

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

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 9, 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:

Mr. Steve Hill, President
Mrs. Kathy Kusiak, Vice President
Mr. John Jared, Secretary
Mrs. Shelly Booth, Member
Mrs. Ivy Fleming, Member
Mr. Ed Lescher, Member

Members absent:

Mr. Bob Yanik, Member

Administration present:

Dr. Christine A. Sefcik, Superintendent
Mrs. Beth Reich, Business Manager
Dr. Jeremy Schmidt, Principal
Dr. Stacie Noisey, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessments
Mr. Eric Taubery, Divisional Administrator
Mrs. Veronica Lukemeyer, Divisional Administrator
Mr. Blair Schoell, Divisional Administrator

Student Representative: Ms. Julia Podgorski

AUDIENCE

Lori Lev, Tim Viscioni, Zuzanna Janicki, Anna Janicki, Maciej Janicki, Jasmine Garza, Nevaeh Shireman, Jammie Meyer, Courtney Spreitzer, Brice Spreitzer, Christi Flaker, Nick Nenni, Chris Robinson, Liliana Calenda

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held October 19, 2023
Minutes of closed meeting held October 19, 2023
November Bills Payable
October Treasurer's Report
Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from May 19, 2022

** 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: Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Fleming, Lescher, Hill

Nay: None

Absent: Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items

Student Recognition

Dr. Sefcik introduced Zuzanna Janicki, in the presence of her parents, as the November Student of the Month. She read Zuzanna'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 Zuzanna the opportunity to speak to the Board and she thanked the Board for the honor. The Board and audience applauded Zuzanna and Dr. Sefcik presented her with a certificate to commemorate being chosen as the November Student of the Month.

Faculty Recognition

Dr. Sefcik asked Principal Schmidt to introduce Courtney Spreitzer, the recipient of the first Excellence in Education Award of the 2023/24 school year. Dr. Schmidt read from the nomination from her peers that highlights why Courtney is outstanding and deserving of the award. The Board and audience applauded Courtney and she thanked the Board and noted the data in the school report card highlighting the high retention rate for teachers at Grant and thanking them for showcasing the talented teachers through this recognition.

Board of Education Member Recognition

Dr. Sefcik thanked the Board members in honor of School Board Member Day in Illinois that will be held on November 15th. This year's School Board Members Day theme is "Learn Together, Lead Together." The Bulldog community thanks them for the active role they play in supporting the learning of all District 124 stakeholders and for their continued leadership and support of our shared educational vision. Each member received a certificate to commemorate this recognition and a Lovin' Oven cake to take home and enjoy.

Evidence-Based Grading Pilot Update

Dr. Sefcik asked Dr. Stacie Noisey, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessments to present the information on the Evidence-Based Grading Pilot. She began by describing the purpose of evidence-based grading, what it is based on, and what is reported. She explained the grading is based on Proficiency Scales/Rubrics, Growth Grades, and Behavior Grades. Tim Viscioni and Nick Nenni covered these aspects for Algebra I, Chris Robinson for World History, and Lori Lev talked about her Honors Biotech course. All the teachers talked about the changes, challenges, and the great communication with students that came from this pilot. There was a robust question/answer session following the presentation.

School Report Card Review

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that School Report Cards were released on October 30, 2023. She reviewed the information in the presentation, for our district, neighboring districts and state numbers on areas such as Indicators of Student Success, our Designation of Commendable, student demographic information, ELA Proficiency, Math Proficiency, Science Proficiency, Graduation Rate, EL Progress to Proficiency, Chronic Absenteeism, Climate Survey, 9th Graders on Track to Graduate, Future Indicators, and Other Report Card information.

School Board Policy Proposed Changes – First Reading

Dr. Sefcik presented numerous School Board Policies for a first reading that have recommended changes based on direction from the Illinois Association of School Boards and legal counsel. They will be presented for a second reading and potential action at the December meeting.

Section 2 - Board of Education

- 2:20 Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification
- 2:120 Board Member Development
- 2:200 Types of Board of Education Meetings
- 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure

Section 4 - Operational Services

- 4:10 Fiscal and Business Management
- 4:60 Purchases and Contracts
- 4:130 Free and Reduced-Price Food Services
- 4:160 Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds

Section 5 - Personnel

- 5:210 Resignations
- 5:220 Substitute Teachers
- 5:250 Leaves of Absence
- 5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves

Section 6 - Instruction

- 6:15 School Accountability
- 6:50 School Wellness
- 6:230 Library Media Program

Section 7 - Students

- 7:60 Residence
- 7:160 Student Appearance
- 7:190 Student Behavior
- 7:270 Administering Medicine to Students
- 7:290 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention

Section 8 - Community Relations

- 8:30 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property

Joint Annual Conference / IASB Resolutions Committee Report

Dr. Sefcik told the Board members that will be attending the Joint Annual Conference that an envelope is provided with their itinerary and conference badge(s) for next weekend. She asked Ivy Fleming to present the resolutions being considered and confirming our Board's stance on each of the five resolutions. The Board agreed on the following positions:

1. Industrial Construction – does not support
2. Funding for School Resource Officer – support
3. Bus Driver Regulations – support
4. Employment History Review – does not support
5. Alternative Safe School Funding – does not support

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

Julia Podgorski provided her report which included information on Freshman Class Council, Color Guard, Dance Team, Football, Cross Country, Wrestling, Senior Night, Winter Sports, and Blood Drive. Dr. Sefcik added that she and Kathy Kusiak were looking forward to the full-day workshop *Breaking Down the Walls: Bringing Student Voice to the Board Table* with Julia at the Joint Annual Conference.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments received.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items

Calendar 2024/2025

Dr. Sefcik presented the 2024/25 school calendar.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the 2024/25 School Calendar, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

Overnight Travel

Dr. Sefcik reported that the Wrestling Team is requesting to attend the Ironman Wrestling Tournament in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, December 8-10. One student-athlete and coach will be attending along with the student's parent. Costs will be covered through the Wrestling Activity Fund.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Jared to approve the overnight travel, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik recommended the following personnel recommendations:

Employment of the following individuals:

- Faustino Catuy, Food Service On-Call Sub, \$15/hr., starting 10/30/2023
- Lenny Grodoski, Co-Winter Event Coordinator
- Greg Wodzien, Co-Winter Event Coordinator
- Victoria Milbratz, Part-time Food Services (Barista), \$15/hr., starting 11/6/2023

Accept the resignation of the following individuals:

- Katy Rueb, Office Secretary, end of the 2023/24 school year
- Sienna Kallner, Full-Time Substitute, effective 10/24/2023
- Yareli Garcia, Security, effective November 1, 2023

Notification of an FMLA request from:

- Allison Barker, English Teacher, effective February 15, 2024 - April 10, 2024

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Property Tax Relief Grant

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that the state of Illinois has provided \$49.3 million for new Property Tax Relief Grants in FY 2024 for eligible school districts. In return for abating a portion of taxes, qualifying districts received a state grant that is a portion of the tax relief they provide. As in previous years, she recommended applying for this grant.

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Fleming to authorize applying for the grant, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

Skyward Qmlativ Migration Quote

Mrs. Reich stated the district uses Skyward School Business Suite and Student Management Suite for our school administration software. We currently work in two environments and Qmlativ is an upgrade that will allow a more intuitive and user-friendly option that will combine the two environments into one. She provided a quote to move to Qmlativ in the summer of 2024. Skyward will begin with migration and training as early as December upon approval. We will receive a 15% discount to move to Qmlativ in 2024, so the cost will be \$16,376 for the migration. The annual recurring fees will increase by \$1,010.50 for a total of \$28,807.50.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the Skyward Qmlativ quote, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

Audit 2022-2023

Mrs. Reich provided draft 2022-2023 audited financial statements. The final audit has not yet been released by the peer reviewer who is working with our certified public accounting firm as required by the Illinois State Board of Education. She discussed the change in how the audit is prepared from previous years with a shift from cash accounting to modified accrual, which is recommended by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board for public entities. She will bring the audit forth for approval at the December meeting.

Albertson's Companies Inc. 2019-2022 PTAB Appeals

Mrs. Reich apprised the Board that the Albertson's Companies Inc. has filed appeals with the Property Tax Appeal Board for their 2019, 2021, and 2022 property assessment. Ares Dalianis from Franczek P.C. has represented the district and negotiated a settlement that reduces the loss of revenue from \$78,500 to \$11,273 for Grant High School, while still providing modest

assessment relief in each year to the appellant. The appellant agrees to not file a direct appeal for the 2020 assessment year, which was not included in their original appeals. Finally, this settlement sets the assessment for 2023 at an assessed value of 1.95 million, which will preclude any further Property Tax Appeal Board appeals for the new quadrennial.

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Reich reported that there has been some talk about Thomas Place becoming a 501(C)(3). Mrs. Reich presented a weight room update.

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that there were three Freedom of Information Act requests that were fulfilled.

Dr. Sefcik said the Village TIF for Fox Lake Crossing was picking up momentum.

CLOSED SESSION

** At 8:56 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Lescher to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing other matters relating to individual students 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (10); 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, Booth, Fleming, Lescher, Hill, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

** At 10:05 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mrs. Fleming to end closed session and return to open session.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

No action was required as a result of closed session.

ADJOURN

** At 10:05 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Booth to adjourn the meeting.

Steve Hill, President

John Jared, Secretary