

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

OCTOBER 17, 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, October 17, 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
Mr. John Jared, Vice President
Mrs. Shelly Booth, Secretary
Mrs. Laurie Hembrey, Member
Mr. Ed Lescher, Member

Members absent:

Mrs. Ivy Fleming, Member
Mr. Bob Yanik, Member

Administration present:

Dr. Christine A. Sefcik, Superintendent
Mrs. Beth Reich, Business Manager
Dr. Jeremy Schmidt, Principal
Dr. Stacie Noisey, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Ms. Veronica Lukemeyer, Divisional Administrator
Mr. Blair Schoell, Divisional Administrator
Mr. Eric Taubery, Divisional Administrator

Student Representative: Ms. Casey McCleery

AUDIENCE

Ryne, Carlene, and Scott Dzierzynski

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held September 19, 2024
Minutes of closed meeting held September 19, 2024
October Bills Payable
September Treasurer's Report
Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from April 20, 2023
Quarterly list of authorized depositories, investment managers, dealers, and brokers

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

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

Aye: Jared, Booth, Hembrey, Lescher, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items

Student Recognition

Dr. Sefcik introduced Ryne Dzierzynski, in the presence of his family, as the October Student of the Month. She read Ryne'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 Ryne the opportunity to speak to the Board and he thanked the Board for the honor and noticing his dedication and hard work. He also thanked his Mom & Dad for their support during his high school career. The Board and audience applauded Ryne and Dr. Sefcik presented him with a certificate to commemorate being chosen as the October Student of the Month.

Curriculum Changes for 2025/26

Dr. Sefcik introduced Dr. Noisey and the divisional administrators to present the recommended curriculum changes for the following courses for the 2025/26 school year. Dr. Noisey said the changes to testing made some of the changes necessary. Mrs. Lukemeyer, Mr. Schoell, and Mr. Taubery each gave information regarding their department changes.

New Course:

Beginning Percussion

The Ultimate Playlist: Exploring music careers, theory and production

Course Deletion:

English 11

World Geography

Course Revisions:

Advanced English 11

Digital Art to Digital Illustration and Design

EL Resource

Global Insights

Honors Physics

Course On Hold:

The Exceptional Child - delayed until 2026/27

Graduation Requirement Change

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that students must complete 22 credits in order to graduate, including the classroom phase of driver education. The administration is recommending the elimination of the driver education classroom requirement effective with the 2025/26 school year. The primary goal of this change is to increase flexibility for students in an already demanding academic environment and giving students greater control over their educational planning. Driver education will still be provided for all interested students.

Calendar DRAFT – 2025-2026

Dr. Sefcik provided a draft of the 2025/26 school calendar and noted it has been shared with our feeder districts for their consideration. A few notable dates are Institute days would take place on August 11 and 12, the first day of student attendance on August 13, and the last day, if no emergency days are used, would be May 22, 2026. Seniors will complete classes the week prior, with graduation taking place on Sunday, May 17. She plans to bring a final calendar for approval at the November meeting.

CARES and Stronger Connections Grant Overview

Dr. Sefcik reported that in March, we applied for and were awarded \$221,635 for the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Stronger Connections Grant. This grant will allow us to enhance access to mental health services for students and families. We collaborated with nine other districts to submit separate, but concurrent, applications as was successfully done in DuPage and Will counties. All nine other districts were awarded the grant and have been working on the details. We are working on reviewing vendor contracts and creating district specific marketing materials and multi-lingual landing pages. Training with our Student Services Team will be conducted to be ready to go live this fall.

Homecoming - 2025

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that Homecoming 2025 will take place the week of September 15-19, 2025. That will be the same week as our regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting so there is no need to change the meeting date to align with the Hall of Fame induction.

School Report Card Timeline

Dr. Sefcik said the data collection window for the 2024 Illinois School Report Card is now closed and will be open for superintendent and principal preview from October 1-29. ISBE will officially publish School Report Cards on October 30th by 9:00 am. She provided the data indicators that contribute to the annual summative designation and details about what those summative designations represent. She will review the Report Card with the Board at the November meeting.

Joint Conference Planning

Dr. Sefcik reminded the Board that the Joint Annual Conference will take place November 22-24. Pre-conference workshops begin the morning of November 21st and require advanced registration. Conference details are available online and members are encouraged to plan their sessions and sync them to their phone or calendar. The Resolutions Committee Report was provided to have ample time to review it prior to the Delegate Assembly Resolutions and itinerary details being discussed in November.

Principal's Report

Dr. Schmidt was called away so he was unable to present his monthly report in person which was provided in written form and included information on Professional Development Updates: Flex Start, Fall Institute Day, and Instructional Leadership Team Development, Student Recognition, Non-Compliant Health Records, Elyssa's Mission, Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences, and Veterans' Day Planning.

Student Representative's Report

Casey McCleery provided her report which included information on Activities: Superintendent Council, Choir, National Honor Society. Sports: Spaghetti Dinner, Season Wrap-Up. Events: Blood Drive, Dodgeball Tournament, and Field Trips.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items

Course Changes 2025/26

Dr. Sefcik recommended the following course modifications for the 2025/26 school year:

New Course:

Beginning Percussion

The Ultimate Playlist: Exploring music careers, theory and production

Course Deletion:

English 11

World Geography

Course Revisions:

Advanced English 11

Digital Art to Digital Illustration and Design

EL Resource

Global Insights

Honors Physics

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Hembrey to approve the course modifications for the 2025/26 school year, as presented.

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

Aye: Booth, Hembrey, Lescher, Kusiak, Jared

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

Graduation Requirement Change

Dr. Sefcik recommended revising graduation requirements to eliminate the requirement to take the classroom phase of driver education effective with the 2025/26 school year. It will remain a course selection option for students.

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mr. Jared to approve the elimination of driver education as a graduation requirement, effective with the 2025/26 school year, as presented.

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

Aye: Hembrey, Lescher, Kusiak, Jared, Booth

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

School Board Policy Modifications – Second Reading

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of 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

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mr. Jared to approve the School Board Policy modifications, as presented.

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

Aye: Lescher, Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Hembrey

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement for Mutual Assistance – Lake County

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that the Lake County Regional Office of Education is seeking to develop and implement a countywide program designed to provide mutual aid in the event of a crisis, primarily arising out of disaster or violence, for Lake County school districts and cooperatives. The program would also be designed to provide training and professional development to prepare member personnel for response and recovery activities. Participation is optional and an initial contribution of \$250 is required for materials and equipment. The Agreement has been reviewed by legal counsel.

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mr. Jared to approve the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement for Mutual Assistance – Lake County, as presented.

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

Aye: Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Hembrey, Lescher

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

Winter Coaches

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the winter coaching staff, as presented.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the winter coaching staff, as presented.

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

Aye: Jared, Booth, Hembrey, Lescher, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Recommend the employment of the following individuals:

- Jessica Ahlgrim, PT Food Service, \$15/hr., starting 10/8/2024
- Mary Arias, 2nd Shift Custodian, \$17/hr., starting 10/7/2024
- Rebecca Dolbee, Non-Certified Utility, \$20/hr., starting 10/7/2024
- Katelyn Dupree, Paraprofessional, \$17.82/hr., starting 10/28/2024
- Brittany Tjardes, Part-time Accounting, \$65/hr., starting 10/15/2024
- Calista Warmowski, Asst. Volleyball Coach, remainder of season

Recommend accepting the following resignation/retirement letters:

- Blaine Domich, Grounds Staff, retirement date 12/2/2024
- Anna Kosar, Transportation, resignation effective 9/27/2024

Notification of the following Family and Medical Leave Requests:

- Annette Arvelo-Centeno, Food Service, from 11/21/2024-3/5/2025
- Dulce Olmos-Ocampo, EL Teacher, from 1/6/2025-4/9/2025

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

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

Aye: Booth, Hembrey, Lescher, Kusiak, Jared

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

2024 Tentative Tax Levy

Mrs. Reich provided the tentative 2024 Certificate of Tax Levy. She stated the county is predicting that our equalized assessed value will increase from \$1,178,955,217 in 2023 to \$1,367,031,788. This is a 15.95% total increase from the previous year including new construction. They are projecting our new construction to be \$6,700,146, which is a decrease over last. The last two years we have held a hearing because our levy request was more than 5% over the previous year's extension. This year, we are not requesting more than 5% so a hearing is not required. Mrs. Reich will bring the resolutions and recommendation for approval of the final 2024 tax levy to the November meeting.

School Maintenance Project Grant

Mrs. Reich recommended approval of the Illinois State Board of Education School Maintenance Project Grant. This grant is a dollar-for-dollar state matching grant program that provides awards up to \$50,000 exclusively for the maintenance or upkeep of buildings or structures for educational purposes. She noted that we plan to use these funds to assist with a number of items including lighting, HVAC, and parking lot repairs. The grant application must be presented to the Board for approval prior to submitting.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the School Maintenance Project Grant application, as presented.

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

Aye: Hembrey, Lescher, Kusiak, Jared, Booth

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that two Freedom of Information Act requests were received. One was fulfilled, the other was denied under 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(v).

CLOSED SESSION

** At 7:45 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Lescher, 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); other matters relating to individual students 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(10).

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

Aye: Lescher, Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Hembrey

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

- ** At 8:07 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mr. Jared to end closed session and return to open session.

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

Aye: Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Hembrey, Lescher

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the termination of on-call food services subs Faustino Catuy and Tiffany Beaudry, for job abandonment.

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

Aye: Jared, Booth, Hembrey, Lescher, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

- ** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mr. Jared to approve the termination of Kimberly Geiman, Director of Transportation, for performance.

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

Aye: Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Hembrey, Lescher

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

ADJOURN

- ** At 8:09 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Hembrey to adjourn the meeting.

Kathy Kusiak, President

Shelly Booth, Secretary