

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING JANUARY 21, 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, January 21, 2021 and called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Library of Grant Community High School, 285 E. Grand Avenue, Fox Lake and via Zoom meeting link.

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
♦ Paul LaRoche, Vice President
♦ Ruth Michniewicz, Secretary
Ivy Fleming, Member
John Jared, Member
Kathy Kusiak, Member
Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent: None

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

♦ Attended remotely via Zoom

AUDIENCE

In person: Randy, Janna, and Landon Klecka, Stacie Noisey. Via Zoom: Shelly Booth, James Miller, and Tom Ross

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held December 17, 2020

January Bills Payable

December Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from July 18, 2019

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Student Recognition

Dr. Sefcik introduced the January Student of the Month, Landon Klecka, who was accompanied by his parents, Randy and Janna. She read his profile of accomplishments, which included academic achievements, extracurricular activities, service to the community, leadership roles and awards, what he does in his spare time, and future plans. Dr. Sefcik offered Landon the opportunity to speak to the Board and Landon thanked Dr. Sefcik for the honor and he thanked the Board for the opportunities afforded to students. The Board applauded Landon and Dr. Sefcik presented him with the certificate to commemorate being chosen as the January Student of the Month.

Blended Learning Update

Dr. Sefcik told the Board how exciting it was to welcome students back to blended learning on January 19, 2021. The average number of students attending the first few days was between 250-275 per day. Things have been going smoothly and teachers have been encouraged to share what's going well and what's not. She acknowledged that teaching both in-person and online is not perfect. However, there is great value in having students in-person, engaged and better able to make connections with teachers.

Dr. Sefcik also updated the Board on the status of the vaccines for Grant staff. She has been a participant in a 5-member planning pod for the District 116 vaccine site. The rollout for Phase 1b will be coming soon with vaccines beginning in at least 3 different locations the first week of February.

Assessment Update

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that districts are still expected to administer the federally required assessments this school year. The plan and schedule to accomplish the administration of the required tests were provided. The Illinois State Board of Education recently announced that the window for particular assessments was pushed back in response to requests from school districts. The dates are as follows assuming we are still in blended learning:

- ACCESS test for English Learners will take place between March 15 and May 25.
- Illinois Science Assessment for juniors will take place between March 15 and May 14.
- Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment will take place between March 15 and May 14.
- SAT for juniors (and some seniors) will take place on April 13; this will be a state testing date with no other students in attendance.
- PSAT 10 for sophomores will take place on April 14. Wednesday's are flex days and no other students will be in attendance.
- PSAT 8/9 for freshmen will take place on April 21. Wednesday's are flex days and no other students will be in attendance.

Event Planning

Dr. Sefcik provided some information on decisions that were made for several events that happen during the year. Eighth grade enrollment night is going virtual with the primary focus on academics. The Spring Musical has been changed from *Seussical the Musical* to *Peter Pan* in order to better fit with the restrictions and mitigations to produce in a remote/virtual setting. The foreign language spring break trips to France and Spain had to be cancelled and unused travel vouchers were purchased by the district for future student travel. The prom venue for this spring was cancelled and many are working on creative ideas that will be primarily senior focused. Graduation is being reimaged to create a graduation experience that celebrates our students. Updates will continue to be conveyed to the Board.

Senior Recognition Planning

Dr. Sefcik recognized that this will be the second year in which the end-of-the-year events have had to be cancelled or reimagined. Principal Schmidt and Dr. Sefcik have met with a committee of senior parents and administrators to plan senior recognition events and acknowledge the hardships they have gone through. The goal of the committee is to express appreciation to seniors for their resilience and plan senior recognition events. They are eager to begin their first recognition event, the postcard writing campaign. They will have a different event each month leading up their May graduation.

Legislative Update

Dr. Sefcik updated the Board on the Education Omnibus Bill that the legislature recently approved and is waiting on the Governor's signature. Some of the impacts of the bill are graduation requirements to be more aligned with college entrance requirements, require two years of foreign language, a computer science course, and an update to social studies curriculum.

DMGroup Contract 2021/22

Dr. Sefcik proposed to continue to partner with DMGroup through the 2021/22 school year. With the pandemic and all efforts focused on teaching and learning remotely, the partnership with DMGroup transitioned from developing/refining a Multi-Tiered System of Supports to the immediate need of supporting struggling students in the remote environment. As a result of this change, the District temporarily paused on the MTSS framework design. However, Dr. Sefcik shared that completing and implementing the MTSS framework remains critical. She recommended the District continue to partner with DMGroup through the 2021/22 school year at a cost of \$70,000 to complete a cohesive MTSS structure.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Jared to approve the contract with DMGroup through the 2021/22 school year at a cost of \$70,000.

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

Aye: LaRoche, Fleming, Jared, Kusiak, Yanik, Hill, Michniewicz

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

Student Residency Procedures

Dr. Sefcik recommended a 3-year agreement with Thomson Reuters, a subscription-based residency validation program, to provide us with the opportunity to verify residency, through reliable public and proprietary information prior to enrollment and periodically throughout the year. The cost is \$549.05 per month, which works out to \$6,588.60 per year.

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Michniewicz to approve the 3-year agreement with Thomson Reuters to provide residency verification services at a cost of \$549.05 per month.

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

Aye: Fleming, Jared, Kusiak, Yanik, Hill, Michniewicz, LaRoche

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

Spring Coaching Recommendations

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the spring athletic coaches as presented, conditional upon if the season is able to take place. Some winter programs restarted today, we will allow 25 participants or less, including coaches/sponsors, and follow ISBE and IDPH regulations and our protocols.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the spring coaches if the season takes place.

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

Aye: Jared, Kusiak, Yanik, Hill, Michniewicz, LaRoche, Fleming

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik introduced Dr. Stacie Noisey, who was in attendance, as the recommended candidate for Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. She provided some educational, experience, and employment history. Dr. Noisey thanked the Board and said she was from a small town and appreciated the congenial feeling she felt from Grant and is excited to join the team.

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

The employment of the following individuals:

- Dr. Stacie Noisey, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, at the salary of \$145,000, start date-7/1/2021
- Trevor Sefcik, Full-time Substitute, \$175/day, start date-1/14/2021
- Andrea Weaver, Long-Term Sub (Frett/Boton), In-District Sub, salary of \$17,383.20.

Accepting the retirement/termination letters from:

- Sandra Lewand-Sherman, Custodian, effective 1/3/2021
- Emma Figge, Spring Musical Choreographer, effective immediately
- Kristin Kostakos, Asst. Winter Cheer Coach, effective immediately

Notification of FMLA requests from:

- Roy Prouty, Bus Driver, effective January 4, 2021 – April 8, 2021
- Maxwell Boton, Teacher, effective March 29, 2021 – April 16, 2021
- Patricia Qasabian, Teacher, effective August 11, 2021 – November 8, 2021

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

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

Aye: Kusiak, Yanik, Hill, Michniewicz, LaRoche, Fleming, Jared

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

First Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement Between Certain Lake County Taxing Districts

Mrs. Reich presented an amendment to the intergovernmental agreement to change legal counsel in the case that we have joined with Gavin School District, Fox Lake Fire Protection District, the Village of Fox Lake and Grant Township, which will be before the Illinois Department of Revenue.

** A motion was made by Mr. LaRoche, second by Mr. Jared to approve the First Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement Between Certain Lake County Taxing Districts as presented.

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

Aye: Yanik, Hill, Michniewicz, LaRoche, Fleming, Jared, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent:
Motion – **Passed**

Resolution Authorizing Intervention in Proceedings before the State of Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board

Mrs. Reich presented the resolution that authorizes legal counsel to represent Grant Community High School District #124 in proceedings before the State of Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board. This resolution replaces the resolution the Board approved in June, 2020, changing the legal counsel to Franczek, P.C., representing the District at PTAB.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mrs. Kusiak to approve the Resolution Authorizing Intervention in Proceedings before the State of Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB).

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

Aye: Hill, Michniewicz, LaRoche, Fleming, Jared, Kusiak, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Sefcik announced the following:

- She reported that a Freedom of Information Act request was received and fulfilled.
- She thanked the Board for their thoughtful gift of chocolate strawberries which she shared with staff.
- She showed the plaque from Judy Martini, County Board member, Kay Starostovic, Township Supervisor, and Donny Schmit, Fox Lake Mayor. The plaque thanks the students of Grant High School for their volunteerism during the Northern Illinois Food Bank distribution days that has helped over 3,000 local families.
- She noted that the Day Care for employees' children is up and running well with 10 children so far.

CLOSED SESSION

** At 7:37 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Jared 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).

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

Aye: Michniewicz, LaRoche, Fleming, Jared, Kusiak, Yanik, Hill

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

** At 7:47 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Michniewicz to end closed session and return to open session.

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

Aye: LaRoche, Fleming, Jared, Kusiak, Yanik, Hill, Michniewicz

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Yanik to dismiss Brian Schaitz, effective immediately.

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

Aye: Fleming, Jared, Kusiak, Yanik, Hill, Michniewicz, LaRoche

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mr. Jared to approve the \$2,500 bonuses for Bob Janusz, Anthony Johnson, and Geoff Williams of the Student Engagement Team, Beth Reich-Business Manager, Ryan Geist-Assistant Principal, and Nate Miller-Assistant Principal.

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

Aye: Jared, Kusiak, Yanik, Hill, Michniewicz, LaRoche, Fleming

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

ADJOURN

- ** At 7:48 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. LaRoche, second by Mrs. Michniewicz to adjourn the meeting.

Steve Hill, President

Ruth Michniewicz, Secretary