

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

APRIL 29, 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, April 29, 2021 and called to order at 7:33 p.m., upon the conclusion of the Special Meeting, 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

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

AUDIENCE

Sarah Lescher and family

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

Oath of Office

Mrs. Kusiak asked the newly elected Board Members to stand and take their Oath of Office. Mr. Yanik, Mrs. Booth, and Mr. Lescher recited their Oath of Office.

Elect President of the Board of Education

Mrs. Kusiak asked for nominations for the office of President and she nominated Steve Hill for the office of President. No other nominations were received.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mr. Jared to elect Steve Hill as Board President.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

Elect Vice-President of the Board of Education

Mrs. Kusiak asked for nominations for the office of Vice-President and Mr. Jared nominated Kathy Kusiak for the office of Vice President. No other nominations were received.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to elect Kathy Kusiak as Board Vice-President.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

Elect Secretary of the Board of Education

Mrs. Kusiak asked for nominations for the office of Secretary and Mrs. Fleming nominated John Jared for the office of Secretary. No other nominations were received.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Yanik to elect John Jared as Board Secretary.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

Appoint Treasurer to the Board of Education

Mrs. Kusiak asked for a motion to appoint Beth Reich to serve as Treasurer for the Board.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Fleming to appoint Beth Reich to serve as Treasurer for the Board.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

Establish day, time, and location of Board of Education Meetings

Mrs. Kusiak asked for a motion to set the day and time of the Grant Community High School Board of Education meetings for the third Thursday of each month, through June 2023 and that the remaining meetings in the existing schedule will be maintained.

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Jared to set the day and time of the Board of Education meetings for the third Thursday of each month, through June 2023 and that the remaining meetings in the existing schedule will be maintained.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

Committee Appointments

Mrs. Kusiak asked for, and received, volunteers to fill the following committee appointments:

SEDOL Delegate – Kathy Kusiak
SEDOL Alternate – Shelly Booth
Site & Facility Committee Member – Steve Hill
Site & Facility Alternate – John Jared
IASB Representative – Kathy Kusiak
IASB Alternate – Ivy Fleming
PBIS Committee Member – John Jared
PBIS Alternate – Bob Yanik
Insurance Committee Member – Ivy Fleming

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held March 18, 2021

April Bills Payable

March Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from October 17, 2019

Quarterly list of authorized depositories, investment managers, dealers, and brokers

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Yanik 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

April Student of the Month

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that Seager Johnson, the April Student of the Month, was not able to attend in person. She introduced him by reading his profile of accomplishments, which includes his academic achievements, extracurricular activities, service to the community, leadership roles and awards, what he does in his spare time, and his future plans. Seager provided a video to thank Dr. Sefcik and the Board for honoring him with April Student of the Month. The Board applauded Seager and Dr. Sefcik said his Student of the Month certificate would be mailed to him.

Equity

The Equity Statement Proposal is tabled for a future meeting.

District Priorities 2021/22

Dr. Sefcik reported there are hopeful signs that the District may return to a more “normal” school year next year. As we wait for guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education for next year, there are four primary areas of focus for summer and fall planning, which include Attendance, Social and Emotional Learning, Academic, and Communication.

Student Clubs

Dr. Sefcik was happy to say that the clubs listed below were able to complete a successful pilot this year and upon approval by the Board will be official clubs for the 2021/22 school year. The sponsors of each club will be compensated at 5% of the "Coaches and Extracurricular Salary Schedule" rate and meet minimum student participation and minimum number of student meetings/events.

- American Sign Language
- Anime
- Canine Connections
- E-Sports
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- Special Olympics

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the addition of the 2021/22 student clubs: American Sign Language, Anime, Canine Connections, E-Sports, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Special Olympics, 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**

Senior Recognition

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board on the variety of special recognitions to make our Seniors feel special in this difficult year. There have been deliveries of two different care packages, senior yard signs, personalized postcards, and a variety of senior recognition activities. Activities have/will include: McHenry Drive-In movie, ABC Countdown, Senior Soiree at Maggiano's in Schaumburg and the Backyard Bash, a senior parade on May 22 and two graduation ceremonies on May 23. There will be a private photo opportunity available after the graduation ceremonies for those that feel uncomfortable participating in the graduation festivities.

COVID-19 Testing

Dr. Sefcik apprised the Board that we have expanded our testing capabilities with the SHIELD Illinois Rapid rtPCR test, which began on April 15 and will be phased in, beginning with tests conducted two days per week. The saliva-based test is quick, non-invasive, and has a high rate of accuracy. This testing may be used to conduct random surveillance, when a student or staff member presents with COVID-19 symptoms at school, or when exposed to a potentially infected individual. Due to concern regarding illness among extracurricular programs, we have scheduled testing on a rotational basis. Results from a CLIA approved lab will be provided within 4 to 24 hours and will be communicated to parents/staff by a Contact Tracing Team member. We received great news from ISBE that SHIELD testing will be provided free of charge for Tier 1 and Tier 2 schools!

IHSA Membership 2021/22

Dr. Sefcik recommended the Board approve membership in the Illinois High School Association for the 2021/22 school term. In renewing membership, we certify we are recognized by the ISBE, will adopt and abide by the Constitution, By-laws, Terms and Conditions, and Administrative Procedures, Guidelines, and Policies of the Association. Additionally, the IHSA is implementing an annual membership assessment over the course of the 2021/22, 2022/23, and 2023/24 school years in accordance with a newly approved IHSA Recovery Plan, which will be \$2,000 for the upcoming school year.

- ** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve membership in the IHSA for the 2021/22 school term and authorizing the assessment as per the IHSA Recovery Plan.

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

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

Motion – **Passed**

Rollover of Unused Vacation Days for Eligible Employees

Dr. Sefcik said the pandemic prevented a number of eligible employees from utilizing all of their vacation days. Currently, employees are to utilize their vacation days in the fiscal year in which they were provided. In order to fairly allow employees to utilize these days, she recommended the Board permit the carryover of a maximum of ten 2020/21 unused vacation days through June 30, 2022. Staff will be encouraged to be flexible and coordinate these dates with administration to ensure adequate staffing.

- ** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the carryover of 2020/21 unused vacation days up to a maximum of 10 through June 30, 2022 for eligible employees.

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

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

Motion – **Passed**

Legislative Update

Dr. Sefcik reported that there are hundreds of bills being considered this legislative session. These bills cover a broad spectrum and range from consolidation to safety to instruction. There are currently 24 curriculum mandates under consideration. She provided a brief update.

Succession Plan 2021/22

Dr. Sefcik notified the Board that School Board Policy 3:70 requires the Board of Education be informed of the district succession plan and the plan was provided for their review.

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Recommend the employment of the following individuals:

- Andrea Weaver, Full-time English Teacher, MA Step 0, 2021/22 school year
- Katelyn Kauth, Registrar, salary \$37,000, starting May 3, 2021
- Allison Wetter, Swing Shift Custodian 11:00am-7:30pm, \$13.75/hr., starting April 26, 2021
- Ryan Frank, Assistant Coach, Lacrosse, summer season
- Alex Sullivan, Assistant Coach, Boys' Volleyball
- Michael Anderson, Science Club Sponsor

Recommend accepting resignation letters from the following individuals:

- Diane Chlebicki, Registrar, effective March 19, 2021
- Kyle Kujala, Science Club, effective immediately
- Carrie Stump, Gamers Club, effective immediately
- Garrett Olsen, Boys' Freshmen Basketball Head Coach

Notification of the following FMLA requests:

- Charles Cashmore, Custodian, June 7 through July 5, 2021
- Kevin Hanik, Head of Security, April 1 through May 24 (intermittent)
- Chris Robinson, Social Studies Teacher, May 11 through May 18
- Kim Schmidt, Transportation, May 3 through May 24

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

Principal's Report

Mr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on SAT Preparation Class, Assessment Updates, Student Recognition, Safety Week, Contact Tracing, and Student Activities.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

2021/22 Budget

Mrs. Reich told the Board the 2021/22 budget is under construction. She is monitoring items such as what is happening with COVID-19 and renewal rates for health insurance. She hopes to bring a tentative budget to the May Board meeting.

2020/21 Amended Budget

Mrs. Reich said the 2020/21 Amended Budget is on public display now and will be on the agenda for approval at the May Board meeting.

Tax Cap Adjustment

Mrs. Reich reported that the state multiplier from the Illinois Department of Revenue is 1.00 for tax year 2020. This equalizer is then applied to our equalized assessed value (EAV) resulting in a total EAV of \$951,966,797. This is an increase of \$24,409,747 from 2019. The EAV increased 2.56% from last year. As a result, the tax rate is 2.363240. The consumer price index for this tax cycle was 2.3%. Approximately, \$397,855.48 had to be cut to comply with the tax cap limitation. A copy of the detailed cap adjustments was provided to the Board, as well as a comparison of Grant High School's tax rate to other high school district's in Lake County.

ENEL X – Demand Response Program

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that for the last six years, the District has participated in a demand response program to curtail electricity use. This past August we were able to limit a significant amount of energy and went over the maximum amount they identified for us. We received a total of \$19,651.23 this fiscal year to-date, with an anticipated \$5,000 still to be paid. These funds will be used towards upgrading the stadium sound system.

Summer School Transportation Recommendation

Mrs. Reich recommended adding buses to the normal Summer Academy transportation routes to increase opportunities for students to access the summer school offerings. We are anticipating a greater number of students who may need credit recovery summer school due to difficulties

with blended/remote learning during the 2020/21 school year. Transportation will be limited to Summer Academy and credit recovery programs.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Jared to approve the Summer School Transportation 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**

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Sefcik reported we received and fulfilled a FOIA request.

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that we will receive \$530,165 for the field turf settlement. Turf replacement may be completed as early as summer.

Dr. Sefcik said 21 vouchers for the foreign language trips that were not able to be used were purchased from families will be used for upcoming foreign language trips when travel resumes. There are 33 students that have shown interest in future travel by putting down a deposit.

CLOSED SESSION

No Closed Session was held.

ADJOURN

** At 8:43 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Jared to adjourn the meeting.

Kathy Kusiak, President Pro Tem

John Jared, Secretary