

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AUGUST 19, 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, August 19, 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:

Steve Hill, President
Kathy Kusiak, Vice President
John Jared, Secretary
Ivy Fleming, Member
Ed Lescher, Member
Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent:

Shelly Booth, Member

Administration present:

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

AUDIENCE

John Recktenwall, Andrea Kosmicki, Tina Sonders, Ryan Geist, Veronica Lukemeyer, Andrea Weaver, Kayla Rutkowski, Jill Schroeder, Jeff Austin, Kenny Pelaez, Josy Bosworth, Nathan Miller, Stacie Noisey, Stephanie Ashmore, Kevin Geist, Michelle Vendegna, Joe Bangiovanni

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held July 15, 2021

August Bills Payable

July Treasurer's Report

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Booth

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Presentation of New Faculty Members

Dr. Sefcik welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked them for being present. Dr. Sefcik then requested Principal Schmidt handle introductions for the new staff members and their mentors.

Each mentor introduced their mentee:

Jeff Austin introduced Kayla Rutkowski, Art Teacher

Josy Bosworth introduced Andrea Weaver, English Teacher

Veronica Lukemeyer introduced John Recktenwall, English/Social Studies Teacher (Will Schmadeke-mentor)

Kevin Geist introduced Andrea Kosmicki, Special Education Teacher

Michelle Vendegna introduced Kenny Pelaez, Special Education Teacher

Jill Schroeder introduced Stephanie Ashmore, School Counselor

(Frank Gurgone, Technology Teacher - Unable to attend)

The Board welcomed the new staff members and Mr. Hill presented them each with a welcome gift of spirit wear, a GCHS polo shirt.

School Year Planning Update

Dr. Sefcik shared the slide presentation for the School Year Planning. We have much to celebrate with the beginning of the school year and a full return to in-person learning. The first three days of the school year were scheduled to ease into the year and included an activity fair to allow students to learn about extracurricular and co-curricular opportunities to become involved with beyond the school day. All required health department mitigation strategies are in place. Dr. Sefcik discussed the schoolwide plan for mask wearing and supports and interventions in place to address mask expectations. We have been approved for the test-to-stay option for students and staff, which will take place using the SHIELD and/or BINAX Now test. She provided a brief review of updated information, including COVID data for Lake County and District zip codes, and number of staff and students currently quarantining and isolating.

Resolution – School Operations During COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Sefcik asked the Board to once again consider the Resolution – School Operations During COVID. The previous resolution recently expired and legal counsel is recommending this nearly identical resolution for the 2021/22 school year. The resolution provides the superintendent with the flexibility to address changes that may be necessary to comply quickly to public health requirements. The superintendent would confer with the Board President regarding necessary changes and subsequently update all board members of potential modifications in operations.

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Kusiak to approve the Resolution – School Operations During COVID-19 Pandemic, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Booth

Motion – **Passed**

Temporary Suspension of School Board Policy 6:190

Dr. Sefcik recommended temporarily suspending School Board Policy 6:190, *Extra-Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities* through 12/31/2021. She explained that the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) approved a recommendation to modify the IHSA Scholastic Standing Bylaws for the first semester of the 2021/22 school term that permits students to be eligible to participate in interscholastic activities if they have passed three classes in the second semester of the 2020/21 year, rather than the normal requirement of five classes as reflected in SB policy 6:190.

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Jared to temporarily suspend School Board Policy 6:190-*Extra-Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities* through 12/31/2021.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Booth

Motion – **Passed**

Enrollment Update

Dr. Sefcik provided student enrollment as of August 11th as follows:

Grade 9	449
Grade 10	444
Grade 11	450
Grade 12	<u>510</u>
Total	1,853

This aligns closely with the Kasarda demographic report *enrollment projection* of 1,837 students.

Fall Play and Spring Musical

Dr. Sefcik was pleased to report that nearly normal fall play and spring musical events are being planned. The fall play will be an Act 1/Act 2 show of *Eurydice* and *Metamorphosis*. The spring musical will be *Seussical: The Musical*. She provided highlights of each.

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Recommend the employment of the following individuals:

- Nick Jones, Teacher Aide, \$15.60/hr., starting August 9, 2021
- Brittany Kline, Teacher Aide, \$16.50/hr., starting August 9, 2021
- Ashlyn Maifield, Full-Time Building Substitute, BA-Step 0, beginning 8/9/2021
- Sheryl Dempsey, Long-term Substitute for FCS teacher, effective August 9 – November 2, 2021
- Larry Elliott, 10-Month Attendance Office Aide, \$29.20/hr., starting August 16, 2021
- Kayla Rutkowski, Art Club Sponsor
- Katie Boyd, Asst. Cheerleading Coach, Sideline and Competition Seasons
- Therese Feuling, Food Service - Pot Sink/Utility, \$14.03/hr.
- Beth Adamek, Bus Driver, \$20.57/hr., starting August 4, 2021

Recommend accepting the resignations from:

- Nick Fanella, Teacher Aide, effective July 22, 2021
- Martin Grum, Sponsor, Computer Science Club, effective 8/10/2021
- Penny Zegler, Sponsor, Art Club, effective 8/11/2021
- Max Boton, Girls Basketball JV Coach, effective 8/10/2021
- Maddie Lyon, Girls Soccer Coach, effective 8/13/2021
- Deanna Montiel, Food Service, effective August 5, 2021

- ** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, 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, Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Fleming

Nay: None

Absent: Booth

Motion – **Passed**

Principal's Report

Mr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on Summer School, New Teacher Orientation, Back-to-School Professional Development, New Student Enrollment, and Being a Bulldog.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Plan

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that the District is eligible to apply for ARP/ESSER III funds. The funds are to help safely reopen and assist with the safe operation of schools. She noted that the District has 3 years to use the \$1.5 million in allocated funds. Grant recipients must seek public comment on its reopening plan, which was held prior to tonight's meeting.

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Fleming to apply for the ARP/ESSER III funds.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Booth

Motion – **Passed**

Evidence-Based Funding Model Update

Mrs. Reich notified the Board that the Evidence-Based Funding Model distribution for 2021/22 was released by the State last week and we are receiving an additional \$346,510. We have maintained the Tier 1 designation in the funding model with an adequacy level of 67%. The adequacy level is the amount of local resources available divided by the amount of money it has been determined is "adequate" to educate all students.

Agreement with Lake County Department of Transportation

Mrs. Reich apprised the Board on the agreement with the Lake County Department of Transportation. She detailed the meeting held on August 3, 2021 with Josh Staples, representatives from Eriksson Engineering and the Lake County Department of Transportation along with their engineering firm, Benesch, regarding the improvements of Route 59/Grand Ave./Washington St. Lake County requested the District donate the temporary easement and proposed right of way to the county, a value of \$73,000. The improvements the district will benefit from but not pay for will total \$177,000.

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the agreement with Lake County Department of Transportation, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Booth

Motion – **Passed**

School Maintenance Project Grant

Mrs. Reich presented the School Maintenance Project Grant for approval. The Illinois State Board of Education has opened up the grant which is a dollar for dollar matching grant program providing awards up to \$50,000 to grantees for the maintenance or upkeep of buildings or structures for educational purposes. Grant awards will not exceed \$50,000 and if awarded, we plan to use it toward the south parking lot reconstruction during the summer of 2022.

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the submission of the School Maintenance Project Grant application, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Booth

Motion – **Passed**

Additional Job Coach Position for the Transition Program

Mrs. Reich provided an explanation of the Transition Program that serves students with disabilities who require continued support after completion of their four years of high school. The Transition Program has grown from last year and would be better served with an additional Job Coach to be able to work with the increased number of student workers and their job sites.

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mr. Jared to approve the addition of one Job Coach for the Transition Program beginning with the 2021/22 school year.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Booth

Motion – **Passed**

OTHER BUSINESS

None

CLOSED SESSION

- ** At 7:50 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Lescher to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing: Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2) ** The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) ** Semi-annual review of closed session minutes. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) **

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Booth

Motion – **Passed**

- ** At 7:54 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, 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: Lescher, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Fleming

Nay: None

Absent: Booth

Motion – **Passed**

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

- ** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Kusiak to open the closed session meeting minutes from January 21, 2021, February 18, 2021, May 20, 2021, and June 17, 2021.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Booth

Motion – **Passed**

ADJOURN

** At 7:54 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Yanik to adjourn the meeting.

Steve Hill, President

John Jared, Secretary