

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

MAY 16, 2024

PUBLIC HEARING – Amended 2023/24 Budget

A public hearing was convened at 6:45 p.m. The following Board members were in attendance by roll call, Hill, Jared, Booth, Fleming, Lescher, Yanik. Public comment was solicited and none was given.

** At 6:55 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Jared to adjourn the public hearing.

CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Grant Community High School District 124, County of Lake, State of Illinois, was held on Thursday, May 16, 2024 and called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Library of Grant Community High School, 285 E. Grand Avenue, Fox Lake.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All those in attendance stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

On Roll Call, the following Members were found to be present:

Mr. Steve Hill, President
Mr. John Jared, Secretary
Mrs. Shelly Booth, Member
Mrs. Ivy Fleming, Member
Mr. Ed Lescher, Member
Mr. Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent:

Mrs. Kathy Kusiak, Vice President

Administration present:

Dr. Christine A. Sefcik, Superintendent
Mrs. Beth Reich, Business Manager
Dr. Jeremy Schmidt, Principal

Student Representative:

Ms. Julia Podgorski

AUDIENCE

Lily Wu, Casey McCleery, Evan Weisheit, Kim Schnoor, Noah Gunsaulus, Joe Cegielski

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held April 18, 2024

Minutes of closed meeting held April 18, 2024

May Bills Payable

April Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from November 17, 2022

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Jared, Booth, Fleming, Lescher, Yanik, Hill

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

OTHER BUSINESS

Board President, Steve Hill, announced that he will retire at the end of the June 20, 2024, Board of Education meeting. He thanked the people of the community and school for their support, involvement, and connection through his 35 years serving on the Board. He said he most enjoyed seeing all of the student achievement since the beginning of his service in 1989.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kim Schnoor began by thanking the Board of Education and noting that they exist to serve the students and they do an amazing job. She wanted to thank Steve Hill for his 35 years of service to the Grant Community High School Board of Education and who has served with honor and distinction. She laughed as she and Steve brought their yearbooks to show the beginning of his tenure. She was proud to be on the Board with him for 9 years until her retirement from the Board in April, 2005. Steve was instrumental in getting two tough referenda passed, has worked with two superintendents, and has always had the best interest of the students at heart. Everyone applauded and Steve responded that Kim Schnoor may have left the Board but not the school. She was also influential getting those tough referenda passed, along with many others.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items

Student of the Month

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that Finn was competing in Volleyball, one of his last games of his senior year, and would arrive after the completion of the game.

Student Representative to the Board of Education

Dr. Sefcik announced that junior student Casey McCleery has been selected to serve as the Student Representative to the Board of Education for the 2024/25 school year. Casey has been invited to attend the May and June meetings to shadow Julia. Dr. Sefcik also let the Board know that they are creating a new Superintendent/BOE Council to expand student voice. All four Student Representative applicants will remain involved and meet with the Superintendent and possibly a Board member, when available, on a regular basis.

Honors Night

Dr. Sefcik stated Honors Night took place in the fieldhouse on May 8th where we recognized the achievements of 75 students. Through the generous donations of our Grant community, we were able to distribute \$50,750 in local scholarships that evening as well. It is always a wonderful ceremony that provides an opportunity to recognize the efforts these dedicated students have put forth the past 4 years.

Lake County Educator of the Year Awards

Dr. Sefcik said that on May 8th, the Regional Office of Education hosted the Lake County Educator of the Year Awards ceremony. Two of our teachers, Beth Miller and Kristen Arndt, were nominated for Lake County Educator of the Year awards. Two non-certified staff members, Cory Bowles and Craig Dewar, were nominated in their respective award categories. This event was a

wonderful way to recognize the contributions of these individuals, with their families in attendance as well.

Hall of Fame 2024

Dr. Sefcik told the Board the Hall of Fame Committee had the difficult task of selecting next fall's inductees. She was happy to reveal the following individuals will be recognized during homecoming festivities next September and recommended for induction into the GCHS Hall of Fame:

- Sharon Burr
- Daniel Dennis
- Kim Schnoor

Further information will be forthcoming as we gather information from these individuals and prepare a news release in advance of the recognition.

Principal's Report

Mr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on Summer School, School Recognition, Student Activities, and Graduation.

Student Representative's Report

Julia Podgorski provided her report which included information on Activities: FCCLA, Choir, Tech Campus, Journalism, Yearbook, FBLA, and Student Council; Sports: Girls Soccer, Special Olympics, Senior Night, Boys Volleyball, and Track and Field; Events: Spring Musical, Spring Pep Assembly, Spring Band Concert, Prom, and Senior Awards Night.

She then read a lovely letter of thanks to the Board for her time as Student Representative to the Board of Education.

Student of the Month

Dr. Sefcik introduced Finn Joiner, in the presence of his parents, Elizabeth and Matthew Joiner, as the May Student of the Month. She read Finn's profile of accomplishments, which included academic achievements, extracurricular activities, service to the community, what he enjoys in his spare time, and future plans. Dr. Sefcik offered Finn the opportunity to speak to the Board and he thanked the Board for the recognition. He noted that his experience at Grant has been a great one and he has really enjoyed building a connection with his teachers. The Board and audience applauded Finn and Dr. Sefcik presented him with a certificate to commemorate being chosen as the May Student of the Month.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items

Consolidated District Plan

Dr. Sefcik reported that as a district that receives federal funds, we are required to have the Board of Education approve our annual Consolidated District Plan. The Plan permits districts to answer one set of planning questions to meet the requirements of all 12 of the federal grants that may be available.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the Consolidated District Plan, as presented.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Booth, Fleming, Lescher, Yanik, Hill, Jared
Nay: None
Absent: Kusiak

Motion – Passed

School Board Policy Modifications – Second Reading

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the changes to the following School Board policies based on direction from the Illinois Association of School Boards and legal counsel:

Section 200 School Board

- 2:40 Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers
- 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure
- 2:265 Title IX Grievance Procedure
- 2:270 Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color and National Origin Prohibited

Section 400 Operational Services

- 4:165 Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors

Section 500 Personnel

- 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment
- 5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited
- 5:100 Staff Development Program
- 5:120 Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest

Section 700 Students

- 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities
- 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited
- 7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment
- 7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the changes to school board policies, as presented

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Fleming, Lescher, Yanik, Hill, Jared, Booth
Nay: None
Absent: Kusiak

Motion – Passed

Community Youth Network Counseling Support 2024/25

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that we have partnered with CYN in past years to provide mental health support to students in need and assist us in proactively providing mental health supports. CYN will designate a social worker to be on campus one day per week to run social-emotional groups based on identified need, as well as provide additional support for struggling students and students in crisis, at a cost of \$14,500.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the one-year agreement for CYN to provide one day of counseling services per week at a cost of \$14,500.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Lescher, Yanik, Hill, Jared, Booth, Fleming
Nay: None
Absent: Kusiak

Motion – Passed

Lake County Health Department – Assessment and Counseling Services 2024/25

Dr. Sefcik requested to continue to partner with the Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center to provide assessment and counseling services related to substance use and abuse. The one-year agreement for LCHD to provide 3.5 days of counseling services per week is at a cost of \$56,596.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the one-year agreement to provide 3.5 days of counseling services per week at a cost of \$56,596.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Yanik, Hill, Jared, Booth, Fleming, Lescher

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

Pilot Clubs

Dr. Sefcik and the administration are recommending the pilots of the Baking Club, Creative Fiber Arts Club, and Girls' Flag Football. Sponsors have been identified for each and if they have a successful pilot year, they will be recommended for club approval for the following school year.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the pilot for Baking Club, Creative Fiber Arts Club, and Girls' Flag Football.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Hill, Jared, Booth, Fleming, Lescher, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

Overnight Travel Requests

Dr. Sefcik presented three overnight travel requests:

- Dance team to attend the Dance Team Union Championship in Orlando, Florida, from February 13-17, for 4 coaches and approximately 15 student-athletes. The cost is self-funded, with families paying the cost to attend and fundraising efforts to offset the cost.
- Special Olympics team to attend the State competition, June 7-8 in Bloomington, Illinois, for two coaches and 6 student-athletes, for a District cost of \$526.25.
- Bass Fishing team, to attend the IHSA Bass Fishing State Competition at Carlyle Lake, May 15-18, in Carlyle, Illinois, for two coaches and two student-athletes, for a District cost of \$2,447.58.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the overnight travel requests from Dance team, Special Olympics team, and Bass Fishing team, as presented.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Jared, Booth, Fleming, Lescher, Yanik, Hill

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

Co-Curricular Sponsors 2024/25

Dr. Sefcik and the administration is recommending approval of the co-curricular sponsors for the 2024/25 school year as presented.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the Co-Curricular Sponsors, as presented.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Booth, Fleming, Lescher, Yanik, Hill, Jared

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

Fall Coaches 2024/25

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the fall coaching staff for 2024/25, as presented.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the Fall Coaching Staff, as presented.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Lescher, Yanik, Hill, Jared, Booth

Nay: None
Abstain: Fleming
Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Recommend the employment of the following individuals:

- Andrea Kosmicki, 10-month Assistant Director of Special Education, 2024/25, \$85,000/yr.
- Ekaterina Lyons, Summer School PE Teacher, Session 1 and 2
- Joseph Gorden, Full-time Mathematics teacher, 2024/25, BA Step 0
- Teresa Victores, Full-time Bilingual/TBE teacher, 2024/25, MA45 Step 8
- Kay Ann Blaszczyk, Full-time Substitute, 2024/25 school year, \$48,119
- Luke Blaszczyk, Full-time Substitute, 2024/25 school year, \$48,119
- John (JP) Gizowski, Full-time Substitute, 2024/25 school year, \$48,119
- Joseph Califf, Full-time Substitute, 2024/25 school year, \$48,119
- Tiffani Lahey, 2nd Shift Custodian, \$17/hr., starting 5/1/2024
- Daniel Lutzka, 2nd Shift Custodian, \$17/hr., starting 5/6/2024
- Bryan Talbot, Head Boys' Varsity Baseball Coach, 2024/25

Recommend accepting the resignation/retirement letters from:

- Carmen Terselic, EL/Bilingual teacher, resignation effective 5/21/2024
- Ashley Gaura, English Teacher, resignation effective 5/21/2024
- Ryan Reynolds, Special Ed. Teacher, resignation effective 5/21/2024
- Andrew Yarza, Technology Department, resignation effective 5/14/2024
- Jeff Austin, Art Club sponsor, resignation effective 5/21/2024
- Amanda Jacobs, National Art Honor Society sponsor, resignation effective 5/21/2024
- Debbie Carole, Director of Transportation, retiring effective 5/21/2024
- Vernon Jones, Security Lead, retiring effective 5/21/2024
- Lawrence Stenzel, Custodian, retiring effective 5/5/2024

Notification of a Family and Medical Leave Act request from Therese Feuling, beginning 4/17/2024, to be taken on an intermittent basis.

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the personnel recommendations, as presented

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Lescher, Yanik, Hill, Jared, Booth, Fleming
Nay: None
Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

2023/24 Amended Budget

Mrs. Reich provided the 2023/24 amended budget, which includes additional grants and revenue received by the district. The budget was also amended to include expenses that occurred this year which were not included in the original budget, including increases in special education transportation costs, tuition for students in therapeutic day schools, and additional expenses related to school operations. Per statute, the amended 2023/2024 budget has been on display for 30 days.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the 2023/24 Amended Budget, as presented.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Yanik, Hill, Jared, Booth, Fleming, Lescher

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

Resolution Authorizing Accounting Transfer(s) to Capital Projects Fund

Mrs. Reich explained that as part of the 2023/2024 budget, a transfer from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to pay for one-time facility renovation and upgrade expenses is needed. This resolution explains the \$1,500,000 accounting transfer from O&M to Capital Projects. These funds will be used to pay for the construction of the weight room addition.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the Resolution Authorizing Accounting Transfer(s) to Capital Projects Fund, as presented.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Hill, Jared, Booth, Fleming, Lescher, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

Resolution Abating the Working Cash Fund of Grant Community High School District 124, Lake County, Illinois

Mrs. Reich reported that as part of the amended 2023/2024 final budget, I have included a transfer of \$742,547 from the Working Cash Fund to the Transportation Fund to cover the deficit for 2023/2024 and a transfer of \$3,000,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Capital Projects Fund to pay for construction of the new weight room.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the Resolution Abating the Working Cash Fund, as presented.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Jared, Booth, Fleming, Lescher, Yanik, Hill

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

2024/25 Tentative Budget

Mrs. Reich provided the tentative 2024/25 Budget at the meeting. She also went through some details such as revenues, expenses, Operations and Maintenance Fund, Transportation Fund, Social Security/IMRF Fund, and Capital Projects Fund.

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve placing the 2024/25 budget on public display for the statutory 30 days.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Booth, Fleming, Lescher, Yanik, Hill, Jared

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

Quest Food Service Management Contract 2024/25

Mrs. Reich stated that this past year, we continued our partnership with Quest Food Services. Highlights this year included the opening of the Dawg Bowl, our inhouse coffee shop, the expansion of a deli line to buy made-to-order sandwiches and wraps, more student voice in options, and additional planning for 2024/2025. We would like to continue with an agreement with

Quest Food Services for consulting in 2024-2025, which mirrors our agreement for last year, except a cost increase of 4.2% due to salary and benefits cost increasing. The consulting fee and structure will stay the same, with set deliverables that need to be completed prior to the whole fee being paid.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the 2024/25 agreement with Quest Food Services, as presented.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Fleming, Lescher, Yanik, Hill, Jared, Booth

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

Medical Rate Renewal

Mrs. Reich detailed the monthly rates for 2024/25. Last year, we held rates steady except for a slight increase due to the stop loss policy increasing premiums. This year, we have seen a rise in claims, but our reserves have again held steady due to increased lives on the plan. Lakes Region Benefit Cooperative met with us, and we have over 90 days of reserves. There is a slight increase in monthly premiums tied to fixed fees increasing only on the PPO Plan B, which is tied primarily to our stop loss policy renewal. We are recommending a slight rate increase this year on the PPO Plan B, a \$0 rate increase on Plan C and the High Deductible Plan, as well as the option to offer a Blue Cross and Blue Shield HMO. We surveyed staff and the HMO was an option that was requested by many.

<u>Plan B</u>	<u>Current 23/24</u>	<u>Proposed 24/25</u>
Employee	\$ 774.51	\$ 785.66
Employee+Child	\$2,017.95	\$2,029.10
Employee+Spouse	\$2,182.11	\$2,193.26
Family	\$2,559.09	\$2,570.24

<u>Plan C</u>	<u>Current 23/24</u>	<u>Proposed 24/25</u>
Employee	\$ 701.02	\$ 701.02
Employee+Child	\$1,826.87	\$1,826.87
Employee+Spouse	\$1,973.38	\$1,973.38
Family	\$2,118.42	\$2,118.42

<u>High Deductible Plan</u>	<u>Current 23/24</u>	<u>Proposed 24/25</u>
Employee	\$ 425.60	\$ 425.60
Employee+Child	\$1,102.17	\$1,102.17
Employee+Spouse	\$1,190.21	\$1,190.21
Family	\$1,277.38	\$1,277.38

<u>HMO Illinois</u>	<u>Current 23/24</u>	<u>Proposed 24/25</u>
Employee		\$ 791.27
Employee+Child		\$1,564.69
Employee+Spouse		\$1,494.13
Family		\$2,323.15

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mr. Jared to approve the 2024/25 medical rates, as presented.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Lescher, Yanik, Hill, Jared, Booth, Fleming

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak
Motion – **Passed**

OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Reich said the softball shed arrived. The weight room floor will be poured on Tuesday and at this time the project appears to be about 2-3 weeks ahead of schedule.

Dr. Sefcik said she is working with Senator Wilcox on HB5020 – Dual Credit Quality Act, which overwhelmingly passed the House but has stalled in the Senate. Senator Wilcox has agreed to co-sponsor the bill and bring back this bill to the Senate.

CLOSED SESSION

** At 8:02 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1); other matters relating to individual students 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(10).

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Yanik, Hill, Jared, Booth, Fleming, Lescher

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

** At 8:23 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Lescher to end closed session and return to open session.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Hill, Jared, Booth, Fleming, Lescher, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

** A motion was made by Mr. Hill, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the employment contract for Dr. Jeremy Schmidt, as Superintendent beginning in the 2025/26 school year.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Jared, Booth, Fleming, Lescher, Yanik, Hill

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the administrative salaries, as presented.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Booth, Fleming, Lescher, Yanik, Hill, Jared

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the support staff salaries, as presented.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Fleming, Lescher, Yanik, Hill, Jared, Booth

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

ADJOURN

- ** At 8:25 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Hill, second by Mr. Yanik to adjourn the meeting.

Steve Hill, President

John Jared, Secretary