

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

FEBRUARY 16, 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, February 16, 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:

Steve Hill, President
Kathy Kusiak, Vice President
John Jared, Secretary
Shelly Booth, Member
Ed Lescher, Member

Members absent:

Ivy Fleming, Member
Bob Yanik, Member

Administration present:

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

AUDIENCE

Joe Bonjiovanni

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held January 19, 2023

Minutes of closed meeting held January 19, 2023

February Bills Payable

January Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from August 19, 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: Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Lescher, Hill

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items

Student Recognition

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that the February Student of the Month, Brianna Osmon, due to weather conditions, will attend next month's meeting.

Multi-Tiered System of Supports Update

Dr. Sefcik let the Board know that due to weather conditions, Leslie Gillengerten, MTSS and Inclusion Coordinator, will present her information at a future Board meeting.

Student Fees to Attend Events

Dr. Sefcik stated that one of the goals of the Equity Leadership Team is to identify and potentially eliminate student barriers to participation, for both instructional offerings during the school day and the extracurricular opportunities. She presented information to consider the elimination of fees for our students to attend home athletic events. The cost for student attendance at football and basketball games is \$3 and the impact of not receiving those funds is minimal. There are a few schools, such as Round Lake and North Chicago, that don't charge their students to attend.

LEAP Program

Dr. Sefcik reported that, in partnership with Gavin School District 37 and Fox Lake Grade School District 114, we are planning to offer the LEAP program after a pause of several years. Parents of students in our districts will be eligible to attend evening classes to learn English as a second language, digital literacy skills, and more. Our shared district Bilingual Liaison is leading this effort in partnership with the Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee.

Principal's Report

Mr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on Bridging Student Transitions to High School, 5Essentials Survey, Student Registration, and 12th Hour Study Table Pilot.

Student Representative's Report

Nicole Kaminski did not have a written report this month and due to weather conditions, was not in attendance. We look forward to her report next month.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items

Synergy Education Consulting Professional Development Proposal

Dr. Sefcik explained that with the loss of our school district partners for Corwin professional development and a desire to continue those conversations, the district interviewed several organizations and have found Synergy Education. The Synergy Education Consulting team is comprised of full-time faculty members at Carthage College, with doctoral degrees in Psychological Sciences, Sociology, and Education, led by the Director of the Urban Teaching Preparation Program. Phase I consists of monthly Leadership Workshops, interviews, focus groups, and faculty and student surveys. Phase II would consist of summer professional development and planning with the administration for schoolwide activities. The total cost for both Phase I and Phase II is \$15,000 and is eligible to be paid with Title II grant funds.

- ** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the contract with Synergy Education in the amount of \$15, 000, for professional development services.

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

Aye: Jared, Booth, Lescher, Hill, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

Overnight Travel

Dr. Sefcik recommended the overnight travel requests from 1.) Future Business Leaders of America, for State competition in Springfield, departing on April 13 and returning the evening of the 15, for approximately 32 students, their sponsor, and a chaperone. Registration, hotel, and meals, will be an approximate cost to the District of \$8,141.21; and 2.) Special Olympics basketball team to attend the State competition in Bloomington, for 6 students, their coach, and a chaperone to depart on March 10 and return on March 12. Registration, hotel, and meals, will be an approximate cost to the District of \$1,774.26.

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the overnight travel for FBLA and Special Olympics, as presented.

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

Aye: Booth, Lescher, Hill, Kusiak, Jared

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Employment of the following individuals:

- Samantha Torres, Security, \$15/hr., starting 2/7/2023
- Elizabeth Schmidt, Attendance Secretary, \$16.40/hr., starting 2/21/2023
- Paige Gruber, .5 Asst. Dance Coach
- Benjamin Burnet, Head Boys' Soccer Coach

Accept the resignations from the following individuals:

- Chris Carlson, Teacher Leader, effective end of 2022/23 school year
- Mikeely Taylan, Paraprofessional, effective 2/8/2023
- Othella Davis, Security, effective 2/10/2023
- Matthew Herre, Security, effective 2/16/2023
- Mira Giannetti, Assistant Cheerleading Coach, effective 2/26/2023

Accept the retirement letter from the following individuals:

- Katherine Sagritalo, English Teacher, effective end of 2025/26 school year
- Katherine Zielinski, Math Teacher, effective end of 2025/26 school year

Notification of FMLA request from Marta Yang, effective 2/8/2023 - 5/12/2023

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

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

Aye: Lescher, Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Booth

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Preliminary 2023 Financial Profile Designation

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) released the preliminary 2023 Financial Profile Designation for the District based on the 2021-22 Annual Financial Report Data. We received a 3.65 out of 4.00, with a status of Financial Recognition.

Handicapped Bus Lease

Mrs. Reich notified the Board that the District has leased a wheelchair bus for the last three years and the lease is coming due this summer. She contacted Midwest Transit, who we lease our 71-passenger buses from, but they are only able to provide a larger wheelchair bus. Central States Bus Sales, Inc. is able to provide us with the exact wheelchair bus we currently have. She provided information on the two lease options they offered, one for a 3-year lease and another for a 5-year lease. Mrs. Reich recommended the 5-year lease at \$17,910.22 each year. The rates cited are estimated until the interest rate is locked in 90 days prior to delivery.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the handicapped bus lease with Central States Bus Sales, Inc., as presented.

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

Aye: Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Lescher

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

Quest Food Services 2023-24 Agreement

Mrs. Reich provided a proposed agreement with Quest Food Management LLC for consulting services in 2023/24. The cost to reimburse the Quest manager that is onsite with the food service staff will go up 4% due to salary and benefits cost increasing. The consulting fee is staying the same, but the structure will change slightly.

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the agreement with Quest Food Management LLC, as presented.

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

Aye: Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Lescher, Hill

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Sefcik reported that two FOIA requests were received and fulfilled. Mrs. Reich reported the District was notified that the Route 59 construction is on hold until 2024 due to endangered bats. The bats have been identified in trees in the construction area that need to be cut down, therefore the delay.

CLOSED SESSION

** At 7:35 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Booth 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); collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2); security procedures, school building safety and security 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8), and the 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: Jared, Booth, Lescher, Hill, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

- ** At 8:09 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Jared to end closed session and return to open session.

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

Aye: Booth, Lescher, Hill, Kusiak, Jared

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

- ** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Kusiak to not accept the resignation of Leidys Janneau, Bilingual Teacher.

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

Aye: Lescher, Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Booth

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

- ** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Booth to not accept the leave of absence request of Tom Duffy, Math Teacher.

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

Aye: Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Lescher

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Lescher to approve Leslie Gillengerten, administrator, moving from 11 months to 12 months.

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

Aye: Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Lescher, Hill

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mrs. Booth to approve an additional 1.0 FTE instructional coach.

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

Aye: Jared, Booth, Lescher, Hill, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

- ** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mr. Jared to affirm the placement of student #2022-23/02 at ROE Safe School for the remainder of the spring semester of 2023.

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

Aye: Booth, Lescher, Hill, Kusiak, Jared

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

- ** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Booth to open the following closed session minutes as confidentiality no longer exists: August 18, 2022, September 29, 2022, and October 20, 2022. The following closed session minutes will remain closed due to the need for confidentiality: November 17, 2022.

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

Aye: Lescher, Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Booth

Nay: None

Absent: Fleming, Yanik

Motion – **Passed**

ADJOURN

- ** At 8:11 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Kusiak to adjourn the meeting.

Steve Hill, President

John Jared, Secretary