

# **GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124**

## **MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

### **AUGUST 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, August 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:

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

Members absent:

Mr. John Jared, Vice President

Administration present:

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

Student Representative:

Ms. Casey McCleery

#### ***AUDIENCE***

Andrea Kosmicki, Nathan Miller, Blair Schoell, Veronica Lukemeyer, Eric Taubery, Tina Sonders, Sarah Lobont, Evan Weisheit, Christi Flaker, Jill Weisheit, Joe Gorden, Alexis Cooper, Haley Lloyd, Ashley Biundo, Teresa Victores, Tom Evans, Logan Knuth

#### ***CONSENT AGENDA***

Minutes of regular meeting held July 18, 2024

Minutes of closed meeting held July 18, 2024

August Bills Payable

July Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from February 16, 2024

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

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

Aye: Booth, Fleming, Lescher, Yanik, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

## ***SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER VACANCY***

### Selection of a Person to Fill a Public Office

Dr. Sefcik stated after completing interviews for the Board of Education vacancy due to the retirement of Mr. Steve Hill and meeting the residential requirements specified in the School Code, she announced the Board recommendation for filling the vacant seat with Laurie Hembrey.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Lescher to approve filling the vacant Board seat with Laurie Hembrey.

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

Aye: Fleming, Lescher, Yanik, Kusiak, Booth

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

### Oath of Office

Mrs. Hembrey recited her Oath of Office. The Board and audience applauded her appointment.

## ***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items***

### Presentation of New Faculty Members

Dr. Sefcik asked Dr. Schmidt to guide the introduction of new faculty members by their mentors or administrators. Dr. Schmidt thanked the administrators for finding such quality candidates and their mentors for their work with their mentees. Each of the introductions included their education, experience, and interests. Dr. Schmidt introduced Holly Ascencio, in her absence; Eric Taubery introduced Joe Gorden, Nicole Frett introduced Jaclyn Schneider; Tom Evans introduced Teresa Victores; and Jeff Austin introduced Aubrey Wray. President Kusiak and Dr. Sefcik presented each new faculty member with a gift of GCHS spirit wear.

### Enrollment Update

Dr. Sefcik provided the student enrollment numbers as of August 1<sup>st</sup>.

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Grade 9         | 428        |
| Grade 10        | 468        |
| Grade 11        | 466        |
| <u>Grade 12</u> | <u>464</u> |
| Total           | 1,826      |

This is a decrease of 49 students from this time last year. This number is below the Kasarda demographic report enrollment projection of 1,897 students utilizing the *occurs as anticipated* model. Today's total enrollment number was 1,807.

### Succession Plan / Organizational Chart

Dr. Sefcik presented the District Succession Plan and Organizational Chart which have been updated for 2024/25 per Board Policy.

### Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) – Data Breach

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that on August 1, the district was notified by ISBE that student information was accidentally compromised on one of their website platforms. The student information included name, birth date, address, gender, race, language, and their school student ID number. ISBE stated that no Social Security numbers or financial account information were impacted. A total of 722 GCHS students were involved in the data security incident. As communicated by ISBE, in order to comply with applicable Family Education Rights and Privacy

Act (FERPA) requirements, the District shall place a copy of the ISBE provided letter in each affected student's education record. According to District legal counsel, the breach did not involve information that would constitute "personal information" requiring notice directly to the students/parents or the Attorney General under the Illinois Personal Information Protection Act. It is unknown at this time if ISBE will be communicating directly with the families of the students involved.

#### Special Education District of Lake County (SEDOL) Update

Dr. Sefcik said the interim SEDOL superintendent, Dr. Judy Hackett, came to the district office to introduce herself and share plans for the school year. Future talks will include the educational programs that SEDOL will continue to provide, which programs will need to transition back to the district, and the potential restructuring of SEDOL tuition funding.

#### Village of Fox Lake Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Update

Dr. Sefcik reported that annually required TIF meetings were held at the Village of Fox Lake on July 25<sup>th</sup> for three distinct TIF redevelopment areas, including Route 12 and Sayton Road, Lakefront, and the Mineola. The reports provided to the Board are for fiscal year 2023. Village officials are working to complete fiscal year 2024 reports. The Village provided an update on development possibilities however, at this time, there are no changes to the redevelopment areas and no funds to distribute to the taxing bodies.

#### Village of Volo – Oaks of Volo Proposal Update

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that plans continue for a new development in the Village of Volo at Route 12 and Molidor Road. Oaks of Volo will include 133 single-family townhomes. We will receive \$39,235 from the developer in impact fees if plans remain the same. Student enrollment is expected to be a small number. The estimated assessed value at build-out is \$13.3 million.

#### Principal's Report

Mr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on Summer School, Parent University: High School 101, Professional Development, School Safety Plan, and Teacher Evaluation.

#### Student Representative's Report

Casey McCleery provided her report which included information on Activities: Marching Band and National Honor Society; Sports: Summer Camps, Wrestling, Cheer, Color Guard, Tryouts; Events: Material Pick-up and Freshman Orientation. Dr. Sefcik added that the Superintendent-Student Cabinet group will be meeting throughout the year and they have set goals and topics to get student feedback.

### ***PUBLIC COMMENT***

None

### ***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items***

#### School Board Policy Modifications – Second Reading

Dr. Sefcik reminded the Board of the first reading last month of these recommended policy changes, based upon the direction from the Illinois Association of School Boards and legal counsel.

### Section 400 Operational Services

4:70 Resource Conservation

4:80 Accounting and Audits

- \*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the school board policies, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

### Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Recommend the employment of the following individuals:

- Brian Mullen, Director of Safety & Security, 12-month, \$113,000, starting 8/22/2024
- Aubrey Wray, Part-time Art Teacher, 8/11, BA-Step 0
- Connor Donahoe, Paraprofessional, \$19.17/hr., starting 8/8/2024
- Merlin Hahn, Job Coach-Transitions Program, \$22.43/hr., starting 8/8/2024
- Paul Habel, Job Coach-Transitions Program, \$23.33/hr. starting 8/19/24
- Jennifer Paddock - Paraprofessional Security, \$17/hr., starting 8/5/2024
- Emily Krier, PT Food Service, \$15/hr., starting 7/31/2024
- Debbie Carole, 11 hour/on call substitute driver at \$40/hr., starting 7/26/2024
- M. Beth Adamek, from PT driver to on-call substitute driver for 2024/25
- Luke Blaszczyk, Asst. Girls' Tennis Coach
- Joseph Gorden, .5 Asst. Baseball Coach
- Jacob Wodrich, .5 Asst. Baseball Coach

Recommend accepting the resignation letters from the following individuals:

- Amanda Jacobs, Art Teacher, effective 7/22/2024
- Kathy Barchman, Job Coach-Transitions Program, effective 7/24/2024
- Justin Strebel, Asst. Girls' Tennis Coach, effective 7/23/2024

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

## ***BUSINESS AFFAIRS***

### Weight Room Expansion Project Update

Mrs. Reich provided an update on the weight room construction project. She provided a progress list of the recent and upcoming items and photos of the current state of the project.

### Evidenced-Based Funding Update

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that during the budget approval process last month, we did not have final numbers for our Evidenced-Based Funding (EBF) from the state. She estimated that we would remain in Tier I and continue to receive additional funding. She provided the EBF numbers she received from the state and the budget was within \$40,000 of what we expected to receive.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Dr. Sefcik noted there was one Freedom of Information Act request received and fulfilled.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

- \*\* At 7:55 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Yanik to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing semi-annual review of closed session minutes 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) and the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1)

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

- \*\* At 8:03 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Fleming to end closed session and return to open session.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

## **ACTION CLOSED SESSION**

- \*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Yanik to authorize opening the following closed session minutes: January 18, 2024, February 15, 2024, March 21, 2024, April 18, 2024, and May 16, 2024

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

## **ADJOURN**

- \*\* At 8:04 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Hembrey to adjourn the meeting.

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Kathy Kusiak, President

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Shelly Booth, Secretary