

# GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MARCH 19, 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, March 19, 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:

Mr. John Jared, Vice President  
Mrs. Ivy Fleming, Member  
Mrs. Laurie Hembrey, Member  
Mr. Ed Lescher, Member  
Mr. Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent:

Mrs. Kathy Kusiak, President  
Mrs. Shelly Booth, Secretary

Administration present:

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

Student Representative:

Ms. Izzy Ellington

## **AUDIENCE**

Sarah Alvarez, Maria Barrera, Dee Frost, Judy Hackett, Julianna Janicki, Yesenia Jimenez-Captain, Emma Johnson, Debbie Olsen, Garret Olsen, Keith Olsen

**Mr. John Jared served as President pro tem due to the absence of President Mrs. Kathy Kusiak.**

**Mrs. Ivy Fleming served as Secretary pro tem due to the absence of Secretary Mrs. Shelly Booth.**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes of regular meeting held February 19, 2026

Minutes of closed meeting held February 19, 2026

March Bills Payable

February Treasurer's Report

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

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from September 19, 2024

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

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

Aye: Fleming, Hembrey, Lescher, Yanik, Jared

Nay: None  
Absent: Kusiak, Booth

Motion – **Passed**

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

### Student Recognition: Student of the Month

Dr. Schmidt introduced Sarah Alvarez, in the presence of her mother, as the March Student of the Month. He read Sarah’s profile of accomplishments, which included academic achievements, extracurricular activities, service to the community and future plans after graduation. Dr. Schmidt stated that Sarah is one of the most wonderful human beings and truly deserves this award. Sarah thanked the Board for making her successes possible and she stated that without the opportunities at Grant Community High School she would not be where she is now. She also thanked her teachers for helping to make her more successful by always having an open door. She thanked her parents for giving her more than they ever had and most importantly thanked herself for all of the hard work that she has put in.

### Staff Recognition: Excellence in Education

Mr. Schoell introduced Garrett Olsen, English Teacher, as our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Excellence in Education award recipient. Mr. Schoell read the writeup submitted by Garrett’s peers and stated that early in his career here at Grant Community High School he coached Garrett in track and now here he is accepting an award as an alumni teacher. Mr. Schoell also commended Garrett on designing and prepping our ACT preparation program for juniors that was initiated this school year. Garrett took a moment to thank the Board of Education for their support and he appreciates being acknowledged for this award.

### SEDOL Recognition

Dr. Judy Hackett, Co-Interim Superintendent and Yesenia Jimenez-Captain, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services with SEDOL attended the Board of Education meeting to present Grant Community High School with the Bridge Building Award. The SEDOL representatives praised GCHS for demonstrating extraordinary efforts and core values. Dr. Hackett advised that in the preliminary planning phase of the ROE Institute Day it was determined that the space SEDOL could provide for the Special Education group would not be adequate. Dr. Hackett and her team had reached out to several schools that had the space to see if they would be willing to assist and host the Special Education groups. After several meetings and planning, it was determined that GCHS was able to host and in turn made this event very successful. Dr. Hackett praised the staff and administration at GCHS for making everyone feel welcomed in a warm and caring environment.

### ISBE School Report Card Changes for 2026-2027

Dr. Schmidt explained the ISBE School Report card changes to the Board of Education. He advised there was an accountability criteria redesign. Dr. Schmidt reviewed the model and how the core indicators will now be proficiency, growth and graduation rate. These changes are scheduled to rollout sometime in October.

### Principal’s Report

Mr. Schoell presented his monthly report which included information on College and Career readiness, the career fair, preACT rising stars, Fox Lake Anchor Award for NHS, certified staff evaluations, 5Essentials survey and the SOS program. Mr. Schoell also advised that Grant Community High School is one of five schools in the county that have a 90% or more usage rate for SchoolLinks.

### Student Representative's Report

Izzy Ellington provided her report which included information and updates pertaining to ACT prep day which was held on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, winter sports recap, field trips for intro to teaching and tech ed classes, foreign language trips over spring break to Spain and France, Grant's Got Talent and the upcoming Writer's Expo.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

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

### IHSA Membership

Dr. Schmidt requested approval of the IHSA membership for the 2026/27 school term as presented.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the 2026/27 IHSA membership, as presented.

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

Aye: Hembrey, Lescher, Yanik, Jared, Fleming

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak, Booth

Motion – **Passed**

### Resolution Authorizing Non-Renewal and Dismissal of Permanent Substitute Teachers and Reduction of Assignment

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the Resolution Authorizing Non-Renewal and Dismissal of Permanent Substitute Teachers and Reduction of Assignment, as presented.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the Resolution Authorizing Non-Renewal and Dismissal of Permanent Substitute Teachers and Reduction of Assignment, as presented.

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

Aye: Lescher, Yanik, Jared, Fleming, Hembrey

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak, Booth

Motion – **Passed**

### Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Certain Teachers

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Certain Teachers, as presented.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Certain Teachers, as presented.

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

Aye: Yanik, Jared, Fleming, Hembrey, Lescher

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak, Booth

Motion – **Passed**

### Resolution for Non-Renewal of Final-Year Probationary Teachers

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the Resolution for Non-Renewal of Final-Year Probationary Teachers, as presented.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the Resolution for Non-Renewal of Final-Year Probationary Teachers, as presented.

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

Aye: Jared, Fleming, Hembrey, Lescher, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak, Booth

Motion – **Passed**

#### Resolution for the Honorable Dismissal of Educational Support Personnel

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the Resolution for the Honorable Dismissal of Educational Support Personnel, as presented.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Hembrey to approve the Resolution for the Honorable Dismissal of Educational Support Personnel, as presented.

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

Aye: Fleming, Hembrey, Lescher, Yanik, Jared

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak, Booth

Motion – **Passed**

#### Overnight Travel

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

- Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) performed well at the Regional FCCLA competition and qualified to attend the FCCLA State Competition in Springfield from April 8 to April 10, 2026. Approximately 4 students will attend with 1 teacher. The cost to the district is estimated to be \$2,180.91.
- The Math Team performed well at the Math Team Regional Competition and qualified for the ICTM State Contest at Illinois State University on April 18, 2026. The team is requesting an overnight stay for the night of April 17, 2026. Approximately 17 students will attend with 2 teachers. The cost to the district is estimated to be \$2107.51.
- The Wrestling Team is requesting to travel to an overnight camp at the University of Northern Iowa, in Cedar Falls, Iowa from June 10-13. Approximately 30-40 student-athletes will attend, in addition to 4 coaches. Interested families will cover the cost of \$350 to participate.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, 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, Fleming

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak, Booth

Motion – **Passed**

#### Personnel

Dr. Schmidt recommended the following personnel recommendations:

Employment of the following individuals:

- Jordan Hundley, Assistant Girls Volleyball Coach
- Garrett Olsen, Assistant Lacrosse Coach (shared stipend .50)
- Brayden Olson, Assistant Lacrosse Coach (shared stipend .50)
- Kirsten Rosseland, Bus Driver, \$26.01/hr., starting February 20, 2026
- Jon Schaap, Assistant Girls Volleyball Coach
- Katherine Wishau, Student Support Coordinator, \$90,000, starting July 1, 2026

Recommend accepting the resignation letters from the following individuals:

- Rachel Bicknase, Girls Volleyball Coach, effective immediately
- Julia Lightbody, EL Teacher, effective at the end of the 2025/26 school year

Recommend accepting the retirement request of the following individual:

- Michelle Jones, Administrative Assistant to CIA and MTSS, effective June 30, 2026

Notification of an FMLA request from the following individuals:

- Stacey Mays, Health and Wellness Teacher, effective April 27, 2026 – October 6, 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: Lescher, Yanik, Jared, Fleming, Hembrey

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak, Booth

Motion – **Passed**

## ***BUSINESS AFFAIRS***

### 10-Year Life Safety Survey

Mrs. Reich advised the board that every 10 years, a school district is required to survey its school buildings and execute any recommendations in accordance with 2-3.12, the Health Life Safety Code. The school board hires a design professional licensed in the State of Illinois to survey and report on the safety of the school buildings every 10 years. Once completed, the report will be brought to the board to review and approved so it can be submitted to the Illinois State Board of Education. This survey was last completed in 2016, so this needs to be completed again in 2026. Wight and Company submitted a total proposal of \$58,500 for the high school building, the field house and the transition center.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the 10-Year Life Safety Survey Proposal as presented.

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

Aye: Yanik, Jared, Fleming, Hembrey, Lescher

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak, Booth

Motion – **Passed**

### Landscaping Maintenance Bid Award

Mrs. Reich advised the board that the district solicited bids for the 2026 Lawn and Grounds Maintenance contract. Four companies submitted bids and the lowest bidder was Yellowstone Landscape. The total 3-year cost for the base bid is \$163,663.50, plus the alternate option A for 3 years at \$155,518.50 for a total 3-year contract of \$319,182. Recommended approval to waive all technical irregularities in the bids received and to award the contract for landscaping services to Yellowstone Landscape as the lowest responsible bidder, as presented.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve to waive all technical irregularities in the bids received and to award the contract for landscaping services to Yellowstone Landscape as the lowest responsible bidder, as presented.

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

Aye: Jared, Fleming, Hembrey, Lescher, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak, Booth

Motion – **Passed**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### FOIA

Dr. Schmidt informed the board that one Freedom of Information Act requests were received and fulfilled.

### ALOP Grant

Dr. Schmidt advised the board that GCHS was given the opportunity to apply for the ALOP Grant that is issued by the state through the ROE. GCHS qualifies for this grant because the BDIPS program does constitute as an “at risk program.” The deadline to apply is prior to the next board meeting, so Dr. Schmidt wanted to advise that we will be applying for the grant and will bring the required intergovernmental agreement to April’s board meeting for approval.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

\*\* At 7:59 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, 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)(10), the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1); and 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: Fleming, Hembrey, Lescher, Yanik, Jared

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak, Booth

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: Hembrey, Lescher, Yanik, Jared, Fleming

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak, Booth

Motion – **Passed**

## **ACTION CLOSED SESSION**

No Action was taken as a result of Closed Session

## **ADJOURN**

\*\* At 8:54 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mr. Yanik to adjourn the meeting.

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Kathy Kusiak, President

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Shelly Booth, Secretary