

# **GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124**

## **MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

### **DECEMBER 21, 2023**

#### ***PUBLIC HEARING – Tax Levy***

A public hearing was convened at 6:45 p.m. The following Board members were in attendance by roll call, Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Yanik. Mrs. Reich provided a presentation on the 2023 Tax Levy. Public comment was solicited and none was given.

\*\* At 6:45 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mr. Jared to open the public hearing.

\*\* At 6:54 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to close 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, December 21, 2023 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. Steve Hill, President  
Mrs. Kathy Kusiak, Vice President  
Mr. John Jared, Secretary  
Mrs. Shelly Booth, Member  
Mr. Ed Lescher, Member  
Mr. Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent:

Mrs. Ivy Fleming, Member

Administration present:

Dr. Christine A. Sefcik, Superintendent  
Mrs. Beth Reich, Business Manager  
Dr. Jeremy Schmidt, Principal  
Mr. Ryan Geist, Assistant Principal  
Dr. Stacie Noisey, Dir. of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessments  
Mr. Blair Schoell, Divisional Administrator  
Mr. Thomas Ross, Athletic Director

Student Representative: Ms. Julia Podgorski

#### ***AUDIENCE***

Lily Wu, Kevin Art, Elaine Art, Rylan Art

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes of regular meeting held November 9, 2023

Minutes of closed meeting held November 9, 2023

December Bills Payable

November Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from June 16, 2022

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, 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, Lescher, Yanik, Hill

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

## ***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items***

### Student Recognition

Dr. Sefcik introduced Rylan Art, in the presence of his parents, as the December Student of the Month. She read Rylan's profile of accomplishments, which included academic achievements, extracurricular activities, service to the community, what he enjoys in his spare time, and future plans. Dr. Sefcik offered Rylan the opportunity to speak to the Board and he said it was nice to know the effort he put in during his time here was acknowledged and he thanked the Board for the honor. The Board and audience applauded Rylan and Dr. Sefcik presented him with a certificate to commemorate being chosen as the December Student of the Month.

### New Course Proposals for 2025/26

Dr. Sefcik asked Mr. Schoell, Divisional Administrator to provide the Board with information on, the new dual credit course proposal for consideration for the 2025/26 school year, *The Exceptional Child*. He highlighted what this course would mean to the students interested and committed to going into a teaching program in college.

### Fall Athletic Accomplishments

Dr. Sefcik introduced Mr. Tom Ross, Athletic Director, and asked him to share highlights from our fall athletic programs. He provided details on fall participation, fall sports, levels and participation, grade point average by sport, top ten fall GPAs, academic accolades by sport, and fall athletic accomplishments.

### Feeder School Superintendent Articulation

Dr. Sefcik shared that feeder school superintendent articulation meetings are held on a regular basis. They share their calendars, district initiatives, shared service opportunities, and more. They recently shared summary information with each feeder district on last year's freshman class, including activities and athletic participation, attendance data, discipline data, fall survey results, MAP and SAT scores, student grades and GPA. No individual student information was shared, but the summary information may prove valuable on how successful and involved their students were in their freshman year.

### Safety Training

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that district and school administrators attended a training last month hosted by the Illinois Fire Service Institute. Also attending were two feeder schools, the Fox Lake PD, the Fox Lake FPD, and neighboring police and fire departments. They participated in a variety of safety scenarios and gained insight into how the Incident Command System structures for each

of our organizations would stand up in the event of an emergency. As a result of the training, Grant and feeder districts are planning to align our reunification plans this summer and coordinate a joint training with all districts. Once trained in a similar manner, we could assist one another with staffing resources in the event of a reunification.

#### AI in Education

Dr. Sefcik notified the Board that the administration is taking initial steps in addressing AI in our school community. A leadership team has been assembled and an initial meeting has been held to develop a vision, policies and procedures, and guidance on the use of AI. An ad hoc committee will be formed to accomplish this task and we hope to have a number of faculty and staff participate in the process. With the wide use of AI and knowing the benefits and risks, we look forward to outlining expectations and educating stakeholders on how to use this tool responsibly and productively.

#### Regional Office of Education Compliance Audit

Dr. Sefcik notified the Board that the district is scheduled for a Compliance Audit by the Regional Office of Education this year. They will be auditing areas of compliance, licensure, and professional development. There is an extensive amount of preparation and documentation, which we expect will be in order by the site visit dates of March 5 and 7, 2024.

#### Principal's Report

Mr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on Semester 1 Final Exams, Feeder School Articulations and Eighth Grade Placements, Baseline Concussion Testing, and Bridging Student Transitions to High School.

#### Student Representative's Report

Julia Podgorski provided her report which included information on Activities: Speech Team, Band, Choir, Medical Education for Determined Students (MEDS), National Art Honor Society, National Honor Society, Academic Team, and FBLA; Sports: Wrestling, Girls' Bowling, Cheer, Girls' Basketball, and Dance Team; and Events: Fall Play.

### ***PUBLIC COMMENT***

None

### ***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items***

#### New Course Proposal for 2025/26

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the dual credit course proposal for *The Exceptional Child* effective the 2025/26 school year.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Jared to approve the course proposal for *The Exceptional Child* to be offered beginning 2025/26 school year.

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

Aye: Jared, Booth, Lescher, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

#### School Board Policy Modification

Dr. Sefcik presented the following Board Policy modifications that were presented last month as a first reading and are updates recommended by the Illinois Association of School Boards and legal counsel:

Section 2 Board of Education

- 2:20 Powers and Duties of the Board of Education
- 2:120 Board Member Development
- 2:200 Types of Board of Education Meetings
- 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure

Section 4 Operational Services

- 4:10 Fiscal and Business Management
- 4:60 Purchases and Contracts
- 4:130 Free and Reduced-Price Food Services
- 4:160 Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds

Section 5 Personnel

- 5:210 Resignations
- 5:220 Substitute Teachers
- 5:250 Leaves of Absence
- 5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves

Section 6 Instruction

- 6:15 School Accountability
- 6:50 School Wellness
- 6:230 Library Media Program

Section 7 Students

- 7:60 Residence
- 7:160 Student Appearance
- 7:190 Student Behavior
- 7:270 Administering Medicine to Students
- 7:290 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention

Section 8 Community Relations

- 8:30 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the Board Policy modifications, as presented.

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

Aye: Booth, Lescher, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak, Jared

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

Overnight Trip Requests

Dr. Sefcik presented two overnight travel requests: The Math Team is requesting an overnight stay to travel for regional competition in DeKalb from February 23 – 24, 2024, with the majority of costs paid with activity funds. The Speech Team is requesting an overnight stay to travel for sectional competition at Rochelle High School from February 9 – 10, 2024, with the majority of cost pay with activity funds.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the overnight travel requests for the Math Team and the Speech Team, as presented.

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

Aye: Lescher, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Booth

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

### Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Employment of the following individuals:

- Richard Adamek, Bus Driver, \$25/hr., starting 12/7/2023
- Aerial Darby, Safety/Security, \$17/hr., starting 12/4/2023
- Marcy Wax, Long-term Sub, \$7,653.60, from 2/7/2024 - 4/4/2024
- Brooke Nagra, Spring Musical Choreographer, \$18/hr.
- Joshua Langhoff, Spring Musical Pianist, \$35/hr.

Accept the resignations from:

- Peggy Hege, Food Service, effective 11/30/2023
- Samantha Torres, Safety/Security, effective 12/12/2023
- Joseph Zarr, Bus Driver, effective 12/8/2023
- Lauren Becmer, Girls' Volleyball, Asst. coach, effective 10/20/2023
- Chris Carlson, Boys' Soccer coach, effective 11/17/2023
- Addison Hammock, JV2 Softball coach, effective 11/6/2023
- Amanda Jacobs, Fall Play & Spring Musical Co-Technical Director, effective at the end of the fall 2023 semester
- Madison Nourigat, Softball coach, effective 11/21/2023

Notification of FMLA request from Stephanie Ashmore, beginning January 8, 2024 through January 31, 2024

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, 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, Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Lescher

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

## ***BUSINESS AFFAIRS***

### Final 2023 Tax Levy

Mrs. Reich presented the tentative 2023 Certificate of Tax Levy along with the Resolution to Spread a Tax Levy for Year 2023, the Resolution to Levy Certain Special axes for Special Education District IMRF Purposes, and the Resolution for Levying for Working Cash Fund Purposes for the Year 2023. There has been no change to what was presented in October. The presentation for the tax levy hearing was included for review.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Kusiak to approve the 2023 Final Tax Levy, as presented.

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

Aye: Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Lescher, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

### Operational Funds Expenditures Report

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that per SBP 4:10 Fiscal and Business Management, the Chief School Business Official is required to present a written report that includes the annual average expenditures of the district's operational funds for the previous three fiscal years at or before the board meeting that the Board adopts its levy. Upon approval, this report will be posted on our website.

- \*\* A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the Operational Funds Expenditures Report, as presented.

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

Aye: Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Lescher, Yanik, Hill  
Nay: None  
Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

#### SchoolLinks Program

Mrs. Reich asked Mr. Geist to provide information regarding the SchoolLinks Program. It is a college and career readiness software platform that will educate students about potential careers, explore and apply to college, and match students with employment opportunities. He also noted that there are 47 area school districts throughout Lake and Cook counties using this platform and believe it is a proven tool. There is a one-time implementation fee of \$8,500 and for the first year, they will charge us for half the year for a cost of \$8,692.50 for a total year-one cost of \$17,192.50. Each year after there will be a 3% increase built in, so year two is \$17,906.55, and year three is \$18,435.51. She expects this program to replace several programs which will equalize the cost.

- \*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the 3-year contract with SchoolLinks Program, as presented.

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

Aye: Jared, Booth, Lescher, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak  
Nay: None  
Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

#### Final 2022-2023 Audit

Mrs. Reich told the Board that she presented the audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, last month. The auditor received authorization from the peer review who was assigned by the State Board of Education to release our audit and it is now final. There were no changes to what was presented last month and a copy has been furnished to each member at the meeting.

- \*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the final 2022/23 audit, as presented.

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

Aye: Booth, Lescher, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak, Jared  
Nay: None  
Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

#### 3-Year Bus Lease for 71-Passenger Yellow Buses – Central States

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that our 71-passenger buses are coming to the end of their 2-year lease with Midwest Transit Equipment and they are unable to provide new gasoline buses for a new lease. They recommended extending our current lease or going back to diesel buses, but we are unwilling to do that. She reached out to Central States Bus Sales, Inc. and they are able to provide (23) 2025 Blue Bird Gasoline 71-passenger buses and quoted a 3-year lease at a cost of \$28,225 per bus each year. The buses will be delivered by July, with a minimum of eight being delivered in June to accommodate summer school.

- \*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the 3-year bus lease with Central States Bus Sales, Inc. on (23) 2025 Blue-Bird gasoline 71-passenger busses, as presented.

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

Aye: Lescher, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Booth  
Nay: None

Absent: Fleming  
Motion – **Passed**

#### Coaching Recommendation

Mrs. Reich noted that as per the Agreement between the Board of Education and the Grant Council, a standing committee meets annually to discuss the number of coaches and sponsors assigned to athletics and co-curricular activities. This committee met on November 7 and November 8 to hear proposals from coaches and sponsors. We met again on December 5th to review data gathered, and to make a recommendation. The recommendation included approval for 2023-2024 of an additional Assistant Wrestling coach and increasing the .50 Assistant Dance Coach to a full 1.0 for the Winter Season. Also recommended, beginning in 2024-2025 adding an additional Assistant Football coach and increasing the .50 Assistant Dance Coach to a full 1.0 for both the Fall and the Winter Season. Finally, adding a level to the Badminton program, which will require the addition of an additional Assistant Badminton coach.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the coaching recommendations, as presented.

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

Aye: Yanik, Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Lescher

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that there was one Freedom of Information Act request received and fulfilled. She also heard from Nicole Kaminsky, the former Student Representative to the Board and reported that she is doing well at college, receiving all A's and hopes to join the GCHS teaching staff after 7 more semesters!

Mrs. Reich told the Board that the bid opening for the weight room took place on Wednesday, December 20, 2023. She noted that bids will be reviewed but came in approximately \$700,000 less than estimated. She hopes to bring them to the Board in January. Building permits have been filed with the Village of Fox Lake and the Regional Office of Education, and hopes for a March groundbreaking.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

\*\* At 7:57 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1); student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(9).

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

Aye: Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Lescher, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

\*\* At 9:13 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mrs. Booth to end closed session and return to open session.

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

Aye: Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Lescher, Yanik, Hill

Nay: None  
Absent: Fleming  
Motion – **Passed**

### ***ACTION CLOSED SESSION***

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the placement of student #2023-24/01 in ROE alternative program for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the 2023/24 school year.

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

Aye: Jared, Booth, Lescher, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak  
Nay: None  
Absent: Fleming  
Motion – **Passed**

### ***ADJOURN***

\*\* At 9:15 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Lescher to adjourn the meeting.

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Steve Hill, President

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John Jared, Secretary