

# **GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124**

## **MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

### **MAY 18, 2023**

#### ***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, May 18, 2023 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  
John Jared, Secretary  
Shelly Booth, Member  
Ed Lescher, Member  
Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent:

Kathy Kusiak, Vice President  
◆ Ivy Fleming, Member

Administration present:

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

Student Representative: Nicole Kaminski

◆ Ivy Fleming arrived at 7:07 pm

#### ***AUDIENCE***

Alex Sullivan, Jackie Sullivan, Kristina Maestranzi, Stacie Noisey, Ron Lindstrom, Sara Lindstrom, Jolene Lee, Lucy Lee, Isaac Lee, Joey Maggio, Lauren Lee, Oliver Lee, Quinlynn Schmitt, Bob Schmitt, Eleanor Escobedo, Mary Santana Escobedo, Julie Podgorski

#### ***CONSENT AGENDA***

Minutes of special meeting held April 27, 2023  
Minutes of regular meeting held April 27, 2023  
Minutes of closed meeting held April 27, 2023  
May Bills Payable  
April Treasurer's Report  
Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from November 18, 2021

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

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

Aye: Jared, Booth, Lescher, Yanik, Hill

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak, Fleming

Motion – **Passed**

## ***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items***

### Student of the Month

Dr. Sefcik introduced Lucy Lee, in the presence of her family, as the May Student of the Month. She read Lucy'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 Lucy the opportunity to speak to the Board and she said she has enjoyed her time at Grant and acknowledged all the effort that everyone puts in. She also thanked them for selecting her for the honor. The Board and audience applauded Lucy and Dr. Sefcik presented her with a certificate to commemorate being chosen as the May Student of the Month.

### IHSA State Journalism Champion

Dr. Sefcik introduced Eleanor "Ellie" Escobedo as the IHSA Journalism State Champion in Photo Story Telling. She showed the Board the photographs that secured her first-place finish. The assignment was to submit three photos with a common theme. Ellie said she wanted to display the ways technology is changing our world. Dr. Sefcik presented the two highway signs that will be installed at two entrances to Fox Lake showing Ellie's State Championship win. The Board and audience applauded Ellie and her Journalism Advisor, Kristina Maestranzi, on her state success and Dr. Sefcik presented Ellie and Mrs. Maestranzi with a certificate from the Board.

◆ Ivy Fleming arrived at 7:07pm

### Excellence in Education Award – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

Dr. Sefcik asked the Principal, Dr. Jeremy Schmidt, to introduce the winners of the Excellence in Education award for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, Alex Sullivan, Communications Coordinator, and Bob Schmitt, English Teacher/Teacher Leader. Dr. Schmidt read the submissions from their peers that stated why each was deserving of the honor. Alex said being a 2014 graduate of Grant makes it that much more special to capture the great things happening in classrooms and at athletic/activity events. Bob said how much he enjoys working at Grant and with his colleagues. The Board, family members, and audience applauded Alex Sullivan and Bob Schmitt for being named as the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Excellence in Education award winners.

### Curriculum & Instruction Update – Dr. Stacie Noisey

Dr. Sefcik turned it over to Dr. Stacie Noisey to provide a presentation and update on curriculum planning for next year, which included new textbook purchases, planned professional development, and a grading pilot to take place in the fall.

### Honors Night

Dr. Sefcik announced that Honors Night, which took place on May 3<sup>rd</sup> in the field house, provided a wonderful opportunity to recognize the efforts of our dedicated students. We were able to recognize the achievements of 68 students and distribute \$43,250 in local scholarships.

Lake County Educator of the Year Awards

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that the Regional Office of Education hosted the Lake County Educator of the Year Awards on May 10<sup>th</sup>. We nominated two teachers, Joree Morris and Jeff Austin, and three non-certified staff members, Lynda Gunther, Marissa Meyers, and Josh Staples. She was happy to say that Josh Staples, Director of Buildings and Grounds, was selected as the Lake County Educational Service Personnel winner! It was a wonderful event that included many of the nominees' friends and family members.

Hall of Fame 2023

Dr. Sefcik reported the difficult task of selecting next fall's inductees was completed by the Hall of Fame Committee. We are excited to announce the following individuals will be recognized during homecoming festivities in September and recommended for induction into the GCHS Hall of Fame:

Howard (Bud) Scott, in memoriam  
Mark Barczak  
Bill Lomas

Further information will be released as we gather it from these individuals and prepare a news release in advance of the recognition.

Principal's Report

Dr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on Summer School, Student Recognition: National Art Honor Society Induction, Seal of Biliteracy, Distinguished Bulldog Award; Student Activities: Pep Assembly, Prom; and Graduation.

Student Representative's Report

Nicole Kaminski provided her report which included information on Disc Golf, Environmental Club, Prom, and other end-of-year activities.

***PUBLIC COMMENT***

None

***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items***

November Board of Education Meeting Date

Dr. Sefcik reminded the Board that the Joint Annual Conference is immediately after the November Board meeting. New this year, districts have been invited to send a Board member, superintendent, and the student representative to the Board to a full-day pre-conference session on Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, we have one Board member interested in attending a pre-conference session on Thursday. She recommended changing the November Board meeting date from November 16<sup>th</sup> to November 9<sup>th</sup> to accommodate attendance at the pre-conference sessions.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Fleming to change the date of the November, 2023 Board meeting from November 16, 2023 to November 9, 2023.

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

Aye: Booth, Fleming, Lescher, Yanik, Hill, Jared  
Nay: None  
Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

Consolidated District Plan

Dr. Sefcik reported that as a district that receives federal funds, we are required to have the Board of Education approve the new Consolidated District Plan. In previous years, only a Title I Plan required Board approval, however new reporting requires the districts to answer one set of planning questions for all 12 of the federal grants that may be available. All departments that completed their own grant applications previously have collaborated on the development of this Consolidated District Plan.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the Consolidated District Plan, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

School Board Policy Modifications – Second Reading

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the School Board Policies that were presented for a first reading at last month's meeting. All revisions are based on direction from the Illinois Association of School Boards and legal counsel.

Section 200 School Board

2:110 Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers

Section 400 Operational Services

4:60 Purchases and Contracts

Section 500 Personnel

5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria

5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

5:125 Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct

5:150 Personnel Records

5:260 Student Teachers

Section 600 Instruction

6:135 Accelerated Placement Program

6:230 Library Media Program

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the school board policies, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

Community Youth Network Counseling Support 2023/24

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that the Community Youth Network (CYN) Counseling Center is a Lake County nonprofit community counseling agency. We have partnered with CYN in past years to provide mental health support to students in need and assist us in proactively providing mental health supports. CYN designates a social worker to be on campus one day per week to run social-emotional groups based on identified need and provide additional support for struggling students and students in crisis. Dr. Sefcik recommended a one-year agreement with CYN to provide one day of counseling services per week at a cost of \$14,500.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the one-year agreement with CYN, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

#### Lake County Health Department – Assessment and Counseling Services 2023/24

Dr. Sefcik apprised the Board that the Lake County Health Department (LCHD) and Community Health Center provides assessment and counseling services related to substance use and abuse. She recommended continuing our partnership with LCHD to provide these valuable services to our students by approving a one-year agreement with LCHD to provide 3.5 days of counseling services per week at a cost of \$55,672.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the one-year agreement with LCHD, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

#### Overnight Travel Requests

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the following overnight travel requests:

- 1) The Dance Team requests to attend the Dance Team Union Championship in Orlando, Florida, February 9-11, for three coaches and approximately 15 student-athletes. The entire trip will be self-funded with fundraisers and families paying the remaining cost.
- 2) The Special Olympics Team request to attend the State Competition in Bloomington, Illinois, June 9-10, for two coaches and 4 student-athletes. The District will cover the cost of travel for both coaches and meals for students, totaling \$978.94. Students will travel with their families to and from the competition. If families need financial assistance, GCHS Foundation funds will be made available.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the overnight travel requests from the Dance Team and the Special Olympics Team, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

#### Co-Curricular Sponsors 2023/24

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the co-curricular sponsors for 2023/24.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Jared to approve the list of co-curricular sponsors for 2023/24, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

Fall Coaches 2023/24

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the fall coaches for 2023/24.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the fall coaches for 2023/24, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Employment of the following individuals:

- Shelly Svoboda, Full-time Spanish Teacher, BA Step 3, 2023/24 year
- Tyler Clausen, Full-time Math Teacher, BA Step 0, 2023/24 year
- Emily Weber, Full-time Math Teacher, BA Step 0, 2023/24 year
- Adrian Sherko, Full-time Math Teacher, MA+15 Step 8, 2023/24 year
- Greg Wodzien, position change from teacher to Full-time Dean of Students, 2023/24
- Kay Anne Blaszczyk, Full-time Substitute, at \$230/day, 2023/24 year

Accept the resignation letters from the following individuals:

- Mira Giannetti, Family & Consumer Science Teacher, effective 5/22/2023
- Robert Smith, Custodian, effective 5/10/2023
- Jeff Austin, Film Club, effective May 21, 2023
- Jeff Austin, National Art Honor Society (NAHS), effective May 21, 2023
- Cory Dooley, Asst. Girls' Basketball coach, effective May 22, 2023
- Carrie Stump, Anime Club, effective May 22, 2023
- Michele Keenan, Boys and Girls Volleyball, effective May 22, 2023

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

***BUSINESS AFFAIRS***

2022/23 Amended Budget

Mrs. Reich reminded the Board that the 2022/23 Amended Budget is on display and will be on the agenda next month for approval.

Newsela Contract

Mrs. Reich referred to Dr. Noisey's curriculum presentation and noted the English, Bilingual/ELL, and World Language departments have requested to use Newsela as a resource in 2023/24. It will replace a textbook for English 9 and Spanish, and will be used as an additional resource in Bilingual/ELL courses.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the contract with Newsela for the 2023/24 year at a cost of \$17,520.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

#### District Website Provider

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that the District was notified that our website provider Blackboard, Inc., was sold to another company. It was decided to investigate other website platforms and six were considered. The committee recommended FinalSite beginning in 2023/24 for a period of five years at a cost of \$78,305.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve FinalSite as the website platform beginning in 2023/24, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

### ***OTHER BUSINESS***

Dr. Sefcik reported that we received and fulfilled three Freedom of Information Act requests.

### ***CLOSED SESSION***

\*\* At 8:14 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, 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); matters relating to individual students 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(10); collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2).

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

\*\* At 8:27 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Booth to end closed session and return to open session.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

### ***ACTION CLOSED SESSION***

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the termination of Ryan Tevaga, paraprofessional.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Kusiak

Motion – **Passed**

## ***ADJOURN***

\*\* At 8:30 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Fleming to adjourn the meeting.

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Steve Hill, President

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John Jared, Secretary