

# **GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124**

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

### **JUNE 15, 2023**

#### ***PUBLIC HEARING – Amended 2022/23 Budget***

A public hearing was convened at 6:45 p.m. The following Board members were in attendance by roll call, Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Yanik. Absent: Fleming, Lescher. Public comment was solicited and none was given.

\*\* At 6:55 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mr. Jared to adjourn 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, June 15, 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:

Steve Hill, President  
Kathy Kusiak, Vice President  
John Jared, Secretary  
Shelly Booth, Member  
Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent:

Ivy Fleming, Member  
Ed Lescher, Member

Administration present:

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

Student Representative: Nicole Kaminski

#### ***AUDIENCE***

Beth Ann Miller, Dean Miller, Ed & Carol Mampe, Kevin Geist, Wyatt Atlee, Julia Podgorski

#### ***CONSENT AGENDA***

Minutes of regular meeting held May 18, 2023

Minutes of closed meeting held May 18, 2023

June Bills Payable

May Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from December 16, 2021

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

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

Aye: Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Yanik, Hill

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

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

### Tech Campus Student of the Year

Dr. Sefcik introduced Wyatt Atlee, the 2023 Tech Campus Student of the Year. He was enrolled in their Law Enforcement/CSI Program. Additionally, he is a community service officer with the Wonder Lake Police Department, member of the Tech Campus Criminal Justice Business and Industry Advisory Team, member of National Technical Honor Society, Tech Campus Student Ambassador, Lake County Sheriff’s Office Explorer Sgt., NICASSA Teen Court Juror, GCHS Athletic Training Aide, Canine Club, and Student Aide. Wyatt graduated in May and plans to attend CLC in the fall to pursue a degree in criminal justice. Wyatt addressed the Board to say that the Technology Campus option for students is phenomenal. Students want to be there and are excited to participate in their chosen field. He believes attending Tech Campus first thing in the morning boosted his performance in his other GCHS classes.

### Faculty Recognition

Dr. Sefcik asked Dr. Schmidt to introduce Beth Miller, Science Teacher, as the Outstanding Educator of the Year award winner, in the presence of her husband, Dean, and her parents Carol and Ed. He noted the numerous ways that Beth supports the needs of students and her colleagues. Beth will be able to attend an all-expense paid trip to a state or national conference or convention of her choice in the field of education and/or educational materials and/or services, not to exceed \$2,000. Beth told the Board that she is a 1988 graduate of Grant and “once a Bulldog, always a Bulldog”! She also hopes that today’s students feel the community and the connection to GCHS the way she has. The Board and audience applauded Beth Miller’s selection as Outstanding Educator of the Year.

### Co-Curricular Update – 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

Dr. Sefcik invited Kevin Geist, Assistant Director of Activities and Athletics to present the update on student activities participation for the second semester.

### Performing Arts Fall Play / Spring Musical Selections

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that the Theater Department has chosen their productions for the Fall Play and the Spring Musical. The Fall Play will be *Clue* and the Spring Musical will be *Annie*.

### School Board Policy Modifications – First Reading

Dr. Sefcik presented four School Board Policies for a first reading tonight and will be provided for a second reading and potential action at the July meeting.

### Section 400 – Operational Services

4:45 Insufficient Fund Checks and Debt Recovery

4:100 Operational Services

### Section 500 – Personnel

5:230 Professional Personnel

### Section 700 – Students

7:305 Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries

Principal's Report

Dr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on Summer School, Freshman Placements, and Summer Work.

Student Representative's Report

Nicole Kaminski read a letter to the Board to thank them for the opportunity to serve as the first Student Representative to the Board of Education. She indicated that she would keep in touch and let them know of her progress at Florida Atlantic University and that she hopes when she is done with her teaching degree, it would be great to be introduced as a new faculty member at GCHS. Dr. Sefcik welcomed Julia Podgorski as the 2023/24 Student Representative.

***PUBLIC COMMENT***

No public comment was given

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

SuperEval Evaluation Platform

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that SuperEval is an IASB sponsored online platform used to conduct educational leadership evaluations. The platform is customizable and would be initially intended for evaluation and performance goals for the superintendent, business manager, and principal. The cost for the 2023/24 school year would be \$2,735, and if renewed, with an annual recurring fee of \$2,340. SuperEval will be evaluated during the initial year to determine if it would be valuable to expand to other administrators.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Booth to approve SuperEval Evaluation Platform for 2023/24 at a cost of \$2,735.

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

Aye: Jared, Booth, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

Branching Minds

Dr. Sefcik recommended the MTSS platform Branching Minds that was endorsed by Leslie Gillengerten, MTSS and Inclusion Coordinator, with involvement from faculty and staff. The platform will create personalized intervention plans, provide powerful collaboration tools to support student needs, and easy-to-understand reporting tools. If approved, we will transition to Branching Minds for the 2023/24 school year and not renew with Panorama.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the purchase of Branching Minds at a cost of \$22,000 for the 2023/24 school year.

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

Aye: Booth, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak, Jared

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Employment of the following individuals:

- Mallory Gizowski, Athletic Trainer, \$30.00/hr., starting 6/5/2023
- Carmen Terselic, EL/Bilingual Teacher, MA+45 Step 11, 2023/24
- Jagoda Szostakiewicz, English Teacher, MA Step 2, 2023/24
- Austin Caraher, Permanent Substitute, \$230/day, 2023/24

Accept the resignation letters from:

- Tom Duffy, Math Teacher, effective end of the 2022/23 school year
- Kenny Pelaez, Special Education Teacher, effective 6/7/2023

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

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

Aye: Yanik, Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Booth

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

***BUSINESS AFFAIRS***

2022/23 Amended Final Budget

Mrs. Reich reported that the 2022/2023 budget has been amended to include additional grants and revenue received by the district. The budget has also been amended to include expenses that occurred this year which were not included in the original budget, including increases in special education transportation costs, tuition for students in therapeutic day schools, and additional expenses related to school operations. Per statute, the amended 2022/2023 budget has been on display for 30 days.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the 2022/23 Amended Final Budget, as presented.

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

Aye: Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

Discussion and Approval of Resolution Abating the Working Cash Fund of Grant Community High School District 124, Lake County, Illinois

Mrs. Reich recommended approval of the Resolution Abating the Working Cash Fund of Grant Community High School District 124, Lake County, Illinois, as part of the amended 2022/23 final budget to transfer \$676,974 from the Working Cash Fund to the Transportation Fund to cover the deficit for 2022/23.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Kusiak to approve the Resolution Abating the Working Cash Fund of Grant Community High School District 124, Lake County, Illinois, as presented.

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

Aye: Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Yanik, Hill

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

CLIC – Renewal of Workers’ Compensation and Liability Insurance

Mrs. Reich communicated to the Board that we received our renewal for workers’ compensation as well as the liability insurance through the Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative (CLIC). Worker’s Compensation shows an increase of 9.9%. While our experience modification factor dropped, our payrolls went up, so the premiums also increase. The liability/property package is increasing .1%, tied to increases in the loss funds for the insurance package and school board legal liability. She also recommended purchase of Excess Cyber Liability.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Jared to approve the renewal for workers’ compensation as well as the liability insurance through the Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative (CLIC) and purchase Excess Cyber Liability.

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

Aye: Jared, Booth, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

ALEKS Math Software Program

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that next year, GCHS will have two new Tier 3 math intervention sections. ALEKS math will be utilized as the intensive intervention for these two classes. ALEKS is a research based, online learning program that is rooted in 20 years of research and analytics. It is individualized and provides the support required for every student to achieve mastery. She recommended approval of the ALEKS Math Software Program at a cost of \$2,895.40.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the purchase of ALEKS Math Software Program at a cost of \$2,895.40, as presented.

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

Aye: Booth, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak, Jared

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

Brainfuse HelpNow On-Demand Tutoring

Mrs. Reich stated we would like to offer on-demand tutoring next year that students will be able to access anywhere with internet access. Students connect instantly with a live, online tutor from any desktop or mobile device for help with homework assignments and test preparation based on recommendations from the RED Teams. The cost per hour is \$33, and she recommended purchasing 100 hours of Brainfuse HelpNow On-Demand Tutoring to begin with for a cost of \$3,300.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the purchase of 100 hours of Brainfuse HelpNow On-Demand Tutoring at a cost of \$3,300, as presented.

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

Aye: Yanik, Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Booth

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

Medical Rate Renewal

Mrs. Reich reported rates held steady except for a slight increase due to the stop loss policy increasing premiums. This year, we have seen a rise in claims, but our reserves have again held steady due to increased lives on the plan. Lakes Region Benefit Cooperative met with us, and we have over 90 days of reserves. There is a slight increase in monthly premiums tied to fixed fees increasing, which is tied primarily to our stop loss policy renewal. She recommended a slight rate increase this year.

The recommended monthly rates for 2023-2024 are shown below:

<u>Plan B</u>	<u>Current 22/23</u>	<u>Proposed 23/24</u>
Employee	\$ 767.75	\$ 774.51
Employee+Child	\$2,011.19	\$2,017.95
Employee+Spouse	\$2,175.35	\$2,182.11
Family	\$2,552.33	\$2,559.09

<u>Plan C</u>	<u>Current 22/23</u>	<u>Proposed 23/24</u>
Employee	\$ 694.15	\$ 701.02
Employee+Child	\$1,820.00	\$1,826.87
Employee+Spouse	\$1,966.51	\$1,973.38
Family	\$2,111.55	\$2,118.42

<u>High Deductible Plan</u>	<u>Current 22/23</u>	<u>Proposed 23/24</u>
Employee	\$ 419.73	\$ 425.60
Employee+Child	\$1,096.30	\$1,102.17
Employee+Spouse	\$1,184.34	\$1,190.21
Family	\$1,271.51	\$1,277.38

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mr. Jared to approve the 2023/24 proposed medical rates, as presented.

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

Aye: Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

#### Tentative 2023/24 Budget

Mrs. Reich recommended placing the tentative 2023/24 budget on display for the statutory 30 days. She will bring it to the July Board meeting for hearing and approval.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Kusiak to approve placing the 2023/24 tentative budget on public display, as presented.

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

Aye: Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Yanik, Hill

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

#### EmbraceIEP Contract

Mrs. Reich notified the Board that we utilize the Skyward Special Education module for IEP and 504 plans. The Special Education Department is recommending EmbraceIEP as the new IEP and 504 plan software. Big Hollow Middle School, Stanton Middle School and Gavin Middle School all use this software. Our implementation of it will make the transfer of files for incoming freshmen seamless. The total cost in year one is \$8,599.00 which includes implementation costs. The annual cost per year after year one will be \$5,099.00.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Kusiak to approve the purchase of EmbraceIEP at a first-year cost of \$8,599.00 and annually thereafter of \$5,099.00, as presented.

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

Aye: Jared, Booth, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Dr. Sefcik reported that one Freedom of Information Act request was received and fulfilled.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

- \*\* At 8:01 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Booth, 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); collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2).

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

Aye: Booth, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak, Jared

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

- \*\* At 8:46 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Kusiak to end closed session and return to open session.

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

Aye: Yanik, Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Booth

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

## **ACTION CLOSED SESSION**

- \*\* A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr Yanik to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement changes for 2023/24+.

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

Aye: Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

- \*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mr Yanik to approve the non-certified salary increases.

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

Aye: Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Yanik, Hill

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

- \*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the Business Office position restructure.

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

Aye: Jared, Booth, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

- \*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Kusiak to approve the administrative salary increases.

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

Aye: Booth, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak, Jared

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

## ***ADJOURN***

- \*\* At 8:50 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mr. Yanik to adjourn the meeting.

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Steve Hill, President

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John Jared, Secretary