

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NOVEMBER 14, 2019

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, November 14, 2019 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:

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

Members absent:

Administration present:

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

AUDIENCE

Jeremy Anderson and family

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held October 17, 2019

Minutes of closed meeting held October 17, 2019

November Bills Payable

October Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from May 17, 2018

** A motion was made by Mr. LaRoche, second by Mrs. Michniewicz 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, Hill

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Student Recognition

Dr. Sefcik said that Luke Bedrosian had an athletic conflict and if it was over early enough, he would attend, otherwise he will be invited again for the December Board meeting.

Faculty Recognition

Dr. Sefcik asked Mr. Schmidt to introduce the first Excellence in Education Award winner of the school year, Jeremy Anderson, Dean of Students. In the presence of Mr. Anderson's family, Mr. Schmidt detailed many of the reasons for selecting Jeremy including his leadership with the NLCC Deans' Conferences, Parent University sessions, and CPI training to name a few. He is part of the newly formed MTSS Guiding Coalition, PBIS Coach, member of the Discipline Committee, and runs the Deans' Twitter handle. He is a dedicated, hard worker that rises up to challenges and sees the big picture and uses his unique perspective to affect positive change. Dr. Sefcik also praised Jeremy saying he is one of the most valuable staff members in the District. The Board applauded and thanked Jeremy for his valuable contributions to Grant.

Board of Education Recognition

Dr. Sefcik reported that November 15, 2019, has been designated as School Board Member Day in Illinois. This year's theme "Transform Vision into Reality" is fitting as the Board, through their leadership, continually and collectively supports the vision of the District to provide excellent educational opportunities for the students of Grant Community High School. To celebrate, cake will be available at a break prior to closed session.

Curriculum Proposals – 2021/22

Dr. Sefcik said they are planning ahead for curriculum changes effective with the 2021/22 school year. If approved, the preparation of curriculum and instruction to effectively deliver the courses will take place. Proposed new courses include:

- AP Computer Science Principles
- AP Music Theory
- Honors Journalism
- Introduction to Teaching

Additionally, there is one title change recommended for 2021/22:

- Journalism (change from Publications – Newspaper)

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Michniewicz to approve the curriculum changes for 2021/22 as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

DMGroup Update

Dr. Sefcik reported that the Guiding Coalition met with DMGroup to continue to develop a new tiered model of intervention supports (MTSS). The *Guide for Developing a Vision for the New Academic MTSS Framework* was provided for review. The next meeting with DMGroup is scheduled for December 18th.

Joint Annual Conference / IASB Resolutions Committee Report

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that the Joint Annual Conference is just a week away. She said the IASB Delegate Assembly will meet on Saturday, November 23rd at 10:30 am and it would be ideal to have a representative attend as a delegate. She thanked Bob Yanik for serving as delegate last year and asked for a volunteer to attend this year. Kathy Kusiak volunteered to be this year's delegate. Discussion was held regarding the Board's position on resolutions that will be presented.

School Board Policies

Dr. Sefcik stated that School Board Policy 7:180 *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment* must be revisited a minimum of every two years. There are a few minor modifications to be made to the policy that are recommended by IASB.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Michniewicz, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the modifications to SBP 7:180 *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment* as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

School Report Card

Dr. Sefcik provided the Illinois School Report Card that was released on October 30. The District earned a Commendable designation again this year. The District is working to improve student learning and preparing students for college and/or career by strengthening our instructional program through our work with DMGroup. Some of the highlights of the Report Card include:

- 94% student attendance
- 89% of freshman are on track to graduate on time
- 90% graduation rate
- 78% of students enroll in college
- 425 students took early college coursework while at Grant
- 1,077 college credits earned through successful AP tests
- 20 average class size

E-learning Plan – Draft Only

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that Public Act 101-0012 of the General Assembly allows for the establishment of an e-learning plan to address student learning in a remote environment. Faculty and students now have access to a district provided computer, so we have the capacity to extend educational experiences outside of the District walls. The E-learning Plan has been jointly developed by faculty and staff and a public hearing is required before approval, which is planned for December 19 at 6:45pm. Dr. Sefcik also provided information about how other staff members throughout the building will be impacted and options on E-learning days. This portion is still in development. A copy of the resolution that will be presented next month was included for review.

Calendar 2020/21

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the 2020/21 school calendar. The first day of student attendance is noted on August 12, 2020, and the last day of school will be May 21, 2021, with graduation occurring on May 23, 2021. Both winter and spring breaks follow the recommended calendar from the Regional Office of Education and has been discussed with the feeder districts.

** A motion was made by Mr. LaRoche, second by Mr. Jared to approve the 2020/21 school calendar as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

Foundation Gala Update

Dr. Sefcik reported on the success of the Gala held on November 2nd. There were 246 guests for dinner, silent and live auctions, and dancing. The transition to Handbid was well received and went smoothly. The amount raised was up by \$6,900, an increase from last year to total \$35,343. Funds from the event support students in financial need and provide student scholarships. She thanked the Board members that attended.

National School Boards Association Conference

Dr. Sefcik provided the Board with information on the National School Boards Association Annual Conference that will be in Chicago this year from April 3 – 6, 2020. The District doesn't usually attend national conferences but because it's local, she is providing the information for the Board to consider. She added that if there is sufficient interest and a learning opportunity the Board finds valuable, an action item could be included next month.

Coaching Recommendation

Dr. Sefcik said that due to low participation last year, the number of coaches was reduced in the girls' basketball program by one coach. This year, the participation numbers have risen again to a total of 41 student-athletes. With this increased interest, the recommendation is to increase by one additional coach.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Michniewicz, second by Mr. Yanik to authorize one additional coach for the girls' basketball program.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Recommend employment of the following individuals:

- Linda Markiewicz, Food Service, \$10.40/hr., starting 11/5/2019
- Charles Cashmore, 2nd shift Custodian, \$13.25/hr., starting 10/21/2019
- Paul Marquez, Custodian, \$13.25/hr., starting 11/4/2019
- Raya Mayer, Custodian, \$13.25/hr., starting 11/11/2019

Recommend accepting the letter of resignation from Carol Sieckowski, Transportation, effective 12/20/2019.

Notification of FMLA request from Blair Schoell, Divisional Administrator, beginning October 28, 2019 on an intermittent basis for a total of 60 days.

** 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, Hill, Michniewicz, LaRoche, Fleming, Jared, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

Principal's Report

Mr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on Elyssa's Mission, Fall Blood Drive, Parent University, Parent-Teacher Conferences, and Student Future Scheduling Requests.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

2019 Tentative Tax Levy

Mrs. Reich provided the tentative 2019 Certificate of Tax Levy for the Board's review. She noted that the two main components that affect what the District can request is the Consumer Price Index (CPI) which is 1.90% and the Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) of the property within the district. The County estimates the EAV as \$936,247,700, which is a 5.56% increase from the previous year. Additionally, the County is projecting new construction to be \$9,245,943. The final 2019 tax levy and resolutions will be presented in December.

5-Year Financial Projections

Mrs. Reich presented information on the 5-Year Financial Projections. She distributed a more in-depth report and highlighted the Educational Fund – page 4, the Operations and Maintenance Fund – page 8, and the Transportation Fund – page 14.

Property Tax Relief Grant

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that one part of the new evidenced-based funding from the state of Illinois that began in fiscal year 2019, is a property tax relief grant. The state is providing \$53.65 million for eligible school districts. In return for abating a portion of taxes, qualifying districts receive a state grant that is a portion of the tax relief they provide. Last year the District applied but didn't receive funds. She recommended applying again for the FY 2020 Property Tax Relief Grant.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Fleming to authorize the application for the Fiscal Year 2020 Property Tax Relief Grant.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Excess Bond Proceeds to the Operations and Maintenance Fund of Grant Community High School District #124

Mrs. Reich noted that there are funds still remaining in the Bond and Interest Fund. Since the bonds are paid off and our current long-range planning doesn't include any bond issuances, we can move those funds to the Operation and Maintenance Fund. The resolution is required to make the transfer.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. LaRoche to approve the Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Excess Bond Proceeds to the Operations and Maintenance Fund of Grant Community High School #124.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Sefcik reported that FOIA requests were received and fulfilled from: SmartProcure and DRG Holdings, LLC.

She indicated that the white envelopes contained the Joint Conference badges and materials.

CLOSED SESSION

- ** At 8:05 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. LaRoche, second by Mr. Yanik to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing 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: LaRoche, Fleming, Jared, Kusiak, Yanik, Hill, Michniewicz

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

- ** At 8:35 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. LaRoche to end closed session and return to open session.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

ACTION ITEMS FROM CLOSED SESSION

- ** A motion was made by Mr. LaRoche, second by Mr. Yanik to approve placement for Student #2019-20/03 to the ROE Safe School for the remainder of the 2019/20 school year.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

- ** A motion was made by Mr. LaRoche, second by Mr. Jared to approve placement for Student #2019-20/04 to the ROE Safe School for the remainder of the 2019/20 school year.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

- ** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Jared to approve the Notice to Remedy for David Heasley.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

ADJOURN

** At 8:38 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. LaRoche, second by Mr. Hill to adjourn the meeting.

Steve Hill, President

Ruth Michniewicz, Secretary