

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

JANUARY 16, 2025

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, January 16, 2025 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
Mrs. Laurie Hembrey, Member

Administration present:

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

Student Representative: Ms. Casey McCleery

AUDIENCE

Kevin Geist, Jolene Lee, Oliver Lee, Sharon Burr, Jessica Mitchell, Karolyn Gaughan, Michael Gaughan, Charo Trujillo-Wicinski, Josh Wicinski, Chay Wicinski, Christian Aszman, Chase Martin, JD Schart, Kevin Strine, Anastasia Hudachko-Strine

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held December 19, 2024

Minutes of closed meeting held December 19, 2024

January Bills Payable

December Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from July 20, 2023

Quarterly list of authorized depositories, investment managers, dealers, and brokers

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

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items

Student Recognition

Dr. Sefcik introduced Malia Henriot, in the presence of her Mom, as the January Student of the Month. She read Malia'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 Malia the opportunity to speak to the Board and she thanked the Board for the honor. She also wanted to thank her parents for their love and support, the Art Department for the many creative opportunities, and her teachers and friends that helped in many ways. The Board and audience applauded Malia and Dr. Sefcik presented her with a certificate to commemorate being chosen as the January Student of the Month.

Excellence in Education Award Winner Recognition

Dr. Sefcik asked Principal Schmidt to introduce the Excellence in Education Award Winners. Dr. Schmidt introduced Czara Trujillo, Paraprofessional, and read the reasons from her peers why she was chosen, such as her contributions to the LOP program, being a mentor and advocate, recognizing and responding to the students' individual needs, and so much more. Czara said how honored she was to receive this recognition and thanked her family for their support. Dr. Schmidt then introduced Michael Gaughan, Social Worker, and read the reasons from his peers why he was chosen, such as his ability to connect with students, leading by example, his collaboration efforts, to name but a few. Michael said this award is bigger than himself, it's all of the Grant staff that work for the greater good. He thanked the Board, administration, the person that nominated him, and his family for their support. The Board and audience applauded these two exemplary educators.

Semester One Activities Update

Dr. Sefcik turned it over to Kevin Geist, Assistant Director of Activities and Athletics to share the first semester co-curricular highlights. They included Overall Participation, Outstanding Student Participation in Activities, and Detailed Club Participation-Fall 2024. He provided details on many 1st semester activities, such as Homecoming activities, band, the fall play, choir, and the math team. Dr. Sefcik added that the Superintendent's Student Council has been asked to provide ideas that promote student participation in activities.

Girls' Flag Football Proposal

Dr. Sefcik reported that Dave Behm, Athletic Director, submitted a proposal to add girls' flag football for the 2025/26 school year. The procedures for adding a new sport were followed by the administration prior to presenting the proposal to the Board for consideration. Program participation numbers by gender were evaluated and the District would remain Title IX compliant with this addition. Mr. Behm provided information from the proposal including competing activities for participants, sharing of facilities, equipment, season calendar, levels, and financial needs. He said how IHSA skipped the emerging sport step for flag football and went directly to sport. He noted how quickly it has grown throughout the state, the interest is very high. The Jr. Bulldogs program is also running teams so the participation numbers should continue to grow.

Vision 2030

Dr. Sefcik reminded the Board of our support of Vision 2020 a decade ago that resulted in many positive changes. Leadership from the five statewide educational organizations (Illinois Association of School Administrators, Illinois Association of School Boards, Illinois Principals Association, Illinois Association of School Business Officials, and Illinois Association of Regional School Superintendents) have assembled again to advocate for K-12 public education changes. The key tenets of Vision 2030 include Future-Focused Learning, Shared Accountability, and Predictable Funding.

Principal Search Update

Dr. Sefcik asked Dr. Schmidt to provide the Board with this update. He told the Board that posting for the 2025/26 principal position was held from November 12 – December 31. Initial interviews took place during the week of January 6, 2025 and three candidates were chosen to move forward. A second round of panel interviews took place the week of January 13, 2025. The 45-minute panel interviews consisted of three groups of stakeholders: students, parents and non-instructional individuals, and teacher leaders, union, and non-certified staff. They will narrow it down to two finalists. The administration is optimistic there will be a recommendation for hire at the February Board meeting.

Principal's Report

Dr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on Semester One Grades, Semester Two Preparations, Professional Development, and Summer School Enrollment. He also added that ACT Prep classes are in the works.

Student Representative's Report

Casey McCleery provided her report which included information on Activities: Theater and FBLA, Sports: Cheer, Dance, Wrestling, and Bowling, Events: 8th Grade Enrollment Night.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items

Spring Coaching Recommendations

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the spring athletic coaches, as presented.

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the spring athletic coaching staff, as presented.

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

Aye: Fleming, Lescher, Yanik, Kusiak, Booth

Nay: None

Absent: Jared, Hembrey

Motion – **Passed**

Girls' Flag Football 2025/26

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of a girls' flag football team for the 2025/26 school year, as presented.

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve a girls' flag football team for 2025/26, as presented.

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

Aye: Lescher, Yanik, Kusiak, Booth, Fleming

Nay: None

Absent: Jared, Hembrey

Motion – **Passed**

Vision 2030 Board Resolution

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the Resolution in Support of Illinois Vision 2030, showing our support of advocacy efforts related to future-focused learning, shared accountability, and predictable funding.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the Resolution in Support of Illinois Vision 2030, as presented.

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

Aye: Yanik, Kusiak, Booth, Fleming, Lescher

Nay: None

Absent: Jared, Hembrey

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Recommend the employment of the following individual(s):

- Sabrina Galiano, Director of Transportation, \$60,000 salary, starting 2/3/2025
- James Dukes, 2nd Shift Custodian, \$17.00/hr., starting 1/6/2025
- Ali Wilhelm, Administrative Assistant to the Principal, \$60,000, starting 1/20/2025 (Transitioning with Jamie Martin)
- Jesse James, Full-time Substitute, BA Step 0, starting 1/21/2025

Recommend accepting the resignation letters from the following individual(s):

- Kevin Geist, Assistant Director of Activities and Athletics, effective 7/1/2025

Notification of an FMLA request from the following individual(s):

- Roy Prouty, Transportation, effective December 6, 2024-March 18, 2025

** 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: Kusiak, Booth, Fleming, Lescher, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent: Jared, Hembrey

Motion – **Passed**

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Banking Services Request for Proposals

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that the District's banking services have been the same for the last 13 years. During the last week in October, she requested proposals for banking services to determine if we are receiving the best services and rates, and lowest fees. These proposals were due back on December 10, 2024 and she has been reviewing the proposals that were received. Interviews will be scheduled in the next few weeks and she intends to make a recommendation to the Board at the February meeting.

Audit Services Request for Proposals

Mrs. Reich stated that the District's 3-year agreement with our current auditor is up now that the 2023/24 audit is complete. In early spring, a request for proposal of auditing services will be sent to auditing companies in an effort to compare pricing and services. After a full review of all proposals, she will bring a recommendation to the Board and hopes to implement a new auditing firm effective with the 2024/25 audit.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that the April Board meeting will need to be changed due to the Consolidated Election timelines, from April 17 to April 24, 2025. This will be an action item for the February meeting.

Dr. Sefcik stated that the Federal Court vacated the 2024 Title IX regulations nationally and we need to roll back to the 2020 policy, 2:265 Title IX Grievance Procedure. A draft will be reviewed at the February meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

No Closed Session was held.

ADJOURN

** At 7:50 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Yanik to adjourn the meeting.

Kathy Kusiak, President

Shelly Booth, Secretary