

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DECEMBER 17, 2020

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, December 17, 2020 and called to order at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom meeting web link.

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:

Steve Hill, President
Paul LaRoche, Vice President
Ivy Fleming, Member
John Jared, Member
Kathy Kusiak, Member
Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent:

Ruth Michniewicz, Secretary

Administration present:

Dr. Christine A. Sefcik, Superintendent
Mrs. Beth Reich, Business Manager
Mr. Jeremy Schmidt, Principal

Paul LaRoche served as Secretary Pro Tem in the absence of Secretary, Ruth Michniewicz

AUDIENCE

Mia McLoughlin and parents, Jeff and Mary McLoughlin, Jeremy Anderson, Greg Urbaniak

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held November 19, 2020

Minutes of closed meeting held November 19, 2020

December Bills Payable

November Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from June 20, 2019

** A motion was made by Mr. LaRoche, second by Mr. Jared to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

Aye: LaRoche, Fleming, Jared, Kusiak, Yanik, Hill

Nay: None

Absent: Michniewicz

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Student Recognition

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that Mia was not yet in attendance and would provide her information when she logged in or during next month's meeting if she was unable to attend.

Equity Planning Update

Dr. Sefcik asked Jeremy Anderson to provide an update on his first semester efforts as the District's Equity Leader. The focus has been on improving the culture and climate specific to equity, diversity, and inclusion/support for all students. He also highlighted the long-term goal setting process and the plans that are in development including a staff and student survey that will be released soon and the 3rd book study that will begin next semester. He will provide the book to the Board members that would like to be included.

Student Performance Update

Dr. Sefcik turned it over to Greg Urbaniak, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, to provide the student performance results for the fall PSAT assessment and last year's Advanced Placement testing that was included in the Board packet.

Student Recognition (cont'd)

Dr. Sefcik introduced the December Student of the Month, Mia McLoughlin, who was accompanied online by her parents, Jeff and Mary. She read her profile of accomplishments, which included her academic achievements, extracurricular activities, service to the community, leadership roles and awards, what she does in her spare time, and her future plans. Dr. Sefcik offered Mia the opportunity to speak to the Board to say what the acknowledgement meant to her and Mia announced that she was accepted into Notre Dame University. The Board applauded Mia and Dr. Sefcik said her Student of the Month certificate would be mailed to her.

Second Semester Planning

Dr. Sefcik reported that important changes were occurring relating to second semester planning. The Lake County Health Department has advised they will be using a "risk stratified model" in the coming weeks. This model will focus on five key mitigation efforts, including consistent and correct use of masks, social distancing to the extent possible, hand hygiene, cleaning and disinfecting, and contact tracing to reduce risk. If the 5 mitigation measures can be done consistently and correctly, risk will be lowered and schools may consider opening. She added that the potential availability of the vaccine, with the educational sector being moved to Phase 1b, makes us feel optimistic. Due to these facts, we are planning to transition to Blended Learning Plan 2.0 effective January 19, 2021, with 25% of student present on any given day. Then we will seek to build to 50% on campus and ultimately 100% in person attendance as soon as it is feasible to do so. Families were asked to consider the blended and remote learning options and provide their decision for their student. We are excited to get students back in school second semester! She added that we have 40 COVID tests on site to test symptomatic students and staff, we received our CLIA waiver which allows us to administer the tests, the vaccine should be available to the full staff by the end of January and she hopes we can reach the goal of 80% of staff who opt-in to taking it, and finally, January 15 will be a staff planning day.

Alternative Pathways Pilot Program

Dr. Sefcik presented information on a pilot program to add another layer of academic and social-emotional support for at-risk students. The Alternative Pathways Pilot program would be an intensive intervention designed to assist students who are currently not on pace for graduation within four years of school. Students that struggle within the traditional bell schedule will be offered evenings, four nights per week, from 5:00 – 8:00 pm that will focus on English and mathematics. A social worker would be scheduled one evening per week to provide individual support for students. The pilot has the potential to serve 30 students and we are proposing to provide transportation to and from school. Details were provided on rationale, purpose, structure, personnel needs, transportation, target student population, and total estimated costs.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mrs. Kusiak to approve the Alternative Pathways Pilot Program as presented.

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

Aye: Fleming, Jared, Kusiak, Yanik, Hill, LaRoche

Nay: None

Absent: Michniewicz

Motion – **Passed**

Portrait of a Graduate Update

Dr. Sefcik shared the graphic created by GCHS art teacher, Jeff Austin and the GCHS art students, to identify the Portrait of a Graduate 21st Century competencies. She noted that the Teaching and Learning Committee has been developing the Portrait of a Grant Teacher, which will be shared at a later date. The Board agreed that the graphic was great and really reflected Grant very well. They thanked the Mr. Austin and the talented students that created it.

School Board Policy Modifications – First Reading

Dr. Sefcik recommended changes to the following School Board Policies based on direction from the Illinois Association of School Boards and legal counsel:

- 4:80 Accounting and Audits
- 4:90 Student Activity and Fiduciary Funds
- 6:300 Graduation Requirements
- 6:340 Student Testing and Assessment Program
- 7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations and Exclusion of Students
- 7:300 Extracurricular Athletics

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to approved the School Board Policy revisions as presented.

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

Aye: Jared, Kusiak, Yanik, Hill, LaRoche, Fleming

Nay: None

Absent: Michniewicz

Motion – **Passed**

April Board Meeting Date Change

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that due to the April 6, 2021 election, it is necessary to change our April Board of Education meeting date. The last day for the County Clerk to certify the election results is Tuesday, April 27. Within 28 days after the election, or by May 4th, the Board shall certify the results, organize its officers, and fix the time and place for regular meetings.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. LaRoche to approve the April Board meeting date change from April 15 to April 29, 2021.

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

Aye: Kusiak, Yanik, Hill, LaRoche, Fleming, Jared

Nay: None

Absent: Michniewicz

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following employment recommendations of the following individuals:

- Angela Balanag, English Lab PM Supervisor-Thursdays, hourly rate per contract
- Lenny Grodoski, English Lab PM Supervisor-Tuesdays, hourly rate per contract
- Drew Talbot, Math Lab PM Supervisor, hourly rate per contract
- Timothy Viscioni, After School Credit Recovery Teacher, \$42.29/day
- Tracy Highley, After School Credit Recovery Teacher, \$42.29/day
- Rachel Bicknase, Full-time Substitute, pro-rated salary at BA Step 0, start date 1/4/2021
- Andrea Weaver, FMLA Leave Substitute, 10 days at sub rate then move to BA Step 0, dates beginning 1/4/2021 - 3/12/21

** A motion was made by Mr. LaRoche, second by Mr. Jared to approve the personnel recommendations as presented.

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

Aye: Yanik, Hill, LaRoche, Fleming, Jared, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: Michniewicz

Motion – **Passed**

Principal's Report

Mr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on End of Semester Information, Credit Recovery Options, Feeder School Articulations and Eighth Grade Placements, Foreign Language Overseas Trip Planning, Eighth Grade Enrollment Night Preparations, and Activity Update. In addition to his update Mr. Schmidt informed the Board that the District will begin using the "NG" designation rather than the grade of "F" on transcripts. Students will still be required to redo the class if it is a graduation requirement.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

COVID-19 Expenditures/Revenues To-Date

Mrs. Reich provided an update on the costs incurred as a District to-date and the funding received specific to COVID relief and answered questions from the Board.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Sefcik reported that three of our four feeder schools are in alignment with a similar return to school as we go back to a blended format.

Mrs. Reich said that there has been a change to the legal counsel with regard to the tax appeal filed by Timber Oaks. Franczek, P.C. law firm will represent the District.

CLOSED SESSION

No Closed Session was held.

ADJOURN

** At 8:23 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Jared to adjourn the meeting.

Steve Hill, President

Paul LaRoche, Secretary Pro Tem