

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING JANUARY 15, 2026

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, January 15, 2026 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
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
Mr. Dave Behm, Athletic Director
Dr. Nate Miller, Asst. Principal for Student Operations

Student Representative: Ms. Izzy Ellington

AUDIENCE

Donny Schmit, Lukasz Sak, Beata Sak, Nicole Sak, Christi Flaker

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held date

Minutes of closed meeting held date

January Bills Payable

December Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from July 18, 2024

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Jared 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**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Donny Schmit was in attendance and welcomed the opportunity to speak to the Board of Education about coming up with ideas on how to better communicate with our students about what is happening in the Village of Fox Lake. Donny spoke about how the sophomore English classes presented their final projects and he is always amazed by the passion our students have. He was disappointed though that a few presentations were pitching ideas that were already in place and available to students. This made him think more about how to go about getting the word out to students, as the students at GCHS make up more than 15% of the population of Fox Lake. Mention was made to having an update in Bark issues and possibly being a guest on the Dawg House podcast.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items

Student Recognition: Student of the Month

Dr. Schmidt introduced Nicole Sak, in the presence of her mother and father, as the January Student of the Month. He read Nicole's profile of accomplishments, which included academic achievements, extracurricular activities, service to the community which included volunteering at the Village of Fox Lake and implementing a lending library which should be installed in the spring and future plans after graduation. Nicole thanked her amazing parents and teachers, she said she couldn't have done it without them all. Nicole stated that she had lots of obstacles along the way but overcame them and was honored to be January's Student of the Month.

Athletic and Activity Reports

Mr. Behm and Dr. Miller were in attendance and provided the Board with highlights and updates pertaining to our student athletics and student activities programs.

Principal's Report

Mr. Schoell presented his monthly report which included information on 1st semester grades, 2nd semester preparation, professional development, and summer school enrollment.

Student Representative's Report

Izzy Ellington provided her report which included information on senior scholarships, finals, updates on winter sports and the Dawg House podcast.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items

School Board Policy Recommendations

Dr. Schmidt recommended the approval of the following School Board Policies based on direction from the Illinois Association of School Boards and legal counsel:

<u>Section 200</u>	<u>Board of Education</u>
2:120	Board Member Development
2:150	Committees

<u>Section 400</u>	<u>Operational Services</u>
4:30	Revenue and Investments
4:80	Accounting and Audits

<u>Section 500</u>	<u>Personnel</u>
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

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mrs. Hembrey to approve the school board policy changes 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**

Overnight Travel

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

- The music department is requesting to attend the ILMEA All-State Festival and Illinois Music Education Conference in Peoria on January 28 to January 31, 2026. Approximately 4 students will attend with 2 teachers. The music department will cover all associated costs, which is estimated to be \$3,965.88.
- The baseball team is requesting to travel to Millington, Tennessee on March 22 to March 26, 2026 where they will compete in 6 baseball games at USA Stadium. Approximately 20 student-athletes will attend along with 4 coaches. The baseball activity fund will cover all associated costs, which is estimated to be \$9,584.00.

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

Spring Coaches

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the spring athletic coaches, as presented.

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the spring athletic coaching staff, 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**

Personnel

Dr. Schmidt recommended the following personnel recommendations:

Employment of the following individuals:

- Mario Blanquel, AM Substitute Bus Driver, \$27.06/hr., starting January 5, 2026
- Carly Burgeson, Asst. Boys' Tennis Coach, effective immediately
- Anthony Dabe, Long Term Substitute for Science Teacher Leave of Absence, \$9,943.68, Starting January 9, 2026 - March 12, 2026
- Lowell T. Edwards Jr., Bus Driver, \$26.01/hr., starting January 6, 2026
- Jeannette Kuba, Administrative Assistant to Student Services, \$44,000.00, starting December 30, 2025
- Kevin Savage, Asst. Lacrosse Coach, effective immediately
- Calista Warmowski, Asst. Wrestling Coach, effective immediately

Accept the resignation of the following individuals:

- Joe Bridge, Assistant Football Coach, effective immediately
- Denise Winkowski, Job Coach, effective January 13, 2026

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

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Final 2024/25 Audit

Mrs. Reich presented the Board with a copy of the Final 2024/25 audit. She recommended approval of the Fiscal Year 2025 audit as presented.

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 audit 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**

Wight & Company Project Authorization Exhibit: Long-Range Facility Plan/5-Year Plan

Dr. Schmidt and Mrs. Reich shared a presentation with the Board regarding the process to build a long-range facility plan with the district architects. The process would take a year, with all district buildings, including: the high school, field house, transition center/district office, transportation center and Bulldog Athletic Complex being reviewed and added to the plan. Additionally, key

stakeholders will be consulted. Approval was requested of the long-range facility plan process at a cost of \$72,000 and the official 5-year plan at a cost of \$14,000.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the long-range facility plan/utilization report and recommendation at a cost of \$72,000 and the official 5-year plan at a cost of \$14,000 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**

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Schmidt informed the Board that four Freedom of Information Act Requests were received and fulfilled.

Dr. Schmidt advised that Home Depot tax appeals are due to hearing at the end of January, 2026. Legal Counsel suggested accepting settlement.

CLOSED SESSION

** At 8:17 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, 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); 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: Jared, Booth, Fleming, Hembrey, Lescher, Yanik, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

** At 8:53 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Lescher, 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: Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Fleming, Hembrey, Lescher, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

No action was taken as a result of Closed Session.

ADJOURN

** At 8:53 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Hembrey to adjourn the meeting.

Kathy Kusiak, President

Shelly Booth, Secretary