- c. Amanda Johnson- Central Campus
- d. Steven Zeko- Central Campus
- e. Bridget Hughes- West Campus
- f. Liz Covelli- West Campus

Winter Credit Recovery- English- Effective 12/27/2024  
Andrew Smothers- West Campus (Special Education and General  
Education)

- a. Melissa Stapleton- West Campus
- b. Kelly Halusek- Central Campus
- c. Elizabeth Cole- Central Campus
- d. Christine Edwards-Central Campus Special Education

Summer School Recovery- Math- West Campus- Effective  
6/9/2025

- a. Juan Torrez
- b. Lizbeth Perez
- c. Patrick Higgins
- d. Michael Carnahan

- e. Joseph Tucker
- f. Jacob Babich
- g. Katie Markun-Special Education
- h. Laura Flaherty
- i. Israel Velazquez

Summer School Recovery- “Get Ahead”- West Campus- Effective 6/9/2025

- a. Michael O’Malley
- b. Natalie Mander

Home Visit Liaison- Effective 11/7/2024

- a. Norma Aguirre
- b. Jessica Betts
- c. Carla Dobson
- d. Ashley Errico
- e. Sandra Guzman
- f. Mike Kurkamp-O’Shea
- g. Rebecca Lara
- h. Valentina Luna
- i. Tara McNeal
- j. Amber Mitchell
- k. Lydia Nino
- l. Ronda Orasco
- m. Stacy Otto
- n. Susana Vera
- o. Carina Yanes

5. Professional Extra Pay Recommendation(s)

Central Campus- Athletics

- a. Thomas Hart, Volunteer Girls Wrestling
- b. Iesha Flowers, Assistant Girls Track
- c. Kelly Halusek, Assistant Girls Track
- d. Julie Nettles, Assistant Boys Volleyball
- e. Ben Chambers, Assistant Boys Volleyball

West Campus- Athletics

- a. Artemio Hernandez, Assistant Girls Soccer
- b. Brian Munoz, Assistant Girls Soccer
- c. Samantha Baloy, Assistant Girls Soccer
- d. Michael Mines, Volunteer Boys Basketball
- e. Tisha Evans, Assistant Girls Wrestling

Special Olympics- Basketball

- a. Tyler Adams
- b. Kacey Stockdell
- c. Ignacio Torres

- d. Caroline Krotiak
  - e. Elise Piagentini
  - f. Rebecca Bernickus
6. Professional Salary Advancement Request(s)
- a. Jennifer Guertin, West Campus, from F-19 to G-19- Full increase
  - b. Lindsey Quigley, Central Campus, from E-19 to F-19- 2nd Semester Increase
  - c. Vivian Helwich, Central Campus, from E-6 to F-6- 2nd Semester Increase
  - d. Jeff Bonarek, West Campus, from D-8 to E-8- 2nd Semester Increase
  - e. Michelle Visser, West Campus, from A-1 to B-1- Pro-Rated Full Increase
7. Professional Overloads Request(s)
- Central Campus:
- 2/11 overload for Shaw, Rachel (Fine Arts)
  - 2/11 overload for Deuerling, Benjamin (IT)
  - 2/11 overload for Hurst, Matthew (Special Education)
  - 2/11 overload for Blunk, Karen (Science)
  - Extended Day assignment for Hurst, Matthew
  - 2/11 overload for Pritz, Laura (Special Education)
  - 2/11 overload for Cady, Melissa (Special Education)
  - 2/11 overload for Drzymalla, Erin (Special Education)
  - 2/11 overload for Stofan, Joanie (Special Education)
  - 2/11 overload for Diaz, Luis (Math)
8. Professional Employment Recommendation(s)
- a. James Jaskowiak, Task Force Substitute, Central Campus, effective January 6, 2025, Daily Rate \$200; due to the resignation of Joseph McDonough
  - b. Angela Mendoza, Task Force Substitute, Central Campus, effective January 6, 2025, Daily Rate \$200; due to resignation of Emily Bonebrake
9. Professional Additional Assignment for Administration
10. Classified Resignation Request(s)
- a. Erika Rock, Instructional Paraprofessional, Special Services, Transition Center, effective November 21, 2024
  - b. Virginia Paramo, Office Staff I-Registrar, Main Office, West Campus, effective December 02, 2024
11. Classified Leave of Absence Request(s)
- a. Angelica Urbina, Bus Driver, Transportation, is requesting a leave of absence effective September 9, 2024 through November 29, 2024  
Medical-Family

- b. Michelle Vanderhyden, Office Staff, Central Campus, is requesting a leave of absence effective October 18, 2024 through November 25, 2024 Medical-Personal
- c. Richard Furlane, Bus Driver, Transportation, is requesting a leave of absence effective September 30, 2024 through October 24, 2024 Medical-Personal
- d. Robert Stedronsky, Cafeteria Supervisor, West Campus, is requesting a leave of absence effective October 21, 2024 through November 4, 2024 Medical-Personal
- e. Christine Ebenroth, Office Staff, Pathways, is requesting a leave of absence effective December 17, 2024 through March 11, 2025 Medical-Personal

12. Classified Employment Recommendation(s)

- a. Mychae Bailey, Security, West Campus, Step 4 Lane B \$17.00 per hour effective December 18, 2024

13. Classified Change of Status Recommendation(s)

- a. Lisa Guzman, Family Engagement Liaison, West Campus to Office Staff I-Registrar, Principal’s Office, West Campus, Step 8 \$19.44 per hour effective December 18, 2024

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

J. 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 W242504 be expelled from all District 204 programs until January 2026. The Board of Education then stayed the expulsion so Student W242504 may continue their education through Lincoln School for the duration of the recommended expulsion. Student W242504 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: Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, Mr. Kennedy, and Mr. Fitzpatrick.

A motion was made by Mr. Coffey that Student W242507 be expelled from all District 204 programs until January 2026. The Board of Education then stayed the expulsion so Student W242507 may continue their education through Lincoln School for the duration of the recommended expulsion. Student W242507 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. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, Mrs. Stiff, and Mr. Kennedy.

A motion was made by Mr. Coffey that Student W242509S be expelled from all District 204 programs until January 2027. with placement to be determined by IEP team. Student W242509S may reenroll at Joliet Township High School District 204 in January 2027. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matthew Kennedy and carried. Roll call vote: Ayes: Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Guerrero Neumayer, Dr. Huntington, Mr. Coffey, and Mrs. Stiff.

#### **IX. Unfinished Business**

No Unfinished Business.

#### **X. New Business**

No New Business.

#### **XI. Board Reports**

- Mr. Kennedy shared that he will be at Central on Thursday. Chaney Monge School and Gompers Junior High will be using the gym for a basketball game.
- Mr. Kennedy shared that he attended full sessions of Finance at the Triple I Conference.

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

- Mr. Fitzpatrick shared that a FOIA has been submitted for his personal phone.

- Mrs. Lynn read a statement on the duties and ethics of being a board member.
- Dr. Guseman wished all students good luck on their finals and thanked staff for their dedication they have given first semester.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Stiff and seconded by Mr. Coffey, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Mr. Matthew Kennedy  
President

Mrs. Christine Lynn,  
Secretary