

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
APRIL 20, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Grant Park Community Unit School District No. 6 Board of Education, Kankakee County, State of Illinois, was held on April 20, 2026 in the Middle School Library.

The meeting was called to order by President Markland at 6:00 p.m. and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Members present: Vicki Gawlinski
Jerry Loitz
Tim Markland
Dave Marshalek
Sarah Toma
Mike Wells

Members absent: Christine Horn

Also present: Dr. John Palan, Superintendent
Ms. Tracy Planeta, ES Principal
Mrs. Stacy Glenn, MS/HS Principal
Mrs. Kelly Toppen, Asst Principal/SpEd Coordinator
Mrs. Sue Anderson, Recording Secretary

Audience of 6

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by J. Loitz, seconded by V. Gawlinski, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Minutes of the regular board meeting from March 2026.
2. Financial Reports for March, 2026.
3. Direction to pay the April vendor bills in the amount of \$220,854.29.
4. Approval of the March payroll in the amount of \$410,891.73.
5. To approve the 2026-27 school fees, as presented.
6. Approval of the Consolidated District Plan (ESEA), as presented.
7. Approval of the resignation of Kelly Toppen, with regret, as Special Education Coordinator/Assistant Principal effective June 30, 2026.
8. Approve first reading of policies: 2:200, 2:220, 2:250, 2:260, 4:165, 5:30, 5:50, 5:250, 5:330, 6:60, 6:65, 6:100, 6:145, 6:170, 7:20, 7:50, 7:100, 7:185, 7:240, 7:260, 7:300, 8:90, 2:140E, 7:220, 7:230, and AP Manual, as presented.
9. Approval of Support Staff raises for the 2026-27 school year (5.5%), as presented.

10. Approval of excess/surplus inventory, as presented.
11. Approval of the 2026-27 School Consolidated Plan as presented.
12. Approval of leave request of Ann Wyatt, Pre-School Instructor, as presented.

Roll Call: J. Loitz – yes; V. Gawlinski - yes; D. Marshalek – abstain; S. Toma – yes; M. Wells - yes; and T. Markland - yes. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE TO PERSONS SCHEDULED IN ADVANCE: None noted

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORTS: Administrators’ reports are attached.

Superintendent: Dr. Palan’s report included:

1. HLS Project Phase I asbestos abatement has been completed. They are working on the old boiler now and on May 29th all contractors will be here to work on the project in full force.
2. The tax computation report showed the tax rate decreased by 4% and the EAV went up 8% to \$119,361,000. While property values went up, property taxes will also likely increase for many residents. In addition, the proposed proration of transportation reimbursement from the state for next year may be 55% for regular, and 68% for special education routes.
3. Property/Casualty Insurance renewal has not yet been received from the Prairie State Insurance Cooperative.
4. March enrollment had decreased by one overall from February.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President: Mr. Markland reminded board members to complete the Statement of Economic Interests for the county.

Building and Grounds: Meeting next month

Technology: Chromebooks have been ordered for next year and the Chromebook replacement fee has increased for next year.

Kankakee Area Special Education Co-op: Meeting next month

Kankakee Area Career Center: No report

IASB-Three Rivers Division: No report

Chamber of Commerce: No report

Communications Committee: No report

FFA/Ag Alumni: Students and staff are celebrating FFA Week.

Finance/Transportation Committee: The need for drivers continues and a transport van was priced at around \$80,000.

Student Representatives: FFA held a Mental Health Awareness Week; NHS inducted eleven new members; NHS will be going to Build-A-Bear to donate bears to the hospital; Sr. Trip was last week; students that took the recent PSAT and ACT reported positive feedback after taking the tests; HS Band Organizational contest received a rating of “2”; several students participated in the state math contest; the annual Drive Your Tractor to School Day is Friday; and Prom will be held on May 1st.

Board Communications: FFA has submitted a request to run a research project that involves raising and studying meat chickens. Dr. Palan is consulting with the village regarding any ordinances that may impede this project from taking place. Also, the Illinois Senate is introducing a bill that would ban cell phones in schools. If passed, this may begin within the next two years.

COMMUNITY FORUM AND OTHER: None

ADJOURN:

Motion was made by J. Loitz, seconded by S. Toma, at 6:26 p.m. to adjourn. Voice vote, all yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Jerry Loitz
Secretary

Vicki Gawlinski
President Pro tem