

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING JANUARY 16, 2020

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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, January 16, 2020 and called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Library of Grant Community High School, 285 E. Grand Avenue, Fox Lake. All those in attendance stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

On Roll Call, the following Members were found to be present:

Paul LaRoche, Vice President
Ruth Michniewicz, Secretary
Ivy Fleming, Member
John Jared, Member
Kathy Kusiak, Member
Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent:

Steve Hill, President

Administration present:

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

Vice President, Paul LaRoche served as President Pro Tem due to the absence of President, Steve Hill

AUDIENCE

Casey Duval, Tom Furlan, Nathan Miller, Mike Werner, Carrie Stump, Debbie Knudsen, Neil Knudsen, Tom Knudsen

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of special meeting held December 11, 2019

Minutes of closed meeting held December 11, 2019

Minutes of regular meeting held December 19, 2019

Minutes of closed meeting held December 19, 2019

January Bills Payable

December Treasurer's Report

Quarterly list of authorized depositories, investment managers, dealers, and brokers

** A motion was made by Mrs. Michniewicz, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Student Recognition

Dr. Sefcik invited Neil Knudsen, in the presence of his parents, Tom and Debbie, to join her to be introduced to the Board. She detailed Neil's academic achievements such as his induction into the National Honor Society during his sophomore year, taking 10 AP classes in 3 years, scoring 1420 on his SAT and 32 on his ACT, and a remarkable 5.04 GPA. His extracurricular activities: four years with the basketball program, Math Team with a state appearance, Student Council serving as Secretary, Junior and Senior Class Councils, Principal's Advisory Council, set crew, and the Student Athletic and Activities Leadership Team. Neil earned the NHS Service Award, was selected for the 2019 NLCC Leadership Conference, he participated in the 2019 Illinois Premier Boys State, and he received the "Save the Day" award filling in for an actor a mere 4 days before the opening of *Sound of Music*. His volunteerism includes Veterans Ruck March, community garden, Rotary Christmas Party, and the Big Hollow Reading Festival. He is also a Super-Fan Leader, Big Dawg Mentor, and Math Lab tutor. He has worked at Spirit Halloween, and Six Flags Great America. He coaches the 4th grade Grant Feeder Boys Basketball Team and in his spare time, he enjoys political banter, musical theatre, and drinking coffee! His future plans include pursuing a STEM degree accompanied by an Air Force ROTC program. He is considering Northwestern, UW-Madison, Purdue, and DePaul University among others. His career aspirations involve law and political office. Dr. Sefcik presented Neil with a certificate to commemorate being chosen as the January Student of the Month. The Board and audience applauded and congratulated him.

Excellence in Education Award Winner Recognition

Dr. Sefcik asked Principal Schmidt to introduce Mike Werner, the Excellence in Education Award winner for the 2nd quarter. Mr. Schmidt detailed the reasons Mr. Werner was chosen by his peers. These attributes include his professionalism, his focus on increasing the academic level of every student, both the challenging and the gifted math students. He finds a way to reach them all. He is considered a department leader, bringing innovative ideas to best approach the curriculum. He has been a mentor, officially and unofficially, to every new teacher hired in the math department. His dedication is to serve the students and doesn't seek attention for himself. Everything he does is to make an impact on his students' lives. He is the consummate professional. The Board and audience applauded Mike and thanked him for his contribution to the Grant community.

Co-Curricular Accomplishments – Semester One Update

Dr. Sefcik asked Casey Duval, Assistant Director of Activities and Athletics, to provide some information of the first semester co-curricular accomplishments. Mr. Duval thanked Cheryl Trevithick for compiling the student participation data, including: 38 active clubs in the Fall of 2019, no new clubs, and 3 inactive clubs. 69.5% of the student body attended at least 1 meeting and 63.4% were considered active participants, attending at least 50% of the meetings. He provided a comparison from Fall 2018 to Fall 2019, participation is slightly down as is enrollment slightly down. Outstanding activity students: Rachel Manlubatan-11 activities, Liam Cacioppo-10 activities, and Lionel Carapia-9 activities.

Transitions Program

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of a district provided transitions program effective beginning with the 2020/21 school year. This program would provide students with disabilities continued support after completion of their four years of high school. The District will provide instruction and guided practice in the areas of work-based learning, independent living, and community access to further their independence as determined by the student's IEP team. The recommendation is based on the desire to provide these educational services locally and provide students the benefit of work-based learning experiences in their own community. Based on current enrollment, the

take-back of this program will result in a net savings to the district of approximately \$139,000. It is a combination of in-school instruction and workplace experience.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Michniewicz, second by Mrs. Kusiak to approve offering the Transition Program in-district.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

Student Residency Procedures

Dr. Sefcik is recommending a 12-month subscription with CLEAR from Thomson Reuters, for both the residency batch process and unlimited searching throughout the school year at a combined cost of \$523 per month. This will ensure that we are enrolling and educating only those students who reside in-district. The site license will allow us to run residency reports once per year for all students prior to the start of a school year at a monthly cost of \$234 and allow for unlimited searching throughout the school year as needed at a monthly cost of \$289. There are 86 districts in Illinois using these subscription services and will provide us with a more streamlined residency check procedure that is not burdensome for parents and guardians.

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Jared to approve the 1-year subscription for both subscription services by CLEAR at a cost of \$523 per month.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

Illinois Science Assessment

Dr. Sefcik reported that Illinois school districts are required to administer a science assessment to students in grades 5, 8, and 11. The test is a series of 3 online assessments, each taking approximately 50-55 minutes to complete. In order to minimize impact to both testing and non-testing students, juniors will test in groups of 100-120 in both the morning and afternoon on regular school days. We will complete the majority of testing on March 3 and 4, with testing for Tech Campus students and those needing accommodations on March 2 and 5. Participation is required and we must achieve 95% participation of eligible students.

Overnight Travel

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the Math Team request for overnight travel to attend a regional competition from February 21 to 22, 2020 in Dekalb, Illinois. The majority of costs will be paid by those participating and from activity funds. The district will cover transportation and the cost of an additional chaperone.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Michniewicz, second by Mr. Jared to approve the overnight travel for the Math Team as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

Spring Coaching Recommendations

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the Spring Coaching Recommendations. There are two assistant boys' volleyball coach openings yet to be filled.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Jared to approve the Spring coaching recommendations as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Recommend the employment of the following individuals:

- Ursula Studzinska, Bus Driver, \$21.28/hr., starting 1/13/2020
- Emma Figge, Musical Choreographer, \$15/hr., starting 1/6/2020
- Hannah Baker, Red Zone Supervisor, \$14.88/hr, starting 1/21/2020

Recommend accepting the resignations from the following:

- Robert Koval, Assistant Varsity Football Coach, effective immediately
- Mark Barczak, Assistant Football Coach, effective immediately
- Joshua Christian, Assistant Football Coach, effective 11/21/2019
- Garrett Olsen, Assistant Football Coach, effective immediately

** A motion was made by Mrs. Michniewicz, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the personnel recommendations as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

Principal's Report

Mr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on the SAT Prep Class, Illinois Youth Survey, Eighth Grade Enrollment Night, February Institute Day, Summer Exploration Classes, and Coffee Cart.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Cybersecurity Threat Assessment

Mrs. Reich reported there has been a rise of cybersecurity attacks on schools. As a pre-emptive action, she is recommending that the district contract with an independent outside company to complete a threat assessment. She and Tom Furlan, Director of Technology, reached out to 4 companies and received 3 responses who provided different options. They recommend CDW Government, LLC to complete their Rapid Security Assessment at a cost of \$18,900.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mrs. Fleming to authorize the Rapid Security Assessment conducted by CDW Government, LLC at a cost of \$18,900.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

2020/21 71-Passenger Gasoline Bus Lease

Mrs. Reich stated that our current bus leasing company, Midwest Transit Equipment, lease costs have increased. She began searching for bus lease options to keep costs down including moving to a two-year lease and looking at other bus company options. After comparing options, she recommends entering into a two-year lease with Central States Bus Sales, Inc. for (23) 2021 Blue-Bird 71-passenger buses at a cost of \$15,696 each.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Michniewicz, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the 2-year lease for (23) 71-passenger gasoline buses from Central States Bus Sales, Inc. as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

2020 Micro-Bird Gasoline 24-Passenger Lift, Three-year Bus Lease

Mrs. Reich added that we are at the end of our 3-year lease with Midwest Transit Equipment for a bus with a wheelchair lift. She received quotes from both Midwest and Central States Bus Sales. She recommended leasing a 2020 Micro-Bird Gasoline 24-passenger lift bus for 3 years from Central States Bus Sales, Inc.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Michniewicz, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the 3-year lease with Central States Bus Sales, Inc. for a 24-passenger gasoline bus with lift.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

Preliminary 2020 Financial Profile Designation

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that the Illinois State Board of Education has released the preliminary 2020 Financial Profile Designation for the District based on the 2018-19 Annual Financial Report Data. We received a 3.65 out of 4.00, earning a status of Financial Recognition.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Sefcik said the District received and fulfilled a FOIA from LocalLabs. The IASB Spring Dinner will be held on March 11, 2020 and registration is available for interested members. Portrait of a Graduate is progressing and the first meeting will be held on Monday, February 4, and interested members can respond to her or her assistant via email.

CLOSED SESSION

** At 7:53 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Fleming to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(9); 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, Kusiak, Yanik, Michniewicz, LaRoche, Fleming

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

- ** At 8:01 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. LaRoche, second by Mr. Yanik to end closed session and return to open session.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

ACTION ITEMS FROM CLOSED SESSION

- ** A motion was made by Mr. LaRoche, second by Mr. Jared to authorize student #2019-20/05 to be placed in ROE Safe School for the remainder of the 2019/20 school year. Upon successful completion of ROE Safe School, the student will be eligible to return to Grant Community High School in the Fall of 2020.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

ADJOURN

- ** At 8:03 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. LaRoche, second by Mr. Jared to adjourn the meeting.

Paul LaRoche, President Pro Tem

Ruth Michniewicz, Secretary