

# GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING JULY 17, 2025

## ***PUBLIC HEARING – 2025/26 Budget***

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

\*\* At 6:50 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Lescher 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, July 17, 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. Laurie Hembrey, Member  
Mr. Ed Lescher, Member

Members absent:

Mrs. Shelly Booth, Secretary  
Mrs. Ivy Fleming, Member  
Mr. Bob Yanik, Member

Administration present:

Dr. Jeremy N. Schmidt, Superintendent  
Mrs. Beth Reich, Business Manager  
Mr. Blair Schoell, Principal

## ***AUDIENCE***

Lily Wu  
Stacey Mays and Family Members

Mr. John Jared served as Secretary Pro Tem due to the absence of Secretary, Shelly Booth

## ***CONSENT AGENDA***

Minutes of regular meeting held June 12, 2025  
Minutes of closed meeting held June 12, 2025  
July Bills Payable  
June Treasurer's Report  
Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from January 18, 2024  
Quarterly list of authorized depositories, investment managers, dealers, and brokers

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

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

Aye: Hembrey, Lescher, Kusiak, Jared  
Nay: None  
Absent: Booth, Fleming, Yanik  
Motion – **Passed**

## ***SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items***

### Excellence in Education – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

Mr. Schoell introduced Stacey Mays, Health and Wellness Teacher, as our 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Excellence in Education award recipient. Mr. Schoell stated that he has had the pleasure of working closely with Stacey in his previous role and mentioned that she is very adaptable and flexible in an ever-changing environment. Stacey was nominated because of her natural leadership and unwavering dedication to her students. Stacey consistently demonstrates what it means to be an outstanding educator. Her positive influence extends beyond the classroom and has students gravitating to her office because they know they’ll find someone who listens, cares, and lifts them up. Stacey is also committed to professional growth and collaboration and never hesitates to support others. Stacey’s creativity and enthusiasm are unmatched and she is always thinking forward and striving to improve. Stacey is a true role model and is a deserving recipient of the Excellence in Education award. Stacey thanked the Board of Education and Administration for the honor.

### Policy Changes – First Reading

Dr. Schmidt presented the Board with the proposed 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

2:80 Board Member Oath and Conduct  
2:130 Board-Superintendent Relationship

#### Section 700 Students

7:140 Search and Seizure  
7:325 Student Fundraising Activities  
7:40 Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students  
7:90 Release During School Hours

#### Section 800 Community Relations

8:80 Gifts to District

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 August meeting.

### Organizational Chart and Succession Plan

Dr. Schmidt shared the recently updated organizational chart and succession plan due to administrative role changes with the Board.

### Principal’s Report

Mr. Schoell presented his monthly report which included information on summer projects, AP exam scores, back to school planning, summer curriculum work, material pick up days, freshmen orientation, freshmen five and new teacher orientation.

## ***PUBLIC COMMENT***

None

## ***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items***

### PreACT Fall Testing

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of implementing the administration of the PreACT digital exam for students in grades 9-11 on October 14, 2025, as presented.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Hembrey to approve administering the PreACT digital exam as presented

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

Aye: Lescher, Kusiak, Jared, Hembrey

Nay: None

Absent: Booth, Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

### Overnight Travel Requests

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

- The Cross-Country team is requesting to travel with 35-50 student-athletes, three coaches and one adult chaperone to Peoria, IL on September 12 – 13 for the First to the Finish Cross County Invitational. The trip will cost approximately \$2,000 and will be paid with student activity funds. Students will be responsible for the cost of one meal.
- The Journalism teacher is requesting to travel with up to 7 journalism students to Nashville, TN on November 13 – 16 for the National High School Journalism Convention. The approximate cost of the trip is \$424 per student and will be paid by individual students. This amount will be reduced through planned fundraising and convention-awarded grant efforts.
- The Wrestling program is requesting to travel with two invited student-athletes to Cuyahoga Falls, OH from December 11 – 13 for the invite only Ironman Wrestling Tournament. The trip will cost between \$400-\$600 and will be paid with student activity funds.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Hembrey to approve the overnight travel requests as presented.

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

Aye: Kusiak, Jared, Hembrey, Lescher

Nay: None

Absent: Booth, Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

### Exceptional Learners' Collaborative Intergovernmental Agreement

Dr. Schmidt requested approval of the renewal of the contract with the Exceptional Learners' Collaborative (ELC) for physical therapy services for a small number of students who require physical therapy services based on their IEP at the rate of \$150.46 per hour.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mr. Jared to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with ELC as presented.

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

Aye: Jared, Hembrey, Lescher, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: Booth, Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

### School Psychologist Professional Services Agreement

Dr. Schmidt requested approval of a professional services agreement with Milestones Speech & SPED Services, LLC to fill the school psychologist position for the 2025/26 school year. The contracted school psychologist agreement is due to not having qualified candidates to fill the roll

for the upcoming school year. The contract would begin on August 6, 2025 and end on June 1, 2026. The contracted school psychologist meets all posted certification requirements and will assume full school psychologist responsibilities as a 1.0 FTE member of Grant's Red Teams. The contracted school psychologist will work up to five days per week, totaling 37.5 – 42.5 hours per week, with the district paying \$90 per hour for hours worked.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mr. Jared to approve the professional service agreement with Milestones Speech & SPED Services, LLC to fill the school psychologist position for the 2025/26 school year as presented.

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

Aye: Hembrey, Lescher, Kusiak, Jared

Nay: None

Absent: Booth, Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

### Personnel

Dr. Schmidt made the following personnel recommendations:

Employment of the following individuals:

- Kevin Savage, Health and Wellness Teacher, BA+15, Step 10, 2025/26
- Tom Evans, Lead Security Officer, \$26.00/hr., starting 8/4/2025
- Calista Warmowski, Transitions Program Job Coach, \$18.99/hr., starting 7/16/2025. When Division 1 license is obtained, pay rate will go to \$21.00/hr.
- Carly Burgeson, Assistant Girls' Tennis Coach, 2025/26
- Josh Christian, Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach, 2025/26
- Jessica Parker, Anime Club, 2025/26
- Drew Talbot, Gamers Club Sponsor. 2025/26
- Chris VanAlstine, Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach, 2025/26
- Aubrey Wray, Assistant Marching Band Director, 2025/26
- Jessie Maloney, approved at May Board of Education meeting for job coach position at \$19.17/hr, when Division 1 license is obtained, pay rate will increase to \$21.17/hr., start date 7/16/2025

Accept the resignation of the following individuals:

- Andres Castrejon, Boys' Assistant Soccer Coach, effective immediately
- Kevin Geist, Chess Club Sponsor, effective immediately

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

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

Aye: Lescher, Kusiak, Jared, Hembrey

Nay: None

Absent: Booth, Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

## ***BUSINESS AFFAIRS***

### Final 2025/26 Budget

Mrs. Reich reviewed the final 2025/26 budget with the Board including the adjustments due to grant allocations. Mrs. Reich requested the approval of the 2025/26 budget as presented.

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

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

Aye: Kusiak, Jared, Hembrey, Lescher

Nay: None

Absent: Booth, Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

Treasurer's Bond for 2025/26

Mrs. Reich advised that by law the treasurer is required to be bonded for 10% of the amount of monies they have custody of. She explained the calculation in determining the amount of the bond and advised that there was no increase from last year. Mrs. Reich requested the approval of the Treasurer's Bond for 2025/26 as presented.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the Treasurer's Bond for 2025/26 as presented

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

Aye: Jared, Hembrey, Lescher, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: Booth, Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

Construction Bid Opening – Trade Package 23a: Mechanical Work for the Boiler Addition

Mrs. Reich advised that earlier this year the steam pipes which connect to the steam boiler had corroded to the point that steam was escaping the pipes and was causing inefficient heating. The parts of the steam system that are failing have been recognized and a bid was put out to replace the heat exchanger in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor mechanical room with a hot water boiler system. The project will allow us to provide adequate heat to the PE & varsity locker rooms, wrestling room and offices in that area, as well as bringing us one step closer to replacing the steam boilers with hot water boilers for the entire heating system. IHC is managing the project and their recommendation for bid award is Premier Mechanical Inc., which came in at the lowest, responsible bidder at \$204,000. Mrs. Reich requested the approval of the construction bid from Premier Mechanical Inc. as presented.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Hembrey to approve the construction bid from Premier Mechanical Inc. as presented

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

Aye: Hembrey, Lescher, Kusiak, Jared

Nay: None

Absent: Booth, Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

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

**CLOSED SESSION**

\*\* At 7:45 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Lescher 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).

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

Aye: Lescher, Kusiak, Jared, Hembrey,

Nay: None

Absent: Booth, Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

\*\* At 8:05 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Hembrey to end closed session and return to open session.

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

Aye: Hembrey, Lescher, Kusiak, Jared

Nay: None

Absent: Booth, Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

### ***ACTION CLOSED SESSION***

No action was taken as a result of Closed Session.

### ***ADJOURN***

\*\* At 8:06 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Hembrey to adjourn the meeting.

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Kathy Kusiak, President

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Shelly Booth, Secretary