

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NOVEMBER 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, November 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:

Kathy Kusiak, Vice President
John Jared, Secretary
Shelly Booth, Member
Ivy Fleming, Member
Ed Lescher, Member
Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent:

Steve Hill, President

Administration present:

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

Kathy Kusiak will serve as President Pro Tem in the absence of President, Steve Hill

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held October 21, 2021

Minutes of closed meeting held October 21, 2021

November Bills Payable

October Treasurer's Report

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Student Recognition

Dr. Sefcik introduced Aly Negovetich, in the presence of her parents, John and Meriann Negovetich, as the November Student of the Month. She read Aly'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 Aly the opportunity to speak to the Board and she thanked the Board for the honor. The Board and audience applauded Aly and Dr. Sefcik presented her with a certificate to commemorate being chosen as the November Student of the Month.

Student-Athlete Recognition

Dr. Sefcik asked Aly to remain with her and asked Athletic Director, Tom Ross, to talk about Aly's successes in Cross Country. Also, in attendance were Aly's coaches Jeff Durlak and Jeff Harvey, (coach, Nick Nenni was unable to attend) to congratulate their tremendous coaching efforts. Aly competed at State and secured a 2nd place finish at the IHSA Class 3A Cross Country State Competition. Dr. Sefcik presented Aly and her coaches with a certificate to commemorate their recognition at tonight's meeting. Dr. Sefcik added how proud she was to provide the highway sign for display in two locations at the entrance to Fox Lake. Aly said she was grateful for the support she has had at Grant, especially her coaches, Mr. Ross, and Mr. Duval. Time was allowed for Aly and her family to take photos with the sign.

Faculty Recognition

Dr. Sefcik asked Principal Schmidt to introduce Payton Jordan, in the presence of her mother Gwen Jordan and fiancé Teddy Montemayor. Mr. Schmidt read the submission from her peers to describe why they recommended Payton for the 1st Quarter Excellence in Education Award. Payton responded that she was proud to be a Bulldog and feels supported in the District and how much it feels like a family. She introduced her mother, a retired teacher, and mentioned that her father was an administrator in education, so education is in her blood.

Board of Education Member Recognition

Dr. Sefcik said that November 15, 2021 has been designated as School Board Member Day in Illinois. This year's School Board Members Day theme is "Inspiration and Leadership." She thanked them on behalf of the students, staff, and administration for the steadfast leadership they have provided during such challenging times and they are an inspiration for their continued public service. Bulldog cupcakes were presented to enjoy during the meeting.

Illinois Association of School Boards Policy Services

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that the District subscribes to the Policy Reference Education Subscription Service, known as PRESS Online through the Illinois Association of School Boards. This subscription provides the recommended updates to existing Board Policies, provides administrative procedures and exhibits for policies. This subscription level requires the District to make all changes to policies, procedures, and exhibits manually. She asked the Board to consider adding to our subscription with PRESS Plus and School Board Policies Online. This subscription upgrade would include a customized, full-maintenance updating service for our Board policy manual, online publishing of policies, interactive links to legal references and more, a robust search engine, and customized logins for different access levels. The cost is a one-time fee of \$13,680 to customize the Policy Manual and administrative procedures to align with our current manual and administrative procedures. An annual fee of \$6,000 would provide maintenance and updates to our custom policy manual.

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the additional subscription to PRESS Plus and School Board Policies Online at a one-time cost of \$13,680 and annual fee of \$6,000, as presented.

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

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

Motion – **Passed**

Calendar 2022/23 - Draft

Dr. Sefcik provided a draft of the 2022/23 school calendar. The union and administration conferred on the development and this year, certified staff were asked to provide input via a district survey. This year, calendars throughout the county differed widely and misaligned calendars can cause challenges for staff and families. The proposed calendar follows the LCHS Technology Campus calendar for winter break and the ROE and Tech Campus calendars for spring break. The final calendar will be presented for review and approval in December.

Overnight Travel

Dr. Sefcik recommended two overnight travel requests: (1) the varsity baseball team to travel to Marion, Illinois, March 27-31, 2022, for two coaches chaperoning approximately 26 student-athletes, with costs paid through activity funds; (2) the varsity wrestling team to travel to Machesney Park, Illinois, December 18-19, 2021, for 3 coaches chaperoning an estimated 14 student-athletes, with costs paid through a combination of fundraising and activity funds.

** A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the overnight travel of the varsity baseball team and the varsity wrestling team, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

Joint Annual Conference / IASB Resolutions Committee Report

Dr. Sefcik asked Mrs. Kusiak, who will be our Board of Education's representative at the IASB Delegate Assembly, to discuss our recommended voting positions and ask for feedback on a few of the Resolutions Committee Report items. Dr. Sefcik also indicated that they have information and their badges for the conference in an envelope. She also said that the administrators would not be attending in order to be available in District if needed over the weekend.

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Recommend the employment of the following individuals:

- Winter Event Coordinator, Greg Wodzien
- Drew Talbot, Full-time Substitute Teacher, beginning 11/12/2021
- Daniel Brito, Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach

Recommend accepting the letters of resignation from the following:

- Casey Duval, Asst. Director of Athletics and Activities, effective November 26, 2021
- Stephen Liddle, Science Teacher, effective October 31, 2021
- Charles Cashmore, Custodian, effective November 5, 2021
- Jody Davis, Custodian, effective November 4, 2021
- Chris Robinson, Head Football Coach, effective October 25, 2021
- Kurt Rous, Asst. Football Coach, effective October 25, 2021
- Carl Uphoff, Asst. Football Coach, effective October 27, 2021

Notification of FMLA requests from the following:

- Daniel Nitz, beginning April 6, 2022 – May 20, 2022
- Lori Milbratz, beginning November 18, 2021 – November 23, 2021
- Michelle Soenksen, beginning December 3, 2021 – December 17, 2021

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

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

Aye: Fleming, Lescher, Yanik, Kusiak, Jared, Booth
Nay: None
Absent: Hill
Motion – **Passed**

Principal's Report

Mr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences, Student Future Scheduling Requests, Community Engagement: Parent University, and Vaccination Booster Pod.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

2021 Final Tax Levy

Mrs. Reich provided the 2021 Final Tax Levy along with the accompanying resolutions. There was no change from what was presented last month.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the 2021 Final Tax Levy and accompanying resolutions.

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

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

Motion – **Passed**

Fiscal Year 2020 Audit

Mrs. Reich provided the 2020/21 audit that was recently completed by Evoy, Kamschulte, Jacobs & Co. LLP. She identified page 16 that provides a concise picture of the year, and pages 41-49 which shows how District funds were spent. The District is overall fiscally stable and debt free.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the 2020/21 audit.

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

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

Motion – **Passed**

Property Tax Relief Grant

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that part of the new evidenced-based funding from the state of Illinois beginning in 2019 is a property tax relief grant. In return for abating a portion of taxes, qualifying districts receive a state grant that is a portion of the tax relief they provide. She recommended applying for the full amount of the grant we are eligible for.

** A motion was made by member, second by member to approve applying for the property tax relief grant through the state of Illinois.

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

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

Motion – **Passed**

Food Service – Proposal for In-Depth Review from Quest Food Management Services

Mrs. Reich reported that it has been a challenging year to find labor for our food service department. With the labor shortage and serving a free meal to all students we feel that our Food Service Department may not be the most efficient, economical, or student-driven that it can be. Quest Food Management Services has provided a proposal to come in and complete a thorough

review of our program. It would be about a 15-to 20-day study and will review menus, workforce, flow, food, and the feasibility to leave the federal food program. She will bring it to the Board for approval in December.

71-Passenger Bus Lease 2022/23 and 2023/24

Mrs. Reich reported that she reached out to both Central States, our current bus lease, and Midwest Transit Equipment to provide a municipal lease proposal for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 school years. As there was a significant price difference, she is recommending a 2-year lease with Midwest Transit Equipment to lease (23) 71-passenger gasoline school buses at a cost of \$20,017 per bus. This includes \$569 per bus for a maintenance program. The price remains the same each year over the lease period.

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the 2-year lease with Midwest Transit Equipment for 23 71-passenger gasoline buses, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

14-Passenger Multi-Function School Activity Buses (MFSAB)

Mrs. Reich recommended leasing (5) 14-passenger 2022 Chevrolet Collins Activity Buses under a 3-year lease with Midwest Transit Equipment at \$12,977 per bus, each year for three years. Four of the buses will replace the 4 we currently lease and one additional bus to dedicate for the full-time use of the Transitions Program.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the 3-year lease for (5) 14-passenger activity buses with Midwest Transit Equipment, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Sefcik reported two Freedom of Information Act requests were received and fulfilled.

Dr. Sefcik stated she is waiting for a property closing date, some repairs were made to the furnace and roof, and she is waiting for the completed survey.

AUDIENCE

Jeff Harvey, Aly Negovetich, Meriann & John Negovetich, Jeff Durlak, Payton Jordan, Gwen Jordan, Teddy Montemayer

CLOSED SESSION

** At 8:34 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Lescher 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);

- Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8);
- Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9);
- The placement of individual students in special education programs or other matters relating to individual students. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10); and
- Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed session meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

** At 9:00 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Fleming to end closed session and return to open session.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Hill

Motion – **Passed**

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

No action was taken from closed session.

ADJOURN

** At 9:02 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Lescher to adjourn the meeting.

Kathy Kusiak, President Pro Tem

John Jared, Secretary