

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING JULY 29, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of Grant Community High School District 124, County of Lake, State of Illinois, was held on Wednesday, July 29, 2020 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 web 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:

Administration present:

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

◆ Participated via Zoom link

AUDIENCE

All audience members attended via Zoom link: Sandra Schrank, James Schimenti, Brian S., Kirsten Ryan, Jeremy Anderson, Sharon Rada, Patti Wright, Shanda Blancet, Chandra Allen, Cristiana Catarino, Amanda LeBrun, Maureen Harker, Donny Schmit, Suzanne Mitchell, Kirsten Ryan, Laura Snyder, Greg Fleming. No questions were submitted from audience members.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Face Coverings – New Board Policy

Dr. Sefcik presented a new policy that acknowledges the need to follow guidance from ISBE and IDPH with respect to health and safety protocols for the return to in-person instruction. The policy will detail when face coverings are required, may be removed, reasonable accommodations, what constitutes a face covering, consequences for violating the policy and application and duration of the policy.

- ** A motion was made by Mr. LaRoche, second by Mrs. Michniewicz to approve School Board Policy 7:910 – Face Coverings.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

Reopening Plans 2020/21 - Update

Dr. Sefcik presented an update to the Re-Opening plans for Grant Community High School that included the review of existing plans, the changing landscape, and preparations for 2020/21. The existing plan that was approved by the Board of Education at their July 16, 2020 meeting included offering families two options: Option 1- Blended Remote Learning or Option 2- Fully Remote Learning. On July 23, ISBE, IDPH, LCHD and the CDC put forth more stringent requirements that would hinder our plans to get students and staff back on campus. Dr. Sefcik and Mr. Schmidt stated that due to the uncertainty of being able to meet the required local, state, and federal protocols during blended learning, concern for safety, and the challenge to focus on high levels of learning with so many logistical considerations, the recommendation is to begin the school year in fully remote learning until at least September 30, 2020.

- ** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. LaRoche to authorize the change to the school year in fully remote learning.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

Dr. Sefcik provided the *Resolution-School Operations During COVID-19 Pandemic* which gives the Superintendent the flexibility to modify and implement the Operating Plan for the 2020/21 school year in consultation with local, state, and federal health and government authorities deemed to be in the best interest of the District. This authorization is after consultation with the Board President and notification to the Board.

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Michniewicz, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the *Resolution – School Operations During COVID-19 Pandemic*.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik requested approval of the employment of Cory Dooley, full-time mathematics teacher.

- ** A motion was made by Mr. LaRoche, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the employment of Cory Dooley for the full-time mathematics position.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

School Fees 2020/21

Mrs. Reich said the District recognizes that many of our families may be experiencing financial difficulties which impact their ability to pay school fees during this difficult time. She recommended waiving the following class level school fees and parking pass fee for the 2020/21 school year:

Freshman \$145.00

Sophomore \$125.00

Junior \$125.00

Senior \$125.00

Parking Pass \$100.00

The deficit for not collecting these fees can be offset by putting off re-doing more classrooms until the 2021/22 school year.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Michniewicz to approve waiving the class level school fees and the parking pass fee for the 2020/21 school year.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Sefcik reported that IHSA, just hours before the meeting, announced their modification to the Return to Activities. She asked Tom Ross, Athletic Director, who was attending the meeting via Zoom, to outline some of the information received. Teams will play shortened regular season schedules in Winter, Spring, and Summer; State Series events for all sports will be determined on a sport-by-sport basis; Activities that can happen virtually can remain in their traditional seasons; Activities that cannot happen virtually could potentially need to adjust their seasons; and the IHSA Board modified the current Phase 4 Return to Play Guidelines to allow for fall contact days to begin on Monday of week 10 (Sept. 7) and continue until the end of week 17 (Oct. 31) and there is a 20-day limit on contact days during that time period for any sport not in season.

- Fall season: 8/10 – 10/24 and includes Boys and Girls Golf, Girls Tennis, Boys & Girls Cross Country, Girls Swimming & Diving (Football, Girls Volleyball and Boys Soccer moved to a Spring 2021 season).
- Winter season: 11/16 – 2/13, for Boys & Girls Basketball, Wrestling, Boys Swimming & Diving, Competitive Cheerleading, Competitive Dance, Boys & Girls Bowling, Girls Gymnastics.
- Spring season: 2/15 – 5/1, for Football, Boys Soccer, Girls Volleyball, Boys & Girls Cross Country, Girls Swimming & Diving, Girls Badminton. Boys Gymnastics, Boys & Girls Water Polo.
- Summer season: 5/3 – 6/26, for Baseball, Softball, Boys & Girls Track & Field, Girls Soccer, Boys Volleyball, Boys & Girls Lacrosse, and Boys Tennis.

More information will follow at a later date.

CLOSED SESSION

No Closed Session Was Held.

ADJOURN

** At 8:05 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Michniewicz to adjourn the meeting.

Steve Hill, President

Ruth Michniewicz, Secretary