

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SEPTEMBER 19, 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, September 19, 2024 and called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium 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
Mrs. Laurie Hembrey, 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

Jirah Lanza, Omar and Anna Mae Lanza, and family and friends of Sharon Burr and Kim Schnoor.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items

Student Recognition

Dr. Sefcik introduced Jirah Lanza, in the presence of her parents, as the September Student of the Month. She read Jirah'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 Jirah the opportunity to speak to the Board and she thanked the Board for the honor and thanked her parents for always being so supportive of her. The Board and audience applauded Jirah and Dr. Sefcik presented her with a certificate to commemorate being chosen as the September Student of the Month.

Hall of Fame Induction

Dr. Sefcik provided a brief overview of the Hall of Fame, which includes staff members and alumni. The Board members made their way down to watch the video presentations for the Hall of Fame inductees, Sharon Burr and Kim Schnoor. After the videos, Dr. Sefcik and President Kathy Kusiak invited Mrs. Sharon Burr, and her children, Jamie Martin and Jody Burr, who nominated Sharon for the honor. Jamie said that her mom was a true cheerleader in school and after graduation and her kindness, empathy, and sense of community made her a truly inspiring role model. Mrs. Burr thanked Jamie and Jody for nominating her for the honor, and for Dr. Sefcik for not allowing her to decline the invitation! She thanked the Board of Education for the 30 wonderful years working at Grant. She is extremely proud of her family legacy at Grant and to share tonight's induction ceremony with Kim Schnoor. Dr. Sefcik read the Resolution to induct Mrs. Sharon Burr into the 2024 Hall of Fame. President Kathy Kusiak presented Sharon with the award to commemorate her induction into the Hall of Fame.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the induction of Mrs. Sharon Burr into the 2024 Hall of Fame.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

Dr. Sefcik then invited Mrs. Kim Schnoor and Mrs. Luann Poll to the stage. Mrs. Poll told how after graduation, she began working with Mrs. Schnoor who was the best boss, smart, compassionate, and hard-working, and they developed a deep friendship. Mrs. Schnoor thanked her friend Luann for nominating her and said what a humbling experience this was and what a lovely evening it has been. She talked about honor and opportunity, working together for the greater good, and for her, it was about being part of a team. She was honored to share the stage with Sharon, who was so kind and an angel. Kim talked of her 25 years on the Board and how rewarding that time was. Working with the community to deal with the expansion of the school with two successful referendums, one in 1999 and again in 2006. She thanked her family, friends, and community. Dr. Sefcik read the Resolution to induct Mrs. Kim Schnoor into the 2024 Hall of Fame. President Kathy Kusiak presented Kim with the award to commemorate her induction into the Hall of Fame.

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the induction of Mrs. Kim Schnoor into the 2024 Hall of Fame.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

A break was taken to allow the audience an opportunity to leave the auditorium.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held July 24, 2024
Minutes of closed meeting held July 24, 2024
Minutes of regular meeting held August 15, 2024
Minutes of closed meeting held August 15, 2024
August Bills Payable
July Treasurer's Report

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items (continued)

Sixth Day Enrollment

Dr. Sefcik provided the official fall enrollment numbers, along with those of our feeder districts. Enrollment is slightly down from the enrollment count in August. Numbers are down at feeder districts also, with the exception of a very slight increase at Gavin. Enrollment trends will continue to be monitored against our demographic study for long term planning.

School Board Policy Modifications – First Reading

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

Section 200 Board of Education

2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure

2:265 Title IX Grievance Procedure

Section 500 Personnel

5:100 Staff Development Program

Section 700 Students

7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited

7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited

The PRESS Update Memo was provided for supporting information for all proposed changes. They were presented as a first reading only. They will be presented for a second reading and potential action at the October meeting.

Board of Education – Professional Development Opportunities

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that the IASB Lake Division fall dinner meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 9 at Highland Middle School in Libertyville School District 70. The event will feature a panel of state legislators addressing legal issues impacting Illinois public education. She also said that details on sessions for the Joint Conference are available and an Online Planner to pre-plan professional development options can be accessed at iasb.com/conference/planner.

Village of Fox Lake Strategic Planning Involvement

Dr. Sefcik notified the Board that the Village of Fox Lake is in the process of creating an economic development campaign and developing a comprehensive strategic plan. Village officials and project consultants have been seeking feedback from community stakeholders, including seeking input from the GCHS administration and a panel of students to gather insights as they develop their vision going forward. They even did a student photoshoot to include in the visioning process!

Principal's Report

Dr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on Back-to-School Night, College and Career Readiness, Parent Universities, Professional Development, and Homecoming.

Student Representative's Report

Casey McCleery provided her report which included information on Activities: Fall Play and National Honor Society, Sports: Fall Sports Night, Events: Back-to-School Night, NLCC Leadership Conference, Homecoming Block Party, and Homecoming. She also provided an update on the most recent Superintendent Council meeting, which focused on College & Career Readiness and participation in activities and athletics.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items

Overnight Travel

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that the wrestling team is requesting to travel to Kaukana, Wisconsin, January 3-4, for a tournament for approximately 14-17 student-athletes and 3 coaches. The cost will be covered through fundraising and activity funds with no cost to students.

The theater teacher is requesting to travel to the Illinois Theater Festival at the University of Illinois, January 9-11, for approximately 24 students and 3 teachers. Students will pay the festival fee and for several meals. The district will cover the teacher costs, which is estimated to be \$1,337.88.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the overnight travel for the wrestling team and the theater department, 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:

- Luke Blaszczyk, Student Information Systems Specialist, \$60,000, starting 9/16/2024
- Angel Zarinara, 2nd Shift Custodian, \$17/hr., starting 9/9/2024
- Jordan Alexander, Film Club Sponsor and Asst. Special Olympics Coach
- Jessica Mitchell, Asst. Girls' Bowling Coach
- Aubrey Wray, National Art Honor Society Sponsor and Art Club Sponsor

Recommend accepting the resignations from the following individuals:

- Diane DeFrancesco, Special Education Teacher, effective 12/22/2024
- Kacey Cabanban, Paraprofessional and Asst. Boys' Tennis Coach, effective 8/30/2024
- Sienna Kallner, Volleyball Coach, effective 9/9/2024
- Jason Montemayor, Asst. Wrestling Coach, effective 8/27/2024
- Ashlyn Santos, Asst. Girls' Varsity Basketball Coach, effective 8/28/2024
- Leah Falster, Freshman Boys' Volleyball Assistant Coach, effective 9/16/2024
- Bridgette Jorgensen, Fall Flags, effective 9/15/2024

Notification of FMLA request from Bryan Talbot from October 15, 2024 - November 4, 2024

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Hembrey 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

Public Act 97-0256 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.47) Sec. 10/20.47

This report shows the base salary and benefits of the district superintendent, administrators, and teachers employed by the school district.

2023/2024 Compensation Over \$75,000 Report

This is the report for an IMRF-participating employer that shows the “Total compensation package” for each employee exceeding \$75,000 per year.

Administrative Salary/Benefits Report 2023/2024

This report shows an itemized salary compensation report for every employee in the district holding an administrative certificate and working in that capacity.

Mrs. Reich presented all of these reports together, informing the Board that they are required to be reviewed by the Board, presented at a Board meeting, and posted online for public viewing.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Sefcik reported that the district received and fulfilled eight FOIA requests.

CLOSED SESSION

** At 8:17 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mrs. Booth 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); student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(9);

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 8:23 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Hembrey 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 Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Hembrey to approve a \$2,000 performance bonus for payroll/HR.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

- ** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Hembrey to approve a non-certified staff post-retirement health insurance benefit, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

ADJOURN

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

Kathy Kusiak, President

Shelly Booth, Secretary