



Minutes
Village of Glen Ellyn
Special Village Board Meeting
Monday, July 14, 2025
7:00 PM
Glen Ellyn Civic Center, Galligan Board Room

A. Call to Order – 7:02 P.M.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

Upon roll call by Deputy Clerk Hannah, who is Economic Development & Communications Director, President Burket and Trustees Bhagwakar, Christiansen, Kalinich, Simon, Szymanski, and Thompson answered “Present.”

Also in attendance: Village Manager Franz, Assistant Village Manager Irizarry, Village Attorney Stephanides, Public Works Director Buckley, Finance Director Brankin, Community Development Director Henaghan, Human Resources Director Vonachen, Professional Engineer Daubert, General Manager Allen, Police Chief Norton, and Fire Chief Clark.

D. Audience Participation

President Burket read the rules of audience participation.

Eileen Fitzgerald, resident, requested funds so that a toddler playground structure for 2–5-year-olds could be added to the Panfish Park’s new playground. President Burket replied.

Norris Eber, resident, gave a reminder to the Village staff to address his concerns with the fixed water and sewer rates.

E. Consent Agenda - The following items are considered routine business by the Village Board and will be approved in a single vote in the form listed below:

RESULTS:	APPROVED [6 to 0]
MOVER:	Trustee Kalinich [Items 1 – 5]
SECONDER:	Trustee Christiansen
AYES:	Kalinich, Christiansen, Bhagwakar, Simon, Szymanski, Thompson
NAYS:	

Motion to approve the following items including Payroll and Vouchers totaling \$5,276,913.54. These agenda items have been reviewed by the Management Team and are consistent with the Village's purchasing policy (Trustee Kalinich).

- 1) Total Expenditures (Payroll and Vouchers) - \$5,276,913.54
- 2) Village Board June 23, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- 3) Village Board June 23, 2025 Closed Executive Session Minutes
- 4) Consent to Village President Burket's Reappointments of the following Members of Various Boards and Commissions with Terms Ending July 31, 2028:

Architectural Appearance Commission

Yavor Goranov
Julia Smith
Pam Albrecht

Building Board of Appeals

Chris Clark
Matthew Rooney

Capital Improvements Commission

Adil Saeed
Orion Galey

Environmental Commission

Chris English
John Day

Recreation Commission

Nancy Carter

- 5) Consent to Village President Burket's Reappointments of the Following Persons to Serve as Chairs of Various Boards and Commissions with Terms Ending July 31, 2026:

Architectural Appearance Commission

Susan Jacobsen

Building Board of Appeals

Thomas Bredfeldt

Capital Improvements Commission

Rocco Zuccherro

Environmental Commission

Christy Truitt

Recreation Commission

Carol Scott

F. 670 Crescent Boulevard - Zoning Variations for an Addition to Glenbard West High School (Community Development Director Henaghan) (Trustee Thompson)

- 1) Adopt Ordinance No. 7206, An Ordinance Granting Variations from the Zoning Code to Construct an Addition to Glenbard West High School Located at 670 Crescent Boulevard, Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

RESULTS:	APPROVED [5 to 1]
MOVER:	Trustee Thompson
SECONDER:	Trustee Kalinich
AYES:	Thompson, Kalinich, Bhagwakar, Simon, Szymanski
NAYS:	Christiansen

President Burket stated that no new evidence may be presented on this item.

Community Development Director Henaghan presented the proposed addition to Glenbard West High School, including an overview of all requested zoning variations.

Community Development Director Henaghan then turned the meeting over the School District to give their presentation on the proposal. Joslyn Kelly, architect on the project, reviewed the variation request. She began by saying the scope of work addresses safety, security, accessibility, and student support on space and improved learning environment. She gave the current status and then reviewed the proposed project.

After the presentation from Ms. Kelly, the Board asked questions to clarify the current proposal. Ben Peterselli, Principal at Glenbard West, joined Ms. Kelly to field the questions.

Trustee Kalinich asked for clarification on the tree preservation, the outdoor commons area, and the relocation of the victory bell. Mr. Peterselli replied.

Trustee Bhagwakar asked what the hardship was that requires the proposed variance and why the school needs the additional space. Ms. Kelly replied. Mr. Peterselli replied as well. Trustee Bhagwakar asked follow-up questions regarding other topics, such as storm water management, which were addressed.

Trustee Christiansen asked how the removal of trees will affect storm water management and other issues. Ms. Kelly replied. Discussion continued regarding the trees on the property.

Trustee Bhagwakar asked about stairwells/staircases and the greenspace. Ms. Kelly replied.

Trustee Simon appreciated the thoughtful work that had been put into the proposal. She then asked how the design supports and enhances the educational experience of the students. Mr. Peterselli replied. Trustee Simon asked about the impact on faculty. Mr. Peterselli replied.

Trustee Szymanski asked about parking and how it affects the downtown area. Mr. Peterselli replied.

Trustee Thompson asked Mr. Peterselli to speak in more detail about the public meetings that were held in order to gather feedback from the residents. Mr. Peterselli replied. Trustee Thompson asked about parking complaints and if it is part of the strategic plan. Mr. Peterselli replied to this as well as follow-up questions.

President Burket asked what were the other location options that had been discussed. Ms. Kelly replied. President Burket asked follow-up question to which Ms. Kelly replied.

President Burket asked when the last time was the boundaries for the Glenbard High School drawn and if reallocation might be a solution. Margaret DeLaRosa, Board President of Glenbard District 87, replied. Discussion ensued. Jessica Santee, District 87 Superintendent, and Seth Chapman, Assistant District 87 Superintendent for Finance and Operations, joined the conversation to speak about school capacity and boundaries.

Trustee Bhagwakar asked if the proposed project will impact “Glenbard Hour.” Mr. Peterselli explained “Glenbard Hour” and then replied to the question. Trustee Bhagwakar then reiterated her question regarding the necessity of the eight feet in question in the variance. Ms. Kelly replied, adding that it is largely mechanical space.

President Burket asked about the permeable pavers and snow removal. Ms. Kelly replied.

Trustee Christiansen asked for clarification on enrollment projections and the need for eleven new classrooms. Mr. Chapman replied. She then asked about the memorial items currently located on the hill. Mr. Peterselli replied.

Nancy Bromann, resident, spoke about her concerns if this variance is not granted. Village Attorney Stephanides and President Burket replied.

Robert Dobosz, resident, spoke about his concerns regarding the lack of public input on the proposed project.

George Heidenreich, resident, spoke about his concerns regarding the proposed renovation and variances.

Matthew Verbiscus, resident, spoke about his concerns regarding the proposed renovation and variances.

Christy Truitt, resident representing the Environmental Commission, spoke about the lack of communications to the Commission regarding the proposal as well as her concerns, questions, and possible alternative ways to move forward with the proposal that would preserve more trees.

Mark Frigo, resident and also a member of the Environmental Commission, reiterated Ms. Truitt’s comments and added additional thoughts pertaining to the oaks to be removed and other areas of concern.

J.J. Smith, resident with a design and construction background, gave his thoughts on the proposal.

Julia Smith, resident and architect, addressed the zoning issue being voted on at the meeting.

Bennett Garippo, resident and 2025 graduated of Glenbard West, spoke about how the community feels about the planned addition, citing community feedback he had gathered.

Jill Poulus, resident, gave her opinion on the proposed renovation.

Kelly North, resident, thanked the Board for their time and then gave her thoughts on the proposed addition to Glenbard West and asked the Board to step back and review again.

Kara Molenhouse, resident, gave her thoughts on the proposed renovation.

Brandt Garippo, resident representing Glenbard West class of 2023, spoke about his concerns regarding the proposed renovation.

Jim Campbell, resident, spoke about what he feels is the minimal transparency involved in the proposed renovation.

Linda Samuta, resident, spoke about her concerns with removing the trees and the bell in order to accommodate the proposed renovation and hoped more community involvement can happen before a decision is made.

Christa Mannion, resident, spoke about how surprised she was to learn about the proposed renovation only last week and hope the Trustees will reconsider the project.

Dan Porter, resident and graduate of Glenbard West, stated his thoughts against the proposal, and described why he felt this way.

Chris English, resident and graduate of Glenbard West, spoke about his experience as a student there and the lack of overcrowding.

Pete Ladesic, resident, spoke about his belief that there is not a need for the proposed renovation due to the projected declining enrollment. He also gave his opinion on the referendum and variances involved in this proposal.

Trineese Barnes, former resident and student of Glenbard West who recently graduated from a Downers Grove high school, gave her opinion of the proposed atrium. She also added that other high schools do not have the same hominess as Glenbard West.

President Burket recalled Community Development Director Henaghan to the lectern to revisit the definition of a hardship with the variation request. Community Development Director Henaghan replied to all questions. Tim Loftus, Chairperson of the Plan Commission, also spoke about the process that the Plan Commission utilized to address this issue in regards to this proposal in light of the approved referendum.

One of the residents who spoke earlier, who did not reidentify himself, reiterated his belief that there was a lack of transparency.

Another resident who did not reidentify himself, asked about changes made to the project after the variances had been requested. Village Manager Franz replied that none of the changes affected the requested variances.

A resident named Tom (last name inaudible), spoke about the variances versus the entire proposal, as well as his lack of knowledge about the plan and asked what can be done to reflect the opposition by residents to the plan in its current form.

Margaret DeLaRosa, Board President of Glenbard District 87, added her thoughts on the need for the proposed renovation based on her position, the referendum process, as well as

her experience as a parent in the district for a long period of time.

Marty Boyd, resident, asked about the process that happens in the Plan Commission meeting and if it happened in regard to this particular proposal, as well as adding other comments about learning space and tax allocation.

John Patterson, resident of Wheaton and former teacher, spoke about his experience with every high school in DuPage County and how Glenbard West in its present form fails to meet the needs of students and staff.

Brandt Garippo, resident that spoke before, reiterated his experience at the school and never hearing any issues from the students about the space needs.

Trustee Kalinich stated that she would consider the proposal through the lens of being a community member, Village Trustee, and an alumnus of Glenbard West. She then elaborated on what this meant.

Trustee Christiansen thanked Trustee Kalinich for her valuable perspective and then acknowledged that this is an emotional topic and appreciated the emails received and everyone who had attended this meeting. She then spoke about what the variance consideration should be, which is what is in the Board packet for the evening, and if it's in the public welfare. She then gave her thoughts on this point.

Trustee Simon thanked everyone for being at the meeting and sharing their opinions and perspectives. She then added that this is a difficult task facing the Board and it is impossible to satisfy everyone's perspective. She also spoke about the code restriction that faces the Board, the information supplied to them, and the process. She ended by saying the Board is doing the best they know how given their restrictions.

Trustee Szymanski talked about the incubator project and how in demand it is at all of the high schools.

Trustee Bhagwakar spoke about her love of Glenbard West, but the Board has a job to do and they have a limited purview tonight to approval or disapproval of the proposed variances.

Trustee Thompson thanked Chairperson Loftus for being the steward of the Plan Commission for the past four years and the dedicated work of the entire Commission.

President Burket added his thoughts on the process being discussed. He also added his thought on the referendum and communication involved in it as well as the proposed renovation.

G. Other Business

H. Reminders

- 1) Village Board Special Workshop, Monday, July 28, 2025 at 6 pm
- 2) Village Board Meeting, July 28, 2025 at 7 pm

I. Adjourn – 10:24 P.M.

Mover: Trustee Thompson; Second: Trustee Kalinich. Unanimous vote to adjourn.