

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

MARCH 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, March 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
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
Mr. Dave Behm, Athletic Director

Student Representative: Ms. Casey McCleery

AUDIENCE

Lily Wu, Rebecca McCleery, Jason McCleery, Malia Henriot, Christi Flaker, Mallory Whitman, Mary Pat Gizowski, Sydney Lescher, Allison Dulany, Zameer Franklin, Kyle Whitman

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held February 20, 2025

Minutes of closed meeting held February 20, 2025

March Bills Payable

February Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from September 21, 2023

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items

Student Recognition

Dr. Schmidt announced Casey McCleery, in the presence of her family, as the March Student of the Month. He read Casey'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. Schmidt offered Casey the opportunity to speak to the Board, she thanked the Board for the honor as well as her parents for their support, her French Teacher Mrs. Wilds for being so supportive and thanked her best friend Malia, who was in the audience, for always being there for her.

Excellence in Education Award – 3rd Quarter

Principal Schmidt introduced Mallory Whitman, Athletic Trainer, and read her write up for the 3rd quarter Excellence in Education award. Mallory was nominated by her peers because of her dedication, passion, unwavering commitment to student success and for many more reasons. Dr. Schmidt offered Mallory the opportunity to speak to the Board, she thanked the Board and her student athletes, she wanted to mention that she absolutely loves what she does and is honored to be recognized.

Winter Athletic Accomplishments

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

Career Pathway Endorsements

Dr. Sefcik was excited to report that there were several Career Pathways that have been approved by the Illinois State Board of Education. The approved pathways are Early Education & Teaching (Tech Campus), Certified Nurse Assistant (Tech Campus), Culinary Arts (Tech Campus), Emergency Medical Services (Tech Campus) and Education (GCHS). Career Pathways Endorsements are designed to help students gain valuable career-focused learning experiences, obtain industry-recognized credentials, expand college credit opportunities and enhance employability. Dr. Sefcik advised that we are well ahead of the ISBE requirements for Pathways.

Policy Change – First Reading

Dr. Sefcik presented the Board with a proposed change to School Board Policy 5:330 to permit eligible educational support personnel to accumulate up to a maximum of 240 sick leave days, rather than 180. This will match the number of sick leave days that IMRF will recognize.

Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Constitution and Position Statements

Dr. Sefcik advised the Board that based on the vote of the Delegate Assembly in November, IASB has published the Constitution and Position Statements for 2025. Dr. Sefcik provided the Board with physical copies of the Position Statements. The Position Statements provide direction for IASB lobbyists on legislative positions throughout the calendar year.

Principal's Report

Dr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included updates regarding our activity schedules that are dedicated to College and Career Readiness and an update from our recent blood drive. Dr. Schmidt advised the Board that all teacher evaluations have been completed for the 2024-25 school year. He gave an update on the Career Fair that was held on March 19, advised the 5Essentials Survey is open and the current response rates, and updated the Board

on how the SOS program went this year. Dr. Schmidt also gave an update on upcoming events such as, Test Your Best Week, 8th Grade Activity Fair, Writer's Week, and ACT testing.

Student Representative's Report

Casey McCleery provided her report which included information on our new Podcast "The Dawg House", ACT Testing on April 8, NAHS Paint Night, Music in our Schools, Pickleball Tournament, and Grant's Got Talent.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items

Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Membership

Dr. Sefcik requested approval of the IHSA membership for the 2025/26 school term as presented.

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the 2025/26 IHSA membership, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

Overnight Travel

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

- The Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) had one student qualify for state competition in Springfield. The request is for the student competitor and the sponsor to travel from April 9-11 with a total District cost of \$989.91.
- Thirteen students on the Math Team qualified to compete in this year's state competition in Bloomington-Normal. The request is for the student competitors and sponsors to travel from April 25-26 with a total District cost of \$2,366.07.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Hembrey to approve overnight trip requests 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**

Resolution Authorizing Non-Renewal and Dismissal of Permanent Substitute Teachers and Reduction of Assignment

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the Resolution Authorizing Non-Renewal and Dismissal of Permanent Substitute Teachers and Reduction of Assignment, as presented.

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the Resolution Authorizing Non-Renewal and Dismissal of Permanent Substitute Teachers and Reduction of Assignment, 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**

Resolution for the Honorable Dismissal of Educational Support Personnel

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the Resolution for the Honorable Dismissal of Educational Support Personnel, as presented.

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the Resolution for the Honorable Dismissal of Educational Support Personnel, 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**

Resolution for the Non-Renewal of Administrator and Non-Final Year Probationary Teacher

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the Resolution for the Non-Renewal of Administrator and Non-Final Year Probationary Teacher, as presented.

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the Resolution for the Non-Renewal of Administrator and Non-Final Year Probationary Teacher, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Employment of the following individuals:

- Thomas Alva, Bus Driver, \$27.60/hr, starting March 31, 2025
- Rebecca Dolbee, Bus Driver, \$25.50/hr, starting March 12, 2025
- Addison Karmis, Paraprofessional Safety/Safety Officer, \$17.00/hr, starting March 31, 2025
- Kurt Rous, Head Flag Football Coach, starting 2025-26 school year
- Bryan Packard, Asst. Boys' Tennis Coach, starting March 6, 2025

Accept the resignation of the following individuals:

- Emmy Diana, English Teacher and Gamers Club Sponsor, effective end of 2024/25 school year
- Kevin Art, Assistant Football Coach, effective March 10, 2025
- Nick Peterson, JV Cheer Coach, effective March 17, 2025
- Kurt Rous, Assistant Girls' Track and field Coach, effective end of 2025 Spring Season
- Andrea, Weaver, Varsity Basketball Coach, effective February 25, 2025

Accept the retirement request of the following individual:

- Cheryl Kwiatkowski, Paraprofessional, effective at the end of the 2024-25 school year

Notification of the following Family and Medical Leave Request:

- Payton Montemayor, Social Science Teacher, beginning May 15, 2025, ending October 28, 2025

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Construction Bid Awards

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that the bids for the tennis court construction were received on March 6, 2025. IHC has interviewed the bidders and she provided their recommendations. Mrs. Reich recommended the approval of trade package bids for the tennis court construction as presented:

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the tennis court construction bid 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**

Auditing Firm Recommendation

Mrs. Reich advised the Board that on February 7, 2025, Requests for Proposals for Audit Services were sent to six firms and two responses were received. She recommended the approval of Eccezion as the district auditing firm for the 2024-2025, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years as presented:

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the auditing firm recommendation 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**

2024-2025 Amended Budget

Mrs. Reich gave an update on the 2024-25 budget which is currently being amended to account for unrealized interest gains as well as some expenses that were more than expected. She advised that the tentative amended budget will be available in April to put on display for 30 days, with the final amended budget hearing occurring in June.

2025-26 Budget

Mrs. Reich advised the Board that the 2025-26 budget is in the process of being prepared. The staffing plan was completed in March and sections are being monitored. Meetings are also being set up to meet with departments regarding their budget requests for next year. The May Board of Education meeting is the target for displaying the 2025-26 budget, with the hearing occurring at the July meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Sefcik advised that two Freedom of Information Act requests were received and fulfilled. Dr. Sefcik also advised that the shared EL Coordinator position will now be a full-time employee of Big Hollow as they do need the role in a full-time capacity. That leaves a part-time coordinator role open for the administration to determine how to fill.

CLOSED SESSION

No Closed Session was held

ADJOURN

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

Kathy Kusiak, President

Shelly Booth, Secretary