

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MAY 20, 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, May 20, 2021 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:

Kathy Kusiak, Vice President
John Jared, Secretary
Shelly Booth, Member
Ivy Fleming, Member
Ed Lescher, 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

Mrs. Kusiak served as President Pro Tem in the absence of President, Steve Hill

AUDIENCE

Audrey Sampson, Tim & Gretchen Sampson, Jeremy Anderson, Stacy Collins, Katherine Sagritalo

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of special meeting held April 29, 2021

Minutes of regular meeting held April 29, 2021

May Bills Payable

April Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from November 14, 2019

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Student of the Month

Dr. Sefcik introduced Audrey Sampson, in the presence of her parents, Tim and Gretchen Sampson, as the May Student of the Month. She read Audrey's profile of accomplishments, which included academic achievements, extracurricular activities, service to the community, what she enjoys in her spare time, and future plans. Dr. Sefcik offered Audrey the opportunity to speak to the Board and she thanked the Board for the honor. The Board and audience applauded Audrey and Dr. Sefcik presented her with a certificate to commemorate being chosen as the May Student of the Month.

Excellence in Education Award – 4th Quarter

Dr. Sefcik welcomed Stacy Collins 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 Stacy for her substantial contribution to the students and staff of Grant. Ms. Collins said how surprised and pleased she was when Mr. Schmidt came to her classroom to tell her that she was given this honor.

Equity

Dr. Sefcik introduced Jeremy Anderson, Dean of Students and Equity Lead, who provided a brief description of a proposed *Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Statement* the Equity Committee has developed. Committee member, Katherine Sagritalo, provided an update to the Board on book studies completed this school year and shared some things they are working on, including a community survey, where the proposed policy should appear in printed and digital form so the community is aware, and train peers through professional development. Mr. Anderson said they are looking at policies through the Equity lens and setting actionable goals. Mrs. Kusiak asked Mr. Anderson to consider adding language to the *Statement* to include students who need specialized education for learning or physical disabilities. Mr. Anderson thanked her and welcomed the suggestion. A final *Statement* will be shared with the Board in the very near future.

Equity Personnel

Dr. Sefcik provided the Board with the job description of the Equity Lead and a proposed personnel structure to add three stipend positions for equity facilitators to support equity efforts in the school and community. Mr. Anderson has spent approximately 131 hours this school year in leading the staff book studies and staff presentations, Community Equity Committee and Student Voices United meetings, and planning for 2021/22 professional development. Mr. Anderson has been leading discussions with feeder districts to potentially partner on Deep Equity training for students and staff beginning in 21/22. To continue to move the process forward, which will require time and personnel, she recommended the proposed personnel of Mr. Anderson as Equity Director and three equity facilitators at the compensation presented.

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the proposed equity personnel structure as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

Future Business Leaders of America National Competition

Dr. Sefcik was happy to report that several Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) students have qualified for national competition. Seven students claimed state championships and automatically qualified for nationals and six others earned their spot to compete at nationals. She noted that when students qualify for national competitions, the District has contributed half of the student costs to attend. No travel will be required this school year so the estimated Board paid costs for the competition will be \$422.50.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the FBLA National Competition cost of \$422.50.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

Summer Curriculum Work

Dr. Sefcik reported that certified staff members have applied to work a designated number of hours, as an individual or as a member of a Professional Learning Team for curriculum improvement aligned with District goals. The focus this summer will be new courses, gap work related to the pandemic, and incorporating evidence-based grading practices. Staff are compensated at the summer curriculum rate of \$30.23 per hour.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the summer curriculum work by staff at a rate of \$30.23 per hour as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

2021/22 School Year Family Learning Preferences

Dr. Sefcik reported that information went home to families regarding learning preferences. Since sending to families, the Illinois State Board of Education now directs districts to begin planning for fully in-person learning for all student attendance days. Remote learning options will only be available for students who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine and are under a quarantine order by a local health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Assessment Plan 2021/22

Dr. Sefcik provided the assessment plans for next school year since testing has not taken place as typically scheduled during the pandemic. There are advantages to providing both a fall and spring administration, identifying areas for growth and having time to work with students on those areas, and practice opportunities for the college entrance exams. The implementation dates are as follows:

October 13, 2021

Grade 9 – PSAT 8/9

Grade 10 – PSAT/NMSQT

Grade 11 – PSAT/NMSQT

April (ISBE required)

Grade 9 – PSAT 8/9

Grade 10 – PSAT 10

Grade 11 - SAT

The cost to the District for the fall administration is approximately \$15,000.

Community Youth Network Counseling Support

Dr. Sefcik recommended entering into a one-year agreement with the Community Youth Network (CYN) Counseling Center, a Lake County nonprofit community counselling agency. They bring individual and group counseling services directly into schools and are currently partnered with eleven school districts in Lake County. They will provide a social worker to be on campus one day per week to run social-emotional groups, provide additional support for struggling students and students in crisis and assist with student reengagement efforts.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the one-year agreement for CYN to provide one day of counseling services per week at a cost of \$13,000. Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

Student Vaccination Clinic

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that the District is partnering with our feeder districts and Passport Health to offer a local vaccination clinic for students ages 12+. Dates for the event will be June 3rd for the first shot and June 24th for the second. Students younger than 18 must be accompanied by a parent. There is no cost to the students or school districts. Our goal is to provide a local opportunity for our students to receive the vaccine knowing that fully vaccinated students do not need to quarantine when in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual.

Lake County Health Department Classroom Quarantine Pilot Project

Dr. Sefcik reported that our District was to be a participant in the Lake County Health Department Quarantine Pilot Program but it has been delayed as details are worked out. Our contact tracing team is in place for summer when the program becomes available.

Honors Night

Dr. Sefcik announced that Honors Night took place in person in the fieldhouse on May 5th where 43 students were recognized. Through generous donations we were able to distribute \$26,750 in scholarships that evening.

Co-Curricular Sponsors 2021/22

Dr. Sefcik recommended the co-curricular sponsors for 2021/22.

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the co-curricular sponsors for 2021/22 as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations/notifications:

Recommend the employment of the following individuals:

- Nick Pelaez, Full-time Special Education Teacher, MA Step 0, 2021/22
- Andrea Kosmicki, Full-time Special Education Teacher, MA Step 10, 2021/22
- Janet Contreras, 12-month Administrative Assistant for Student Services, \$40,500, starting 7/1/2021.
- Cassi Reid, Teacher Aide, \$16.17/hr. starting 8/9/2021

Recommend approval of the summer school teachers as presented, conditional upon adequate student enrollment and summer school courses taking place.

Recommend accepting the resignation letter from the following:

- Drew Talbot, Freshmen Boys' Basketball Assistant Coach, immediately

Notification of FMLA request from Stephen Liddle, September 22, 2021 – January 5, 2022

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

Principal's Report

Mr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on End of Semester Academic Update: Bridge Week, Summer School, Operations: End of Year Material Return, Senior Activities, and Seal of Biliteracy.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

2020/21 Amended Budget

Mrs. Reich provided the 2020/21 amended budget that has been on display for the statutory 30 days. She recommended approval of the 2020/21 amended budget.

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mr., Yanik to approve the 2020/21 Amended Budget as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

2021/22 Budget

Mrs. Reich released the tentative 2021/22 budget. She is adjusting to the changes in the property taxes and state funding. There are a few unknowns tied to property/casualty and liability insurance that will be updated when final numbers are available. Per statute, the tentative budget must be on public display for 30 days. She will bring it to the July Board meeting for hearing and approval.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Booth to place the 2021/22 tentative budget on public display for 30 days.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

Medical Rate Renewal

Mrs. Reich presented the monthly medical rates for 2021/22 as shown:

<u>Plan B</u>	<u>Current 20/21</u>	<u>Proposed 21/22</u>
Employee	\$ 749.44	\$ 763.07
Employee+Child	\$1,992.88	\$2,006.51
Employee+Spouse	\$2,157.04	\$2,170.67
Family	\$2,534.02	\$2,547.65

<u>Plan C</u>	<u>Current 20/21</u>	<u>Proposed 21/22</u>
Employee	\$ 675.84	\$ 689.47
Employee+Child	\$1,801.69	\$1,815.32
Employee+Spouse	\$1,948.20	\$1,961.83
Family	\$2,093.24	\$2,106.87

<u>High Deductible Plan</u>	<u>Current 20/21</u>	<u>Proposed 21/22</u>
Employee	\$ 406.13	\$ 419.76
Employee+Child	\$1,082.67	\$1,096.30
Employee+Spouse	\$1,170.71	\$1,184.34
Family	\$1,257.88	\$1,271.51

The slight increase in monthly premiums is tied to fixed fees increasing, which is tied primarily to our stop loss policy renewal.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the Medical Rate renewal as presented.

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

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

Motion – **Passed**

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Sefcik shared a graduation plan layout for both indoor and outdoor ceremonies, in case of inclement weather.

Mrs. Reich provided a field turf update.

Dr. Sefcik reported that there is discussion for a potential change for the first few days of next year. She asked Mr. Schmidt to provide a bit more information. Mr. Schmidt said the change is being done in an effort to create a culture of what it is to be a Bulldog and to Keep It RED. We think it would build connectivity among students to run an alternate schedule for the first few days of next year, such as a grade-a-day schedule to re-orient students, many of whom have not had much time in the building, if at all. This will be a fun way to reacquaint them with Grant.

CLOSED SESSION

** At 8:35 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Jared 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: Lescher, Yanik, Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Fleming
Nay: None
Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

- ** At 8:50 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Lescher, 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: Lescher, Yanik, Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Fleming
Nay: None
Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Yanik to authorize the termination of Teacher Aide, Emma Macniak, effective immediately.

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

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

Motion – **Passed**

- ** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the additional 2020/21 compensation for Equity Leader, Jeremy Anderson, in the amount of \$1,240.

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

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

Motion – **Passed**

ADJOURN

- ** At 8:52 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Fleming to adjourn the meeting.

Kathy Kusiak, President Pro Tem

John Jared, Secretary