

# **GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DECEMBER 19, 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, December 19, 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  
Kathy Kusiak, Member  
Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent:

Ivy Fleming, Member  
John Jared, Member

Administration present:

Dr. Christine A. Sefcik, Superintendent  
Mrs. Beth Reich, Business Manager  
Mr. Jeremy Schmidt, Principal  
Mr. Greg Urbaniak, Dir. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment  
Dr. Nate Miller, Assistant Principal  
Mrs. Tina Sonders, Director of Special Education  
Mr. Tom Ross, Athletic Director  
Mr. Tom Furlan, Director of Technology

## ***AUDIENCE***

Emma Lancaster, Kristina Lancaster, Jude Lancaster

## ***CONSENT AGENDA***

Minutes of regular meeting held November 14, 2019

Minutes of closed meeting held November 14, 2019

December Bills Payable

November Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from June 21, 2018

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. LaRoche to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

Aye: Michniewicz, LaRoche, Kusiak, Yanik, Hill

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Jared

Motion – **Passed**

## ***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT***

### Student Recognition

Dr. Sefcik asked Emma Lancaster, in the presence of her parents Jude and Kristina Lancaster, to join her at the podium to be introduced as the December Student of the Month. Dr. Sefcik detailed her academic accomplishments including induction into the National Honor Society during her sophomore year, qualifying for Honor Roll each semester, and her impressive 4.843 GPA. Her extracurricular activities are Spring Musical, Fall Play, and Choir, where she was Section Leader for 2 years, Rookie of the Year in 2016, and awarded for Musical Excellence, Anthem Singers, honored with Heralding Trumpet Award, and Speech Team serving as Captain for 2 years. Community service projects include NHS service, volunteering at Big Hollow, and Grant Junior Bulldogs Football games. She works as a babysitter and enjoys following theater, writing poetry and short stories, reading, playing piano, ukulele, and guitar, reviews movies and TV, and she is a proud ally and advocate of LGBTQ+ rights. She plans to pursue a degree in psychology and criminology and has been awarded the Presidential Excellence Scholarship at Bradley University where she has been accepted into the Honors Program, but she is keeping her options open.

Dr. Sefcik called attention to the video where she introduces the November Student of the Month, Luke Bedrosian and read his profile that he is the son of Jack and Jennifer Bedrosian of Round Lake. His academic achievements include induction into NHS during sophomore year, earned Honor Roll and Scholars' List status each semester, he has been enrolled in several AP classes, one dual credit class, and passed all six AP exams. He was named NLCC All-Scholar, Social Studies Golden Globe winner, and nominated for Boys' State. He currently holds an outstanding 5.198 GPA. His extracurriculars include 4 years of Football, earning MVP, Desire Award, Team Captain, Varsity starter since sophomore year, and NLCC All-Conference 1<sup>st</sup> Team; 4 years of Basketball, earning the Hustle Award; and the Track and Math Teams each year. He is a founding member of the Computer Science Club. He volunteers with NHS and he is a youth football junior coach, and head coach of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade feeder basketball team. He is also a Big Dawg Mentor and Math Lab Tutor. He works as a lifeguard during the summer and is a host at Walker Bros. Pancake House. He enjoys researching space exploration, math, physics, travel & culture, technology, and history. He plans to earn a degree in Aerospace Engineering and is assessing his university options such as MIT, Stanford, Purdue, and University of Illinois where he was recently accepted. His career aspiration is to further space exploration and colonization at SpaceX or NASA.

Both Students' of the Month were presented a certificate to commemorate the honor and the audience and Board applauded their achievements.

### Fall Athletic Accomplishments

Dr. Sefcik asked Mr. Tom Ross to detail the Fall Athletic Accomplishments for 2019. The sports included in the report were Boys and Girls Cross Country, Football, Boys Golf, Girls Golf, Boys Soccer, Girls Tennis, and Girls Volleyball.

### Future Ready Update

Dr. Sefcik asked Mr. Greg Urbaniak, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment to provide the Board with the Future Ready Schools Initiative update. He distributed a handout with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century classroom update: 45 classrooms have been upgraded over the past 3 years, 10 more are scheduled next year, and gave a breakdown by department for the future upgrades. The TSI Program is going well, including the loaner system, charging towers/locations, and certifications. He then spoke on the Future Ready Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Gear Assessment. The original assessment was done in October 2016, the last Staff Gear Assessment was done in November 2016-January 2017, and the new staff gear assessment given in

December 2019. He explained it rates readiness in five major areas and each area is on a five point scale. Finally, he provided comparison scores on the District assessment, the 2016/17 Staff Assessment, and the 2019 Staff Assessment.

#### Student Performance Update

Dr. Sefcik asked Mr. Urbaniak to deliver information on student performance on the Fall 2019 SAT Suite of Assessment Testing, including scoring information, benchmark score information, score and benchmark performances for the classes of 2021, 2022, and 2023. Historical Scoring and Benchmark Performances were included for the Class of 2021 and 2022.

#### Student Privileges

Dr. Sefcik turned it over to Mr. Schmidt to talk about the Student Privilege Exploratory Committee's recommendation to pilot the flexible use of study hall time for senior students that meet certain criteria. Allowing those senior students that qualify to choose the Library or Senior Café during their study hall, can reinforce positive student behaviors. Senior students will have to hold a "C" or better in all classes, 90% or above attendance rate, and a low disciplinary referral rate as reported for each progress reporting period.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mrs. Michniewicz to authorize the pilot of the flexible use of study hall time for qualifying senior students.

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

Aye: LaRoche, Kusiak, Yanik, Hill, Michniewicz

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Jared

Motion – **Passed**

#### School Board Policy Modifications – First Reading

Dr. Sefcik noted that there were many policy revisions presented and the IASB PRESS October 2019 Issue 102 was provided in addition to each policy revision to explain the legislative details for many of the changes. She explained that with the number of revisions to consider, the Board can choose to have a first reading or approve. The Board stated that they were informed and ready to approve. The following policy revisions were presented:

- 2:20 Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification
- 2:70 Vacancies on the School Board – Filling Vacancies
- 2:100 Board Member Conflict of Interest
- 2:105 Ethics and Gift Ban
- 2:110 Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers
- 2:200 Types of School Board Meetings
- 2:220 School Board Meeting Procedure
- 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure
- 4:15 Identity Protection
- 4:30 Revenue and Investments
- 4:60 Purchases and Contracts
- 4:80 Accounting and Audits
- 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment
- 5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited
- 5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria
- 5:50 Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco and Cannabis Prohibition
- 5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting
- 5:120 Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest
- 5:250 Leaves of Absence
- 5:290 Employment Termination and Suspensions
- 5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves

6:60 Curriculum Content  
6:150 Home and Hospital Instruction  
6:300 Graduation Requirements  
7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited  
7:150 Agency and Police Interviews  
7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment  
7:270 Administering Medicines to Students  
8:30 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the Board Policy revisions as presented.

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

Aye: Kusiak, Yanik, Hill, Michniewicz, LaRoche

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Jared

Motion – **Passed**

#### Resolution to Adopt E-learning

Dr. Sefcik stated that the State of Illinois now provides schools with the flexibility to utilize E-learning days in lieu of emergency days up to a maximum of 5 e-learning days annually. Faculty and students are now in possession of a district provided computer and have the ability to extend educational experiences outside of the classroom. The district has been working over the past 7 months to design an E-learning Plan, which is presented here this evening. Some of the highlights were listed and the Board was informed that the district will provide a practice E-learning day when school is in session. A Professional Development library will be developed for use by non-licensed staff to utilize on E-learning days along with other options. The Board asked about the timeline for implementation and was informed that the earliest implementation date would be 30 days after Board approval.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Michniewicz to approve the E-learning Plan as presented.

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

Aye: Yanik, Hill, Michniewicz, LaRoche, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Jared

Motion – **Passed**

#### Transitions Program – Informational Only

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that the Transition Program is a special education program that is offered to students with disabilities who require continued support after completion of their four years of high school. The program provides instruction and guidance in the areas of work-based learning, independent living, and community access to further their independence as determined by the student's IEP team. This program is currently contracted with SEDOL and we are providing a proposed plan to offer these educational services in-district. Mrs. Sonders, Director of Special Education said that seven students were currently in the SEDOL program and approximately 4-5 LOP students will require the Transition Program each year. There is value to have students here and there is community business interest.

#### Residency – Informational Only

Dr. Sefcik asked Dr. Miller to explain the residency process currently in use and how the District can benefit through the use of the CLEAR residency validation program from Thomson Reuters. They are able to access public and proprietary information that is not available to us. 12-month subscription cost information was provided.

### Overnight Travel

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the overnight travel for the Speech team to attend a two-day tournament at Downers Grove South High School on January 24 and 25, 2020.

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

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

Aye: Hill, Michniewicz, LaRoche, Kusiak, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Jared

Motion – **Passed**

### Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Recommend the employment of the following individuals:

- Greg Wodzien, 2020 Summer School Supervisor
- Alexander West, Full-Time Internal Substitute Teacher, \$150/day, beginning January 6, 2020
- Lynsea Volbrecht, Asst. Girls' Basketball coach
- Colt Foerch, Asst. Baseball coach
- Nicole Frett, Asst. Softball coach
- Kim Schmidt, Bus Driver, \$19.35/hr., starting 1/28/2020

Recommend accepting the resignation letters from:

- Dawn Falco, custodian, effective 12/5/2019. She will remain a bus driver.

Notification of FMLA from Jacqueline Hernandez, between February 3, 2019 - May 6, 2020

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

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

Aye: Michniewicz, LaRoche, Kusiak, Yanik, Hill

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Jared

Motion – **Passed**

### Principal's Report

Mr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on Semester 1 Final Exams, Feeder School Articulations and Eighth Grade Placements, 5Essentials Survey Administration, and Performing Arts Society.

## ***BUSINESS AFFAIRS***

### 2019 Final Tax Levy

Mrs. Reich and Dr. Sefcik provided a Financial Presentation detailing tax rates of our local high school districts, operating expense per student, instructional spending per student, percent of adequacy per the Evidenced Based Funding and the higher than average SAT scores and funding adequacy. Mrs. Reich reported that nothing had changed from what was presented last month and recommended approval of the 2019 Final Tax Levy.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Michniewicz, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the 2019 Final Tax Levy as presented.

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

Aye: LaRoche, Kusiak, Yanik, Hill, Michniewicz

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Jared

**Motion – Passed**

School Maintenance Project Grant

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that the Illinois State Board of Education opened up the School Maintenance Project Grant, a dollar-for-dollar state matching program. It awards up to \$50,000 to grantees exclusively for the maintenance or upkeep of buildings or structures. She provided a list of several projects for consideration by the state including turf replacement, track resurfacing, front parking lot re-pavement, bleachers in the west gym, east gym floor, and updating all outside doors and elevators to the fob system. The grant application must be presented to the Board for approval prior to submitting.

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

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Jared

**Motion – Passed**

Resolution for Fund Transfer from Operations & Maintenance to Capital Projects

Mrs. Reich presented the Resolution for Fund Transfer from Operations & Maintenance to Capital Projects for approval by the Board. The accounting transfer of \$1,800,000 is part of the 2019/20 budget to pay for a one-time facility renovation and upgrade expenses. The funds will be used to pay for the construction this past summer in the hallway where the Project Lead the Way and Technology Services Internship rooms are located.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mrs. Michniewicz to approve the Resolution for Fund Transfer from Operations & Maintenance to Capital Projects as presented.

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

Aye: Yanik, Hill, Michniewicz, LaRoche, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Jared

**Motion – Passed**

***OTHER BUSINESS***

Dr. Sefcik reported that the proposed IHSA football scheduling will not occur in 2020. She also mentioned that we will have a new School Resource Officer next year as Officer Malczewski takes a leadership role within the Fox Lake PD.

Mrs. Reich said that she is beginning the process of shopping the bus lease contract and will have an update in January.

***CLOSED SESSION***

\*\* At 8:30 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Kusiak to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing 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); 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: Hill, Michniewicz, LaRoche, Kusiak, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Jared  
Motion – **Passed**

- \*\* At 8:35 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. LaRoche, second by Mr. Yanik to end closed session and return to open session.  
Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:  
Aye: Michniewicz, LaRoche, Kusiak, Yanik, Hill  
Nay: None  
Absent: Fleming, Jared  
Motion – **Passed**

### ***ACTION ITEMS FROM CLOSED SESSION***

- \*\* A motion was made by Mr. LaRoche, second by Mr. Hill to authorize the opening of closed session minutes, as confidentiality no longer exists, for the following Board of Education meeting dates: February 21, 2019, April 25, 2019, May 16, 2019, June 20, 2019, and July 18, 2019. Confidentiality still exists for the closed session held on meeting date August 15, 2019 and will remain closed.  
Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:  
Aye: LaRoche, Kusiak, Yanik, Hill, Michniewicz  
Nay: None  
Absent: Fleming, Jared  
Motion – **Passed**

### ***ADJOURN***

- \*\* At 8:37 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. LaRoche to adjourn the meeting.

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Steve Hill, President

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Ruth Michniewicz, Secretary