

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
APRIL 16, 2025**

A special meeting of the Grant Park Community Unit School District No. 6 Board of Education, Kankakee County, State of Illinois, was held on April 16, 2025 in the Middle School Library.

The public hearing was called to order by President Markland at 5:30 p.m. and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Members present: Christine Horn
Vicki Gawlinski
Jerry Loitz
Tim Markland
Dave Marshalek
Mike Wells

Members absent: none

Also present: Dr. John Palan, Superintendent
Ms. Tracy Planeta, ES Principal
Mr. Kyle Nevills, MS/HS Principal
Mrs. Sue Anderson, Recording Secretary

Audience of 45

OPENING OF THE PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING BUS CONTRACTUAL SERVICES:

Motion was made by V. Gawlinski, seconded by C. Horn, at 5:30 p.m. to open the public hearing regarding bus contractual services. Voice vote, all yes. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: Four community members spoke:

1. Jimmy Crocker started by saying he is a 23 year veteran of the Grant Park transportation department. He started his own truck driving school and trained four drivers. He said there is no driver shortage, only a communication issue. He claimed the district has not done enough to train and keep drivers. He provided a list of drivers that have purportedly inquired about driving a bus for the district. They were names of those willing to fill out an application and three of them are ready today. He also stated that every current driver is willing to stay with the district for one more year. He continued that he was not invited to one bus driver meeting and he was hurt by that because he does not want to work for any other company. He personally has days available that he can sub. He also said that there were drivers listed on the website from five years ago. When asked, Mr. Crocker was not aware if any of the individuals (a list was provided) had completed and filed an application.

2. Mary Ekhoﬀ said she had a meeting with Dr. Palan. She asked the board if the meetings could be recorded. She claimed in the past year of board minutes transportation was only mentioned four times. She further claimed that there is no employment application on-line and there has been no advertising for drivers. (She was then shown the employment application on the district website and told that there has been no advertising because there are no current openings.) Mrs. Ekhoﬀ stated that the bid process will be putting our drivers out of a job (in fact, the bid specifically states that all current GP drivers will have the first chance to keep driving in the district.)
3. Keith Trompler is a MS coach and said he tried to apply but received no cooperation, although he did not pick up or complete an application for employment. He stated that it is not right to take jobs away in this community.
4. Annie White spoke briefly and specifically stated that she would not want her kids to ride with contracted drivers. She indicated that she is aware of an individual that works for a bus line and that they are usually “a bunch of 21 year olds.”

CLOSING OF THE PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING BUS CONTRACTUAL SERVICES:

Motion was made by M. Wells, seconded by D. Marshalek, at 5:59 p.m. to close the public hearing regarding bus contractual services. Voice vote, all yes. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

Motion was made by J. Loitz, seconded by V. Gawlinski, at 5:59 p.m. to adjourn. Voice vote, all yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Jerry Loitz
Secretary

Tim Markland
President