



## **Grant Community High School District 124**

### **Board of Education Special Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 29, 2020 7:00 PM**

**GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124  
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2020  
7:00 PM - LIBRARY/WEB-BASED**

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Audience
- V. Superintendent's Report
  - A. Face Coverings - New Board Policy \*\* 3
  - B. Reopening Plans 2020/21 - Update \*\* 6
  - C. Personnel \*\*
- VI. Business Affairs
  - A. School Fees 2020/21 \*\* 26
- VII. Other Business
- VIII. Closed Session
  - A. Collective bargaining matters. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) \*\*
  - B. Security procedures, school building safety and security. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8) \*\*
- IX. Action items from closed session discussion \*\*
- X. Adjourn

\*\* Indicates possible action item

The next regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.



# SCHOOL BOARD POLICY

## Grant Community High School District 124

Section: Students

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### FACE COVERINGS

#### General Rule – Face Coverings Required

The School Board acknowledges the continuing need to follow the Joint Guidance issued by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) with respect to health and safety protocols for the return to in-person instruction. Accordingly, except for individuals younger than 2 years of age, any individual present in any building, facility or transportation vehicle (i.e. bus) owned, operated or used by the District, shall at all times wear a face covering, even when social distancing is maintained.

#### When Face Coverings May Be Removed

Face coverings may be removed when:

1. Individuals are eating and/or drinking in spaces and at times so designated by the District;
2. Teachers and students are engaged in band activities necessitating such removal;
3. Individuals are outside and social distance (at least six feet apart) is maintained; or
4. Individuals are having trouble breathing.

#### Reasonable Accommodations

Individuals who cannot tolerate a face covering due to a medical condition or disability related condition, or who present other bona fide reasons for not being able to wear a face covering, may be permitted to utilize alternative options such as a face shield or other reasonable accommodation. The Superintendent or designee shall have discretion to determine whether an employee, visitor, or third-party individual qualifies for a reasonable accommodation. For a student with a medical condition or disability, the student's education team (i.e. IEP team, 504 team, health plan team) will determine whether the student qualifies for a



# SCHOOL BOARD POLICY

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reasonable accommodation and the accommodation to be provided. As a condition to granting a reasonable accommodation, the District may require an individual to provide a physician's note and/or other relevant information, documents, or certifications with respect to the condition or circumstance. Requests for reasonable accommodations from the face covering requirement shall be assessed in accordance with applicable state and federal law.

### **What Constitutes A Face Covering/Additional Resources**

For purposes of this section, "face covering" means a cloth face covering, N95 mask, surgical mask, or other material that fully covers the nose and mouth and is approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For additional information and resources regarding face coverings, please see:

Illinois Dept. of Public Health - <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/mask-use>

CDC DIY Cloth Face Coverings (April 4) – <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

CDC Recommendations for Cloth Face Covers  
– <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

U.S. Surgeon General How to Make Your Own Face Covering (YouTube)  
– <https://youtu.be/tPx1yqvJgf4>

CDC Cloth Face Covers FAQ – <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-faq.html>



# SCHOOL BOARD POLICY

## Grant Community High School District 124

Section: Students

S.B.P. File: 7:910 (Page 3 of 3)

### **Consequences for Violating Policy**

An individual's refusal to wear a face covering in accordance with this policy shall constitute a violation of the District's applicable rules of conduct, and may subject the individual to disciplinary action and/or prevent the individual from entering the District's buildings, facilities or transportation vehicles until the individual complies with this policy. Face covering designs and images must comply with the District's Student Appearance Policy and must not disrupt the educational process, interfere with the maintenance of a positive teaching/learning climate, or compromise reasonable standards of health, safety and decency. The Superintendent or designee shall apply and enforce this policy.

### **Application and Duration of Policy**

This policy shall apply any time ISBE and/or IDPH Joint Guidance recommends that face coverings be used in Illinois schools. Upon any change in or withdrawal of the Joint Guidance, the School Board hereby delegates to the Superintendent authority to establish temporary rules and procedures, and/or to suspend this policy, consistent with such change or withdrawal.

Legal Reference:

Original Policy Adopted: 00/00/0000

Policy Reviewed and Adopted:



# REVISIT RE- OPENING PLANS GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

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Board of Education  
Update  
July 29, 2020

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# AGENDA

- ▶ Review of Existing Plans
- ▶ Changing Landscape
- ▶ Preparation for 20/21
- ▶ Question

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# REVIEW OF EXISTING PLANS

- ▶ Plans were developed based on IDPH & ISBE Part 3 guidelines that were released on 6/23/20
- ▶ BOE approved on July 16 to begin the school year in blended remote learning with the goal to resume in-person learning as quickly and safely as possible
  - ▶ Provide two options for families (2020/21 only)
    - ▶ OPTION 1 Blended Remote Learning
    - ▶ OPTION 2 Fully Remote Learning
  - ▶ Revised calendar for 2020/21



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# CHANGING LANDSCAPE

**ISBE: Schools “encouraged to provide completely in-person instruction for all students in Phase 4.”**

**CDC: Important to Reopen America’s Schools**

- However, the guidelines from ISBE, CDC, IDPH and LCHD continue to be adjusted with shifting clarification. Many of the requirements they are putting forth, including new ones on 7/23/20, are making it increasingly difficult for us to get students and staff back on campus.

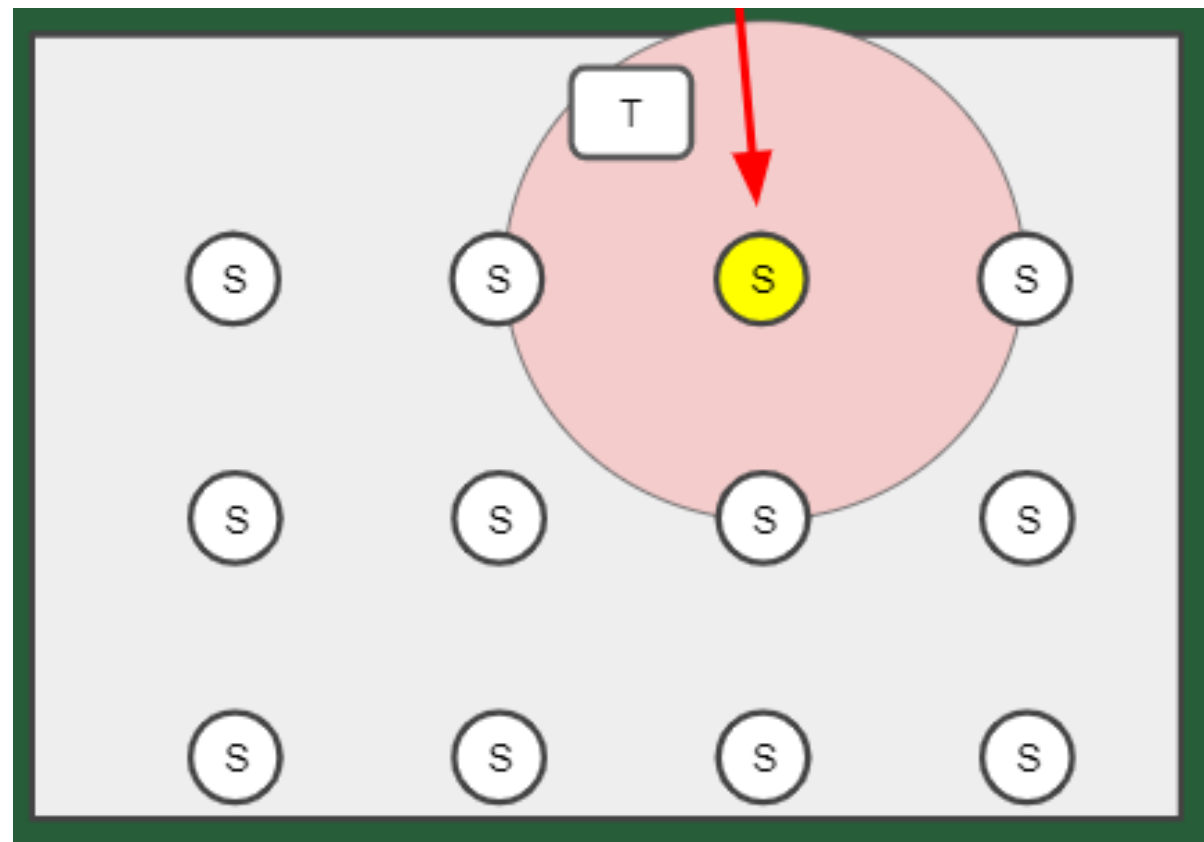
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# CHANGING LANDSCAPE (updated 7/23)

- ▶ Guidance on 6' of social distancing has changed significantly. It was clarified on Friday by the Lake County Health Department that if we can't maintain 6' of social distancing at all times then alternate plans need to be developed. Prior guidance said to maintain 6' of social distancing "as much as possible". Given this new clarification, we are having trouble guaranteeing this will happen at all times.
- ▶ The Lake County Health Department has now shared that any student or staff member who exhibits a COVID-19 like symptom (runny nose, headache, sore throat, fatigue, etc.) will be required to quarantine, provide a negative COVID test or a doctor note to return.
- ▶ ISBE/CDC are now recommending all students be placed in strict cohorts to minimize contact tracing. At the high school level, this require a fundamental change to the way we do things and would negatively impact the educational experience..

# CHANGING LANDSCAPE

- ▶ Quarantine guidelines are going to cause significant disruption daily. We are still awaiting an official “decision tree” guidance from Lake County Health Department in regards to who/when to quarantine. Since their information from the CDC continues to be adjusted, they have also had to adjust their guidance documents for us.



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# CHANGING LANDSCAPE

- ▶ The required daily screening of all students and staff continues to be a challenge that we are trying to address. This may be done either using a daily self-health check or temperature check but students may not enter the building or bus if they haven't completed a self-health check or had temperature taken.
- ▶ More restrictive bus guidelines are forthcoming. These will continue to negatively impact our ability to transport students to school in an efficient, cost-effective manner.

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# CHANGING LANDSCAPE

- ▶ There are increasing infection rates in Lake County, which has pushed the county into a “warning” status. LCHD has stated there will undoubtedly be cases and significant portions of our staff/students impacted.
  - ▶ <http://dph.illinois.gov/countymetrics>
  - ▶ <http://dph.illinois.gov/regionmetrics?regionID=1>
- ▶ LCHD has recommended residents quarantine 14 days after visiting “hotspot” areas. Wisconsin was added to the list this week. We have several staff members that live in Wisconsin and this quarantine recommendation may impact their ability to come to school.
- ▶ Becoming increasingly difficult to stay the course with blended learning plans.

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# CHANGING LANDSCAPE - ISBE

## ISBE July 23 Learning Recommendations (Surprise!):

- ▶ Ensure high quality curriculum and assessments.
- ▶ Identify the priorities of course content collaboratively and hold one another accountable for keeping the standards high and the instruction focused.
- ▶ Assess students for unfinished learning/learning loss.
- ▶ Plan for strategies and systems to address gaps in learning.

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# CHANGING LANDSCAPE - ISBE

## ISBE July 23 Learning Recommendations:

- ▶ 2.5 hours of daily synchronous (live) learning with real-time instruction and interaction between students and their teachers.
- ▶ Teachers within same course team or subject area collaborate to create shared versions of instructional plans.
- ▶ Planning should account for at least 5 hours of learning time for each student each day.
- ▶ Students are given routines and structures to ensure they stay connected to schools and are provided opportunities to learn regardless of the delivery model.

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# CHANGING LANDSCAPE - ISBE

## ISBE July 23 Learning Recommendations:

- ▶ Prioritize in-person learning for students with IEPs, 504s, EL and struggling students.
- ▶ Differentiate instruction to target and address student's varying needs.
- ▶ Use leadership teams to develop schoolwide systems and monitor data.
- ▶ Provide social-emotional supports.
- ▶ Assume the best! "Students, educators, and caregivers all have valuable perspectives that need to be understood and heard."



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# PREPARATION FOR 20/21

## GCHS PRIORITIES:

- ▶ FOCUS ON LEARNING - NOT LOGISTICS
- ▶ Comply with local, state and federal recommendations.
- ▶ Balance safety and learning for all.
- ▶ Collaborate across District 124 consortium / feeder districts.
- ▶ Communicate with stakeholders.

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# PREPARATION FOR 20/21

- ▶ Teachers planning as if remote learning and may have students present.
  - ▶ Identify “vital” instructional objectives.
  - ▶ Maximize use of Schoology to be best prepared to communicate lessons, activities, etc.
  - ▶ Consistency within PLTs.
  - ▶ Plan for at least 5 clock hours of daily instruction or school work for each student.
  - ▶ Plan for 2.5 hours of face-to-face or synchronous instruction daily (approximately 30 minutes per class).
  - ▶ PLT’s to define instructional plans.

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# PREPARATION FOR 20/21

- ▶ Student grades will be based on performance.
- ▶ Daily attendance and engagement of students is expected regardless of learning mode.
- ▶ If we begin in remote learning, we will need to be very intentional with efforts to establish relationships with students..

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# PREPARATION FOR 20/21

- ▶ Regardless of learning mode, Wednesdays will largely be reserved for teacher plan time and office hours for student support, although 5 clock hours of instruction must occur for students.
- ▶ Beginning of year events still being reimagined.
- ▶ In Phase 4 so regardless of learning mode, we are permitted to have staff report, students may come for instruction in small groups, and parents for school business.

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# PREPARATION FOR 20/21

- ▶ Ongoing collaboration with Union in decision-making and communication.
- ▶ If begin in remote learning, all employees will be paid their 20/21 salary and assigned purposeful work.
- ▶ Regardless of learning mode, partnership with Camp Duncan to provide school-aged child care options for staff members to be able to work.

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## RECOMMENDATION:

Due to the uncertainty of being able to meet required local, state and federal protocols in blended learning, concern for safety, and challenge to focus on high levels of learning for all in current reality... we are recommending to start the year in fully remote learning until at least September 30.

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# QUESTIONS?





# Grant Community High School District 124

285 East Grand Avenue, Fox Lake, Illinois 60020

847-587-2561 • Fax: 847-587-2991

**Christine A. Sefcik, Ed.D.**  
*Superintendent*

**Jeremy N. Schmidt**  
*Principal*

**Beth A. Reich**  
*Business Manager*

## **Resolution – School Operations During COVID-19 Pandemic**

**WHEREAS**, due to the ongoing pandemic, all areas of the State of Illinois continue to be declared a disaster area; and

**WHEREAS**, public health guidelines remain subject to ongoing clarification and modification as necessary to prevent or slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), which has authority to administer attendance and school calendar requirements, to interpret graduation requirements, and to oversee the allocation of resources for nutrition, transportation, and other crucial aspects of public education is providing written guidance, subject to ongoing clarification and modification, to Illinois school boards and their districts on issues related to COVID-19, including but not limited to student attendance, e-learning, meal distribution, transportation, special education, and other issues; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of Grant Community High School District 124 previously approved a plan for modified school operations during the 2020-21 school year with alternative methods of delivering instruction (“Operating Plan”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education recognizes that complying with applicable public health requirements and guidelines will require that the District modify its standard operations for an undetermined period during the 2020-21 school year;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Education of Grant Community High School District 124, Lake County, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1: The Board recognizes the need for ongoing flexibility in addressing instructional, operational and staffing considerations in response to emerging and changing guidance and requirements from the State of Illinois, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Public Health, Centers for Disease Control, Lake County Public Health Department and other entities with authority over the District. Thus, the Board qualifies its prior approval of the Operating Plan for the 2020-21 school year to be advisory and supportive of the general principles reflected in that plan.

Section 2: The Board grants the Superintendent and the Superintendent’s designees the flexibility to modify and implement the Operating Plan for the 2020-21 school year as necessary to adapt to changing guidelines and public health requirements. The Superintendent will consult with the Board President over any substantive changes in the Operating Plan and will report regularly to the Board regarding modifications and ongoing efforts to implement current guidance and requirements.

Section 3: The Superintendent is authorized, after consultation with the Board President and notification to the Board, to close any school building or District facility without further action by the Board during any period of modified operations, including until such time as the Superintendent, in consultation with appropriate local, State, and federal health and government authorities, deems it in the best interests of the District and its students to open schools.



Section 4: The Superintendent is authorized, based upon the needs of the District and the guidance from local, State, and federal health and government agencies, to direct staff assignments and working conditions during any period of modified operations, provided that the Board approve any needed modifications to applicable bargaining agreements or Board policies.

Section 5: Access to the District’s school grounds and school buildings or facilities may be limited as directed by the Superintendent during any period of modified operations and to prevent or slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Section 6: The Board suspends any portions of its policies or any policies in their entirety during any period of modified operations, if the suspension is necessary to implement current guidance and requirements or to the extent any such policy is inconsistent with the operational plan for the 2020-21 school year.

Section 7: This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage.

ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_ day of July 2020, by a roll call vote as follows:

YES: \_\_\_\_\_

NO: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Board of Education

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Board of Education

**Date:** July 29, 2020  
**To:** Dr. Christy Sefcik, Superintendent  
**From:** Beth Reich  
**Re:** School Fees 2020-21

**Background:** \_\_\_\_\_

Grant Community High School charges school fees to defray the costs of consumables, textbook rental, novels, lab supplies, technology supplies, including printer ink, paper and access to and support of the wireless internet service, etc. We have held registration fees flat for the last five years, except for the introduction of a technology fee when we went one-to-one.

**Analysis:** \_\_\_\_\_

Last school year was unprecedented. This year as we move into an evolving landscape for what the school year will look like, I wanted to bring the school fees to your attention. Our current mandatory school registration fees are as follows:

Freshmen: \$145 – includes PE uniform and lock  
Sophomores: \$125  
Juniors: \$125  
Seniors: \$150 – includes \$25 graduation fee.

Parking: \$100/year/student  
Technology Fee: \$40/year/student  
Athletic Fee: \$100/student/sport with at \$200 family maximum per year

While the costs of supplies continue to increase, it is important to recognize many of the families in the district have or are experiencing financial difficulties which impact their ability to pay the fees, especially during the COVID-19 situation. Our most recent report filed with the state for the school lunch program indicates that 611 of our students qualify for free or reduced lunches. If a student qualifies for a free lunch directly from the state through programs like SNAP/Tanf/Medicaid, their school registration fees are automatically waived. If they qualify by filling out the paperwork for the National School Lunch Program, they have the option of filling out the fee waiver form and supplying income verification which shows they qualify to have their fees waived.

If the district were to waive the registration fees as listed above for the 2020-21 school year, not including the graduation fee, technology fee or athletic fees, it would be a loss in revenue of approximately \$150,984. This number already includes a percentage subtracted that would have been waived due to the qualification of free lunch directly from the state. If the district were to waive the parking fees for the 2020-21 school year, it would be a loss in revenue of approximately \$33,200.

The deficit this loss in revenue can be made up if we put off re-doing more classrooms until the 2021-22 school year. This year's 10 classrooms were a cost of \$312,073 with furniture and technology upgrades.

**Recommendation:** \_\_\_\_\_

I am recommending that Grant Community High School #124 waive the class level school fees for the 2020-2021 school year as follows:

Freshman \$145.00

Sophomore \$125.00

Junior \$125.00

Senior \$125.00

I also recommend we waive the parking pass fee at \$100.