

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

JUNE 18, 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, June 18, 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. Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent:

Mr. Ed Lescher, Member

Administration present:

Dr. Jeremy N. Schmidt, Superintendent
Mrs. Beth Reich, Business Manager
Mr. Blair Schoell, Principal
Mr. Dave Behm, Athletic Director
Dr. Nathan Miller, Asst. Principal for Student Operations

Student Representatives:

Ms. Izzy Ellington
Mr. Bartek Chrupek

AUDIENCE

Gayle Richards
Kira Richards
Matt Richards
Sean Richards

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held May 21, 2026

Minutes of closed meeting held May 21, 2026

June Bills Payable

May Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from December 19, 2024

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

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

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

Nay: None
Absent: Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items

Student Board Representative – Welcome Bartek and Thank you Izzy

Dr. Schmidt and the Board of Education thanked Izzy Ellington for serving as the 2025/26 Student Board Representative. The Board felt that Izzy did an outstanding job of representing students and the overall student body very well. Board President Kathy Kusiak said a few words about the impact Izzy had and how she really grew into the position. Mrs. Kusiak then presented Izzy a gift from the Board and Administration. Izzy thanked the Board and Administration for making it so easy to talk to and for Principal Schoell for having so much confidence in her. Izzy will be off to the University of Illinois in the fall and everyone wished her nothing but the best! Dr. Schmidt also welcomed Bartek Chrupek to his first meeting. Bartek shadowed Izzy tonight and will be our Student Board Representative for the 2026/27 school year. The Board and Administration thanked Bartek for attending the meeting and advised that he has some pretty big shoes to fill but he is learning from the best! Goodbye Izzy, you will be missed and welcome Bartek, we are looking forward to a great 2026/27 school year!

Educator of the Year

Dr. Schmidt welcomed Gayle Richards and her family to tonight’s meeting. Gayle was recognized on the last day of school as our Educator of the Year for the 2025/26 school year. Dr. Schmidt read Gayle’s nomination that was received from her peers. Dr. Schmidt talked about how Gayle is a crucial part of our science department and is very involved in making sure her peers succeed as well. She is an important part of her PLT group and attends PD events and workshops throughout the year. She is always sharing best practice procedures with her co-workers and her dedication to science pathways and field work is incredible. For these reasons and many more are what lead her to be our Educator of the Year. Gayle thanked the Board for this wonderful honor.

Athletic/Activity Accomplishments

Mr. Behm and Dr. Miller updated the board with accomplishments from both Athletics and Activities.

Principal’s Report

Mr. Schoell presented his monthly report which included information on the recent Data Retreat, Send-offs and celebrations, freshmen placement and summer work.

Student Representative’s Report

Izzy Ellington provided her report which included information on student jobs and summer plans, NHS events, sports, and senior final decisions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Action Items

Girl’s Wrestling

Mr. Behm presented the Board with information surrounding the proposal to distinguish Girl’s Wrestling as its own program.

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Hembrey to approve the Girl's Wrestling program as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

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:

Section 200 Board of Education

2:220 School Board Meeting Procedure

2:250 Access to District Public Records

Section 400 Operational Services

4:165 Awareness & Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming

Section 500 Personnel

5:50 Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition

5:250 Leaves of Absence

5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves

Section 600 Instruction

6:65 Student Social and Emotional Development

6:170 Title I Programs

Section 700 Students

7:300 Extracurricular Athletics

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, 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: Fleming, Hembrey, Yanik, Kusiak, Jared, Booth

Nay: None

Absent: Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

School Psychologist Professional Services Agreement with Milestones Speech & Sped Services

Dr. Schmidt recommended the approval of the School Psychologist Professional Services Agreement with Milestones Speech and Sped Services as presented.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Jared to approve the School Psychologist Professional Services Agreement with Milestones Speech and Sped Services as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

School Psychologist Professional Services Agreement with Accountable School Staffing

Dr. Schmidt recommended the approval of the School Psychologist Professional Services Agreement with Accountable School Staffing as presented.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the School Psychologist Professional Services Agreement with Accountable School Staffing as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

Lake County Sheriff Reciprocal Reporting Agreement

Dr. Schmidt recommended the approval of the updated Lake County Sheriff's Reciprocal Reporting Agreement as presented.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the Lake County Sheriff's Reporting Agreement as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

Community Youth Network Counseling Support 2026/27

Dr. Schmidt recommended the approval of a one-year agreement for CYN to provide one day counseling services per week at a cost of \$14,500.00 as presented.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to approve a one-year agreement for CYN to provide one day counseling services per week at a cost of \$14,500.00 as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

Athletic Personnel Recommendations

Dr. Schmidt recommended the approval of the Athletic Personnel as presented.

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

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

Aye: Booth, Hembrey, Yanik, Kusiak, Jared

Nay: None

Abstain: Fleming

Absent: Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

Overnight Travel

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

- The Cross-Country Team is requesting to travel to Peoria from September 11 to September 12 for the First to the Finish Cross Country Invitational. Approximately 35-50 student-athletes will attend with three coaches and one adult chaperone. The cost of the trip, approximately \$5,000, will be paid with student activity funds, with students responsible for the cost of one meal.

- The Dance Team is requesting to travel to the Dance Team Union overnight camp at Illinois State University, in Bloomington, Illinois, June 23-25. Approximately 20 student-athletes will attend, in addition to 4 coaches. Interested families will cover the cost of \$460 to participate.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the two overnight travel requests as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Schmidt recommended the following personnel recommendations:

Recommend the Employment of the following individuals:

- Kay Ann Blaszczyk, 2026/27 Full-Time Internal Substitute, BA, Step A
- Joseph Califf, 2026/27 Full-Time Internal Substitute, BA, Step A
- Dylan Flucke, Asst. Football Coach, effective immediately
- John Gizowski, 2026/27 Full-Time Internal Substitute, BA, Step A
- Jesse James, 2026/27 Full-Time Internal Substitute, BA, Step A
- Frank Milella, Asst. Wrestling Coach, effective immediately
- Laura Widenhoefer, American Sign Language Club Sponsor, 2026/27 School Year

Recommend accepting the resignation letters from the following individuals:

- Jim Cramer, Asst. Football Coach, effective immediately
- Jim Cramer, Asst. Wrestling Coach, effective immediately
- Jason Lackhouse, Asst. Boys Volleyball Coach, effective August 1, 2026
- Eric Weinmann, Asst. Baseball Coach, effective immediately

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Collective Liability Cooperative (CLIC) Worker's Compensation and Property/Casualty/Liability Renewal

Mrs. Reich advised the Board that the renewal for workers' compensation as well as the property/casualty/liability insurance through the Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative (CLIC). Worker's Compensation shows an increase of 28.6%. Our experience modification factor rose from 1.18 to 1.25, and our total payrolls also increased. In addition, we've had a rise in claims, so the premiums also increase. We have minimal claims in our property casualty which is why we're seeing such good rates there. Recommended approval of the Workers' Compensation and Liability/Property Insurance renewal.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the Workers' Compensation and Liability/Property Insurance renewal as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

Accounting Transfer from Operations and Maintenance Fund to Capital Projects

Mrs. Reich advised that as a part of the 2025/26 budget, a transfer from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to pay for one-time facility renovation and upgrade expenses is needed. The resolution explains the \$900,000 accounting transfer from O&M to Capital Projects. These funds were used to pay for the final bills for the tennis court project.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the resolution for Fund Transfer from Operations and Maintenance to Capital Projects as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

2026/27 Tentative Budget Presentation

Mrs. Reich presented the 2026/27 tentative budget to the Board. She advised that the 2026/27 Final Budget will be presented at the July meeting for approval.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

CLOSED SESSION

** At 8:11 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik 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); Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

** At 8:51 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Jared 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, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent: Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

** A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, second by Bob Yanik to approve non certified staff and administrative salary compensations as presented.

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

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

Nay: None
Lescher
Motion – **Passed**

ADJOURN

** At 8:52 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to adjourn the meeting.

Kathy Kusiak, President

Shelly Booth, Secretary