

# **GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NOVEMBER 17, 2022**

## ***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, November 17, 2022 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  
Ed Lescher, Member  
Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent:

Ivy Fleming, Member

Administration present:

Dr. Christine A. Sefcik, Superintendent  
Mrs. Beth Reich, Business Manager  
Mr. Jeremy Schmidt, Principal  
Dr. Stacie Noisey, Dir. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessments

## ***AUDIENCE***

Christy Flaker, Vicki Shifley, Allie Barker, Tom Evans, Tysen Royer

## ***CONSENT AGENDA***

Minutes of regular meeting held October 20, 2022

Minutes of closed meeting held October 20, 2022

November Bills Payable

October Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from May 20, 2021

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

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

### Student Recognition

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that the November Student of the Month, Ethan Ehrenhofer, was unable to attend tonight.

### Faculty Recognition

Dr. Sefcik asked Principal Schmidt to introduce Allison Barker, the recipient of the first Excellence in Education Award of the 2022/23 school year. Mr. Schmidt read from the nomination from her peers that highlights why Allison is outstanding and deserving of the award. The Board and audience applauded Allie and she said how proud she was to receive the award but that it's about more than just one person, it takes a village.

### Board Member Recognition

Dr. Sefcik said that November 15, 2022, was designated as School Board Member Day in Illinois. This year's School Board Members Day theme is "Partners in Excellence." On behalf of the entire Bulldog community, she thanked the Board for their steadfast leadership and support of our shared educational vision. A certificate for each Board Member and cupcakes were provided as a small token of appreciation and celebration.

### Instructional Coaching Team Presentation

Dr. Sefcik introduced Dr. Stacie Noisey, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessments who introduced the Instructional Coaches, Tom Evans and Vicki Shifley. They provided the Board with information about supporting teachers through the Instructional Coaching program. They detailed the role of a coach, attributes of a successful coaching program, a Harvard study, outreach, accessibility, types of coaching, and the impact of the program on our teachers. They have identified the number of hours spent, the numbers of teachers supported, and the evolution of the program since its inception in school year 2015/16.

### School Report Card Review

Dr. Sefcik outlined the report card highlights, including our 2022 designation of *Commendable*, ELA proficiency, math proficiency, science proficiency, comparative data from area districts, graduation rate, chronic absenteeism data, freshmen on track, and the climate survey.

### Joint Annual Conference / IASB Resolutions Committee Report

Dr. Sefcik reminded the Board the Joint Annual Conference is this weekend. She noted that the Resolutions were included in the packet that will be discussed at the IASB Delegate Assembly. Mrs. Kusiak will represent our Board of Education at the Delegate Assembly. She and Mrs. Kusiak updated the Board on the resolutions being considered and how the District was planning to vote.

### Gala Recap

Dr. Sefcik reported that the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Gala was held on Saturday, November 5, 2022. There were 212 attendees for dinner, silent and live auctions, and dancing. The amount raised at the event was approximately \$37,911, which is a slight decrease from the last Gala that was held in 2019. Considering this is the first event since coming back from the pandemic hiatus, it was a successful gala. Funds raised will continue to be utilized to support students in financial need and to provide student scholarships. She thanked the Board members that were able to attend.

### Principal's Report

Mr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on Elyssa's Mission, Medical Suspension Update, Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences, Community Engagement: Parent University, and Student Future Scheduling Requests.

#### Student Representative's Report

Nicole Kaminsky, the Student Representative to the Board, provided her monthly report which included what's happening in Student Council, NHS, Sophomore Class Council, Junior Class Council, Senior Class Council, SAALT, and Principal Advisory's Club.

### ***PUBLIC COMMENT***

None

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

#### Calendar 2023/2024

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the 2023/24 school calendar that is unchanged from presentation at last month's meeting.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the 2023/24 school calendar, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

#### Pilot of Clubs

Dr. Sefcik presented a request for two pilot clubs, Bulldog Buddies, which seeks to increase inclusion among the GCHS community through the power of 1:1 friendship between students with and without disabilities; and Latinx/Hispanic Club, which seeks to create a welcoming and culturally relevant club for our students of Hispanic or Latino descent, as well as non-Latino members of our school community.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the two pilot clubs, Bulldog Buddies and Latinx/Hispanic Club, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

#### Overnight Travel

Dr. Sefcik stated the Speech Team has requested to travel to the Varsity Speech Invitational held in Downers Grove on January 20 – 21, 2023, for approximately 28 students and two coaches. Board costs would include competition entry fees and fuel costs, accommodations will be paid with activity funds, and students will be responsible for meal costs.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the overnight travel of the Speech Team, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

### Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations.

Employment of the following individuals:

- Vivian Hernandez, Shared District Bilingual Liaison, \$22/hr., starting 11/28/22
- Anthony Johnson, move from full-time credit recovery to full-time BDIPS teacher, effective 11/7/2022
- Virginia Voelker, full-time credit recovery teacher, effective 11/7/2022
- Greg Wodzien, Winter Event Coordinator
- Matthew Herre, Security, \$16/hr., starting 11/28/2022
- Charles Solomon, Security, \$16.50/hr., starting 11/28/2022
- Cindy Martin, Transportation, \$20.54/hr., starting 11/15/2022

Accept the resignation letters from the following:

- Andy Flaker, head varsity boys' soccer coach, effective immediately
- Chris Carlson, assistant varsity boys' soccer coach, effective immediately
- Katherine Garon, Transportation, effective January 7, 2023
- Debra Kossak, Business Office, effective December 2, 2022
- Brittany Kline, Paraprofessional, effective December 1, 2022

Notification of FMLA request for Mark Robson, Athletic Trainer, beginning December 20, 2022 - ending April 6, 2023

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

## ***BUSINESS AFFAIRS***

### Property Tax Relief Grant

Mrs. Reich reported that one part of the evidenced-based funding from the state of Illinois is a property tax relief grant. The state provides these grants to 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. As in previous years, she recommended the District apply for this grant. We are eligible to abate \$1,977,825 and receive \$1,762,700, which represents 89% of the abatement.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the District to apply for the full amount of the Property Tax Relief Grant.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

### 2022 Tax Levy

Mrs. Reich presented information on the Tax Levy Options including the district's funding adequacy, tax rates, and equalized assessed value. She shared Grant High School's information compared to all other Lake County High School Districts. Finally, Mrs. Reich discussed possible levy amounts, estimated impact to the taxpayer for the estimated Grant High School portion, as well as projected impact to the District, and legal counsel observations. Mrs. Reich recommended the full levy at 7%, though she estimates the extension to be 5.81% overall with 5% on existing property.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the tentative tax levy as recommended.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

#### Architect Recommendation

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that the District had retained Cannon Design as the district Architect for many years. Our master agreement with them expired within the last two years and the lead architects we worked with have left the firm. A committee of two Board members, two community members, and three administrators began the formal Request for Qualifications for Architecture Services process on Friday, September 9, 2022. After review, the recommendation for the Architect of Record for Grant Community High School is Wight and Company.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the recommendation of Wight and Company as the Architect of Record for Grant Community High School.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

#### Coaching Recommendation

Mrs. Reich notified the Board that as per the Agreement between the Board of Education and the Grant Council, a standing committee meets annually to discuss the number of coaches and sponsors assigned to athletics and co-curricular activities. Proposals were received from coaches and sponsors and comparison data from other districts was reviewed. Based on the information from 2021-22, the committee made the recommendation for one additional Assistant Wrestling, one Assistant Cheer, and one Assistant Badminton coach for the 2022-2023 school year, with the caveat that the same data will be reviewed again for these sports at the end of this year to confirm the student/coach ratio remained the same. The outcome of that data review will determine the number of coaches for the following year.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the additional coach recommendations, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

#### Dental Insurance Renewal

Mrs. Reich reported that since moving to Guardian dental insurance in November of 2018, our rates have held steady. The initial renewal for the Guardian PPO plans this year was at almost 30%, but the cooperative negotiated it down to about 19%. The dental HMO plan reflects no increase and both will be in place for one year.

<u>PPO Plan</u>	<u>Current 21/22</u>	<u>Proposed 22/23</u>
Employee	\$ 31.23	\$ 37.16
Employee+1	\$ 70.75	\$ 70.75
Family	\$ 106.30	\$ 106.93

<u>DHMO</u>	<u>Current 21/22</u>	<u>Proposed 22/23</u>
Employee	\$ 17.82	\$ 17.82
Employee+1	\$ 34.52	\$ 34.52
Family	\$ 60.96	\$ 60.96

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mr. Jared to approve the Guardian dental insurance rates, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

## ***OTHER BUSINESS***

Dr. Sefcik referenced the envelopes that include their itinerary and badges for the IASB/IASA/IASBO Joint Annual Conference.

## ***CLOSED SESSION***

\*\* At 8:37 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Kusiak 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); and other matters relating to individual students 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(10).

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

\*\* At 8:41 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Lescher to end closed session and return to open session.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

## ***ACTION CLOSED SESSION***

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Jared to terminate the employment of Eric Bock, Security.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

***ADJOURN***

\*\* At 8:42 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mr. Lescher to adjourn the meeting.

---

Steve Hill, President

---

John Jared, Secretary