

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

JUNE 12, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING – Amended 2024/25 Budget

A public hearing was convened at 6:45 p.m. The following Board members were in attendance by roll call, Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Fleming, Lescher, Yanik. Public comment was solicited and none was given.

** At 6:50 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mrs. Booth to adjourn the public hearing.

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, June 12, 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
Ryan Geist, Assistant Principal
Dr. Nathan Miller, Assistant Principal
Blair Schoell, Divisional Administrator

AUDIENCE

John Benedetti
Paige Gruber
Lily Wu

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held May 15, 2025
Minutes of closed meeting held May 15, 2025
June Bills Payable

May Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from December 21, 2023

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, 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

Educator of the Year

Dr. Sefcik introduced Paige Gruber, English Teacher as the Outstanding Educator of the Year award winner. Dr. Sefcik noted that she demonstrates the power of communication through her instruction of students, her integrity in her collaborative efforts with her Professional Learning Team, and her empowered learning mindset within her school-wide endeavors. Paige will be able to attend an all-expense paid trip to a state or national conference or convention of her choice in the field of education and/or educational materials and/or services, not to exceed \$2,000. Paige thanked the Board and Administration for their support and encouragement and felt honored to be celebrated by all. Paige stated that she is proud to be a bulldog. The Board and audience applauded Paige Gruber's selection as Outstanding Educator of the Year.

Co-Curricular Update – 2nd Semester

Dr. Sefcik introduced Dr. Nathan Miller, Assistant Principal for Student Operations to share the 2nd semester co-curricular highlights with the Board. Dr. Miller advised that there were 38 active clubs for the Spring 2025 semester along with 3 pilot clubs, Baking Club, Creative Fiber Arts Club, and Girls' Flag Football. Student involvement is up 5% from 2021-22. 47.5% of the student body attended at least 1 co-curricular meeting or event. Dr. Miller went over the spring accomplishments by month to showcase the effort put in by the clubs.

Principal's Report

Dr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information surrounding Summer School, Freshman placements, and Summer work.

Student Representative's Report

Casey McCleery wasn't in attendance and no report was given.

TRANSITIONAL SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items

ACT Testing Site

Dr. Schmidt advised that on March 8 during our statewide ACT test administration, some students experienced irregularities during testing. ACT has offered vouchers for students to retake the assessment. Dr. Schmidt was happy to announce that we applied and were approved for two additional testing days on June 14 and July 12 at Grant Community High School. To date, 39 students have registered and workers have been secured for the testing administration. There is no direct cost to the district as ACT is paying for the cost of the workers.

School Safety: Reunification Training

Dr. Schmidt advised that on June 4, Grant Community High School participated in reunification training, hosted by Big Hollow. Grant sent 30 participants to the training which is designed to

prepare individuals and organizations for the process of safely and efficiently reuniting students with their families after a crisis or emergency. Complete details of the District's updated safety plan will be shared with stakeholders at the annual safety meeting in late July 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items

School Board Policy Modifications – Second Reading

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

2:260 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

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Jared to approve the school board policy changes 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**

Personnel

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

Accept the resignation letters from the following individuals (2024/25):

- Walter Alvarenga, Assistant Lacrosse Coach, effective immediately
- Luke Blaszczyk, Assistant Tennis Coach, effective immediately
- Sara Cossiboon, Special Education Teacher, effective immediately
- Luke Fischer, School Psychologist, effective immediately
- Kathie Garon, On-call substitute bus driver, effective immediately
- Merlin Hahn, Job Coach, effective immediately
- Dave Whitson, Assistant Football Coach, effective immediately

Recommend the employment of the following individual(s) (2025/26):

- Madison Carver, English Teacher, BA Step 0, 2025/26. and Asst. Girls' Basketball Coach, \$8,896.30, 2025/26
- Zach Gaidar, Special Education Teacher, MA Step 2, 2025/26
- Addie Kehres, Special Education Teacher, BA Step 5, 2025/26
- Emily McGovern, Music Teacher, BA Step 0, Pit Orchestra Director, and Band Director, 2025/26
- Cheryl Jones, EL LOA coverage, \$11,790.73 salary, 08/21/2025-11/14/2025
- Gavin Smyth, Asst. Football Coach/shared stipend, \$4,448.15, 2025/26

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

- Raya Mayer, Custodian, September 1 – November 21, 2025

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

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

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

Nay: None

Abstain: Fleming

Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

TRANSITIONAL SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items

Consolidated District Plan

Dr. Schmidt introduced Dr. Nathan Miller, Assistant Principal for Student Operations to share the 2025/26 Consolidated District Plan. Dr. Miller explained how anticipated programs will be funded using 5 federal grants, Title I, II, III, IV and IDEA part B. Dr. Schmidt is recommending the approval of the Consolidated District Plan as presented.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the Consolidated District Plan 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**

November Board of Education Meeting Date Change

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the November Board of Education date change from November 20 to November 13 due to the Joint Annual Conference as presented.

- ** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the November Board of Education Meeting date change 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**

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

2024/25 Final Amended Budget

Mrs. Reich advised that the 2024/25 has been amended as presented in April. Per statute the amended 2024/25 budget has been on display for 30 days, and the hearing was held tonight. She recommended the approval of the amended 2024/25 budget as presented.

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the 2024/25 final amended budget 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**

Resolution Authorizing Accounting Transfer(s) to Capital Projects Fund

Mrs. Reich advised that as a part of the 2024/25 budget, a transfer from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to pay for one-time facility renovation and upgrade expenses is needed. The resolution explains the transfer from O&M to Capital Projects. If approved these funds will be used to pay for the final bills for the construction of the weight room addition, as well as the beginning bills for the tennis court project. Mrs. Reich recommended the approval of the Resolution for Fund Transfer from Operations and Maintenance to Capital Projects as presented.

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the Resolution Authorizing Accounting Transfer(s) to Capital Projects Fund 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**

2025/26 Budget

Mrs. Reich advised that the 2025/26 budget has been updated and is currently on display. Updates are being made as hiring for staff continues. Additional updates were made to insurance rates for medical as well as property/casualty and liability. Mrs. Reich advised that we are continuing to monitor the pricing of services, especially food for the cafeteria and we are beginning to see additional charges on orders for next year related to tariff fees. The final budget will be presented at the July Board of Education meeting.

National School Lunch Program – 2025/26 School Lunch Price

Mrs. Reich advised that as part of the Healthy Hunger Free Act of 2010, Section 2025, the district must analyze the price charged for the school lunches using paid a lunch equity calculator provided by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) yearly. The purpose is to comply with the law which requires that schools charge students for paid meals at a price that is on average equal to the difference between free meal reimbursement and paid meal reimbursement. This year the U.S. Department of Agriculture is delayed in releasing the School Year 2025-26 Paid Lunch Equity Tool, so Illinois State Board of Education has recommended that we look at 2024-

25 PLE as a benchmark. There is no increase in the breakfast price which will remain at \$1.50. Mrs. Reich is recommending the raising of the lunch price from \$3.60 to \$3.75 in order to comply with the paid lunch equity component of the National School Lunch Program.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the school lunch price increase 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**

Medical Rates for the 2025/26 School Year

Mrs. Reich advised that we have a new benefits consultant, USI Insurance Services who is working to consolidate plans across the Lakes Region Benefit Cooperative. She recommended a 2.6% increase on all PPO plans and our High Deductible plan. She is also recommending a 6.21% increase for the Blue Cross Blue Shield HMO Illinois. Mrs. Reich is recommending offering another insurance option to staff with adding the Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue Access HMO. Mrs. Reich included a price comparison between the 2024/25 and 2025/26 rates. Mrs. Reich is recommending the approval of the updated medical rates for the 2025/26 school year as presented.

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Hembrey to approve the medical rates for the 2025/26 school year 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**

OTHER BUSINESS

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

CLOSED SESSION

** At 7:42 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Fleming 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);

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**

** At 8:29 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, Fleming

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mr. Jared to approve the termination of job coach, Paul Habel.

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**

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Lescher to approve Administrative and Non-Certified staff compensations for the 2025/26 school year 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**

- ** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Jared to approve a full-time buildings and grounds administrative assistant position 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 8:30 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Fleming to adjourn the meeting.

Kathy Kusiak, President

Shelly Booth, Secretary