

# GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DECEMBER 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, December 18, 2025 and called to order at 7:01 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  
Mrs. Ivy Fleming, Member  
Mrs. Laurie Hembrey, Member  
Mr. Ed Lescher, Member  
Mr. Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent: None

Administration present:

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

## **AUDIENCE**

Chase Blazier, Christi Flaker, Lily Wu, Addison Smith, Megan Smith, Justin Smith

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes of regular meeting held November 13, 2025

Minutes of closed meeting held November 13, 2025

December Bills Payable

November Treasurer's Report

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

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

Student Recognition: Student of the Month

Dr. Schmidt introduced Addison Smith, in the presence of her mother and father, as the December Student of the Month. He read Addison's profile of accomplishments, which included academic achievements, extracurricular activities, service to the community and future plans. Addison

thanked the teachers at GCHS and her family for allowing her to make it here as a student of the month.

Joint Conference Debrief

Dr. Schmidt shared the participation numbers from the 2025 Joint Annual Conference that was held in November. He thanked the members of the Board of Education for committing to the weekend and their participation at the conference.

School Calendar 2026/27

Dr. Schmidt advised the Board of Education that there haven't been any updates to the previously presented 2026/27 school calendar. The 2026/27 school calendar will be presented for approval as an action item later in tonight's meeting.

School Board Policy Modifications – First Reading

Dr. Schmidt presented the Board of Education with the proposed changes to the following School Board Policies based on the direction from the Illinois Association of School Boards and legal counsel:

Section 200      Board of Education

2:120              Board Member Development  
2:150              Committees

Section 400      Operational Services

4:30                Revenue and Investments  
4:80                Accounting and Audits

Section 500      Personnel

5:10                Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment  
5:90                Abused and Neglected Child Reporting  
5:200              Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal  
5:220              Substitute Teachers  
5:280              Duties and Qualifications  
5:300              Schedules and Employment Year

Section 600      Instruction

6:20                School Year Calendar and Day  
6:40                Curriculum Development  
6:60                Curriculum Content  
6:300              Graduation Requirements  
6:310              High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course  
                         Substitutions; Re-Entering Students  
6:315              High School Credit for Students in Grade 7 or 8

Section 700      Students

7:70                Attendance and Truancy  
7:150              Agency and Law Enforcement Requests  
7:180              Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and  
                         Harassment  
7:190              Student Behavior  
7:290              Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention  
7:340              Student Records

The PRESS Update Memo is included to provide supporting information for all proposed changes. Policies with non-material changes, including those with legal reference and footnote updates only, will be modified administratively and are not presented for change. The proposed changes were presented as a first reading only. They will be presented for a second reading and potential action at the January meeting.

College of Lake County (CLC) High School Feedback Report – Fall 2025

Dr. Schmidt advised the Board that CLC provided their annual Feedback Report which includes aggregate data regarding ethnicity, gender, full-time/part-time status, and reading-writing and math readiness for our most recent graduated class. According to the report, 111 of our 2025 graduates (28%) enrolled at CLC. 96% of those students displayed reading and writing readiness, directly aligned with the Lake County average. 48% of students displayed math readiness, 2% points above the County average. 46% of Grant 2025 graduates who are attending CLC earned dual credit prior to graduation which is 2% points above the Lake County average of 44%.

Principal's Report

Dr. Schoell presented his monthly report which included information on 1<sup>st</sup> semester final exams, bridging student transitions to high school, which included online student registration, enrollment nights, and activities and athletics for our future class of 2030, winter performing arts and activities and Grant gives back food pantry partnership.

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

School Calendar 2026/27

Dr. Schmidt presented the 2026/27 school calendar.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Hembrey to approve to 2026/27 school calendar, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Schmidt recommended the following personnel recommendations:

Employment of the following individuals:

- Roberto Ocampo, Paraprofessional, \$19.75/hr., starting December 8, 2025
- Stoyan Rusev, On-Call Sub/Extra Trips Bus Driver, \$27.05/hr., starting December 9, 2025

Position change for the following individual:

- Rosalia Franco Sanchez, from 2<sup>nd</sup> shift On-Call Custodial Substitute to 2<sup>nd</sup> shift Custodian, \$17.00/hr., starting December 8, 2025

Accept the resignation of the following individuals:

- Josh Christian, Asst. Softball Coach, effective immediately
- Andrew Horvath, Custodian, effective immediately
- Bryan Packard, Asst. Tennis Coach, effective immediately

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

## **BUSINESS AFFAIRS**

### **Final 2025 Tax Levy**

Mrs. Reich presented the Board with the final 2025 Certificate of Tax Levy, along with the resolution to spread a tax levy for 2025, the resolution to levy certain special taxes for Special Education District IMRF purposes, and the resolution for levying for working cash fund purposes for 2025. She advised that there is a social security deficit and will be borrowing from IMRF to cover the deficit.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the final 2025 Tax Levy as presented.

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

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

Motion – **Passed**

### **Operational Funds Expenditures Report**

Mrs. Reich advised that *School Board Policy 4:10, Fiscal and Business Management* requires the Chief School Business Official to present a written report that includes the annual average expenditures of the district's operational funds for the previous three fiscal years at or before the board meeting at which the Board adopts its levy.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the Operational Funds Expenditures Report as presented.

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

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

Motion – **Passed**

### **Tentative 2024/25 Audit**

Chase Blazier from Eccezion presented the tentative 2024/25 audit for the Board to review. This was the first year with Eccezion, so the audit was comprehensive and all-encompassing. When the final audit is complete it will be brought back to the Board for formal approval.

### **Coaching Recommendation**

Mrs. Reich advised that per the agreement between the Board of Education and the Grant Council, a standing committee meets annually to discuss the number of coaches and sponsors assigned to athletics and co-curricular activities. The committee met several times in October to hear proposals from coaches and sponsors. On December 12 the committee met again to review the data gathered and to make recommendations. The committee is recommending the approval of one additional Asst. Wrestling coach and one Asst. National Honor Society Sponsor for the 2025/26 school year. The committee is also requesting approval of one additional Asst. Girls' Volleyball coach for the 2026/27 school year.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the coaching and sponsor recommendations for 2025/26 and 2026/27 as presented.

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

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

Motion – **Passed**

Wight & Co. Proposal for Engineering of Dust Collector Replacement

Mrs. Reich advised the Board that the dust collector in the wood shop is past its useful life and needs to be replaced. Wight and Co. had their engineering department verify the new dust collector specifications and placement. They are proposing \$6,900 as a fixed fee for the services.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the Wight and Co. proposal for engineering of the dust collector replacement as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

Wight & Co. Proposal for Engineering of the Rooftops Replacements for Summer 2026

At last month's board meeting the Board approved our application for the state's School Maintenance Grant, and it was discussed to utilize the grant for replacing several rooftop units which provide heat and air conditioning to multiple areas at the high school. Mrs. Reich reviewed the proposal from Wight and Co. for the engineering design and services during the construction process for all of the units. Wight and Co. proposed \$26,000.00 as a fixed fee for the services.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Hembrey to approve the Wight and Co. Professional Service Proposal – RTU replacement as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

***OTHER BUSINESS***

Dr. Schmidt advised the Board that the Village of Fox Lake is expanding their waste water treatment and are requesting tax exemption for the new property located on Sayton Road in Fox Lake, which will result in a \$2,000+ loss of tax revenue.

He also advised that details are currently in the process of being finalized for GCHS to host Special Education teams at the school for the county wide institute day in February 2026.

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

***CLOSED SESSION***

No closed session was held.

***ADJOURN***

\*\* At 8:01 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mr. Lescher to adjourn the meeting.

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Kathy Kusiak, President

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Shelly Booth, Secretary