

**GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124**  
**AMENDED MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 14, 2024**

***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, November 14, 2024 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  
Mrs. Tina Sonders, Director of Special Education

Student Representative: Ms. Casey McCleery

***AUDIENCE***

Evan Weisheit, Jill Weisheit, Rob Weisheit, Iris Weisheit, Lauren Becmer, Jill Becmer and family, Christi Flaker, Kelly Scott, Jaeshaa Hall, Lily Wu

***CONSENT AGENDA***

Minutes of regular meeting held October 17, 2024

Minutes of closed meeting held October 17, 2024

November Bills Payable

October Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from May 18, 2023

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Lescher 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. Sefcik introduced Evan Weisheit, in the presence of his family, as the November Student of the Month. She read Evan’s profile of accomplishments, which included academic achievements, extracurricular activities, service to the community, and future plans. Dr. Sefcik offered Evan the opportunity to speak to the Board and he thanked his Mom for her support and stated that she pushes me to “always work hard to do the best I can do.” The Board and audience applauded Evan and Dr. Sefcik presented him with a certificate to commemorate being chosen as the November Student of the Month.

### Faculty Recognition

Dr. Sefcik asked Principal Schmidt to introduce Lauren Becmer, the recipient of the first Excellence in Education Award of the 2024/25 school year. Dr. Schmidt read the nomination from a peer that highlights why Lauren is outstanding and deserving of the award. The Board and audience applauded Lauren and she thanked the Board. She was honored to be the Excellence in Education recipient, she stated how it means so much to her, she is inspired by her peer teachers and feels she is really growing with them.

### Board of Education Member Recognition

Dr. Sefcik thanked the Board Members for their service and unwavering commitment. The Board members celebrated with cake and received a gift from Administration to celebrate School Board Members Day.

### Educational Life Skills Program

Dr. Sefcik asked Tina Sonders, Director of Special Education to present information on an Educational Life Skills Program for Board consideration. With the Educational Life Skills Program being phased out by the Special Education District of Lake County last school year, Mrs. Sonders shared background information and considerations in establishing a program at Grant for the 2025/26 school year.

### School Report Card Review

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that School Report Cards were released on October 30, 2024. She reviewed the information in the presentation, for our district, neighboring districts and state numbers on areas such as Indicators of Student Success, our Designation of Commendable, student demographic information, ELA Proficiency, Math Proficiency, Science Proficiency, Graduation Rate, EL Progress to Proficiency, Chronic Absenteeism, Climate Survey, 9th Graders on Track to Graduate, Future Indicators, and Other Report Card information.

### School Board Policy Proposed Changes – first reading

Dr. Sefcik presented numerous School Board Policies for a first reading that have recommended changes based on direction from the Illinois Association of School Boards and legal counsel. They will be presented for a second reading and potential action at the December meeting.

### Section 200 - Board of Education

2:105 Ethics and Gift Ban  
2:120 Board Member Development

### Section 400 – Operational Services

4:30 Revenue and Investments  
4:60 Purchases and Contracts

4:150 Facility Management and Building  
4:170 Safety

Section 500 – Personnel

5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment  
5:20 Workplace harassment Prohibited  
5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting  
5:120 Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest  
5:125 Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct  
5:230 Maintaining Student Discipline

Section 600 – Instruction

6:60 Curriculum Content  
6:135 Accelerated Placement Program  
6:270 Guidance and Counseling Program

Section 700 – Students

7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities  
7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students  
7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment  
7:200 Suspension Procedures

Section 800 –Community Relations

8:10 Connection with the Community

Joint Annual Conference / IASB Resolutions Committee Report

Dr. Sefcik advised the Board members that will be attending the Joint Annual Conference that an envelope is provided with their itinerary and conference badge(s) for next weekend. Ivy Fleming will represent the Board of Education at the Delegate Assembly on Saturday, November 23 at 10:30 am and to provide our Board's positions on resolutions being considered. The Board agrees with the resolution committee.

Foundation Gala Update

Dr. Sefcik gave an update on the Gala that was moved from in-person to a fully online auction. Approximately \$22,000 was raised, through the silent auction, sponsorships and the generous acts of individuals that donated the cost of their ticket to the original event. The amount raised is approximately \$15,000 less than a typical Gala, but considering the circumstances, the foundation is very pleased with the outcome.

Principal's Report

Dr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on Medical Suspensions, Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences, Community Engagement: Parent Universities, College and Career Readiness, Student Future Scheduling Requests, and Navig8 Lake County Career Fair.

Student Representative's Report

Casey McCleery provided her report which included information on the Fall Play, Academic Team, Football Playoffs, Winter Sports Night, Music Fundraiser, and school lunches.

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

### Calendar 2025-26

Dr. Sefcik presented the 2025-26 school calendar.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the 2025/26 school calendar, 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 reported that the Softball Team is requesting 15-16 student-athletes and 3 coaches to attend the Ripken Experience, in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, March 22-26, 2025. Costs will be covered through the softball team's activity fund.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Hembrey to approve the overnight travel of the softball team, 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**

### Personnel

Dr. Sefcik recommend the following personnel recommendations:

Employment of the following individuals:

- Jordynn Hundley, Asst. Girls' Basketball Coach, starting 11/6/2024
- Michael Zarinana, 2<sup>nd</sup> shift custodian, \$17/hr., starting 11/11/2024

Accept the resignation of the following individuals:

- Lauren Becmer, Asst. Academic Team Coach, effective 10/23/2024
- **Jammie Meyer, BDIPS Paraprofessional, effective December 20, 2024**

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

## ***BUSINESS AFFAIRS***

### Property Tax Relief Grant

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that the state of Illinois has provided \$49.3 million for new Property Tax Relief Grants in FY 2025 for eligible school districts. In return for abating a portion of taxes, qualifying districts received a state grant that is a portion of the tax relief they provide. As in previous years, she recommended applying for this grant.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the filing of the Property tax Relief Grant, 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**

### 5-Year Capital Plan

Mrs. Reich shared with the Board the updated Five-Year Capital Expense Plan.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

- \*\* At 7:57 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Fleming to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing 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), and student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(9).

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

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

Motion – **Passed**

- \*\* At 8:26 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, 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: Booth, Fleming, Hembrey, Lescher, Yanik, Kusiak  
Nay: None  
Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

## **ACTION CLOSED SESSION**

- \*\* A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve an hourly rate increase from \$28.25 to \$31.25 for Bob Koske, transportation department, for training and bus maintenance.

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

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

Motion – **Passed**

- \*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mr. Yanik to approve a new part-time shared administrative assistant position for transportation and building and grounds.

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

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

Motion – **Passed**

***ADJOURN***

\*\* At 8:28 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Lescher to adjourn the meeting.

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Kathy Kusiak, President

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Shelly Booth, Secretary