

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AUGUST 21, 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, August 21, 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
Mr. Ed Lescher, Member
Mr. Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent:

Mrs. Ivy Fleming, Member
Mrs. Laurie Hembrey, Member

Administration present:

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

Student Representative:

Ms. Izzy Ellington

AUDIENCE

Christi Flaker, Ellen Skolar, Andrea Kosmicki, Stacie Noisey, Tina Sonders, Ryan Geist, Josy Bosworth, Dan Nitz, Veronica Lukemeyer, Gavin Smyth, Nathan Miller, Maddie Carver, Zach Gaidar, Addie Kehres, Emily McGovern, Eric Taubery

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held July 17, 2025
Minutes of closed meeting held July 17, 2025
Amended minutes of regular meeting held November 14, 2024
August Bills Payable
July Treasurer's Report
Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from February 15, 2024

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

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

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

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items

New Faculty Introductions

Dr. Schmidt asked Mr. Schoell to guide the introduction of new faculty members by their mentors or administrators. Mr. Schoell thanked the administrators for finding such quality candidates and their mentors for their work with their mentees. Each of the introductions included their education, experience and interests. Josy Bosworth introduced Maddie Carver, Dan Nitz introduced Zach Gaidar, Tina Sonders introduced Addie Kehres, Ellen Skolar introduced Emily McGovern, Gavin Smyth introduced by Ryan Geist. President Kusiak and Dr. Schmidt presented each new faculty member with a gift of GCHS spirit wear.

Summer Curriculum Work

Dr. Schmidt asked Dr. Noisey to give the board an update on summer curriculum work. Dr. Noisey advised that summer curriculum work is a valuable opportunity to further the development of cohesive, thoughtful, standards aligned curriculum. During summer break curriculum work was ongoing and concluded on August 8. 28 topics with 25 courses were represented along with 2 professional development sessions. 58 teachers participated in the work and at the end of July over 550 hours had been completed collectively.

District Literacy Plan

Dr. Noisey also presented information to the board surrounding the district literacy plan. Dr. Noisey advised that the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan acts as a roadmap to enhance and unify core literacy instruction efforts statewide.

The plan focuses on three key goals.

- Goal 1: Every student receives high-quality evidence-based literacy instruction.
- Goal 2: Every educator is prepared and continuously supported to deliver high-quality, evidence- based literacy instruction.
- Goal 3: Every leader is equipped to create, maintain, and sustain equitable conditions for high-quality, evidence-based literacy instruction.

The Literacy Implementation Plan Committee was established and met over the spring and summer to engage in professional development and draft the implementation plan. The committee finalized the draft of the GCHS Literacy Plan and presented it the board.

Enrollment Update

Dr. Schmidt advised that as of August 14, 2025 student enrollment has decreased since August 1, 2024 by 59 students. The student enrollment numbers are as follows:

Grade 9:	402
Grade 10:	420
Grade 11:	461
Grade 12:	484
Total:	1,767

Principal’s Report

Mr. Schoell presented his monthly report which included information on summer school, Parent University, Professional Development, “Welcome Back” pep assembly, College and Career Readiness, fall athletics, school safety plan, and teacher evaluations. Mr. Schoell also presented the board with a schedule for notable home events for the fall 2025 season.

Student Representative's Report

Izzy Ellington provided her report which included information on summer camps, and beginning of the year club meetings. Izzy advised that over the summer two seniors, Vince Jasinski and Ryan Kadlec, made significant accomplishments. Vince competed in several high-level wrestling tournaments and as a result he earned national recognition and was ranked #18 in the country for the 132-pound weight class. Ryan announced that she will be continuing both her academic and athletic career at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, where she will compete as part of their Division III women's soccer team. Izzy was happy to report that the "Welcome Back" pep assembly was a ton of fun and said the new games that were played were a big hit with the students. Izzy also mentioned that students are very excited for the upcoming red and white night on August 22 where a variety of sports will participate in scrimmages.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items

District Literacy Plan

Dr. Schmidt recommended the approval of the district literacy plan as presented.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the district literacy plan as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Hembrey

Motion – **Passed**

School Board Policy Modifications – Second Reading

Dr. Schmidt 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

2:80 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 the District

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

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

Aye: Lescher, Yanik, Kusiak, Jared, Booth

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Hembrey

Motion – **Passed**

Part-time Vision Itinerant – Intergovernmental Agreement

Dr. Schmidt advised that Tina Sonders, Director of Education, worked to develop an intergovernmental agreement for a part-time vision itinerant to be shared with Gavin School District. This agreement details the shared part-time services of a vision therapist. These are required services for students with vision impairments. In previous years, the district contracted these services with SEDOL. Sharing services with Gavin is a convenient, cost-effective alternative approach to provide the required vision services. Dr. Schmidt is recommending approval of the part-time vision itinerant and approval of the intergovernmental agreement as presented.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the part-time itinerant as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Hembrey

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Schmidt made the following personnel recommendations:

Recommend the employment of the following individual(s):

- Tracy Giandonato, Part Time Food Service, \$15.00/hr., starting August 13, 2025
- Jordynn Hundley, Paraprofessional, \$20.00./hr, starting August 27, 2025
- Charity Jeschke, Bus Driver, \$27.06/hr., starting August 25, 2025
- Anthony Johnson, Co-Fall Event Coordinator
- Oner Medrano, Asst. Boys' Soccer Coach
- Kevin Savage, Co-Fall Event Coordinator
- Jagoda Szostakiewicz, Table Tennis Sponsor
- Marcy Wax, Long-Term Substitute for English, \$14,693.24, starting 8/22/2025
- Pam Winters, Vision Itinerant, \$100.00/hr., starting August 18, 2025

Recommend the position change of the following individuals:

- Charles Rowry-Smith, Football Coach, from .5 to 1.0
- Gavin Smyth, Football Coach, from .5 to 1.0
- Denise Winkowski, from Bus Driver to Job Coach, \$24.50/hr., starting August 11, 2025

Recommend accepting the resignation letters from the following individuals:

- Jessica Ahlgrim, Food Service, effective August 29, 2025
- Chris Callahan, Assistant Softball Coach, effective immediately
- Rita Gier, BDIPS Paraprofessional, effective immediately
- Noah Gunsaulus, Paraprofessional, effective immediately
- Nicole Helbig, Paraprofessional, effective August 29, 2025
- Claudia Hinstrosa, Food Service, effective September 19, 2025
- Emily Krier, Food Service, effective immediately
- Jessica Mitchell, JV Bowling Coach, effective immediately
- Kathryn Queeney, Food Service, effective immediately

Notification of an FMLA request from the following individuals:

- Martin Mayer, Custodian, beginning September 1, 2025, ending September 5, 2025
- Sharon Sullivan, Bus Driver, beginning August 13, 2025, ending November 6, 2025

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

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

Aye: Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Lescher, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Hembrey

Motion – **Passed**

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Master Facility Plan

Mrs. Reich advised that Dr. Schmidt and Mr. Staples discussed how to best plan for future facility needs. Last year, while working with Wight Architects for the mechanical, electrical and plumbing assessment, which identified needs behind the walls and on the roofs, we also recognized that there are curricular needs that will require modifications or improvements.

The District has not worked with an architect to create a Master Facility Plan since the early 2000's, and at that time, enrollment projections called for a large growth in students. Plans were made and executed for multiple additions. While our enrollment projections are not calling for large swings currently, the value of a Master Facility Plan is a guide for the Board and Administration to prioritize projects, maintain systems so that they last their useful life and beyond, and make facility changes that align with curriculum and instruction. Mrs. Reich discussed the possibility of moving forward with this planning process utilizing the existing Site and Facility Committee, which is made up of board and community members, as well as administration. The structure of the planning process would require additional, more frequent meetings, where we would invite representatives from different school departments to come and discuss needs.

Evidenced-Based Funding Update

Mrs. Reich advised that last month during the budget approval process we did not have final numbers for Evidenced-Based Funding (EBF) from the state. Since then, the state has released the EBF numbers and we have stayed in Tier 1 and are receiving just under \$750,000 more. The budgeted amount was based on a three-year average of what we have received in previous years, but this year the Tier allocation was less for all districts. The budgeted amount was just over \$400,000 more than what we are receiving. There is already a plan to present an amended budget to the Board this winter, so this change in EBF will be included.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

CLOSED SESSION

** At 8:12 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Booth to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(9); 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); semi-annual review of closed session minutes 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21).

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Hembrey

Motion – **Passed**

** At 8:54 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Lescher, 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: Booth, Lescher, Yanik, Kusiak, Jared

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Hembrey

Motion – **Passed**

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mr. Jared to authorize opening the following closed session minutes: February 20, 2025, May 15, 2025 and June 12, 2025.

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

Aye: Lescher, Yanik, Kusiak, Jared, Booth

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Hembrey

Motion – **Passed**

ADJOURN

** At 8:55 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mr. Jared to adjourn the meeting.

Kathy Kusiak, President

Shelly Booth, Secretary