

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

FEBRUARY 15, 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, February 15, 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
Mr. John Jared, Secretary
Mrs. Shelly Booth, Member
Mr. Ed Lescher, Member
Mr. Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent:

Mrs. Ivy Fleming, Member

Administration present:

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

Student Representative: Ms. Julia Podgorski

AUDIENCE

Austin, Justin, and Megan Smith

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held January 18, 2024

Minutes of closed meeting held January 18, 2024

February Bills Payable

January Treasurer's Report

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items

Student Recognition

Dr. Sefcik introduced Austin Smith, in the presence of his parents, Justin and Megan Smith, as the February Student of the Month. She read Austin'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 Austin the opportunity to speak to the Board and he thanked the Board for the recognition and for the great opportunities provided at Grant. He has had a wonderful four years. The Board and audience applauded Austin and Dr. Sefcik presented him with a certificate to commemorate being chosen as the February Student of the Month.

Student Recognition

Dr. Sefcik was happy to inform the Board that our Student Representative to the Board, Julia Podgorski, was recently selected to receive a QuestBridge full 4-year scholarship to attend Wesleyan University in Connecticut! The National College Match Program is highly competitive and students are selected based on academic performance and school/community involvement. Out of 20,800 applicants, 6,683 were chosen as finalists and of those, only 2,242 were chosen as Match Scholarship Recipients. The value of the scholarship is over \$200,000 and covers tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and travel expenses. Julia said that she was still taking it all in but she was so appreciative. The Board congratulated Julia on this honor.

Principal's Report

Mr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on Bridging Student Transitions to High School, 5Esentials Survey, Student Registration, Success Speaker, and Student Voices Series.

Student Representative's Report

Julia Podgorski provided her report which included information on Activities: Future Business Leaders of America, Marching Band, Math Team, Speech Team, and Academic Team; Athletics: Boys Bowling, Dance Team, Cheer, Girls Bowling, Wrestling, and Girls Basketball; and Events: ILMEA All-State.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Employment of the following individuals:

- Devonny Flagge, Full-time Substitute, effective 1/22/2024, BA Step 0
- Bridgette Bennett, Fall Flags Coach
- Chris Callahan, Asst. Softball Coach
- Tom Dubois, On-call Substitute Bus Driver, effective 1/13/24, \$27.56/hr.
- Anthony Johnson, Spring Event Coordinator
- David Mills, Asst. Football Coach
- Calista Warmowski, Asst. Softball Coach
- Liz McKee, Co-Lead Utility, effective 2/20/2024, \$17.80/hr.
- Kimberly Nelson, Co-Lead Utility, effective 2/20/2024, \$18.85/hr.

Accept the resignation letter from the following individual:

- Sheryl Dempsey, Asst. Girls' Bowling Coach
- Lenny Grodoski, Winter Event Coordinator
- Thomas Ross, Athletic Director, effective June 27, 2024

Accept retirement notification from Thomas Oeffling, Social Studies teacher, effective at the end of the 2026-27 school year.

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

Overnight Travel

Dr. Sefcik presented the overnight travel request from the Speech Team to attend State competition in Peoria. The travel will include 14 students and two sponsors, February 15-18, with a district cost of \$6,518.23.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the overnight travel for the Speech Team, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Preliminary 2024 Financial Profile Designation

Mrs. Reich reported that the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has released the preliminary 2024 Financial Profile Designation for the District based on the 2022-23 Annual Financial Report Data. She was happy to say we are receiving a 3.65 out of 4.00, with a status of Financial Recognition. She included the information from ISBE for review.

116 S. U.S. Highway 12 – 2019 PTAB Appeal

Mrs. Reich informed the Board the property at 116 S. U.S. Highway 12, commonly known as Ben Watts Marina filed an appeal with the Property Tax Appeal Board for their 2019 property assessment. Ares Dalianis from Franczek P.C. has represented the district and negotiated a settlement that reduces the loss of revenue from \$71,414 to \$52,018 for Grant High School, while still providing modest assessment relief in each year to the appellant. The appellant agrees to not file a direct appeal for the 2020, 2021, and 2022 assessment years, which were not included in their original appeal. Finally, this settlement sets the assessment for 2023 at an assessed value of 1.375 million and then increasing by 12% each year for 2024, 2025 and 2026. This will preclude any further Property Tax Appeal Board appeals for the new quadrennial.

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mr. Jared to approve the settlement of the Property Tax Appeal for the property at 116 S. U.S. Highway 12, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

Construction Update

Mrs. Reich presented a construction update of the weight room project. The project will begin on March 11, 2024 and is scheduled to take approximately 10 months. The field house parking lot will be severely limited for the next 10 months and possibly closed all summer. During spring break, they will relocate a gas meter, prep for new electric service, sewer, water, and storm. Graduation parking has been considered and options are being looked at to shuttle attendees. The weight equipment has been ordered and delivery will take place when the project is ready for equipment setup. The parking lot will be closed during the summer.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Sefcik reported that one Freedom of Information Act request was received and fulfilled.

Dr. Sefcik stated that she, Beth Reich, Ed Lescher, and Kay Starostovic met with the Village of Volo, at the request of Michael May, to discuss the possibility of annexing property to the Village of Volo to receive Lake Michigan water and potentially abandon existing wells. An initial cost estimate to hook up to the waterline to the Bulldog Athletic Complex is \$8,600 - \$12,000. If any further developments take place, Dr. Sefcik will communicate those to the Board.

Dr. Sefcik was excited to announce that a former Grant student, Matt Auckland of Ingleside, was a contestant chef on season three of *Next Level Chef*!

CLOSED SESSION

** At 7:45 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Yanik to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(9); other matters relating to individual students 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(10); the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1); the selection of a person to fill a public office, including a vacancy in public office 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(3); and semi-annual review of closed session minutes 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21). Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed / Failed**

** At 8:35 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Booth to end closed session and return to open session.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

No action was taken as a result of Closed Session.

ADJOURN

** At 8:36 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mr. Jared to adjourn the meeting.

Steve Hill, President

John Jared, Secretary