

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

APRIL 16, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING – E-Learning

A public hearing was convened at 6:45 p.m. The following Board members were in attendance by roll call, Kusiak, Booth, Hembrey, Lescher. Public comment was solicited and none was given.

** At 6:47 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mrs. Booth to adjourn the public hearing.

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, April 16 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. Laurie Hembrey, Member
Mr. Ed Lescher, Member

Members absent:

Mr. John Jared, Vice President
Mrs. Ivy Fleming, Member
Mr. Bob Yanik, Member

Administration present:

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

Student Representative: Ms. Izzy Ellington

AUDIENCE

Trinity Dodd, Hannah Krause, Flor de la Rosa, Rey de la Rosa, Miami de la Rosa

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held March 19, 2026

Minutes of closed meeting held March 19, 2026

April Bills Payable

March Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from October 17, 2024

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

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

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

Aye: Kusiak, Booth, Hembrey, Lescher

Nay: None

Absent: Jared, Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items

Student Recognition: Student of the Month

Dr. Schmidt introduced Miami de la Rosa, in the presence of her parents, as the April Student of the Month. He read Miami’s profile of accomplishments, which included academic achievements, extracurricular activities, service to the community and future plans after graduation. Miami thanked the Board for the opportunity and stated that it means more than they know. Miami also thanked her parents for always being so helpful and for all the sacrifices they made along the way. Miami looks at this recognition as a full circle moment and during her remaining days as a bulldog she plans on inspiring others to be the best they can be.

Student Representative to the Board of Education

Dr. Schmidt announced that after interviews a difficult decision was made and junior Bartek Chrupek has been selected to serve as the Student Representative to the Board of Education for the 2026-27 school year. Bartek is a well-rounded student who is member of NHS, FBLA and the Math team. He also competes on the Dance and Track and Field teams. Bartek will contribute by providing valuable insight from the student perspective and helping to foster continued two-way communication between the student body and the Board of Education. We look forward to having Bartek shadow Izzy at the May and June meetings.

State and Local Partnerships

Dr. Schmidt advised the Board of Education that there are three Intergovernmental Agreements that are listed as action items on tonight’s agenda. The Intergovernmental Agreements are for the renewal of our Student Resource Officer (SRO) contract, a shared part-time vision itinerant with Gavin School District and an ALOP Intergovernmental Agreement which is a required element of the ALOP grant application process.

Stronger Connections Grant

Dr. Schmidt advised the Board of Education that we are approaching the conclusion of the Stronger Connections/CARES grant that was awarded in July 2024 to enhance access to mental health resources for our school community and beyond. Over the course of this program, we have been able to facilitate 470 treatment sessions for students from our district. Treatment has included individual and family counseling, crisis intervention, care coordination, trauma-focused needs, psychiatric services, and medication management.

Through our CARES program and ReferralGPS, we have secured clinical support for all currently identified students to continue through the end of the school year. While we have stopped adding new students to this specific grant-funded program, ReferralGPS will continue to provide navigation services to help families transition to insurance-based or sliding-scale options. Our priority remains a seamless transition for every student, ensuring no gap in support as this specific funding period concludes.

Graduation

Dr. Schmidt reminded the Board that on Sunday, May 17, graduation will be held in the Fieldhouse at 2:00 pm. All Board of Education members are welcome and encouraged to attend this celebratory event.

Principal's Report

Mr. Schoell presented his monthly report which included end of semester and finals information, graduation preparations, test your best week, assessment updates, Writers Expo, NHS induction, Freshman Honors Breakfast and the IPA Student Recognition breakfast.

Student Representative's Report

Izzy Ellington provided her report which included information on the foreign language spring break trips to France and Spain, spring sports updates, ACT and AP testing and the Writers Expo. She did mention that her and other students were thankful to Mrs. Notriano who ran study nights to help students prepare for AP testing. Izzy advised that the senior excitement is becoming evident with just 31 days left of school for them.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items

E-Learning Plan

Dr. Schmidt requested approval of the E-Learning Plan as presented.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Hembrey to approve the E-Learning Plan, as presented.

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

Aye: Lescher, Kusiak, Booth, Hembrey

Nay: None

Absent: Jared, Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

ALOP Intergovernmental Agreement

Dr. Schmidt requested approval of the ALOP Intergovernmental Agreement as presented.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the ALOP Intergovernmental Agreement, as presented.

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

Aye: Kusiak, Booth, Hembrey, Lescher

Nay: None

Absent: Jared, Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

Part-time Vision Itinerant – Intergovernmental Agreement

Dr. Schmidt requested approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement for a part-time shared vision itinerant as presented.

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for a part-time shared vision itinerant, as presented.

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

Aye: Booth, Hembrey, Lescher, Kusiak,

Nay: None

Absent: Jared, Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

School Resource Officer – Intergovernmental Agreement

Dr. Schmidt requested approval of the School Resource Officer Intergovernmental Agreement as presented.

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the School Resource Officer Intergovernmental Agreement as presented.

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

Aye: Hembrey, Lescher, Kusiak, Booth

Nay: None

Absent: Jared, Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

Overnight Travel Requests

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

- Six students qualified for the National Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Leadership Conference. The sponsor, an additional chaperone and the six students will attend the conference which will take place in San Antonio, Texas, from June 28 to July 3. When students qualify for extracurricular or co-curricular national competitions, the district has traditionally contributed half of the student costs to attend. The estimated Board paid costs for the competition will be \$9,562.68. FBLA and the Boosters are contributing \$2,000 from activity funds, resulting in a student cost of \$430.20 each to participate.
- Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) had one member qualify for the National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. The sponsor and student would travel from July 6 through July 10. The estimated Board paid costs for the competition will be \$3016.83.

FCCLA is contributing \$500.00 from activity funds, resulting in a student cost of \$794.38.

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

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

Aye: Lescher, Kusiak, Booth, Hembrey

Nay: None

Absent: Jared, Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Schmidt recommended the following personnel recommendations:

Employment of the following individuals:

- James Dukes Jr., On-call Custodian Substitute, \$17.00/hr., starting April 13, 2026
- Andy Flaker, Bass Fishing Head Coach, effective immediately

Recommend accepting the resignation letters from the following individuals:

- Michele Keenan, Health and Wellness Teacher, effective at the end of the 2025/26 school year

Notification of an FMLA request from the following individuals:

- Angel Zarinana, Custodian, effective April 6, 2026 - June 26, 2026
- Emely Zarianana, Custodian, effective April 6, 2026 - June 26, 2026

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the personnel recommendations, as presented.

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

Aye: Kusiak, Booth, Hembrey, Lescher

Nay: None

Absent: Jared, Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Tentative Amended 2025/26 Budget

Mrs. Reich advised that now that federal grants and state funding has been finalized the 2025/26 budget has been amended. The final Equalized Assessed Value has been received from Lake County with our extension for the 2025 levy, in turn we have updated the current year levy numbers. Additionally, expenses were trimmed everywhere possible, projecting out the rest of the year. Per statute, the amended budget must be on display for 30 days. The budget will appear on the May agenda for hearing and approval.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Lescher to place the tentative amended 2025/26 budget on display as presented.

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

Aye: Booth, Hembrey, Lescher, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: Jared, Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

2026/27 Budget

Mrs. Reich advised that the 2026/27 budget is in the beginning stages. She advised that she has started to meet with department heads and teacher leaders to find out possible expenses that will be requested for 2026/27. Salaries will be updated when the contract is settled with the union. Next month we should have renewal rates for health insurance as well. The tentative budget is scheduled to be brought to the May Board of Education meeting for display, with hearing and request for approval occurring in July.

Tax Cap Adjustment

Mrs. Reich advised that the county multiplier from the Illinois Department of Revenue is 1.00 for tax year 2025. This equalizer is then applied to our equalized assessed value (EAV) resulting in a total EAV of \$1,466,661,882. This is an increase of \$130,442,739 from 2024. The EAV increased 9.8% from last year. As a result, the tax rate is 1.887693. The consumer price index for this tax cycle was 2.9%, so it was capped at 2.9%. Approximately, \$375,488 had to be cut from the levied amount to comply with the tax cap limitation. She provided a copy of the detailed cap adjustments, as well as a comparison of Grant Community High School's tax rate to other high school districts in Lake County.

Site and Facility Meeting Update

In March the Site and Facility Committee met with architects from Wight and Co., Civil Engineers from Eriksson Engineering and administration and discussion was centered around what priorities were important to the committee. Dr. Schmidt and Mrs. Reich updated the Board of Education with a presentation surrounding the 5-Year facility plan prepared by the architects.

OTHER BUSINESS

FOIA

Dr. Schmidt informed the Board of Education that 5 Freedom of Information Act requests were received and fulfilled.

Additional School Funding Sources

In February Dr. Schmidt gave the Board of Education an overview of the County School Facility Occupational Tax (CSFT). Dr. Schmidt advised the Board of Education that county schools have started passing the required language to get a referendum on the ballot for the CSFT. Other Lake County Superintendents have advised that they will be bringing to their board meetings in April

and May for vote. Dr. Schmidt will bring the required language to the May or June meeting for a vote.

CLOSED SESSION

** At 8:15 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, 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); 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: Hembrey, Lescher, Kusiak, Booth

Nay: None

Absent: Jared, Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

** At 8:41 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Hembrey to end closed session and return to open session.

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

Aye: Lescher, Kusiak, Booth, Hembrey,

Nay: None

Absent: Jared, Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

No Action was taken as a result of Closed Session.

ADJOURN

** At 8:41 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Hembrey to adjourn the meeting.

Kathy Kusiak, President

Shelly Booth, Secretary