

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SEPTEMBER 18, 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, September 18, 2025 and called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium 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:

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:

Mrs. Kathy Kusiak, President

Administration present:

Dr. Jeremy N. Schmidt, Superintendent
Mrs. Beth Reich, Business Manager
Mr. Blair Schoell, Principal
Mr. Nathan Miller, Asst. Principal
Mr. Ryan Geist, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Veronica Lukemeyer
Dr. Stacie Noisey

Student Representative:

Ms. Izzy Ellington

AUDIENCE

Tim and Maggie Jackson
Pat and Michelle Welter
Kim Williams
Tom Lewis
Fritz Kazlauskys
Donny Schmit
Taylor Schmit
Chuck Schmit
Micky Li
Matt Ellington
Dominic Marturano
Mary Koenig
Bill and Beth Bereiter

Ron Prosser
Fred and Diane Lauterer
Margo Savala
Diane Kanda
Buzz Soderman
Sharon Burr
Jackie Sullivan
Dave Spencer
Debbie Spencer
Jeffrey Miller
Shirleyann (Stenzel) Russell
Tom and Donna Hill
Christi Flaker
Durwood and Christine Layton

Mr. John Jared served as President Pro Tem due to the absence of President, Kathy Kusiak

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held August 21, 2025

Minutes of closed meeting held August 21, 2025

September Bills Payable

August Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from March 21, 2024

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, 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

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items

September Student of the Month

Dr. Schmidt introduced Dianey Granados, in the presence of her family, as the September Student of the Month. He read Dianey's profile of accomplishments, which included academic achievements, extracurricular activities, service to the community which includes volunteering at several community events through the National Honor Society. She has a very impressive total of 76 service hours. Dianey's future plans include going to college at UIC, UIUC or Marquette University. She plans on majoring in Biology on the pre-med track and then go to medical school in hopes of becoming a pediatrician. Dr. Schmidt offered Dianey the opportunity to speak to the Board, Dianey thanked the Board and stated that being student of the month was a great honor and she was very grateful. She thanked her parents, teachers, peers and family. She feels the importance of giving back to the community and looks forward to continuing to do so.

Hall of Fame Induction

Dr. Schmidt provided a brief overview of the Hall of Fame, which includes staff members and alumni. The Board members then joined the guests in the audience to watch the Hall of Fame video presentations for the inductees, Paul G. Lewis and Donny Schmit. After the videos, Dr. Schmidt invited Paul's son Tom Lewis and Fritz Kazlausky, who nominated Paul for the honor, onto the stage. Fritz began by asking previous Hall of Fame winners that were in the audience

to stand. He then asked for anyone in the audience who played baseball or football with or for Paul to stand up. He talked about what an important role model Paul was and the effects he had at GCHS will be cherished for lifetimes to come. Fritz continued to honor Paul with stories surrounding athletics and Paul's dedication to Grant. Tom Lewis began by stating that he appreciated the opportunity to speak on behalf of his father. He spoke about his father having such a dedication to Grant Community High School. He noted that whatever the endeavor his dad pursued he did it whole heartedly. He lettered in football, basketball and baseball and after college he returned to Grant to teach and coach for 28 years. Paul G. Lewis had many dreams and his biggest was to construct an athletic facility. He pursued his dream and made it a reality. He continued setting goals and succeeded in achieving another major accomplishment in implementing night football here at Grant. The GCHS Board of Education named the athletic field after Paul. Dr. Schmidt read the resolution to induct Mr. Paul G. Lewis into the 2025 Hall of Fame and presented Tom Lewis with Paul G. Lewis's Hall of Fame award.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the induction of Mr. Paul G. Lewis into the 2025 Hall of Fame.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

Dr. Schmidt then invited Mr. Donny Schmit and son Taylor Schmit to the stage. Taylor began by thanking the Board and the Administration for having an event like this and honoring great Grant Alumni, he stated that it is a nice personal touch that means a lot for the inductees and families. He is proud to be a bulldog and even more proud to be a part of this process. He was grateful for the opportunity to honor his most influential role model, his father Donny Schmit. Taylor stated that his father has instilled volunteering as a core value and his father talks a lot about how he enjoys volunteering with students at Grant Community High School. Taylor stated that he is very fortunate to have great role models in both of his parents. He acknowledged his dad's dedication in coaching youth sports, volunteering at church, school, fire department, the village and beyond. His father always says yes to helping people even when there is not a visible benefit. He is always doing the right things for the right reasons. Taylor then passed the microphone to Donny. Donny began by stating that he was honored to be included with so many pillars in the community and thanked the Board and Administration for the great honor and thanked everyone who was able to attend the celebration. He is proud to say that he graduated from GCHS and to have worked with so many great educators. Donny stated that our town takes pride in many accomplishments in our students and student athletes and our town has so much to be proud of. During school visits and award nights he is amazed by the passion and accomplishments of our students. He wanted the community to know that our future is in good hands because of the students' time here at Grant Community High School. Donny talked about how he started volunteering in grade school by visiting senior citizens, while visiting frequently he realized that he was getting more out of it than he was giving, for that reason and many more he continues to volunteer whenever possible. Donny quoted Arthur Ashe "With what you earn you make a living; with what you give you make a life." He closed out his speech by saying that he wouldn't trade his life with anyone. Dr. Schmidt read the resolution to induct Mr. Donny Schmit into the 2025 Hall of Fame and presented Donny with the Hall of Fame award.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Hembrey to approve the induction of Mr. Donny Schmit into the 2025 Hall of Fame.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – Passed

Board of Education – Professional Development Opportunities

Dr. Schmidt advised the Board that the IASB Lake Division dinner meeting is being held on October 8, 2025 from 6:15 pm – 8:00 pm. Dr. Schmidt also advised that session details and engagement details are now available for the Joint Annual Conference. The schedule and the online planner are available online at <https://www.iasb.com/conference/planner/>.

Principal's Report

Mr. Schoell presented his monthly report which included information on Back-to-School Night which was held on August 26. He advised that the numbers were a little lower than years past for GCHS and other surrounding schools, and they will be working on creative solutions to increase the numbers next year. Mr. Schoell also informed the Board that on October 14th students in grades 9-11 will be participating in PreACT testing. He also advised that optional NMSQT testing will be available for students on October 11th and that there will be an optional administration of the ACT on October 18th as well. Mr. Schoell gave a brief update about the “College 101, Financial Aid, SchoolLinks, and Tech Campus” Parent University session that was on September 10th. Principal Schoell advised the Board of the preparations that are in progress surrounding our October 10th Institute Day including speaker Mr. Garth Larson. He rounded out his report by reviewing the schedule of events for Homecoming.

Student Representative's Report

Izzy Ellington provided her report which included information on safety week, a varsity football win, a powderpuff loss for the seniors, and homecoming activities update. Izzy was happy to report Maxx Haas placed first in the Cross-Country Lake County Conference, which was a major accomplishment for both him and the program. Izzy also reported that students have responded positively to the Bulldog Bulletin in print form. This year daily announcements have moved from electronic back to paper and students have said that having the school news physically everyday helps information actually spread. Izzy also relayed feedback on the rotating lunches. GCHS has moved from a consistent weekly rotation of lunches to a new different lunch every day and 70% of students reported that they liked the variety of lunches more.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt Ellington thanked the Board and Administration for the wonderful experience and opportunity that his Daughter Izzy has with being the Student Board Representative for the 2025-26 school year. He feels that it is a great representation of Grant Community High School including students in every way possible.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items

Overnight Travel

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

- The theater department is requesting to travel to the Illinois Theater Festival at Illinois State University, January 8 to January 10, 2026. Approximately 24 students will attend with 3 teachers. Students will pay the festival fee and for several meals. The District will cover the teacher costs, which is estimated to be \$1,157.88.
- The Speech Team is requesting an overnight stay to travel to a Varsity Speech Invitational to be held at Downers Grove South High School from January 23 to January 24, 2026. The majority of trip costs will be paid with activity funds, with the exception of chaperone and fuel costs. The cost to the district is estimated to be \$800.00.

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Schmidt made the following personnel recommendations:

Recommend the employment of the following individual(s):

- Kevin Connerty, Part-time Food Service, \$15.00/hr., Starting September 22, 2025
- Lenayn Janusz, BDIPS Paraprofessional, \$29.09/hr., Starting August 26, 2025
- Melissa Brooke Malueg, Part-time Food Service, \$15.00/hr., Starting September 8, 2025
- Delia Molnar, Full-time Food Service, \$16.00/hr., Starting September 22, 2025
- Michelle Russo, Bus Driver, \$26.01/hr., Starting August 26, 2025
- Chris Callahan, Black Student Union co-sponsor
- Sheryl Dempsey, Assistant Girls Bowling Coach
- Jesse James, .5 shared Assistant Baseball Coach
- Lori Lev, MEDS Sponsor
- Kristen Livermore, Fall Flags Coach
- Courtney Spreitzer, Guitar Club
- Andrea Weaver, Black Student Union co-sponsor

Recommend the position change of the following individual(s):

- Joseph Gordon, Assistant Baseball Coach, from .5 shared to 1.0

Recommend accepting the resignation letters from the following individual(s):

- Richard Adamek, Bus Driver, effective immediately
- Garrett Olsen, Head Lacrosse Coach, effective immediately

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

- Jordan Alexander, Special Education Teacher, beginning December 1, 2025, ending March 11, 2026
- Cheryl Becker, Bus Driver, beginning September 8, 2025, ending December 5, 2025
- Tracy Highley, Business Teacher, intermittent - August 25, 2025 - upon completion of 60 days
- Andrea Kosmicki, Asst. Director of Special Education, beginning November 4, 2025, ending February 13, 2026
- Kyle Kujala, Science Teacher, beginning January 13, 2026, ending April 17, 2026
- Justin Strebel - Technology Education Teacher, beginning August 12, 2025, ending August 15, 2025 and beginning September 4, 2025, ending Oct 21, 2025
- Eric Weinmann, Math Teacher, beginning November 7, 2025, ending February 20, 2026

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Public Act 97-0256 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.47) Sec. 10-20.47

Mrs. Reich advised the Board that reporting is due to the State Board of Education by October 1 each year. This report includes the base salary and benefits of the district superintendent and all administrators and teachers employed by the school district. She included the report for the 2024-2025 school year for review.

2024-2025 Compensation Over \$75,000 Report

Mrs. Reich advised that pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act (Public Act 97-0609), an IMRF-participating employer must post on its website the “total compensation package” for each employee having a “total compensation package” exceeding \$75,000 per year. She included the informational report.

Administrative Salary/Benefits Report 2024-2025

Mrs. Reich advised that pursuant to Illinois Public Act 096-0434, a school district must post on their website an itemized salary compensation report for every employee in the district holding an administrative certificate and working in that capacity before October 1st of each year. She included the information report.

Authorization to Purchase a Driver’s Education Vehicle

Mrs. Reich reported that we were contacted by Ray Chevrolet who leases our driver’s education cars to us. They advised that they are no longer able to lease the vehicle to us, but that we can purchase a vehicle to utilize for the behind the wheel portion of the driver’s education program. She is requesting Board approval to purchase a used car for the behind the wheel program not to exceed \$30,000.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Hembrey to approve the purchase of a used car for the driver’s education behind the wheel program not to exceed \$30,000.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

OTHER BUSINESS

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

CLOSED SESSION

** At 8:14 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Fleming 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)(9) 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: Jared, Booth, Fleming, Hembrey, Lescher, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

** At 8:46 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, 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. Jared

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

No action was taken as a result of Closed Session.

ADJOURN

** At 8:47 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Yanik to adjourn the meeting.

Kathy Kusiak, President

Shelly Booth, Secretary