

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
August 17, 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 August 17, 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
Christine Horn
Tim Markland
Dave Marshalek
Sarah Toma
Mike Wells

Member absent: Jerry Loitz

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

Audience of 6

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY PRO TEM:

In Secretary Loitz's absence, a motion was made by T. Markland, seconded by V. Gawlinski, to appoint M. Wells as Secretary Pro tem for this meeting. Roll Call: T. Markland – yes; V. Gawlinski – yes; C. Horn - yes; D. Marshalek - yes; S. Toma – yes; and M. Wells – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

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

1. Minutes of the regular board meeting of July 20, 2026.
2. Financial Reports for July, 2026.
3. Direction to pay the August vendor bills in the amount of \$323,322.87.
4. Approval of the July payroll in the amount of \$349,385.91.
5. Approval to hire: Isabelle Currier-Pre-K Teacher; Colleen DePaolo-Part-time Pre-K-SpEd Teacher Advisor; Melissa Collett Doody-ES Social Worker; Deana Sirois-4th Grade Teacher; Holly Lopez-MS Specail Education Teacher; Jeffery Cooks-AP/Student Services Director; Lauren Pleckham-MS Café Server; Heidi McCraw-ES Paraprofessional; Delaney Malkowski-Pre-K Paraprofessional; Jamie Jamnik-ES Communications Paraprofessional.

6. Accept the resignations of: Nicole Barrios-Guidance; Rachel Malkowski-Pre-K Parapro; Chrissy Pickens-ES STEM Teacher; Nicole Van-Communications Teacher and Karen Peterson-Title I Parapro.
7. Roll Call: C. Horn – yes; S. Toma - yes; V. Gawlinski – yes; D. Marshalek – yes; M. Wells – abstain; and T. Markland - yes. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE TO PERSONS SCHEDULED IN ADVANCE: None noted

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORTS: Administrators’ reports are attached. Ms. Planeta stated that the ES teachers will be able to get in their classrooms tomorrow. Mrs. Glenn also noted that she is starting to see teachers in the MS and HS.

Superintendent: Dr. McNichols’ report included an update on summer projects:

1. There are still areas to be completed at the ES but it is looking good. A big thank you to Mike and his crew for all of their work getting the building ready for back-to-school.
2. The ROE walked through and approved all of the HLS items. The ES will be able to open for occupancy and school on Monday.
3. Teachers will be able to get in the ES on Tuesday and many HS students have volunteered to help with outdoor landscaping projects or assist the teachers in any way necessary.
4. The Teacher Institute days on Thursday and Friday will highlight celebrating staff. The Community Meet and Greet will take place from 5:00-6:00 and feature hot dogs, chips and drinks for the parents, students and staff. After that is the Back to School event where families can tour the buildings.
5. Homecoming is being planned with a soccer game under the lights on September 18th and the dance on Saturday, the 19th.

Dr. McNichols 90-day update on focus area items include: creating the budget for FY27 focusing on future opportunities; multiple walkthroughs and constant communication regarding safety and facilities; building community relations by meeting with the mayor, police chief, PTO president, local superintendents, and many others; and contacting neighboring superintendents and the ROE about strategic planning partnership possibilities.

PRESENTATION OF TENTATIVE ANNUAL 2026-2027 BUDGET:

Dr. McNichols reviewed the overall budget, as well as a review of the individual projected fund balances. The tentative budget shows a \$450,200 deficit in the O&M Fund due to the extensive ES HLS projects. The district will receive \$858,318 in new EBF Tier Funding. The Education Fund is balanced and the Transportation Fund shows a deficit but is offset by a surplus in Working Cash. Motion was made by M. Wells, seconded by S. Toma, to accept the tentative annual 2026-27 budget and place it on display in the district office for a minimum of thirty days. Roll Call: M. Wells – yes; S. Toma - yes; V. Gawlinski - yes; C. Horn - yes; D. Marshalek - yes; and T. Markland - yes. Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President: No report

Building and Grounds: No report

Technology: No report

Kankakee Area Special Education Co-op: No report

Kankakee Area Career Center: The last meeting highlighted the number of opportunities available to the students. A select group of students recently visited China which was paid for by a local company.

IASB-Three Rivers Division: No report

Chamber of Commerce: No report

Communications Committee: The new brand/style guide has been released.

FFA/Ag Alumni: No report

Student Representatives: Students not in attendance in the summer.

Board Communications: No report

Finance/Transportation Committee: No report

COMMUNITY FORUM AND OTHER: None**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion was made by V. Gawlinski, seconded by M. Wells, at 6:23 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.

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

RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING:

President Markland declared the closed session was over at 6:43 p.m. and the meeting would continue in Open Session.

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:

Motion was made by C. Horn, seconded by M. Wells, at 6:44 p.m. to approve the Executive Session minutes as read. Roll Call: C. Horn - yes; M. Wells - yes; V. Gawlinski – yes; D. Marshalek – yes; S. Toma – yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

Motion was made by V. Gawlinski, seconded by D. Marshalek, at 6:44 p.m. to adjourn. Voice vote, all yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Jerry Loitz
Secretary

Tim Markland
President