

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

DECEMBER 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, December 19, 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. Ivy Fleming, Member
Mrs. Laurie Hembrey, Member
Mr. Ed Lescher, Member
Mr. Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent: None

Administration present: Dr. Christine A. Sefcik, Superintendent
Mrs. Beth Reich, Business Manager
Dr. Jeremy Schmidt, Principal
Mr. Dave Behm, Athletic Director

AUDIENCE

Mayor Donny Schmit

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held date November 14, 2024

Minutes of closed meeting held date November 14, 2024

December Bills Payable

November Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from June 15, 2023

** A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, 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, Fleming, Hembrey, Lescher, Yanik, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items

Student Recognition

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that Nicole Pawlus, the December Student of the Month, was unable to attend and her certificate will be sent to her.

Fall Athletic Accomplishments

Dr. Sefcik introduced Mr. Dave Behm, Athletic Director, and asked him to share highlights from our fall athletic programs. He provided details on fall sports, including participation, academic accolades, highlights and awards.

Girls' Wrestling

Dr. Sefcik advised the original IHSA policy change for the Girls' Wrestling program that was going to be addressed this evening was redacted today by IHSA. IHSA has communicated they will be re-implementing the girls' competition limitations for 2025/26, so this topic will need to be readdressed at a later time.

CLC High School Feedback Report – Fall 2024

Dr. Sefcik discussed the CLC High School Feedback Report. The Fall 2024 report includes aggregate data regarding ethnicity, gender, full-time/part-time status, and reading-writing and math readiness for GCHS's most recent graduating class. According to the report, 119 of GCHS 2024 graduates (28%) enrolled at CLC. Dr. Sefcik was pleased to report that 97% of those students displayed reading and writing readiness, 2 percentage points above the Lake County average. Recovering from a slight dip last year, 79% of students displayed math readiness, well above the County average.

Special Education District of Lake County (SEDOL) Financial Planning

Dr. Sefcik presented the Board with data surrounding recent SEDOL financial challenges. To meet a budget shortfall, it has become necessary for SEDOL to amend the 2024/25 budget and they are anticipating a 15-17% increase in tuition rates for the 2025/26 school year.

Principal's Report

Dr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences, 1st Semester Final Exams, 8th grade enrollment nights and online registration, and upcoming ACT preparation class.

Student Representative's Report

Casey McCleery was unable to attend. Her written report was provided to the Board.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items

Educational Life Skills Program

Dr. Sefcik recommended establishing an Educational Life Skills program at Grant effective for the 2025/26 school year. This is due to a combination of factors, including the program being phased out by the Special Education District of Lake County last school year, a shift in needs of current special education programming, and complementing programs currently offered in feeder districts. She provided the costs to establish and maintain this program, including personnel, course materials, community-based instruction, extended school year, and initial classroom renovation and setup. Establishing an in-district program will result in a significant savings to the District and allow us to best serve our students in this program locally.

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Hembrey to approve establishing an Educational Life Skills program as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

School Board Policy Modifications

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

Section 200 - Board of Education

2:105 Ethics and Gift Ban

2:120 Board Member Development

Section 400 – Operational Services

4:30 Revenue and Investments

4:60 Purchases and Contracts

4:150 Facility Management and Building

4:170 Safety

Section 500 – Personnel

5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment

5:20 Workplace harassment Prohibited

5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

5:120 Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest

5:125 Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct

5:230 Maintaining Student Discipline

Section 600 – Instruction

6:60 Curriculum Content

6:135 Accelerated Placement Program

6:270 Guidance and Counseling Program

Section 700 – Students

7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities

7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students

7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment

7:200 Suspension Procedures

Section 800 –Community Relations

8:10 Connection with the Community

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Hembrey to approve the school board policy changes as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

Cardiac Emergency Response Plan

Dr. Sefcik explained that as a result of House Bill 5394, which goes into effect January 1, 2025, Illinois Schools are required to have a comprehensive Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP). This Plan was modeled after the American Heart Association Plan and helps to prepare schools for a sudden cardiac arrest or similar life-threatening emergency that may occur at school or school-sponsored activity or event. Dr. Sefcik notified the Board that a team has been formed and met to plan and train for such an event. She recommended approval of the Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) as presented.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the Cardiac Emergency Response Plan as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

International Trip Requests

Dr. Sefcik reported that the World Language Department is requesting to schedule international trips over spring break 2026. These trips will provide students with the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the history of the language, and fully immerse students in the language and culture. Purchasing insurance is a required component of travel planning.

French faculty, students, and chaperones will travel to France March 20 – March 28, 2026. The approximate cost of the trip is \$5211.00.

Spanish faculty, students, and chaperones will travel to Spain March 20 – March 29, 2026. The approximate cost of the trip is \$5,038.00.

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Booth to approve international trip requests as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

Overnight Trip Requests

Dr. Sefcik reported on the following overnight trip requests:

- The Math Team is requesting an overnight stay to travel to a regional competition February 21 – February 22 in DeKalb, IL. The majority of the trip costs will be paid with the team's activity fund.
- The Varsity Speech Team is requesting an overnight stay to travel to an invitational January 24 – January 25 at Downers Grove South High School. The majority of the trip costs will be paid with the team's activity fund.
- The Speech Team is requesting an overnight stay to travel sectionals February 14 – February 15 at Freeport High School. The majority of the trip costs will be paid with the team's activity fund.
- The Baseball Team is requesting an overnight stay to compete in 6 baseball games at the USA stadium from March 23 – March 27 in Millington, TN. The cost of the trip will be covered with the team's activity fund.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Jared to approve overnight trip requests as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Employment of the following individuals:

- Vernon Jones, BDIPS Paraprofessional, \$21.57/hr., starting 12/9/2024
- Cheryl Jones, Bilingual LOA coverage, \$12,424.31 salary, 01/6/2025 - 03/21/2025.
- Josh Christian, Academic Team Asst. Sponsor
- Raymond Pierce, Full Time Substitute, BA15, Step 0, starting 01/06/2024

Accept the resignation/retirement of the following individuals:

- Cassi Reid, Special Education Teacher, effective at the end of the 2024/25 school year
- Sharon Becker, Library Assistant, retirement effective 06/02/2025
- Jennifer Paddock, Security, effective 12/17/2024

Notification of the following Family and Medical Leave Requests:

- Jammie Meyer, BDIPS Paraprofessional, 11/19/2024 - 12/20/2024
- Maxwell Boton, Social Studies Teacher, 03/31/2025 - 05/22/2025
- Amanda LeBrun, French/Social Studies Teacher, intermittent - 01/06/2025 - upon completion of 60 days

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, 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, Fleming, Hembrey, Lescher, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Final 2024 Tax Levy

Mrs. Reich advised that due to a tax rate objection, an adjustment was made to the presentation that was given to the Board in October. She is recommending approval of the 2024 Final Tax Levy, along with the Resolution to Spread a Tax Levy for Year 2024, the Resolution to Levy Certain Special Taxes for Special Education District IMRF Purposes, and the Resolution for Levying for Working Cash Fund Purposes for the Year 2024, as presented.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the 2024 Final Tax Levy as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

Operational Funds Expenditures Report

Mrs. Reich presented information regarding the annual average expenditures of the district's operational funds for the previous three fiscal years. She is recommending approval of the Operational Funds Expenditures Report as presented.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Hembrey to approve the Operational Funds Expenditures Report as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

Final 2023-2024 Audit

Mrs. Reich presented the Board with a copy of the Final 2023-2024 audit. She is recommending approval of the Fiscal Year 2024 audit as presented.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 audit as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

Coaching Recommendation

Mrs. Reich reviewed information supporting coaching recommendations for additional coaches for Cross-Country and Lacrosse. Data does not support a recommendation for an additional Lacrosse Coach, however after reviewing data she is recommending the addition of an Assistant Cross-Country coach for 2024/25.

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the addition of an Assistant Cross-Country Coach as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that one Freedom of Information Act request was received and fulfilled.

Dr. Sefcik thanked the Board for attending the weight room open house.

Dr. Sefcik shared information from a most recent Superintendent articulation meeting, including student performance data, attendance, and participation. She also shared reunification practices and mentioned joint training in the spring.

Dr. Sefcik discussed English 10 community proposal presentations that took place the week of December 16. The presentations were gallery style, there were several staff members who attended the presentations, we also had outside guests which included Mayor Schmit and the Lakota Group.

Dr. Sefcik advised that the Board will be required to be trained on trauma informed practices (approved in policy 2:120). She advised she will send link with details to register and the district will cover the costs associated with the training.

Dr. Sefcik advised the Township Assessor negotiated a settlement of 2023 Property Tax appeal and advised the upcoming 2024 values are set for Graham C. Stores. The district preserves revenues of \$4,563.

Dr. Sefcik discussed the Lakemoor Crossing development. Per legal recommendation the development is moving forward. The 2023 Property Tax Appeal was settled and values for 2024 were set. The district exposure in taxes to return is \$11,065 and a district settlement cost of \$4,066. This provides appellant 37% of requested refund relief.

CLOSED SESSION

** At 7:58 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, 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); student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(9); other matters relating to individual students 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(10); and school building safety and security 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(8).

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

** At 8:08 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: Yanik, Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Fleming, Hembrey, Lescher

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Lescher to approve bus driver bonuses.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

ADJOURN

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

Kathy Kusiak, President

Shelly Booth, Secretary