

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

APRIL 18, 2024

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, April 18, 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
Mrs. Kathy Kusiak, Vice President
Mrs. Shelly Booth, Member
Mrs. Ivy Fleming, Member
Mr. Ed Lescher, Member
Mr. Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent:

Mr. John Jared, Secretary

Administration present:

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

Student Representative: Ms. Julia Podgorski

Mrs. Kathy Kusiak served as Secretary Pro Tem due to the absence of Secretary, John Jared

AUDIENCE

Marek, Agnieszka, and Amelia Podgorski, Molly Vezensky, Savannah Eagon, Christi Flaker

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held March 21, 2024

Minutes of closed meeting held March 21, 2024

April Bills Payable

March Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from October 20, 2022

Quarterly list of authorized depositories, investment managers, dealers, and brokers

** A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Recognition and Informational ItemsApril Student of the Month

Dr. Sefcik introduced Julia Podgorski, in the presence of her family, Marek, Agnieszka, and Amelia, as the April Student of the Month. She read Julia's profile of accomplishments, which included academic achievements, extracurricular activities, service as the Student Representative to the School Board, service to the community, what she enjoys in her spare time, and future plans. Dr. Sefcik offered Julia the opportunity to speak to the Board and she thanked the Board for the recognition. She feels lucky to be a part of the GCHS environment and getting to witness opportunities and work being done by students. She also thanked her parents, teachers, and her peers for making her years here so amazing. She's looking forward to continuing her education at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. The Board and audience applauded Julia and Dr. Sefcik presented her with a certificate to commemorate being chosen as the April Student of the Month.

English Language Learning (EL) / Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) Coordinator – Shared Position

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that with growing enrollment in the EL/TBE program, she is asking the Board to consider the sharing of a 10-month administrative coordinator position in partnership with Big Hollow School District 38. Enrollment data was presented to the Board. To remain in compliance with Illinois State Board of Education requirements and provide quality education services for these students, the number of teaching staff required has increased. Also shared were program details such as courses, screening resources, testing requirements, and information on the Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee. Actual shared costs would be based upon experience and other school district comparable salaries.

Special Education Position

Dr. Sefcik apprised the Board that over the last 10 years, the number of students with an IEP and/or accommodation required by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act has increased substantially. With an increased number of students to provide support for, additional supports provided for in-house that were taken back from SEDOL, combined with an increasing number of staff to provide leadership for, the administration is requesting the Board of Education consider adding a full-time Assistant Director of Special Education effective with the 2024/25 school year. With a certified teacher already providing part-time administrative support, this is not an entirely new cost. Rather, this is an increase of approximately .4 FTE. Actual costs would be based upon experience and other school district comparable salaries.

Safety Position

Dr. Sefcik notified the Board that safety and security of everyone on campus continues to be a priority. The responsibility is currently shared by a number of administrators, and supported by faculty, staff, security personnel, and the School Resource Officer. While we maintain comprehensive emergency and crisis plans, and practice those plans diligently, we believe that designing a position, whose role would focus solely on core school safety responsibilities would improve the overall safety of our school. A Director of Safety and Security would be charged with the development, implementation, and oversight of all of our safety protocols, including emergency preparedness, crisis management, security infrastructure, safety training, and risk assessments. We are proposing this position at a time that a security personnel retirement is occurring, thereby offsetting the cost of establishing this position. Actual costs would be based upon experience and comparable salaries.

School Board Policy Modifications – First Reading

Dr. Sefcik provided the following School Board Policy modifications as a first reading:

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 (complete rewrite)
- 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

Graduation

Dr. Sefcik said we are looking forward to our graduation ceremony on Sunday, May 19th at 2:00 pm, in the Fieldhouse. All Board members are welcomed and encouraged to attend this celebratory event! She asked them to respond at their earliest convenience so that seating and diploma distribution arrangements may be made.

Principal's Report

Mr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on End of Semester Information, Assessment Updates, Spring Events and Activities, and Student Recognition.

Student Representative's Report

Julia Podgorski provided her report which included information on Activities: FBLA, Math Team, Theater, FCCLA, NHS, Student Council, and Gender-Sexuality Alliance. Sports: Color Guard and National Wheelchair Basketball Association Junior Nationals. Events: Spain and France Trips, Writer's Expo/Writer's Week, Activity Fair, and ABC Countdown.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items

English Language Learning (EL) / Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) Coordinator – Shared Position

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the EL/TBE Coordinator position to be shared among GCHS District 124 and Big Hollow School District 38 beginning with the 2024/25 school year, as presented.

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the addition of an EL/TBE Coordinator position to be shared among GCHS District 124 and Big Hollow School District 38 beginning with the 2024/25 school year, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

Special Education Position

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of an Assistant Director of Special Education effective with the 2024/25 school year, as presented.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the addition of an Assistant Director of Special Education effective with the 2024/25 school year, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

Safety Position

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of a Director of Safety and Security effective with the 2024/25 school year, as presented.

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the addition of a Director of Safety and Security effective with the 2024/25 school year, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

Future Business Leaders of America National Competition (FBLA)

Dr. Sefcik was proud to announce that seven students qualified for the National FBLA Competition and National Leadership Conference. The competition will take place in Orlando, Florida, from June 29 to July 2. The sponsor, an additional chaperone, and the seven students will travel to Orlando on June 28 and return on July 3. When students qualify for extracurricular or co-curricular national competitions, the District has traditionally contributed half of the student costs to attend. The estimated Board paid costs for the competition will be \$10,070.75. FBLA is contributing \$1,000 from activity funds, resulting in a student cost of \$614.34 each to participate.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mrs. Kusiak to approve the FBLA National Competition travel, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

Overnight Travel

Dr. Sefcik requested approval of the overnight travel for the following teams, as presented:

Girls' varsity basketball team to attend a team camp at Purdue University in Lafayette, IN, June 21-23 for approximately 8-10 student-athletes and three coaches.

Wrestling team to attend a team camp at the University of Illinois in Champaign, IL, June 23-26 for approximately 35-45 student-athletes and four coaches.

Dance team to attend camp at Illinois State University in Bloomington, IL, June 25-27 for approximately 30 student-athletes and four coaches.

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the overnight travel for the girls' varsity basketball team, the wrestling team, and the dance team, all as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

2024/25 Board of Education Meeting Date Changes

Dr. Sefcik reported the need to consider changing two Board of Education meeting dates for scheduling conflicts. The November 21, 2024 meeting date conflicts with the IASB/IASA/IASBO Joint Conference and members' ability to attend early professional development sessions. She recommends changing the November 21 meeting to November 14, 2024. The June 19, 2025 meeting conflicts with the Juneteenth holiday, a day the District is required to be closed. She recommended changing the June 19 meeting to June 12, 2025.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Lescher to approve changing the November 21, 2024 meeting date to November 14, 2024, and the June 19, 2025 meeting date to June 12, 2025.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Accept the resignation letters from the following individuals:

- Lauren Becmer, Chess Club Sponsor, effective immediately
- Will Schmadeke, Black Student Union and Chess Club Sponsor, effective immediately

Notification of a FMLA request for Cheryl Trevithick for March 26, 2024 to April 12, 2024

Notification of a FMLA request for Shane Rivette for April 19, 2024 on an intermittent basis

** A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the personnel recommendations, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

2023/24 Amended Budget

Mrs. Reich reminded the Board that the 2023/24 amended budget is on display and will be on the agenda for approval at the May meeting.

2024/25 Budget

Mrs. Reich told the Board that the 2024/25 budget is under construction and she has been meeting with department heads to determine expenses for next year. As those meetings occur, she has been updating the budget. Additionally, she should have the health insurance renewal rates within the next month. She plans to bring the tentative budget to the Board in May for display and a hearing and request for approval in July.

Tax Cap Adjustment

Mrs. Reich notified the Board that the county multiplier from the Illinois Department of Revenue is 1.00 for tax year 2023. This equalizer is then applied to our equalized assessed value (EAV) resulting in a total EAV of \$1,178,955,217. This is an increase of \$100,213,131 from 2022. The EAV increased 9.29% from last year. As a result, the tax rate is 2.190976. The consumer price index for this tax cycle was 6.5%, so it was capped at 5%. Approximately, \$191,373 had to be cut from the levied amount to comply with the tax cap limitation. A copy of the detailed cap adjustments is attached, as well as a comparison of Grant High School's tax rate to other high school districts in Lake County.

National School Lunch Program – 2024-2025 School Lunch Price

Mrs. Reich reported that as part of the Healthy Hunger Free Act of 2010, Section 205, the district each year must analyze the price charged for the school lunches using a paid lunch equity calculator provided by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). The purpose is to comply with the law which requires that schools charge students for paid meals at a price that is on average equal to the difference between free meal reimbursement and paid meal reimbursement. The paid lunch equity calculator determines the amount that the lunch price must be increased based on our lunch prices and number of paid lunches served in October of 2023. She recommended the school lunch price be increased to \$3.60 per meal for all meals and the school breakfast price stay the same at \$1.50 for all breakfast meals.

****** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the price charged for breakfast and lunch as calculated by the ISBE equity calculator, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

Weight Room Construction Update

Mrs. Reich provided an update on the weight room construction, including the project is on schedule; they did find bad soil, excavated, and replaced it; footings are in; and walls will be poured next Wednesday.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Sefcik said that the interviews for the 2024/25 Student Representative to the Board of Education went terrific. Four students were interviewed and she expects a decision soon so that they are able to shadow Julia beginning with the May meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

- ** At 7:49 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mr. Lescher 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); and student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(9).

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

- ** At 8:22 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Yanik to end closed session and return to open session.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the 2024/25 contract for Dave Behm as Athletic Director.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

ADJOURN

- ** At 8:24 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Fleming to adjourn the meeting.

Steve Hill, President

Kathy Kusiak, Secretary Pro Tem