

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OCTOBER 16, 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, October 16, 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
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. Jeremy N. Schmidt, Superintendent
Mrs. Beth Reich, Business Manager
Mr. Blair Schoell, Principal
Veronica Lukemeyer, Divisional Administrator
Ellen Skolar, Divisional Administrator

Student Representative: Ms. Izzy Ellington

AUDIENCE

Chetankumar Patel
Mittal Patel

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held date September 18, 2025

Minutes of closed meeting held date September 18, 2025

October Bills Payable

September Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from April 18, 2024

Quarterly list of authorized depositories, investment managers, dealers, and brokers

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mrs. Booth 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

October Student of the Month

Dr. Schmidt introduced Vani Patel, in the presence of her family, as the October Student of the Month. He read Vani's profile of accomplishments, which included academic achievements, extracurricular activities, service to the community, and future plans. Dr. Schmidt advised the board that Vani had come straight from a sectional tennis match in which she won and is moving onto day 2 of competitions. Dr. Schmidt mentioned that Vani's tennis coach, Mr. Boton has nothing but praise for Vani and he wanted to share some of the great things her coach has mentioned. One of the things that really stood out was that while teaching Vani for 4 semesters he learned that she is incredibly attentive to the major issues that are going on in the world today. Dr. Schmidt offered Vani the opportunity to speak to the Board, Vani stated that she was so grateful for the honor. She thanked her parents for helping her work hard and for the administration for always being encouraging.

AP Scholar Recognition

Dr. Schmidt was excited to share the remarkable academic achievements of our students who have earned AP Scholar Awards from the College Board based on their exceptional performance on the recent Advanced Placement (AP) exams. Individual letters of congratulations will be mailed to recognized students and their families.

Curriculum Changes for 2026/27

Dr. Schmidt was pleased to announce that the recommended curriculum changes for the 2026/27 school year are ready for the board to review. Divisional administrators, Veronica Lukemeyer and Ellen Skolar along with Principal Schoell reviewed the suggested changes and answered any questions that the board had surrounding these changes. The suggested changes are as followed:

New Course:

- AP Business with Personal Finance
- Dual Credit Speech and Communication Skills
- Dual Credit Medical Terminology
- Dual Credit Introduction to Business

Course Revisions:

- English 12 (formerly Advanced English 12)
- Consumer Education (formerly ComCon)
- Dual Credit History 221
- Dual Credit History 222
- Dual Credit Comparative Political Systems
- Advanced Lifestyle
- Advanced Health
- Advanced Strength and Conditioning
- Introduction to Advanced Health
- Advanced Team Sports
- AP Studio Art
- Driver's Education Behind the Wheel
- Driver's Education Classroom
- Health
- Introduction to Lifestyle
- Introduction to Team Sports
- Introduction to Strength and Conditioning
- Integrated Physical Education
- Introduction to Wellness

Personal Fitness and Nutrition
Course Deletion:
English 12

School Report Card Updates and Timeline

Dr. Schmidt advised the board that ISBE has adopted new, unified assessment performance levels and recalibrated proficiency benchmarks for a more accurate school report card. Previous proficiency benchmarks were found by ISBE to be misaligned, not beneficial and inaccurate. The new benchmarks are intended to be “right-sized” to align state assessment scores with actual college and career readiness, using data from real college course placement and success rates. School report cards will be released on October 30.

IASB Resolutions

Dr. Schmidt advised the board that next month at the IASB/IASA/IASBO conference, board member Ivy Fleming will be attending the IASB Delegate Assembly on behalf of GCHS on November 22, 2025. The Resolutions Committee Report was included for the board to review.

Principal's Report

Dr. Schoell presented his monthly report which included information on homecoming, professional development, student recognition, state mandated health records, Elyssa's Mission, parent-student-teacher conferences, and veteran's day planning.

Student Representative's Report

Izzy Ellington provided her report which included information on homecoming (past and future plans), student recognition, and sporting accomplishments. Izzy reminded the board about the upcoming dodgeball tournament on October 29th, she stated how it would be perfect for the 7 board members to participate as teams are made up of 7 members!

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items

Curriculum Changes for 2026/27

Dr. Schmidt requested the approval of the following curriculum updates as previously reviewed with the board earlier tonight.

New Course:

AP Business with Personal Finance
Dual Credit Speech and Communication Skills
Dual Credit Medical Terminology
Dual Credit Introduction to Business

Course Revisions:

English 12 (formerly Advanced English 12)
Consumer Education (formerly ComCon)
Dual Credit History 221
Dual Credit History 222
Dual Credit Comparative Political Systems
Advanced Lifestyle
Advanced Health
Advanced Strength and Conditioning
Introduction to Advanced Health

Advanced Team Sports
AP Studio Art
Driver's Education Behind the Wheel
Driver's Education Classroom
Health
Introduction to Lifestyle
Introduction to Team Sports
Introduction to Strength and Conditioning
Integrated Physical Education
Introduction to Wellness
Personal Fitness and Nutrition

Course Deletion:

English 12

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the curriculum updates 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**

Winter Coaches

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the winter coaching staff, as presented.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Hembrey to approve the winter coaching staff, 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**

Personnel

Dr. Schmidt made the following personnel recommendations:

Recommend the employment of the following individual(s):

- Sheryl Dempsey, Long Term Substitute for Special Education Leave of Absence, \$3,347.05, Starting November 24, 2025-December 19, 2025
- Keith Dombrowski, Part-time Barista, \$15.00/hr., Starting September 29, 2025
- Sarah Gallivan, Asst. Softball Coach
- Ashley Greenwood, On-Call Substitute Athletic Trainer, \$40.00/hr., Starting October 17, 2025
- Marissa Kraus, School Bus Driver, \$26.53/hr., Starting October 20, 2025
- Taylor Owrutsky, Safety Paraprofessional, \$17.00/hr., Starting September 29, 2025
- Benjamin Schramm, Girls' Asst. Track Coach, effective immediately
- Sara Wennerstrom, Part-time Food Service, \$15.00/hr., Starting September 29, 2025

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

- Keith Dombrowski, Part-time Barista, effective October 3, 2025
- Tracy Giandonato, Food Service Substitute, effective immediately
- Elizabeth Melgoza, Student Services Administrative Assistant, effective October 31, 2025
- Stoyan Rusev, Transportation, effective September 26, 2025

Notification of an FMLA request from the following individual:

- Martin Mayer, Custodian, effective November 6, 2025 - December 24, 2025
- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the personnel recommendations, as presented.
Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:
Aye: Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Fleming, Hembrey, Lescher, Yanik
Nay: None
Absent: Jared
Motion – **Passed**

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

2025 Tentative Tax Levy

Mrs. Reich provided the tentative 2025 Certificate of Tax Levy. She stated that the county is predicting that our equalized assessed value will increase from \$1,336,219,143 in 2024 to \$1,488,060,223. This is a 11.36% total increase from the previous year, including new construction. They are projecting our new construction to be \$3,258,130, which is a decrease of \$3 million over last year. This year, we are not requesting more than 5% for our levy, so a public hearing is not required. She will bring the resolutions and recommendation for approval to the final 2025 tax levy to the December meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Schmidt informed the Board that four Freedom of Information Act requests were received. Three were fulfilled, the other was denied under 105 ILCS 10/2(d).

CLOSED SESSION

- ** At 8:12 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mr. Yanik 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); collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2).
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 8:39 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, 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: Booth, Fleming, Hembrey, Lescher, Yanik, Kusiak
Nay: None
Absent: Jared
Motion – **Passed**

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

No action was taken as a result of Closed Session.

ADJOURN

- ** At 8:40 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Fleming to adjourn the meeting.

Kathy Kusiak, President

Shelly Booth, Secretary