

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

JULY 16, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING – 2026-2027 Budget

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

** At 6:48 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mr. Yanik 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, July 16, 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. Shelly Booth, Secretary
Mrs. Laurie Hembrey, Member
Mr. Ed Lescher, Member
Mr. Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent:

Mrs. Kathy Kusiak, President
Mrs. Ivy Fleming, Member

Administration present:

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

Student Representative:

Bartek Chrupek

AUDIENCE

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held June 18, 2026

Minutes of closed meeting held June 18, 2026

July Bills Payable

June Treasurer's Report

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

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

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

Aye: Jared, Booth, Hembrey, Lescher, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak, Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items

National Qualifiers

Dr. Schmidt updated the Board of Education with information on our National qualifiers. He advised that twenty-three students from FBLA qualified for the state competition in Springfield in April, and from that large group, five students qualified for Nationals. The group performed admirably in San Antonio, Texas and two of our students placed among the top 14 in the country. Dr. Schmidt advised that six students qualified for Nationals in Washington, D.C., and one student ended up finishing within the top 10! We also had 1 student qualify for Skills USA in Atlanta, GA.

Hall of Fame 2026

Dr. Schmidt advised the Board of Education that the 2026 Hall of Fame inductees will be Lee Oler and Rich Becmer. Lee Oler was a 1968 graduate and basketball legend, playing for University of Wisconsin, Madison as well as overseas. Rich Becmer was a 1971 graduate who served on the GCHS Board of Education and served as a police officer for Fox Lake upon for over 30 years, retiring as the Deputy Chief. GCHS is excited to honor both Lee and Rich in September during the Hall of Fame festivities.

Site and Facilities Committee Update

Dr. Schmidt presented information to the Board of Education surrounding the recent site and facilities committee meetings. Ten different focus groups met and the architects are putting together themes from what they heard. Dr. Schmidt went through the presentation from the most recent steering committee meeting, which highlighted the vision for future renovations and updates. He advised that discussions were held with community partners and stakeholders, a main focus was requesting a traffic study on Devlin Rd. The request to complete this traffic study will be addressed as an action item tonight within the business report.

School Board Policy Recommendations – First Reading and Potential Action

Dr. Schmidt reviewed four school board policies that would be brought to the board later tonight as a potential action item.

<u>Section 200</u>	<u>Board of Education</u>
2:230	Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions
<u>Section 600</u>	<u>Instruction</u>
6:19	Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities
<u>Section 700</u>	<u>Students</u>
7:330	Student Use of Buildings – Equal Access
<u>Section 800</u>	<u>Community Relations</u>
8:70	Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities

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.

IASB Federal Advocacy Conference

Dr. Schmidt advised that IASB is involved in a federal advocacy conference in Washington, D.C., in September. The three-day conference includes legislative panels, networking, advocacy, storytelling training, and meetings with Illinois Senators and Representatives. Board President, Kathy Kusiak advised she is considering going. Dr. Schmidt advised if any board members are interested or need more information to reach out to him.

Organizational Chart and Succession Plan

Dr. Schmidt shared the recently updated organizational chart and succession plan with the board. The only update was the addition of the student support coordinator.

Principal's Report

Mr. Schoell presented his monthly report which included information on summer operations, back-to-school planning, summer curriculum work, material pickup days, freshman orientation, freshman five and new teacher orientation.

Student Representative's Report

Bartek Chrupek provided his report which included information on summer sports camps and incoming freshman student opinions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

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>
2:230	Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions

<u>Section 600</u>	<u>Instruction</u>
6:19	Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities

<u>Section 700</u>	<u>Students</u>
7:330	Student Use of Buildings – Equal Access

<u>Section 800</u>	<u>Community Relations</u>
8:70	Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the school board policy changes as presented.

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

Aye: Booth, Hembrey, Lescher, Yanik, Jared

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak, Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Schmidt recommended the approval of compensation adjustments for the individuals' yearly increase. The two staff members that were not included in the June recommendation are

- James Dukes Jr., On Call Custodial Sub, increase from \$17.00 to \$17.68 per hour

- Rosalia Franco, Custodian, salary increase from \$35,360.00 to \$36,774.40 for the 2026/27 school year

Notification of an FMLA request from the following individuals:

- Emely Zarinana, Custodian, effective July 28, 2026 – October 19, 2026

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

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

Aye: Hembrey, Lescher, Yanik, Jared, Booth

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak, Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

2026-2027 Final Budget

Mrs. Reich reviewed the final 2026-2027 budget with the board. She advised that the numbers have changed slightly since last month. Property taxes received in June were less which will push those receipts into the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Line items with information related to staffing, salaries, lane changes and benefits have been updated. The budget has been on display for the statutory 30 days, and we held the budget hearing prior to this meeting.

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the 2026-2027 budget as presented.

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

Aye: Lescher, Yanik, Jared, Booth, Hembrey

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak, Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

2026-2027 Treasurer's Bond

Mrs. Reich advised that the treasurer is required by law to be bonded for 10% of the amount of monies they have custody of. The bond must be approved by the Board of Education and then filed with the Regional Office of Education. Included in the board packet is the calculation determining the amount the bond should be based on the monies in custody. The renewal of the bond has been obtained. The bond is for \$4,000,000 and the cost is \$3,800, which is a \$0 increase over last year.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the 2026-2027 Treasurer's Bond as presented.

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

Aye: Yanik, Jared, Booth, Hembrey, Lescher

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak, Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

Traffic Study Proposal

As previously mentioned by Dr. Schmidt tonight during his Superintendent's report, the Long-Term Facility Planning Steering Committee met on July 7, 2026 to learn more about the process that has been completed so far. The multiple focus groups had a common theme related to safety of our students and staff in relation to Devlin Road. Eriksson Engineering has provided a proposal to do a traffic study this fall once school is back in session.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the Eriksson Engineering Traffic Study Proposal not to exceed \$22,500.00 as presented.

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

Aye: Jared, Booth, Hembrey, Lescher, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak, Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

OTHER BUSINESS

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

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

No Closed Session was held.

ADJOURN

** At 7:45 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mrs. Booth to adjourn the meeting.

Kathy Kusiak, President

Shelly Booth, Secretary