

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

FEBRUARY 20, 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, February 20, 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
Mr. John Jared, Vice President
Mrs. Shelly Booth, Secretary
Mrs. Laurie Hembrey, Member
Mr. Ed Lescher, Member
Mr. Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent: Mrs. Ivy Fleming, Member

Administration present:

Dr. Christine A. Sefcik, Superintendent
Mrs. Beth Reich, Business Manager
Dr. Jeremy Schmidt, Principal
Mr. Blair Schoell, Divisional Administrator
Mr. Eric Taubery, Divisional Administrator

Student Representative: Ms. Casey McCleery

AUDIENCE

Jeff Kissinger, Georgina Kissinger, Hailey Kissinger

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held date January 16, 2025

Minutes of closed meeting held date January 16, 2025

February Bills Payable

January Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from August 17, 2023

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items

Student Recognition

Dr. Sefcik introduced Hailey Kissinger, in the presence of her family, as the February Student of the Month. She read Hailey'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 Hailey the opportunity to speak to the Board, she thanked the Board for being chosen and was honored to be recognized. She also mentioned that she was a co-founder of the 2024/25 pilot baking club and shared how happy and excited she and other club members are and how successful the club has been thus far. The Board and audience applauded Hailey and Dr. Sefcik presented her with a certificate to commemorate being chosen as the February Student of the Month.

Village of Fox Lake Tax Increment Financing Meetings

Dr. Sefcik updated the Board on the status of the five (5) TIFs within the Village of Fox Lake.

Board of Education – Professional Development Opportunity

Dr. Sefcik discussed and invited the Board to the IASB Lake Division spring dinner meeting that will take place on Wednesday, March 12 at the Doubletree in Mundelein. The event will focus on Illinois Vision 2030.

Student Representative to the Board – 2025/26

Dr. Sefcik advised that the application window is open for students to apply for the 2025/26 Student Representative to the Board position. Dr. Sefcik, Dr. Schmidt, and Board President Kathy Kusiak will meet in mid-March to determine candidates to interview, with interviews slated for the end of March. The next Student Rep will be announced and introduced at the April meeting.

Principal's Report

Dr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on our January 8th grade enrollment nights, our new Bulldog Buzzfeed program, upcoming March Music in our Schools performance, and Access testing.

Student Representative's Report

Casey McCleery provided her report which included information on next year planning, which included NHS inductions, Student Representative applications being open for submission and student course selections. Casey also updated the Board on teams and activities that advanced to state competitions. She also mentioned exciting events which included the speech team showcase, Pie a Teacher fundraiser and Grant's Got Talent.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items

Curriculum Change for 2025/26

Dr. Sefcik invited Divisional Administrator, Eric Taubery to present details for the dual credit course *Introduction to Biotechnology*. Mr. Taubery advised that we have a large student interest and with Illinois being the 3rd largest Life Science hub in the country, this course would be a great addition to our curriculum. Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the dual credit course *Introduction to Biotechnology* for the 2025/26 school year as presented.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the curriculum change for 2025/25, as presented.

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

Aye: Booth, Hembrey, Lescher, Yanik, Kusiak, Jared
Nay: None
Absent: Fleming

Motion – Passed

April Board of Education Meeting Date Change

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the April Board of Education date change from April 17 to April 27 due to the election as presented.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the April Board of Education date change, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – Passed

School Board Policy Modification

Dr. Sefcik along with legal council recommended approval of readopting the 2020 version of 2:265-Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure, on an interim basis. The current regulations were invalidated and to avoid litigation, the request is to revert back to 2020 policy until we receive an updated policy from the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB).

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the school board policy interim change as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – Passed

Overnight Travel

Dr. Sefcik requested approval for the following overnight trip requests:

- The Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) qualified for the State competition and conference in Springfield. The request is for student competitors, the sponsor and another staff chaperone to travel from March 27-29 with a total District cost of \$8,629.74.
- The Special Olympics basketball team qualified for the State competition in Bloomington. They are requesting for the 12 student-athletes, two coaches and one chaperone to travel from March 7-9 with a total District cost of \$2,601.90.
- The Speech Team performed well at Sectionals, with 13 students qualifying to participate at the State tournament in Peoria. They are requesting for the student competitors and two coaches to travel from February 20-23 with a total District cost of \$5,689.05.

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – Passed

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik invited Dr. Schmidt to address the Board regarding the recommendation to hire Blair Schoell for Principal. Dr. Schmidt advised that after an extensive selection process that began in November which included administrators, students, parents, faculty and non-certified staff members he fully supports the recommendation of Blair Schoell for the 2025/26 Principal position. Blair has served in multiple leadership roles and has a deep dedication to GCHS, a great commitment to student success, and has a strong leadership vision. Blair is eager to continue to

collaborate with students, staff, and families to build on traditions and continue to elevate the standard of excellence.

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Employment of the following individuals:

- Blair Schoell, Principal, \$160,000, starting 7/1/2025
- Mark Paszek, Groundskeeper, \$26.91/hr, starting 2/3/2025
- Stoyan Rusev, School Bus Driver, \$26.01/hr, starting 2/18/2025
- Connor Donahoe, Asst. Boys' Volleyball Coach, starting 3/10/25
- Colleen Rogalski, Spring Musical Choreographer, \$20.00/hr starting 2/26/2025

Accept the resignation of the following individuals:

- Kristina Maestranzi, English Teacher, effective end of 2024/25 school year
- Brooke Nagra, Choreographer, effective 1/17/2025

Accept the retirement request of the following individuals:

- Thomas Evans, Instructional Coach, effective at the end of the 2027-28 school year
- Kurt Rous, Math Teacher, effective at the end of the 2027-28 school year

Notification of the following Family and Medical Leave Requests:

- Rosa Ramirez, Food Service, 12/2/2024 – 3/12/2025

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

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

Aye: Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Hembrey, Lescher, Yanik
Nay: None
Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Banking Services Request for Proposals

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that the District has been with the same bank for 13 years. With interest rates higher right now, it was time to investigate options. Lily Wu, our Fiscal and Accounting Coordinator completed a Banking Services Request for Proposal. Of the eight banks contacted, five submitted proposals. Based on an assessment of the proposals, mainly for interest and fees, we are recommending approval of switching our banking services to State Bank of the Lakes/Wintrust as of July 1, 2025 as presented.

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the banking service change as presented.

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

Aye: Jared, Booth, Hembrey, Lescher, Yanik, Kusiak
Nay: None
Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that four Freedom of Information Act requests were received and fulfilled.

CLOSED SESSION

** At 7:35 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Hembrey to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(9); Other matters relating to individual students 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(10), the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1); Semi-annual review of closed session minutes. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21)

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

- ** At 7:40 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to end closed session and return to open session.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

- ** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to authorize opening the following closed session minutes: July 18, 2024, July 24, 2024, August 15, 2024, September 19, 2024, October 17, 2024, November 14, 2024, and December 19, 2024.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

ADJOURN

- ** At 7:41 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Lescher to adjourn the meeting.

Kathy Kusiak, President

Shelly Booth, Secretary