

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

MAY 15, 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, May 15, 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. 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. Blair Schoell, Divisional Administrator
Mr. Brian Mullen, Director of Safety and Security

Student Representative: Ms. Casey McCleery

AUDIENCE

Izzy Ellington, Christi Flaker, Jen Gartner, Tony Gartner, Ella Krol, Colin Noordyke, Sydney Pulaski, Madison Tomassetti

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of special meeting held April 24, 2025

Minutes of regular meeting held April 24, 2025

Minutes of closed meeting held April 24, 2025

May Bills Payable

April Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from November 9, 2023

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

Nay: None

Absent: None
Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items

May Student of the Month

Dr. Sefcik introduced Colin Noordyke, in the presence of his family, as the May Student of the Month. She read Colin’s profile of accomplishments, which included academic achievements, extracurricular activities, service to the community which includes volunteering with Special Recreation Association of Central Lake County (SRACLC), a program that assists individuals with special needs. Colin’s future plans include pursuing an engineering degree at University of Illinois. Dr. Sefcik offered Colin the opportunity to speak to the Board and he thanked the Board and Administration for giving back to the school and appreciated the additions to GCHS, including the Dawg Bowl and the new weight room. Colin also mentioned that he was thankful for the rigorous courses that GCHS offered which helped him achieve his goals. The Board and audience applauded Colin and Dr. Sefcik presented him with a certificate to commemorate being chosen as the May Student of the Month.

Excellence in Education Award Winner Recognition

Stacey Mays was not attendance to be recognized for her 4th quarter Excellence in Education award.

Protect Lake County Initiative

Dr. Sefcik invited Brian Mullen, Director of Safety and Security, to present information surrounding the Protect Lake County Initiative to the Board. Brian highlighted that Protect Lake County began in 2023 as a federal funded grant project that assisted with at risk students, truancy issues, faculty threats and other concerns within the schools. Prior to behavioral threat assessments schools were limited to what they can do to assist with reported concerns. While Grant has comprehensive threat assessment protocols, Protect Lake County works together with teams to assist with addressing concerns at school and in the community, and providing professional guidance on how to handle these concerns.

School Board Policy Modifications – First Reading

Dr. Sefcik recommended 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 400 Operational Services

- 4:15 Identity Protection
- 4:80 Accounting and Audits

Section 500 Personnel

- 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment
- 5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited
- 5:100 Staff Development Program

Section 600 Instruction

- 6:150 Home and Hospital Instruction

Section 700 Students

- 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities

7:20	Harassment of Students Prohibited
7:70	Attendance and Truancy
7:180	Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment
7:185	Teen Dating Violence Prohibited
7:190	Student Behavior
7:200	Suspension Procedures
7:210	Expulsion Procedures
7:250	Student Support Services
7:255	Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence
7:270	Administering Medicine to Students
7:315	Restrictions on Publications; High Schools

The PRESS Update Memo was provided for supporting information for all proposed changes. They were presented as a first reading only. They will be presented for a second reading and potential action at the June meeting.

Honors Night

Dr. Sefcik stated that Honors Night took place at Maravela's banquets and catering on May 7th where we recognized the achievements of 81 students. Through the generous donations of our Grant community, we were able to distribute over \$48,000 in local scholarships this evening as well. The ceremony was wonderful and provides an opportunity to recognize the efforts these dedicated students have put forth the past 4 years. The Honors Night program was included for the Board to view.

Lake County Educator of the Year Awards

Dr. Sefcik advised that also on May 7th, the Regional Office of Education (ROE) hosted the Lake County Educator of the Year Awards ceremony. Family and Consumer Science Teacher, Christi Flaker who was in attendance, was nominated for the Lake County Educator of the Year award. Social worker Michael Gaughan attended as the Guest of Honor for his category. Paraprofessional, Maria Cuevas, and System Support Specialist, Joseph Veronese were nominated in their respective award categories. Congratulations go out to Joseph for taking home the award for Support Personnel Educator of the Year.

Hall of Fame 2025

Dr. Sefcik advised that Paul G. Lewis and Donny Schmit received the highest number of votes and are recommended for induction into the GCHS Hall of Fame for 2025. Daniel Dennis was selected for 2024, but requested to delay his induction for a year. We reached out about him participating in 2025, but at this time we are unsure if he is available.

Principal's Report

Dr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on the new Summer ACT Prep class, Summer School, Freshman Honors Breakfast, NLCC Art Festival, Art in the Garden, Health and Wellness Fair, Pep Assembly and Prom.

Student Representative's Report

Casey McCleery provided her report which included information on AP Testing, Prom, Honors Night, NAHS Induction, Spring Band and Choir Concerts, Finals and Graduation. Dr. Sefcik and the Board thanked Casey for all of her hard work this year and presented her with a gift as a token of their appreciation.

TRANSITIONAL SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items

12th Hour Study Table 2025/26

Dr. Schmidt provided information regarding the 12th Hour Study Table for the 2025/26 school year. He explained that the 12th Hour Study Table serves as a space where ineligible student athletes can focus on the academic areas they may struggle in, with hopes to getting the student athlete eligible to participate in their sport of choice.

Strength and Conditioning Summer Camp Pilot

Dr. Schmidt advised the Board that we are piloting a new athletic camp titled Strength and Conditioning Open Gym, which is designed to provide students with continued access to our weight room facilities during the months of June and July. The camp is not sport-specific and is intended primarily for athletes and students currently enrolled in Introduction to Advanced Strength and Conditioning and Advanced Strength and Conditioning courses. Students will pay a nominal fee to help offset supervisor costs. Supervisors will be responsible for ensuring a safe and well-managed environment, taking attendance, and supporting students in their workouts.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items

Intergovernmental Agreement Concerning School Payments for the Village of Fox Lake Route 12 South Redevelopment Project Area

Dr. Sefcik recommended the approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement concerning school payments for the Village of Fox Lake Route 12 South Redevelopment Project Area which was approved by the Village on Tuesday, May 13, with ground breaking scheduled for July. If any new students enroll from the TIF development, payments will be made to the District in accordance with the terms of the Intergovernmental Agreement.

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement Concerning School Payments for the Village of Fox Lake Route 12 South Redevelopment Project Area 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**

Protect Lake County Initiative

Dr. Sefcik asked if there were any questions from Mr. Mullen's presentation earlier surrounding the Protect Lake County Initiative. Dr. Sefcik recommended the approval of the Protect Lake County Initiative Memorandum of Understanding.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the Protect Lake County Initiative Memorandum of Understanding 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**

Community Youth Network (CYN) Counseling Support 2025/26

Dr. Sefcik recommended the approval of a one-year agreement for CYN to provide one day of counseling services per week at a cost of \$14,500.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Hembrey to approve a one-year agreement with CYN 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**

Lake County Health Department (LCHD) – Assessment and Counseling Services 2025/26

Dr. Sefcik recommended the approval of a one-year agreement for LCHD to provide 3.5 days of counseling services per week at a cost of \$56,873.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve a one-year agreement with the LCHD 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 Travel

Dr. Sefcik advised that the Special Olympics team qualified for the state competition. The competition is being held in Bloomington Illinois on June 20 and 21. The two coaches will travel with 6 student athletes. The total cost for the district is approximately \$1397.62.

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the overnight travel request for Special Olympics 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**

Co-Curricular Sponsors 2025/26

Dr. Sefcik advised that administration is recommending the approval of the co-curricular sponsors for the 2025/26 school year.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the 2025/26 co-curricular sponsors 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**

Fall Coaches 2025/26

Dr. Sefcik recommended the approval of the fall coaching staff for the 2025/26 school year.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mr. Jared to approve the 2025/26 fall coaching staff as presented.

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

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

Nay: None
Abstain Fleming
Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik and Dr. Schmidt made the following personnel recommendations:

Accept the resignation of the following individuals (2024/25):

- Danny Brito, Freshman Boys' Basketball Coach, effective immediately
- Addison Karmis, Safety Officer, effective immediately
- Michael Schneider, Assistant Baseball Coach, effective at the completion of the 2025 baseball season
- Logan Weber, Freshman Boys' Assistant Basketball Coach, effective immediately

Employment of the following individuals (2025/26):

- Ellen Skolar, Divisional Administrator, \$100,000/yr., 2025/26
- Gavin Smyth, School Counselor, MA Step 0, 2025/26
- Jessie Maloney, Transitions Program Job Coach, \$19.17/hr., 2025/26
- Roger Lass, Girls' Head Basketball Coach, 2025/26
- Delia Molnar, Part-time Barista, \$15.00/hr., 2025/26

Notification of the following Family and Medical Leave Request:

- Leonard Grodoski, English Teacher, September 2-19, 2025
- Michele Keenan, Health and Wellness Teacher, beginning April 23, 2025 – October 3, 2025
- Carlos Patlan, Building and Grounds, May 1-9, 2025 and May 19 – June 13, 2025
- Shelly Svoboda, Science/Foreign Language Teacher, August 21, 2025 – November 14, 2025

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the personnel recommendations 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**

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Five-Year Projections

Mrs. Reich advised that she updated the Five-Year Financial Projections to include the items on the 5-Year Capital Plan. Mrs. Reich reviewed the projections presentation with the board in detail and asked that they review and address any questions.

2025/26 Tentative Budget

Mrs. Reich recommended that the 2025/26 tentative budget be put on display for the statutory 30 days as there are not 30 days between the May and June Board meetings. She advised that the final budget approval request will be presented for approval in July.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Booth to authorize putting the 2025/26 tentative budget on display 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**

Recommendation for Copier Equipment and Service

Mrs. Reich advised that our current contract for copier equipment and service is ending. A request for proposal was issued and three proposals were received. The three proposals were reviewed and narrowed down to two. A committee was in place and met with the two finalists; Gordon Flesch Company and Impact Networking. After reviewing the proposals in detail and weighing all options, the committee is recommending a 36-month lease for the 18 copiers with the option to renew for an additional 36 months with the incumbent, Gordon Flesch Company with a monthly lease of no more than \$5,385.37.

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the copier equipment and service lease 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**

Preliminary 2024 Financial Profile Designation

Mrs. Reich advised that The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has released the preliminary 2025 Financial Profile Designation for the District based on the 2023-24 Annual Financial Report Data. We are receiving a 3.65 out of 4.00 with a status of Financial Recognition.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that a request will be coming through next month to approve the graduation date change for the 2025/26 school year. The graduation date that is currently listed on the 2025/26 calendar is May 24, 2026, however due to that being a holiday weekend and limited staff availability we will be requesting to change the date to May 17, 2026.

Dr. Sefcik requested that the Board advise her of any special requests surrounding graduation diploma handout as soon as possible.

CLOSED SESSION

** At 8:01 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Yanik 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); student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(9); and review of closed session minutes 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21).

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 9:17 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, 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: 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. Yanik to approve the opening of closed minutes 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**

ADJOURN

** At 9:18 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Fleming to adjourn the meeting.

Kathy Kusiak, President

Shelly Booth, Secretary