

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

MARCH 21, 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, March 21, 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. Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent:

Mrs. Ivy Fleming, Member
Mr. Ed Lescher, Member

Administration present:

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

AUDIENCE

Kevin Geist, Terri & Glenn Lamz, Tina Sonders, Veronica Lukemeyer, Peter & Aimee Hansen, Anthony Johnson, Mark Jolcover, Kaitlyn Carpenter, Daivieon Charley, Ashlin Driscoll, Payton Evans, Dianey Granados, Ian Hansen, Michael Lamz, Zach Langhoff, Lily Sobyra, Jessi von Helms, Trish Crambes, Marissa Myers, Ayane Jasinski & Wrestling Coaches, Delaney Blancet, and friends and family.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held February 15, 2024

Minutes of closed meeting held February 15, 2024

March Bills Payable

February Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from August 18, 2022 and September 29, 2022

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

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

Aye: Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items

March Student of the Month

Dr. Sefcik introduced Delaney Blancett, in the presence of her parents, Casey and Shanda Blancett, as the March Student of the Month. She read Delaney's profile of accomplishments, which included academic achievements, extracurricular activities, service to the community, what she enjoys in her spare time, and future plans. Dr. Sefcik offered Delaney the opportunity to speak to the Board and she thanked the Board for the amazing recognition and the resources and opportunities that were available at Grant. She also thanked her teachers and everyone at Grant for making her years here so amazing. She's looking forward to continuing her education at University of Illinois. The Board and audience applauded Delaney and Dr. Sefcik presented her with a certificate to commemorate being chosen as the March Student of the Month.

National Merit Scholarship Finalist

Dr. Sefcik introduced Raidon Uy to recognize his accomplishment of being named as a National Merit Scholarship Finalist for 2024 and his involvement in Math Team and Academic Team, as well as his outstanding 4.987 GPA. She detailed the process of being chosen for the various steps toward the National Merit Scholarship. Beginning in March 2024, winners will be notified and she wished Raidon well. Dr. Sefcik presented Raidon with a certificate to commemorate his success and celebration before the Board.

Speech Team Performance in the Round State Champions – 2nd Place

Dr. Sefcik shared with the Board that the Speech Team is in attendance to be recognized for the tremendous season they had, culminating in a 2nd place finish in the IHSA State Series for their Performance in the Round. She introduced Kevin Geist, Assistant Director of Activities and Athletics, and Trisha Crambes, Speech Team Sponsor, to introduce the individual team members involved in the State winning performance. Congratulations to the Speech Team members, Kaitlyn Carpenter, Daivieon Charley, Ashlin Driscoll, Payton Evans, Dianey Granados, Ian Hansen, Michael Lamz, Zach Langhoff, Lily Sobyra, and Jessi von Helms and sponsors Trish Crambes and Marissa Myers on this tremendous accomplishment. Dr. Sefcik presented members and sponsors with a certificate to celebrate their title.

IHSA State Wrestling Champion – 3rd Place

Dr. Sefcik shared highlights of Ayane Jasinski's journey on her way to a tremendous 3rd place finish in the IHSA State Wrestling Championship. She asked Coach Mark Jolcover to say a few words and he remarked on her successes and on behalf of the GCHS wrestling program, he presented her with a gift of a framed singlet that she helped design to celebrate her impressive wrestling career at Grant. Dr. Sefcik presented certificates to Ayane and the coaching staff that supported her all season.

Excellence in Education Award – 3rd Quarter

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that Cassi Reid was selected to receive the 3rd quarter Excellence in Education Award. Cassi was recognized at school with a reception throughout the staff lunch periods. She was unable to attend the March or April Board meetings, but she provided a letter to the Board to express her gratitude for being selected for the honor.

Winter Athletic Accomplishments

Dr. Sefcik reported that Athletic Director, Tom Ross, provided a written report to highlight winter athletic accomplishments. The report included winter season participation, sports, levels and participation by sport, GPA by sport, academic accolades by sport, athletic accomplishments, team accomplishments, and highlights.

Regional Office of Education – Compliance Audit

Dr. Sefcik told the Board that several representatives from the Regional Office of Education were in the District on March 5 and 7 to conduct the required compliance audit. Both lead auditors complimented the District on our preparedness and level of compliance. There were a few minor items to present evidence for, but we completed all requested items by the Monday after their visit. Dr. Sefcik expressed gratitude to Kris Olk for her organization and thoroughness in preparing for the comprehensive audit. We will receive a final report and are confident we will receive full approval and renewed accreditation.

ISBE/Legislative Update

Dr. Sefcik stated the General Assembly passed a first major committee deadline that occurred on March 15th. She shared a brief update on bills and changes she is keeping an eye on this spring, including the PSAT changing back to the ACT, Accelerated Placement Act may be delayed, Dual Credit, Special Education SB 3606-reimbursements public vs. private placements, and mandates must include the cost.

Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Constitution and Position Statements

Dr. Sefcik said based on the vote of the Delegate Assembly last November, IASB has published the constitution and Position Statements for 2024. The Position Statements provide direction for IASB lobbyists on legislative positions. She noted the process will begin again next month, with a call for resolutions for 2025.

Illinois High School Association (IHSA) – New Sport Update

Dr. Sefcik shared that IHSA is debuting Girls' Flag Football beginning in the fall of 2024. IHSA did not follow the emerging sport process as in previous years, instead offering this new athletic opportunity on an expedited basis. The district administration will be surveying students in the near future to inquire about the interest in girls' flag football as well as girls' wrestling. She will report back on student interest and the Title IX implications as these recent options are considered.

Principal's Report

Mr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on Professional Development, Career Explorers, Feeder School Articulation: Music in Our Schools Performance, Blood Drive, SOS Program, Certified Staff Evaluation, and 5Essentials Survey.

Student Representative's Report

Julia Podgorski provided a written report which included information on Activities: Math Team, Speech Team, Academic Team, Medical Education for Determined Students (MEDS), Theater, Future Business Leaders of America, and National Art Honor Society; Athletics: Senior Night, Girls' Bowling, Boys' Wrestling, Girls' Wrestling, Boys' Volleyball, Boys' Track and Field, and Girls' Basketball; Events: Winter Dance, Music in Our Schools Month, and Grant's Got Talent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items

Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Membership

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of continued membership in IHSA for the 2024/25 school term. By renewing, the district is certifying that we are recognized by the Illinois High School

Association, we will adopt and abide by the Constitution, By-laws, Terms and Conditions, and Administrative Procedures, Guidelines, and Policies of the Association.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mr. Yanik to approve membership in IHSA for the 2024/25 school term.

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

Aye: Jared, Booth, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

Overnight Travel **

Dr. Sefcik requested approval for the overnight travel from Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) for 39 student members, sponsor, and another staff chaperone to attend the State competition and conference in Springfield from April 4-6, for a total District cost of \$10,318.35. She also requested approval for the overnight travel from Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) for five student members, sponsor, and a 1:1 aide to attend the State competition in Springfield, from April 11-13, for a total District cost of \$2,486.87.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the overnight travel for both Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), as presented.

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

Aye: Booth, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak, Jared

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

Resolution Authorizing Non-Renewal and Dismissal of Permanent Substitute Teachers and Reduction of Assignment

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the Resolution Authorizing Non-Renewal and Dismissal of Permanent Substitute Teachers and Reduction of Assignment, as presented.

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Jared to approve the Resolution Authorizing Non-Renewal and Dismissal of Permanent Substitute Teachers and Reduction of Assignment, as presented.

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

Aye: Yanik, Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Booth

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

Resolution for the Honorable Reduction of Certain Non-Tenured Teachers

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the Resolution for the Honorable Reduction of Certain Non-Tenured Teachers, as presented.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mr. Jared to approve the Honorable Reduction of Certain Non-Tenured Teachers, as presented.

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

Aye: Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Employment of the following individuals:

- Tina Gitterie, Transportation-Driver, \$27.06/hr., starting 3/4/2024
- John Patrick Gizowski, Full-time Substitute, \$256.40/day, starting 3/18/2024
- Jessica Parker, Paraprofessional-Safety, \$17.00/hr., starting 3/4/2024
- Kacey Cabanban, Asst. Boys' Tennis Coach
- Nicole Frett, Asst. Badminton Coach
- Jason Lackhouse, Asst. Boys' Volleyball Coach
- Tyler Clausen, (Pilot) After School Math Lab Supervisor, \$37.22/day

Accepting the resignation/retirement letters from:

- Tom Duffy, Math Teacher, resigning effective end of 2023/24 school year
- Barbara Miller, Food Service, retiring effective 9/3/2024
- Sandra Schlaf, Food Service, retiring effective end of 2023/24 school year
- Katie Boyd, Cheer Coach, effective end of 2023/24 season
- Justin Strebel, Boys Tennis Coach, effective immediately

Leave of Absence request from Christina Maestranzi for the 2024/25 school year

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

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

Aye: Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Yanik, Hill

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

2023-2024 Tentative Amended Budget

Mrs. Reich reported that the 2023/24 budget has been amended now that our federal grants and state funding have been finalized. She is still waiting on the final Equalized Assessed Value from Lake County with our extension for the 2023 levy. The final numbers should be available towards the end of March and she will update the current year levy numbers. All expenses have been trimmed projecting out for the rest of the year. She recommended placing the tentative amended 2023/24 budget on display for the statutory 30 days and she will bring it to the May meeting for hearing and approval.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to place the tentative amended 2023/24 budget on public display for 30 days.

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

Aye: Jared, Booth, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

Transportation Recommendation – Van(s) Purchase

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that the special education and homeless transportation budget lines are significant expenses to the District. She has been working with Nate Miller and Tina Sonders to look at the routes of homeless and special education students that could be brought in-house with the purchase of an additional van or two. This would

save on expenses as well as give those students a consistent driver. She included a recommendation for the purchase of up to two additional vans, not to exceed \$100,000.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the purchase of two vans, not to exceed \$100,000.00, as presented.

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

Aye: Booth, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak, Jared

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

Weight Room Construction Update

Mrs. Reich provided an update to the weight room construction that included: the beginning of onsite demo and relocation of gas, electric, and storm, next week will be to reconnect and concrete footings tentatively set to occur the week of 4/8.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

CLOSED SESSION

** At 7:50 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mr. Jared 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); security procedures, school Building safety and security 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(8); other matters relating to individual students 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(10); student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(9).

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

Aye: Yanik, Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Booth

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

** At 8:44 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, 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, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

No action was taken as a result of Closed Session.

ADJOURN

** At 8:45 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Kusiak to adjourn the meeting.

Steve Hill, President

John Jared, Secretary