

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

SEPTEMBER 24, 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, September 24, 2026 and called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium 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

Student Representative:

Mr. Bartek Chrupek

AUDIENCE

Mike Waynen
Cindi Schuerr
Jill Becmer
Jim Crane
Jan Crane
Diane Kanda
Bill Lomas
Tom Lewis
Trudy Lewis Hellios
Brian Hagy
Linda Ferrigan
Lauren Becmer
Gwen Battis
Don Stedwell
Bob Pillion
Fritz Kazlauskys
Lynn Grissom

Lee Oler
Isela Rios
Juan Rios
Derrick Rios
Daniela Muchoy
Chris Staton
Lisa Oler
Mary Gregory
Curtis Oler
Dorena Gregory
Sarahi Jurado
Ashley Jolly
Zachary Jolly
Tracy Brandt
Jimmy Loar
Kim Ziegler
Sharon Burr
Ryan Owen
Jeni Owen
Chris Resnick

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held August 20, 2026

Minutes of closed meeting held August 20, 2026

September Bills Payable

August Treasurer's Report

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items

Student Recognition: Student of the Month

Dr. Schmidt introduced Derrick Rios, in the presence of his family, as the September Student of the Month. He read Derrick's profile of accomplishments, which included academic achievements, extracurricular activities, and service to the community. Derrick's commitment to leadership really shows with his involvement in the National Honor Society, The Choir Leadership Team, TEAM Live, and the Dawg Pound, just to name a few. Dr. Schmidt invited Derrick to say a few words. Derrick thanked the Board of Education and the committee that chose him for this wonderful honor. He thanked his teachers and the school as a whole to allow him to be who he is. The biggest thank you goes out to his parents who push him to his full potential every day.

Hall of Fame Ceremony and Recognition

Dr. Schmidt provided a brief overview of the Hall of Fame, which includes staff members and alumni. The Board members then joined the guests in the audience to watch the Hall of Fame video presentations for the inductees, Rich Becmer and in memoriam Lee Oler. After the videos, Dr. Schmidt invited Bill Golden and Bill Lomas onto the stage to recognize Rich Becmer's Hall of Fame achievement. Bill Lomas introduced himself and stated that he knew Rich since the 1970's.

He spoke about how Rich was always a leader and respected by so many. Rich ran the Cardinal football program and led and set the culture for years to come. He said that Rich has a real talent in taking a stressful situation and making it easy. Rich introduced the D.A.R.E. program and young adults were drawn to him because of the caring environment that he created. Bill concluded by thanking the selection committee in recognizing Rich for this well-deserved honor. Bill Golden then took the podium and joked that he was born when Rich graduated in 1971. Bill met Rich in 1984 when Rich approached him and some of his friends while they were playing outside. Rich asked the kids if they have ever thought about playing football and signed the kids up right there on the hood of his patrol car. He stated that Rich always made you feel like you were important. Something that always resonated with Bill was when he joined the police force himself and Rich taught him that he wasn't there to catch bad guys, he was there to make the community better. He concluded by thanking Rich for all of his teaching and hard work. Rich took the podium and thanked the Board of Education, the Hall of Fame Committee, Bill Lomas, Bill Golden and his family for both the nomination and the recognition. Rich was very excited and honored to hear that he was going to be inducted into the Hall of Fame with Lee Oler. Lee was a senior when Rich was a freshman and he will always remember him as being the kindest and most humble roll model at GCHS. Rich feels that he is lucky to be part of the class of 1971 which had lots of characters and character! Rich again thanked everyone who came out to celebrate and said it was wonderful being a part of the Grant Community and it was an honor to give back. Dr. Schmidt read the resolution to induct Mr. Rich Becmer into the 2026 Hall of Fame and Board President Kathy Kusiak presented Rich with his Hall of Fame award.

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the induction of Mr. Rich Becmer into the 2026 Hall of Fame.

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**

Dr. Schmidt then invited Tom Lewis to the stage to recognize Lee Oler's Hall of Fame achievement. Tom Lewis stated that he was here last year to honor his father Paul G. Lewis and how it is such a pleasure to be back here to honor Lee Oler. Tom spoke about when he worked at Wauconda as the head of the Physical Education Department, he was approached by the principal and the athletic director advising him that they wanted him to sit on an interview to help them make a decision about hiring an individual. He agreed to sit in on the interview and in walks Lee Oler, Lee was his friend and all Tom could think about during the interview would be hiring Lee as a Physical Education teacher and then he could get him to also join the organized basketball league that he participated in. Tom raised money for the athletic club for Wauconda and they would host a charity game with the Chicago Bears. Wauconda won 84-83 and Lee had 52 of the 84 points. When going out after the game, Jack Concannon (professional NFL player) questioned why Lee was teaching high school and not playing professional basketball. Tom said Lee probably could have gone on to play professional basketball but he believed that he wanted to dedicate his time to coaching and working with kids. Lee was a member of the 3 B's, Wauconda Bulldogs, Grant Bulldogs and the Wisconsin Badgers. Tom thanked everyone for the opportunity to talk about his friend Lee and thanked Grant for the wonderful job they do for the Hall of Fame. Dr. Schmidt invited Curtis Oler to join him on stage to accept the honor on behalf of his father and his family. Curtis thanked the Hall of Fame committee for inducting his father into the Hall of Fame. He knows he would have been so pleased and humbled to be among the previous inductees of which many he knew and respected. Curtis talked about Lee's passion for basketball and how the community and GCHS made a lasting impression on him. Lee always had family support but coaches Fritz Kazlauskys and John Schad expanded that support. They helped develop his skills, sportsmanship and passion for the game. He thanked the staff, the student

body and the community for acting as a team through all the adversities over the years. He stated that Lee went on to be a physical education teacher and to coach both basketball and golf, which was his way of doing what he loved and paying it forward. Curtis went on to say that Lee left a lasting impression on all of those who surrounded him and he said that this would have been a very special moment for him. He thanked the Mayor Donny Schmit for his role and support in the honorary renaming of Meade court. He also thanked Wayne Bosworth for advocating the name of the basketball court in honor of Lee, Tom Lewis for his friendship and support for the entire family over the years, and Donny Steadwell for his lifelong friendship and his continued presence. On Behalf of the Oler Family, Curtis gave a big thank you. Dr. Schmidt read the resolution to induct Mr. Lee Oler posthumously into the 2026 Hall of Fame and Board President Kathy Kusiak presented Curtis with Lee's Hall of Fame award.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mrs. Hembrey to approve the induction of Mr. Rich Becmer into the 2026 Hall of Fame.

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**

NMSQT Commended Scholars and AP Scholars

Dr. Schmidt asked Mr. Schoell to update the Board of Education with student recognition information. Mr. Schoell advised that Grant had 101 students that made the College Board Advanced Placement Scholars list for 2025. Among those 101 students, 45 were recognized as AP Scholars, 20 as AP Scholar with Honor and 36 AP Scholar with Distinction. Mr. Schoell also advised that three GCHS students were named NMSQT Commended Scholars out of 34,000 nationally recognized students.

Board of Education: Professional Development Opportunities

Dr. Schmidt advised the Board of Education that the IASB Lake Division dinner meeting is being held on October 14 and advised if they are interested in learning more to contact him. He also advised that the schedule of sessions and online planner are now available for the Joint Annual Conference which is being held in November.

Principal's Report

Mr. Schoell presented his monthly report which included information on Back-to-School Night, testing updates, Parent University, Homecoming, and professional development.

Student Representative's Report

Bartek Chrupek provided his report which included fall sports standings and updates, and college visits. Bartek's student athlete highlight this month was Connor Evans. Connor is a senior who participates in both football and track. Connor has shown the senior class the meaning of dedication and time management. As a captain for the football team, he says the bond on the team has improved with laser-focused athletes on the field. In track, he is an exemplary runner and brings energy and encouragement to his teams everyday and pushed them to be their best. He hopes to qualify for state in the 110m high hurdles and the 300m intermediate hurdles. Connor hopes to study exercise science at Miami University in Ohio or Grand Valley University in Michigan. He is hopeful to continue his track career in college. Bartek closed out his report by advising the Board of Education of the upcoming events this week surrounding Homecoming.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items

Overnight Travel

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

- The Dance Team is requesting to travel to the Dance Team Union National Championship, March 3 to March 8, 2027 in Orlando, Florida. Approximately 11 students-athletes will attend, in addition to 4 coaches. Interested families will cover the cost of \$750.00 to participate.
- The Theater Department is requesting to travel to the Illinois Theater Festival at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, January 7 to January 9, 2027. Approximately 34 students will attend with 3 chaperones. Costs paid by students are approximately \$175.00. The District will cover the teacher and additional student costs, which are estimated to be \$4,305.61.
- The Speech Team is requesting an overnight stay to travel to a Varsity Speech Invitational to be held at Downers Grove South High School from January 22 to January 23, 2027. The majority of trip costs will be paid with activity funds, with the exception of competition fees, judge payments, and fuel costs. The cost to the District is estimated to be \$800.00.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Hembrey, 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, Yanik, Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Fleming, Hembrey
Nay: None
Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Schmidt made the following personnel recommendations:

Recommend the employment of the following individuals:

- Nick Blencoe, 2026/27 Full-Time Internal Substitute, BA, Step A
- Jibril Juneau, Part-Time Food Service, \$15.00/hr., starting September 8, 2026
- Nicholas Harshbarger, 2026/27 Full-Time Internal Substitute, BA, Step A
- Mikayla Herko, Barista, \$15.00/hr., starting on August 24, 2026
- Joshua Langhoff, Choir Accompanist, \$35.00/hr., effective immediately
- Brad Porter, Safety Officer, \$20.00/hr., starting September 25, 2026
- Lawanna Smith, Food Services On-Call Substitute, \$15.00/hr., starting September 28, 2026
- Benjamin Quint, Disc Golf club sponsor, effective immediately

Recommend the position change for the following individual:

- Jesse James, from full time building sub to EL teacher, BA Level, Step A, 2026/27

Recommend accepting the resignation letters from the following individuals):

- Tina Gitterle, Bus Driver, effective September 3, 2026
- Linda Jacobs, Bus Driver, effective immediately
- Jason Montemayor, Boys' Assistant Wrestling Coach, effective immediately
- Briseyda Reynolds, Food Service, effective August 28, 2026
- Calista Warmowski, Job Coach, effective at the end of 1st semester

Notification of FMLA requests from the following individuals:

- Andy Flaker, Technology Education Teacher, effective September 18 - 25, 2026
- Corey Hutcheson, English Teacher, effective September 4 - 18, 2026 and November 30 - December 15, 2026
- Marissa Kelley, Social Worker, effective November 18, 2026 - March 3, 2027

** 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: Yanik, Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Fleming, Hembrey, Lescher

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion – **Passed**

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Public Act 97-0256 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.47) Sec. 10-20.47

Mrs. Reich advised the Board that reporting is due to the State Board of Education by October 1 each year. This report includes the base salary and benefits of the district superintendent and all administrators and teachers employed by the school district. She included the report for the 2025-2026 school year for review.

2025-2026 Compensation Over \$75,000 Report

Mrs. Reich advised that pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act (Public Act 97-0609), an IMRF-participating employer must post on its website the “total compensation package” for each employee having a “total compensation package” exceeding \$75,000 per year. She included the informational report.

2025-2026 Administrative Salary/Benefits Report

Mrs. Reich advised that pursuant to Illinois Public Act 096-0434, a school district must post on their website an itemized salary compensation report for every employee in the district holding an administrative certificate and working in that capacity before October 1st of each year. She included the information report.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

No Closed Session was held.

ADJOURN

** At 8:53. a motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Hembrey to adjourn the meeting.

Kathy Kusiak, President

Shelly Booth, Secretary