

# **GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MARCH 18, 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, March 18, 2021 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  
Paul LaRoche, Vice President  
Ivy Fleming, Member  
John Jared, Member  
Kathy Kusiak, Member  
Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent:

Ruth Michniewicz, Secretary

Administration present:

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

Mr. Paul LaRoche served as Secretary Pro Tem in the absence of Ruth Michniewicz

## ***AUDIENCE***

Max Boton

## ***CONSENT AGENDA***

Minutes of regular meeting held February 18, 2021

Minutes of closed meeting held February 18, 2021

March Bills Payable

February Treasurer's Report

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Michniewicz

Motion – **Passed**

## ***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT***

### March Student of the Month

Dr. Sefcik announced the March Student of the Month, Dominick Tadewald. He was unable to join us in person for the meeting so she read his profile of accomplishments that included academic achievements, extracurricular activities, service to his community, his Boy Scout successes, what he enjoys in his spare time, and his future plans. Since he couldn't be in attendance, he provided a video that voiced his pride at being chosen and he thanked Dr. Sefcik and the Board for all they do for students.

### Excellence in Education Award – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

Dr. Sefcik recognized Max Boton and congratulated him as this quarter's recipient of the Excellence in Education Award, and asked Principal Schmidt to introduce him to the Board. Mr. Schmidt read the narrative from the peers that nominated Max on the reasons why he deserves the honor. The Board applauded and thanked Mr. Boton for his substantial contribution to the students and staff of Grant. Mr. Boton said he was honored to be chosen as the Excellence in Education Award winner and he also mentioned that Dominick Tadewald was an excellent choice for Student of the Month. The Board applauded and thanked Mr. Boton for his service to Grant High School.

### Blended Learning Plan Update

Dr. Sefcik was excited to announce the return of the District's original Blended Learning Plan that allows for students to return to two days in person per week. Due to the revised public health guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health, guidelines have been modified to lessen the barriers for in-person learning. Specifically, social distancing is now defined as 3-6 feet and capacity limits in a space are now determined by the ability to social distance rather than a previous set limit of 50 individuals per space. Additionally, community transmission continues to decline. We will implement these changes beginning March 29, 2021.

At the request of the Board, Dr. Sefcik investigated whether it was possible to increase in-person learning beyond two days per week. The administration reviewed in-person attendance numbers in detail and functional capacity of classrooms to accommodate an increased number of students while still abiding by new social distancing requirements. Additionally, areas to accommodate 6' of social distancing while eating were investigated and creative options identified. Dr. Sefcik presented options to the Board of Education to increase in-person learning to four days per week. Mr. Hill made the recommendation we transition to full in-person learning for students that wish to attend in-person beginning on Monday, April 12. Students will attend on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesdays will be retained as a flex schedule day with all students learning at home and deep cleaning taking place on those days. Given that there will only be a few weeks left in the school year when we make the transition to full in-person learning, we are asking teachers to continue teaching synchronously each period, with students learning both in-person and at home. She and the Board recognized the incredible job the teachers have been doing despite all the difficulties in teaching for both in-person and remote learners.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Jared to approve the transition to full in-person learning for students that wish to attend in-person on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, beginning on Monday, April 12, 2021. Wednesday will still be flex schedule days, with no students attending in-person learning.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Michniewicz

Motion – **Passed**

Assessment Update

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that she is awaiting final word from the Illinois State Board of Education regarding spring assessments. Assessments that will remain required are SAT for grade 11, Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternative Assessment, ACCESS for English Learners, and Illinois Science Assessment. The PSAT for grades 9 and 10 is no longer required and will not take place. When additional information is received, it will be communicated.

Extension of COVID Related Positions

Dr. Sefcik requested extension of the following positions: Remote Learning Aide, Health Aide, Building Monitor, Lunch Monitor (or stipend for current employee) and Bus Driver. These positions were put in place in order to comply with ISBE and IDPH guidelines for the 2020/21 school year. It is anticipated we may need these positions for the 2021/22 school year as well.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the extension of the COVID related positions for the 2021/22 school year as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Michniewicz

Motion – **Passed**

Resolution Authorizing Non-Renewal and Dismissal of Permanent Substitute Teachers and Reduction of Assignment

Dr. Sefcik requested approval of the Resolution Authorizing Non-Renewal and Dismissal of Permanent Substitute Teachers and Reduction of Assignment.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. LaRoche, second by Mrs. Kusiak to approve the Resolution Authorizing Non-Renewal and Dismissal of Permanent Substitute Teachers and Reduction of Assignment as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Michniewicz

Motion – **Passed**

Resolution Authorizing Non-Reemployment of Part-Time, Non-Tenured Teachers

Dr. Sefcik requested approval of the Resolution Authorizing Non-Reemployment of Part-Time, Non-Tenured Teachers.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the Resolution Authorizing Non-Reemployment of Part-Time, Non-Tenured Teachers as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Michniewicz

Motion – **Passed**

Summer Coaching Recommendations

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the summer athletic coaches as presented, subject to the season taking place.

- \*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mrs. Kusiak to approve the summer coaching recommendations as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Michniewicz

Motion – **Passed**

### Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Recommend the employment of the following individuals:

- Stephanie Ashmore, move from Student Services Secretary to Full-time School Counselor, MA Step 0, beginning 2021/22 school year

Accept the retirement/resignation letters from the following individuals:

- Camille Fiordiroso, Athletics Admin. Asst., retiring effective end of 2020/21
- Christine Ryza, Food Service, retiring effective August, 2021
- Barbara Barlass, Food Service, resigning effective immediately

Notification of FMLA for the following individuals:

- Sharon Sullivan, effective March 15, 2021 – May 24, 2021

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Michniewicz

Motion – **Passed**

### Principal's Report

Mr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on End of Semester Information, Summer School, Foreign Language Overseas Trip Planning, Feeder Principal Articulation, Looking Ahead to 2021/22, and Blood Drive.

## ***BUSINESS AFFAIRS***

### Summer School Recommendation

Mrs. Reich reported that we offer summer school each year consisting of enrichment courses to credit recovery courses. This summer we anticipate greater enrollment to recover credits due to students struggling with blended and remote learning. Some of the changes recommend offering supplemental learning opportunities and expanding the access to students and their families. She recommended providing additional courses and additional teachers which will allow the District to expand summer instructional opportunities. In addition, waiving the \$130 cost to families for credit recovery summer school during the Summer 2021 program. Lastly, in an effort to recruit more teachers for the summer course offerings, increase the 2021 summer school hourly pay from \$50.16/hr. to \$76.33 per hour.

- \*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the Summer School Program recommendation as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Michniewicz

Motion – **Passed**

2020-21 Tentative Amended Budget

Mrs. Reich provided the 2020/21 tentative amended budget for review. She noted that changes were made to accommodate increases in Title I, II, and IV grants, increase in federal revenue tied to the CARES Act, decrease in special education transportation costs, and decrease in local revenue tied to school fees and interest. Per statute, the amended budget must be on display for the statutory 30 days. She will provide it at the May meeting for hearing and final approval.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Yanik to place the tentative amended 2020/21 budget on display for the statutory 30 days.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Michniewicz

Motion – **Passed**

***OTHER BUSINESS***

Dr. Sefcik reported that there were two Freedom of Information Act requests that were received and fulfilled: Chicago Tribune & ProPublica and Public Contractors.

Dr. Sefcik also reported that Spectator Guidelines have been developed.

***CLOSED SESSION***

No Closed Session was held.

***ADJOURN***

\*\* At 8:08 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Jared to adjourn the meeting.

---

Steve Hill, President

---

Paul LaRoche, Secretary Pro Tem