

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FORRESTVILLE VALLEY C.U.S.D. #221  
December 11, 2024

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The Board of Education of Unit School District #221, Counties of Ogle and Stephenson, Illinois met in the Chorus Room at Forreton Junior / Senior High School on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, for a public hearing and regular meeting.

**A. FY24 Tax Levy Hearing**

A Public Hearing regarding the FY24 Tax Levy was called to order by President Braker at 6:30 p.m.

President Braker stated that there is a proposed tax levy increase for Forrestville Valley Unit School District #221 and asked for public comments to be shared. No members of the school community addressed the Board of Education regarding the FY24 Tax Levy increase.

A motion was made by Member Gallagher and seconded by Member Pauls to adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:31 p.m. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

YEA: Gallagher, Pauls, Moore, Ludwig, Gronewold, and Braker

NAY: None

**B. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance**

The regular meeting was called to order by President Braker at 6:31 p.m.

All rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance

**C. Roll Call**

Members Present: Chip Braker, Shaun Gallagher, Bob Gronewold, Shawnda Ludwig, Dr. April Moore, and Dr. Craig Pauls

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent Sheri Smith, Travis Heinz, Heather Politsch, Ryan Schrader, and Kyle Zick

**D. Review and Adoption of Board of Education Agenda**

A motion was made by Member Gallagher and seconded by Member Ludwig to adopt the Board of Education agenda as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

YEA: Gallagher, Ludwig, Moore, Gronewold, Pauls, and Braker

NAY: None

**E. Recognition of Visitors and Public Comment**

This item was addressed with no members of the public addressing the board.

**F. Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Member Gallagher and seconded by Member Gronewold to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

YEA: Gallagher, Gronewold, Moore, Ludwig, Pauls, and Braker  
NAY: None

1. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Committee Minutes of November 20, 2024
  - b. Regular & Closed Minutes of November 20, 2024
2. Approval of Monthly Financial Statement
3. Approval of Personnel Report

**Support Personnel**

**Resignation:**

- Approve the resignation of the following Support Personnel:

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Lisa Smith	FJSHS Cook	December 02, 2024

**Retirement:**

- Approve the retirement of the following Support Personnel:

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Marsha Birkholz	Bus Driver	End of the 2025-2026 School Year

**Employment:**

- Approve the employment of the following Support Personnel:

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Jodi Welch	FJSHS Transportation Secretary	December 16, 2024

4. Approval of Payment of Bills & Claims
5. Approval of Activity Accounts
6. Approval of the Destruction of Closed Session Meeting Audio Recordings through June, 2023
7. Approval to Keep Closed Session Meeting Minutes Closed through November, 2024

**G. Cardinal Strong Spotlight – Summer 2024 FHS Spanish Club Dominican Republic Service Trip**

Mr. Heinz and two FHS students shared about the service trip taken by the Spanish Club to the Dominican Republic this past summer. The students shared the activities they participated in to include highlights and personal favorite memories, as well as learning lessons. Students thanked the Board of Education for allowing them to attend this service trip experience.

**H. Superintendent’s Report**

1. District Highlights
2. Building Highlights
  - a. FHS Class of 2025 Commencement Ceremony – May 18, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.
3. Facilities Highlights
4. Community Highlights

5. Staff Communication
6. Notes of Appreciation
7. Business Operations Timeline

**I. Board Action and Discussion**

1. Approval of FY24 Final Tax Levy  
A motion was made by Member Gallagher and seconded by Member Ludwig to approve the FY24 final tax levy as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.  
  
YEA: Gallagher, Ludwig, Pauls, Gronewold, Moore, and Braker  
NAY: None
2. Approval of FY25 Property Tax Relief Grant Application  
A motion was made by Member Pauls and seconded by Member Gronewold to approve the FY25 property tax relief grant application as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.  
  
YEA: Pauls, Gronewold, Gallagher, Moore, Ludwig, and Braker  
NAY: None
3. Approval of Insurance Renewals  
A. Commercial Package, Workers' Compensation Package, Automobile Package, Umbrella Package, School Board Legal Liability & Law Enforcement Packages  
A motion was made by Member Moore and seconded by Member Ludwig to approve the insurance renewals as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.  
  
YEA: Moore, Ludwig, Pauls, Gronewold, Gallagher, and Braker  
NAY: None
4. Approval of 2025-2026 Work-Based Learning Program – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
A motion was made by Member Moore and seconded by Member Gronewold to approve the 2025-2026 Work-Based Learning Program – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.  
  
YEA: Moore, Gronewold, Gallagher, Pauls, Ludwig, and Braker  
NAY: None
5. Approval of 2025-2026 Forreton High School Curriculum Guide – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
A motion was made by Member Ludwig and seconded by Member Pauls to approve the 2025-2026 Forreton High School Curriculum Guide – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.  
  
YEA: Ludwig, Pauls, Gallagher, Moore, Gronewold, and Braker  
NAY: None
6. Approval of Board Policies: PRESS Issue 117 – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
A motion was made by Member Moore and seconded by Member Gronewold to approve the board policies PRESS Issue 117 – 1<sup>st</sup> reading as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

YEA: Moore, Gronewold, Ludwig, Pauls, Gallagher, and Braker

NAY: None

7. Approval of Board Policies: 6:190 Extracurricular and Co-curricular Activities & 7:40 Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-School Students – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

A motion was made by Member Gallagher and seconded by Member Pauls to approve the board policies 6:190 Extracurricular and Co-curricular Activities & 7:40 Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-School Students – 1<sup>st</sup> reading as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

YEA: Gallagher, Pauls, Ludwig, and Moore

NAY: Gronewold and Braker

8. Approval of Emergency Cardiac Response Plan

A motion was made by Member Pauls and seconded by Member Ludwig to approve the Emergency Cardiac Response Plan as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

YEA: Pauls, Ludwig, Moore, Gronewold, Gallagher, and Braker

NAY: None

9. Approval of Resolution for Vision 2030

A motion was made by Member Moore and seconded by Member Gronewold to approve the resolution for Vision 2030 as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

YEA: Moore, Gronewold, Ludwig, Pauls, Gallagher, and Braker

NAY: None

**J. Closed Session**

1. A motion was made by Member Pauls and seconded by Member Gronewold to adjourn to closed session at 7:10 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body for the public body-5ILCS120/2(c)(1); Litigation – 5ILCS120/2(c)(11); the Selection of a person to fill a public office including a vacancy in a public office – 5ILCS120/2(c)(3); and Student Disciplinary Cases – 5ILCS120/2(c)(9). On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

YEA: Pauls, Gronewold, Ludwig, Moore, Gallagher, and Braker

NAY: None

2. A motion was made by Member Pauls and seconded by Member Moore to return to open session at 7:43 p.m. On a roll call, the motion passed.

YEA: Pauls, Moore, Gronewold, Gallagher, Ludwig, and Braker

NAY: None

**K. Possible Action Items Resulting From Closed Session**

1. No action was taken resulting from closed session.

**L. Calendar Items**

1. December 2024 Calendar
  - a. FHS Boys' Holiday Basketball Tournament
2. January 2025 Calendar

**M. Other Matters to Come to the Attention of the Board**

1. Board Retreat – February 6, 2025, at Highland Community College
2. Delegate Assembly Update


**N. Adjournment**

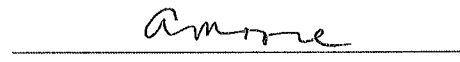
A motion was made by Member Pauls and seconded by Member Gallagher to adjourn the meeting. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

YEA: Pauls, Gallagher, Gronewold, Ludwig, Moore, and Braker

NAY: None

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

  
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(President, Board of Education)

  
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(Secretary, Board of Education)

