

# **GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING FEBRUARY 18, 2021**

## ***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, February 18, 2021 and called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Library of Grant Community High School, 285 E. Grand Avenue, Fox Lake and via Zoom meeting 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  
◆ Ruth Michniewicz, Secretary  
Ivy Fleming, Member  
Kathy Kusiak, Member  
Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent:

John Jared, Member

Administration present:

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

◆ Attended remotely via Zoom

## ***AUDIENCE***

In person: Grace Watkin, Lori Lev, Michael Lev, Ethan Lev, Abby Lev, and Megan Lev

Remotely via Zoom: Joanne Hughes, Sharon Becker, Shelly Booth

## ***CONSENT AGENDA***

Minutes of regular meeting held January 21, 2021

Minutes of closed meeting held January 21, 2021

February Bills Payable

January Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from August 18, 2019

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

## ***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT***

### February Student of the Month

Dr. Sefcik introduced Grace Watkin as the February Student of the Month. She read Grace's profile of accomplishments, which included academic achievements, extracurricular activities, service to the community, her National Guard service, what she enjoys in her spare time, and future plans. Dr. Sefcik offered Grace the opportunity to speak to the Board and she said she was happy to be at the meeting and thanked the Board. The Board applauded Grace and Dr. Sefcik presented her with the certificate to commemorate being chosen as the February Student of the Month.

### Excellence in Education Award Winner Recognition

Dr. Sefcik recognized Lori Lev and her family in the audience, congratulated her as this quarter's recipient of the Excellence in Education Award, and asked Jeremy Schmidt to introduce her to the Board. He read the narrative from the peers that nominated her on the reasons why she deserves the honor. The Board applauded and thanked Mrs. Lev for her substantial contribution to the students and staff of Grant. Mrs. Lev said what a pleasure it is working at Grant and that she is grateful for the opportunities, supplies, and equipment that the Board and administration makes available here.

### Community Equity Committee

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board about the Community Equity Committee. They held their first meeting the evening of February 9<sup>th</sup> and it was facilitated by Jeremy Anderson, our District Equity Coordinator. The meeting was attended by staff, parents, and community members, and will continue to be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month. The committee is beginning with the development of a vision/mission statement.

### Blended Learning

Dr. Sefcik provided a handout that detailed her update. She noted that attendance was on track with around 25% of students in attendance on Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday. 116 or 6.7% of students have selected to be fully remote for the semester. She provided Student Academic Performance data which includes categories *Excelling*-Student earning all A's and B's, *On Track*-Student earning all C's or better, *At-Risk*-Students earning at least one D, and *Critical*-Student earning at least one F. Prior year data was provided for 3 years for seniors, 2 years for juniors, and 1 year for sophomores. Current intervention/academic supports were discussed. Academic plans were provided through the remainder of the school year, summer school preparation, and opening next school year. She explained risk mitigation efforts, vaccination status for staff members, and updated state and federal school guidance.

### Athletics and Activities

Dr. Sefcik happily reported that sports, clubs, and activities have resumed following the public health protocols under Phase 4. Activities and clubs are partly in-person and partially remote for practices and competitions. Sports schedules for 2020/21 have season crossover for practices and competitions for in-season and out-of-season sports. Multi-sport athletes will need attention to ensure no student exceeds the IHSA thresholds for weekly practice time.

### State Assessment

Dr. Sefcik, along with other superintendents, have been in discussions with state and federal representatives regarding the challenges of in-person testing that is scheduled to take place this spring. Any change would require a federal waiver and a group of 674 superintendents across Illinois have formally requested a waiver be considered. ISBE has acknowledged the challenges of in-person testing this spring. The Illinois State Superintendent, Carmen Ayala will advocate for the U.S. Department of Education to make waivers available for the spring assessments.

### Graduation Requirements

Dr. Sefcik reported that school administrators have also been in touch with State officials regarding graduation requirements for the Class of 2021. They are lobbying for two years of relief. Emergency modifications were approved at the State for the Class of 2020 due to the pandemic. She will continue to update the Board if any changes are recommended by the Illinois State Board of Education.

### Senior Recognition

Dr. Sefcik was excited to inform the Board of the efforts to recognize our Seniors and the continued plans. Some of the ideas underway and future proposals are care packages, Senior Art Competition to design senior apparel, Senior Portraits, Bulldog Blitz, Senior Spotlight, Postcards, Senior Choose Your Own Adventures, Graduate Yard Signs, End-of-Year Senior Parade, and graduation plans. With these recognition events, it is hoped that these students will feel valued and finish their tough senior year strong.

### Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Recommend the employment of the following individuals:

- Sinthya Dayment, Bus Driver-On-call Sub \$19.77/hr. starting 2/1/2021

Recommend the following coaching positions conditional upon the season running:

- Mike Schneider, Asst. Baseball Coach
- Garrett Olsen, Asst. Boys' Basketball Coach
- Drew Talbot, Asst. Boys' Basketball Coach
- Cory Dooley, Asst. Girls' Basketball Coach
- Andrea Weaver, Asst. Girls' Basketball Coach
- Oriana Williams, Asst. Cheer Coach
- Rachel Bicknase, Asst. Winter Competitive Cheer Coach

Notification of the following Family and Medical Leave forms:

- Garrett Olsen, Teacher, April 2, 2021 – March 15, 2021

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

### Principal's Report

Mr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on Student Registration, February 12<sup>th</sup> Institute Day, Summer School, and SAT Preparation Class.

## ***BUSINESS AFFAIRS***

### 2020/21 Amended Budget

Mrs. Reich said that the 2020/21 Amended Budget is almost complete. There will be some adjustments to grants and the supply and salary budget lines due to COVID-19. She will bring it to the March meeting to be placed on display and expects the hearing and approval to be brought to the Board in May.

#### 2021/22 Budget

Mrs. Reich reported that the budgeting process is underway. Staffing will be finalized mid-March and she believes a draft will be ready to bring to the April meeting for review.

#### Preliminary 2021 Financial Profile Designation

Mrs. Reich stated the Illinois State Board of Education has released the preliminary 2021 Financial Profile Designation for the District that is based on the 2019/20 Annual Financial Report Data. We received 3.65 out of 4.00, with a status of Financial Recognition.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

President Hill requested Dr. Sefcik incorporate synchronous learning on severe weather days. She will work on adding it to the severe weather plans.

Dr. Sefcik reported that the District received four Freedom of Information Act requests which were all fulfilled.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

\*\* At 7:51 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mr. LaRoche to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing semi-annual review of closed session minutes. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21); student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(9); and 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: Fleming, Kusiak, Yanik, Hill, Michniewicz, LaRoche

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

\*\* At 7:52 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mrs. Fleming to end closed session and return to open session.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

### **ACTION CLOSED SESSION**

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve opening the closed session meeting minutes from August 20, 2020 and November 19, 2020 as confidentiality no longer exists.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

***ADJOURN***

\*\* At 7:53 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mrs. Kusiak to adjourn the meeting.

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Steve Hill, President

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Ruth Michniewicz, Secretary