

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING JANUARY 20, 2022

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, January 20, 2022 and called to order at 7:00 p.m. at 25700 Old Grand Avenue, Ingleside, Illinois.

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
Mr. Tom Ross, Athletic Director

AUDIENCE

Jeff Durlak, Alpesh Viramgami, Sandy Schlaf, Heli Viramgami, Nandita Viramgami, Khushi Viramgami

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held December 16, 2021

Minutes of closed meeting held December 16, 2021

January Bills Payable

December Treasurer's Report

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, Fleming, Lescher, Yanik, Hill

Nay: None

Absent: Booth

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Student Recognition

Dr. Sefcik introduced Heli Viramgami, in the presence of her parents, Alpesh and Nandita Viramgami, as the January Student of the Month. She read Heli'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 Heli the opportunity to speak to the Board and she thanked the Board for the honor. She also said she was appreciative for the opportunities and resources that the District and Board have made available to students. The Board and audience applauded Heli and Dr. Sefcik presented her with a certificate to commemorate being chosen as the January Student of the Month.

Excellence in Education Award Winner Recognition

Dr. Sefcik asked Principal Schmidt to introduce Jeff Durlak as the 2nd quarter Excellence in Education Award winner. Mr. Schmidt read the submission from his peers to describe why they recommended Jeff for the award, which includes his rapport and patience with his students as a teacher and a coach, he is a great leader and teammate on projects, his subject matter knowledge and his professionalism. Jeff related how surprising and humbling it was to be told he was chosen for the award. He considers himself a proud alum of Grant and loves his department and colleagues. The Board and audience applauded Jeff and congratulated him.

Fall Athletic Season Update

Dr. Sefcik turned it over to Mr. Tom Ross, Athletic Director, to provide the highlights of the fall athletic season. Those sports included sideline cheer, cross country, sideline dance, football, boys golf, girls golf, boys soccer, girls tennis, and girls volleyball. Information included were participation numbers, grade point average, academic accolades, and athletic accomplishments.

Semester One Activities Update

Dr. Sefcik provided the Fall Student Activities Report. The report included overall participation rates and outstanding student participation in activities. She also noted that there were no new pilot clubs this year.

English Learner – Bilingual Education Program

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that the English Learner (EL)-Bilingual Education program is designed for students whose primary language is one other than English. Schools must provide equal access for all students to a high-quality education and the opportunity to achieve their full academic potential. Illinois has guidelines for EL caseloads of approximately 25-30 students per EL teacher. We are expecting approximately 88 students for English Language Learner testing. Based on current enrollment, along with a projected increase in numbers for next year, ISBE has granted conditional approval of our EL-Bilingual Service Plan based upon the addition of another bilingual teacher for next year. Dr. Sefcik recommended the addition of one full-time bilingual teacher for next year to maintain required caseloads.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Kusiak to approve the addition of one full-time bilingual teacher for the 2022/23 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**

COVID-19 Update

Dr. Sefcik provided a COVID-19 update. Two booster vaccine opportunities have been provided to students and staff where 230 boosters were administered. Another 1 or 2 pods may be offered. Other topics included: Quarantine changes based on booster status; Testing volume / staffing of COVID Contact Tracing Team; Adaptive pause for specific athletic teams/activities; and IDPH/ISBE shift to shortened quarantine and isolation. She mentioned court cases in Sangamon County challenging masking, exclusion, and employee vaccine/testing mandates, and HB 2778: the COVID leave bill.

Village of Fox Lake – Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment

Dr. Sefcik reported that she attended two different Joint Review Board meetings at the Village of Fox Lake on December 17, 2021. The Village is considering two new Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Redevelopment Project Areas. The first, Route 12 North is immediately adjacent to the existing TIF area along Route 12. And is intended to include all commercial development. The second TIF, is titled Route 12 South, and includes both the NW corner and the NE corners of Route 12/Big Hollow Road. The Route 12 South TIF intends to include 150-175, 1- and 2-bedroom, luxury apartment units in addition to commercial buildings. There is a concern that the apartment units will likely generate additional students while not providing any additional revenue for the cost to education those students. She will continue to monitor and provide updates on the developments as they go through the legal process.

Property Purchase

Dr. Sefcik stated that with the support of the Board of Education, she has been working with a local property owner to potentially expand student parking opportunities. The purchase of 248 E. Grand Avenue would provide a student parking lot that would provide a minimum of 61 additional parking spaces. She recommended the purchase of 248 E. Grand Avenue at a purchase price of \$65,000, cost of title, and contribute no more than \$4,000 toward the property survey.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the purchase of the property at 248 E. Grand Avenue, Fox Lake, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Booth

Motion – **Passed**

Spring Coaching Recommendations

Dr. Sefcik presented the list of spring coaching recommendations for review and approval.

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the spring coaches 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**

Personnel

Recommend the employment of the following individuals:

- Therese Feuling, Attendance Secretary, \$15/hr., starting 1/3/2022
- Claudia Hinestrosa, Head Cook, \$18/hr., starting 1/3/2022
- Rosa Ramirez, Prep Cook, \$15/hr., starting 1/3/2022
- Kim Nelson, Food Service, position change from part-time server/cashier to full-time Fruit Prep/Dish Room

- Linda Markiewicz, Food Service, position change from part-time server/ cashier to full-time Breakfast/Utility

Recommend accepting the retirement letter from:

- Mary Bidlack, Special Education Secretary, effective June 20, 2022

Recommend accepting the resignations from the following individuals:

- Nick Jones, Teacher Aide, effective 12/14/2021
- Beth Suehr, Fall Play Director, effective immediately
- Jessica Strom, Front Office Receptionist, effective 2/1/2022

Notification of FMLA request from Ed Gilbertsen, Transportation, from January 11, 2022 to February 11, 2022.

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Booth

Motion – **Passed**

Principal's Report

Mr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on SAT Preparation Class, 5Essentials Survey, Eighth Grade Enrollment Night, and Professional Development.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

PerMar Security Hourly Wage Recommendation

Mrs. Reich reported the District utilizes PerMar Security & Research Corp. to provide security guards in the building. This year it has been difficult to fill positions. She recommended raising the hourly wage for starting guards to \$15/hr. with no experience and \$15.50/hr. with experience. The total cost to the District is \$14,868.

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the increase to the hourly rate for PerMar security guards, 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**

Food Service Hourly Wage Recommendation

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that the District has struggled to find food service staff this year. Our starting rate of pay in that department is \$12/hr. For the majority of the year, we have been down seven part-time staff and one on-call sub. In an effort to fill those positions she recommended increasing the starting hourly rate to \$14/hr. The estimated cost to the District with making adjustments to current staff is \$18,728.25.

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the increase for food service staff, 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**

Auditing Services Requests for Proposals

Mrs. Reich told the Board that the District has not done a request for proposals for auditing services in some time. She said she would like to begin that process soon.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Sefcik reported that a Freedom of Information Act request was submitted and fulfilled. The IASB Spring Dinner will be held on March 9, 2022, at 6:00 pm the District will register participants that are interested. The Board members indicated they would like to continue to hold Board meetings at the 25700 Old Grand Avenue, Ingleside, location unless more meeting space is necessary.

Mrs. Kusiak informed the Board that the Transitional English course was approved.

CLOSED SESSION

** At 8:05 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mr. Yanik to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing 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, Fleming, Lescher, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: Booth

Motion – **Passed**

** At 8:20 p.m. a motion was made by Kathy Kusiak, second by Ed Lescher to end closed session and return to open session.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Booth

Motion – **Passed**

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

No action items resulted from closed session.

ADJOURN

** At 8:21 p.m. a motion was made by Kathy Kusiak, second by John Jared to adjourn the meeting.

Steve Hill, President

John Jared, Secretary