

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MAY 18, 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 May 18, 2026 in the Middle School Library.

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

Members present: Vicki Gawlinski
Christine Horn
Jerry Loitz
Dave Marshalek
Sarah Toma
Mike Wells

Members absent: Tim Markland

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

Audience of 27

APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT PRO TEM:

In President Markland's absence, a motion was made by J. Loitz, seconded by C. Horn, to appoint V. Gawlinski as President Pro tem for this meeting. Roll Call: J. Loitz – yes; C. Horn – yes; D. Marshalek - yes; S. Toma - yes; M. Wells – yes; and V. Gawlinski – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by D. Marshalek, seconded by S. Toma, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Minutes of the regular board meeting from April 2026.
2. Financial Reports for April, 2026.
3. Direction to pay the May vendor bills in the amount of \$231,053.20.
4. Approval of the April payroll in the amount of \$388,237.71.
5. To approve the annual contract of Andy Dillman, as presented.
6. Approve final 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.

7. Approval of Excess Inventory as surplus, as presented.
8. To approve Kathy Ekhoﬀ as Summer Secretary at \$19.38 per hour.
9. To approve the KASEC amended budget, as presented.
10. To approve the 2026-27 EC/Sponsor List, as presented.

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

AUDIENCE TO PERSONS SCHEDULED IN ADVANCE: Chief Frey was recognized for his work with the district on school safety. He was unable to attend the meeting but was thanked for his eﬀorts in keeping our schools safe and was wished well on his retirement. Preston Wallace was in attendance and congratulated on his acceptance to Harvard with a goal of ultimately getting into medicine. Lee Ellen Palan was also acknowledged for her years of dedicated service to GP Schools in various roles as a MS teacher, Title I teacher and coach. She will be retiring at the end of the school year. Ms. Planeta, Dr. Palan and Ms Gawlinski all spoke very highly of her work ethic, compassion and expertise in the classroom. Her impact on her students will be felt for years to come.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORTS: Administrators’ reports are attached.

Superintendent : Dr. Palan’s report included:

1. After the last construction meeting, Ms. Planeta met with the ES staff regarding relocation information for each classroom/office. Crews will begin promptly at noon on the last teacher attendance day, May 28th.
2. Most of the upcoming state and federal grants will be completed by July. Kelly Toppen has helped submit many of the grants for next year.
3. The auditor advised the budget does not need to be amended due to the HLS expenditures and funds can be transferred in June from the Education fund to the O&M fund.
4. Total April enrollment decreased by eight from March.

APPROVAL OF PSIC PROPERTY INSURANCE FOR THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR:

Motion was made by J. Loitz, seconded by M. Wells, to approve Prairie State Insurance Cooperative for the property insurance for the 2026-27 school year in the amount of \$79,524.99. Roll Call: J. Loitz - yes; M. Wells - yes; C. Horn - yes; D. Marshalek - yes; S. Toma - yes; and V. Gawlinski – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President: No report

Building and Grounds: The HLS project was discussed at the last meeting as well as future projects. The paving will be put on hold for awhile and tractor quotes are still being obtained.

Technology: No report

Kankakee Area Special Education Co-op: An amended budget was voted on due to higher teaching expenditures and they are looking at purchasing a van for the transition program.

Kankakee Area Career Center: No report

IASB-Three Rivers Division: No report

Chamber of Commerce: The same officers were reelected and more snowflakes were purchased for the light posts.

Communications Committee: Students were surveyed and then voted on the dragon logo. The traditional dragon that is being used now was selected as the favorite.

FFA/Ag Alumni: The annual banquet was held on Sunday and they had the transition of the new board.

Finance/Transportation Committee: A thank you to all of the bus drivers for their help with all of the extracurricular activities this month.

Student Representatives: May activities included: prom; post prom; teacher appreciation week; celebrating Luis Maldonado's health success; academic signing; sports awards; Baccalaureate; honor's day; graduation; SB/BB regionals; and prepping for finals.

Board Communications: None noted

COMMUNITY FORUM AND OTHER: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by M. Wells, seconded by D. Marshalek, at 6:39 p.m. to go into Executive Session for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the district or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-0057. Potential litigation against, affecting, or on behalf of the school district.

Roll Call: M. Wells - yes; D. Marshalek - yes; C. Horn – yes; J. Loitz - yes; S. Toma - yes; and V. Gawlinski - yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING:

President Pro Tem Gawlinski declared the closed session was over at 6:57 p.m. and the meeting would continue in Open Session.

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:

Motion was made by M. Wells, seconded by S. Toma, at 6:58 p.m. to approve the Executive Session minutes as read. Roll Call: M. Wells - yes; S. Toma - yes; C. Horn – yes; J. Loitz – yes; D. Marshalek - yes; and V. Gawlinski – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF RESIGNATION OF ALLISON GOEDKE:

Motion was made by D. Marshalek, seconded by C. Horn, to accept the resignation of Allison Goedke, Kindergarten teacher, effective at the conclusion of the 2025-26 school year. Roll Call: D. Marshalek – yes; C. Horn – yes, J. Loitz – yes; S. Toma – yes; M. Wells – yes; and V. Gawlinski – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT OF ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL/SPECIAL NEEDS
COORDINATOR FOR THE 2026 – 27 SCHOOL YEAR:**

Motion was made by J. Loitz, seconded by M. Wells, to employ Sarah Lenfield as Assistant Principal/Special Needs Coordinator for the 2026-27 school year at a salary of \$83,000 plus TRS. Roll Call: J. Loitz - yes; M. Wells - yes; C. Horn - yes; D. Marshalek - yes; S. Toma - yes; and V. Gawlinski – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

Motion was made by J. Loitz, seconded by D. Marshalek, at 6:59 p.m. to adjourn. Voice vote, all yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Jerry Loitz
Secretary

Tim Markland
President