

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FORRESTVILLE VALLEY C.U.S.D. #221  
January 15, 2025

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The Board of Education of Unit School District #221, Counties of Ogle and Stephenson, Illinois met in the Library at Forreston Junior / Senior High School on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, for a regular meeting.

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

The regular meeting was called to order by President Braker at 6:32 p.m.

All rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance

**B. 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, and Ryan Schrader

**C. 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

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

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

**E. Consent Agenda**

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

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

NAY: None

1. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Committee Minutes of December 11, 2024
  - b. Regular & Closed Minutes of December 11, 2024
  - c. Special & Closed Minutes of January 08, 2025
2. Approval of Monthly Financial Statement
3. Approval of Personnel Report

**Certified Personnel**

**Transfer**

- Approve the transfer of the following Certified Personnel:

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Amanda Korf	GVGS ELA Preschool	FGS Special Education	2025-2026 School Year

**Employment**

- Approve the employment of the following Certified Personnel:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Olivia Johnson	GVGS ELA Preschool Teacher	2025-2026 School Year
Kerrie Peterson	Part-Time GVGS Special Education Teacher	2025-2026 School Year

<b>Support Personnel</b>
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**Retirement:**

- Approve the retirement of the following Support Personnel:

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Pamela Greenfield	FJSHS Athletic Secretary	End of the 2024-2025 School Year
Lucia Heitter	FJSHS Paraprofessional	End of the 2025-2026 School Year
Laura Hillman	Bus Driver	End of the 2025-2026 School Year
Becky McCoy	FJSHS Paraprofessional	End of the 2025-2026 School Year
Wendy Sager	District Bookkeeper	June 30, 2026
Donna Strautz	FGS Cook	End of the 2025-2026 School Year

4. Approval of Payment of Bills & Claims
5. Approval of Activity Accounts
6. Approval of Seniority Lists

**F. Superintendent's Report**

1. District Highlights
  - a. District Website Review and Demonstration
  - b. Special Education LEA Determination
  - c. Bus Driver Appreciation Week February 3-7
2. Building Highlights
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Discipline Reports
3. Facilities Highlights
4. Community Highlights
  - a. Silver Creek Reformed Church Christmas Blessing
5. Notes of Appreciation

**G. District Financial Report**

Mrs. Smith reviewed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Revenue & Expenditure Report with the board.

**H. Board Action and Discussion**

1. Approval of FHS Service Trip to Costa Rica Summer 2026

A motion was made by Member Pauls and seconded by Member Gronewold to approve the FHS Service Trip to Costa Rica Summer 2026 as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

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

NAY: None

2. Approval of District Website Contract with Apptegy, Inc. for the 2025-2026 School Year

A motion was made by Member Moore and seconded by Member Ludwig to approve the district website contract with Apptegy for the 2025-2026 school year as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

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

NAY: None

3. Approval of 2 Year Bus Leases with Midwest Transportation

A motion was made by Member Gallagher and seconded by Member Gronewold to approve the 2 year bus leases with Midwest Transportation as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

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

NAY: None

4. Approval Authorizing Development of FY26 Budget

A motion was made by Member Gronewold and seconded by Member Moore to approve Superintendent Smith to begin the development of FY26 budget. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

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

NAY: None

5. Approval of 2025-2026 Work-Based Learning Program – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

A motion was made by Member Gallagher and seconded by Member Pauls to approve the 2025-2026 Work-Based Learning Program – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

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

NAY: None

6. Approval of 2025-2026 Forreston High School Curriculum Guide – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

A motion was made by Member Ludwig and seconded by Member Pauls to approve the 2025-2026 Forreton High School Curriculum Guide – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

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

7. Approval of Board Policies: PRESS Issue 117 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

A motion was made by Member Ludwig and seconded by Member Moore to approve the board policies PRESS Issue 117 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

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

8. Approval of Board Policies: 6:190 Extracurricular and Co-curricular Activities & 7:40 Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-School Students – 2<sup>nd</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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion failed.

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

**I. Closed Session**

1. A motion was made by Member Pauls and seconded by Member Gronewold to adjourn to closed session at 7:17 p.m. to discuss the Selection of a person to fill the Board of Education Vacancy - 5ILCS120/2(c)(3); 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); 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 Gronewold to return to open session at 7:59 p.m. On a roll call, the motion passed.

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

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

1. Approval of Appointment of Board of Education Member

A motion was made by Member Moore and seconded by Member Gallagher to approve Mrs. Sarah Lott to the Board of Education. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

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

**K. Calendar Items**

1. January 2025 Calendar
2. February 2025 Calendar

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

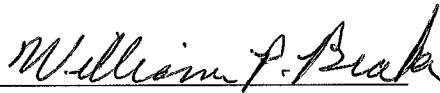
1. Board Retreat – February 6, 2025, at Highland Community College 8:00 a.m.
2. Zoning Board of Appeals Notification

**M. Adjournment**

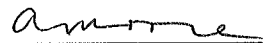
A motion was made by Member Gallagher and seconded by Member Pauls to adjourn the meeting. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.



(President, Board of Education)



(Secretary, Board of Education)