

**GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124  
MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
NOVEMBER 13, 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, November 13, 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

Student Representative:

Ms. Izzy Ellington

***AUDIENCE***

Gabi Bendinelli  
Elisa Portilla Dehn  
Christi Flaker  
Myles Foreman  
Sharon Foreman  
Tabitha Sibley  
Alex Sullivan  
Emily Weber

***CONSENT AGENDA***

Minutes of regular meeting held date October 16, 2025

Minutes of closed meeting held date October 16, 2025

November Bills Payable

October Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from May 16, 2024

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

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

### Student Recognition: November Student of the Month

Dr. Schmidt introduced Myles Foreman, in the presence of his mother, as the November Student of the Month. He read Myles’ profile of accomplishments, which included academic achievements, extracurricular activities, service to the community, and future plans. Dr. Schmidt advised that Myles was a part of the Principal’s Advisory Council and was an all-around great young man and there is no doubt in his mind that Myles will succeed regardless of the path he chooses. Myles thanked the board and administration for the honor and he hopes to make them proud.

### Staff Recognition: Excellence in Education

Mr. Schoell introduced Emily Weber, Math Teacher, as our 1<sup>st</sup> quarter Excellence in Education award recipient. Mr. Schoell read the writeup submitted by Emily’s peers and stated that Emily was presented the award in her classroom surrounded by students who were very excited for Ms. Weber, which shows how much her students respect her as a teacher. Whether it be in the classroom or on the volleyball court Emily models and reinforces the Keep it RED culture. Emily creates an atmosphere of trust and motivation that inspires students to reach their full potential. Emily’s signature trademark of encouragement with both staff and students alike is “you’ve got this” and it is in most cases all the motivation that is needed. Emily thanked the board and administration and stated that she is surprised and very honored to receive this award and it means a lot to her. She gave a shout out to the math department for all of the collaboration and feels that they have helped shape her into the teacher she is today. Emily also thanked the volleyball program for all of the support she has received. She feels that this award isn’t just hers, it is shared with the whole Grant community, as she wouldn’t be here without the support of our community members.

### Board of Education Member Recognition

Dr. Schmidt advised that November 15 marks School Board Member Day in Illinois. This year’s School Board Member Day theme is “The Heart of Local Education.” On behalf of the entire Bulldog community Dr. Schmidt thanked the board for dedicating themselves to providing a local voice for our community’s educational decisions. He thanked the Board of Education again for their dedication, guidance, time and leadership.

### School Report Card

Dr. Schmidt advised that the School Report Cards were released on October 30 and reviewed the data with the Board of Education. He advised that the State of Illinois compiles data into the report card and breaks down results by school. This consolidated data is then available for the public to review. The accountability measures are linked to state and federal mandates and are what the state uses to report to the federal government. GCHS has earned a “Commendable” ranking and the report shows that we are up several points from last year. Dr. Schmidt was proud to report that the ELA and Math growth categories are both over 2% better than the state.

Calendar 2026/27 draft

Dr. Schmidt provided a draft of the 2026/27 school calendar and noted it has been shared with our feeder districts for their consideration. A few notable dates are Institute days would take place on August 10 and 11, with the first day of student attendance on Wednesday, August 12, and the last day, if no emergency days are used, would be Thursday, May 20, 2027. Seniors will complete classes the week prior, with graduation taking place on Sunday, May 16, 2027. He plans to bring a final calendar for approval at the December meeting.

Joint Annual Conference/IASB Resolutions Committee Report

Dr. Schmidt reminded the Board of Education that the IASB/IASA/IASBO Joint Annual Conference will take place next week. He advised that an envelope is provided with their itinerary and conference badges for the conference. Dr. Schmidt also included the 2025 Resolutions Committee Report that will be discussed at the IASB Delegate Assembly. Board member Ivy Fleming will represent the Board of Education at the Delegate Assembly on Saturday, November 22 to provide our Board's positions on resolutions being considered.

Principal's Report

Mr. Schoell presented his monthly report which included an update on medical suspensions, parent-student-teacher conferences held on October 23 and 24, Parent University sessions and the activity schedule on November 4<sup>th</sup> that was dedicated to college and career readiness. Mr. Schoell also advised that the 2026/27 student course registration process is underway and counselors have begun to meet with students to review their plans with emphasis on making sure that their curricular choices match their goals. He advised that the Navig8 Lake County Career Fair took place on October 22 at the Lake County Fairgrounds, nearly 30 students from Grant attended this event, meeting with over 140 employers. Mr. Schoell also gave an update on winter athletics, he made note that winter sports night was held tonight and media day with "The Bark" will be on Saturday, November 15. He closed out his report by talking about a very successful Veteran's Day Celebration that was held at the school on November 11.

Student Representative's Report

Izzy Ellington provided her report which included positive feedback from students surrounding the November 4 activity schedule, Veteran's Day Celebration, Quest food services survey and the Navig8 career fair. She talked about the pink out volleyball game that was held on October 22 in which the volleyball program raised \$2,725 for the Susan G. Coleman Foundation; this was \$700 more raised than in 2024. Izzy mentioned that the varsity football team lost in the first round of the playoffs but finished the season with a 6-4 record.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

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

Curriculum Guide Modifications 2026/27

Dr. Schmidt advised that three curriculum guide modifications were requested following the October Board of Education meeting. These minor, but important, changes include: removing freshman enrollment into Introduction to Team Sports, allowing juniors to enroll in EDU 124, and documenting that AP Business with Personal Finance qualifies for the Consumer Education graduation requirement. He is recommending the modifications to be approved and added to the 2026/27 curriculum guide.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the curriculum guide modifications 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. Schmidt reported that the Speech Team is requesting to attend a Sectionals tournament at Freeport High School on February 14, 2026. The cost to the district is estimated to be \$400.00 for chaperone and fuel costs.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the overnight travel request 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. Schmidt recommended the following personnel recommendations:

Employment of the following individuals:

- Josh Christian, Head Lacrosse Coach
- Tyler Clausen, Co-Winter Event Coordinator
- Sheryl Dempsey, Long Term Substitute, \$12,582.32, Starting January 27, 2026 - April 20, 2026
- Rosalia Franco, 2nd shift On-Call Custodial Substitute, \$17.00/hr.
- Jennifer Heavrin, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Buildings and Grounds, \$48,000.00, starting November 17, 2025
- Kristen Livermore, Winter Guard Sponsor
- Matthew Sauser, On-Call Substitute Safety Officer, \$17.00/hr., starting November 5, 2025
- Kevin Savage, Co-Winter Event Coordinator
- Nancy Valentin, Long Term Sub for 504 Coordination, \$5,457.97, October 31, 2025 - December 19, 2025

Accept the resignation of the following individuals:

- Rita Gier, Winter Guard Sponsor, effective immediately
- Lenny Grodoski, Asst. Lacrosse Coach, effective immediately
- Mark Jolcover, Asst. Football Coach, effective immediately
- Taylor Owrutsky, Safety Paraprofessional, effective immediately
- Sharon Sullivan, Bus Driver, effective November 7, 2025

Notification of a leave of absence request from the following individual:

- Addie Kehres, 10-week leave of absence, using accrued sick and personal time, remainder will be unpaid. January 29, 2026 – April 20, 2026

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Fleming 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

Mrs. Reich advised that the Illinois Property Tax Relief Grant was not funded for the 2026 fiscal year. She included information from the Illinois State Board of Education's website.

### School Maintenance Project Grant

Mrs. Reich advised that the Illinois State Board of Education has opened up the School Maintenance Project Grant. This grant is a dollar-for-dollar state matching grant program providing awards up to \$50,000 to grantees, exclusively for the maintenance or upkeep of buildings or structures for educational purposes. This is no limit to the cost of the project; however, grant awards will not exceed \$50,000. If approved the funds will be utilized to assist with five HVAC projects which include the front office area, athletic/training room area, red hallway first and second floors, transportation building and the transition center/district office.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Hembrey to approve the utilization of the School Maintenance Project Grant funds 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**

### Fiscal Year 2024/25 Audit and Annual Financial Report (AFR)

Mrs. Reich updated the board on the status of our FY 2024/25 Audit and AFR. We require a Single Audit to be preformed because we expend over \$750,000 of federal grants in a fiscal year. The 2025 Compliance Supplement has not been finalized and released by the office of Management and Budget. Due to the federal shutdown, the auditors don't know when this will be issued. Due to the delay, the auditor will not be able to issue the single audit report until the 2025 Compliance Supplement is released. Mrs. Reich will update the Board of Education when the Single Audit is complete.

## ***OTHER BUSINESS***

### FOIA

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

## ***CLOSED SESSION***

\*\* At 8:17 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Lescher 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 pm p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, 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 Mrs. Fleming, second by Mrs. Hembrey to adjourn the meeting.

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Kathy Kusiak, President

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Shelly Booth, Secretary