

# **GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NOVEMBER 19, 2020**

## ***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 19, 2020 and called to order at 7:00 p.m. 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

## ***AUDIENCE***

Cameron Little & family, Bob Janusz, Anthony Johnson, Geoff Williams, Tom Ross

## ***CONSENT AGENDA***

Minutes of regular meeting held October 8, 2020

November Bills Payable

October Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from May 16, 2019

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

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

### Student Recognition

Dr. Sefcik introduced the November Student of the Month, Cameron Little, by reading his profile of accomplishments, which includes his academic achievements, extracurricular activities, service to the community, leadership roles and awards, what he does in his spare time, and his future plans. Dr. Sefcik offered Cameron the opportunity to speak to the Board to say what the acknowledgement meant to him. The Board applauded Cameron and Dr. Sefcik said his Student of the Month certificate would be mailed to him.

### Staff Recognition

Dr. Sefcik recognized the Student Engagement Team, comprised of Bob Janusz, Anthony Johnson, and Geoff Williams, who were awarded the first Excellence in Education Award of the school year. These three gentlemen were in attendance virtually when Principal Schmidt and Superintendent Sefcik thanked them for their energetic dedication to supporting our struggling students during this pandemic. Bob, Anthony, and Geoff thanked the administration and Board for the recognition.

### Board of Education Member Recognition

Dr. Sefcik reported that November 15, 2020, was School Board Members Day in Illinois. This year's theme is "Perseverance through Leadership." She noted that the role of the Board member is an important one and this year their leadership has taken on new meaning. In addition to the typical responsibilities, there have been difficult decisions needed to balance the health and safety of our learning community and continue the educational outcomes desired. She thanked the Board from the entire Grant community. The Board members thanked Dr. Sefcik for the cake delivery as it was a wonderful way to remotely celebrate.

### Delegate Assembly Update

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that Mrs. Kusiak represented the Board of Education throughout the virtual Delegate Assembly process. The Delegate Assembly was moved up to November 14<sup>th</sup> due to the cancellation of the Joint Annual Conference. Mrs. Kusiak noted the process was efficient as the polling was done via Zoom and 278 delegates participated. Two of the items discussed were a gun storage law and their belief statement on equity.

### Learning Mode Update

Dr. Sefcik notified the Board that we are continuing with remote learning through November 24, 2020, following the recommendation from the Lake County Health Department. Our goal is to return to in-person learning as soon as it is possible to do so. We will continue to review data every day to provide a learning mode decision every two weeks. She provided an update on the health metrics and decision-making considerations and informed the Board that schools are exempt from the mitigations except regarding in-person sports and activities as recommended by the State and ISBE.

### Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Update

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that this item will be skipped as in-person extracurriculars are paused but noted that some activities that are able, will still be held remotely with the goal to keep students engaged beyond the school day.

#### Curriculum Guide 2021/22

Dr. Sefcik happily reported that the official 2021/22 Curriculum Guide is complete. She provided it for the Board to review. Within the 160 District curricular offerings, there are 33 Honors level and 19 Advanced Placement level courses. She noted that there are even more alternative credit options through Edgenuity and Illinois Virtual High School. The Tech Campus offers 22 courses, with both dual and articulated credit options.

#### Curriculum Changes for 2022/23

Dr. Sefcik presented two new courses for the 2022/23 school year, Acting II and Honors Biotechnology II. Supporting details were provided on each proposed course. She recommended approval of the new courses as presented.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the curriculum guide changes for 2022/23 to add two new courses, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

#### DMGroup Update

Dr. Sefcik provided an update of the District's efforts to develop a comprehensive Multi-Tiered System of Support. Included in the update are the steps taken to address the immediate academic needs in response to COVID-19, which needed to be changed dramatically from the initial implementation plan. She noted that we are in the process of reviewing both short- and long-term approaches to address both academic and social-emotional supports with DMGroup. They will work on an addendum to the contract with DMGroup.

#### School Report Card

Dr. Sefcik said School Report Cards were released on October 30. The suspension of in-person instruction during the 2019/20 school year had a significant impact on almost every School Report Card metric. Summative designations were carried over from the prior year and we remain in "commendable" status. We can expect a significant impact on these same metrics for 2020/21 due to the start of this school year.

#### Calendar 2021/22

Dr. Sefcik presented the recommended 2021/22 school calendar. It shows the first day of student attendance on August 11, 2021, the last day of school will be May 20, 2022, and graduation is scheduled to be held on May 22, 2022. This calendar has been shared and discussed with our feeder districts.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Michniewicz, second by Mr. Jared to approve the 2021/22 School Calendar as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

#### ED-RED Membership

Dr. Sefcik recommended an annual ED-RED membership in the amount of \$5,000. ED-RED is an advocacy organization that represents Illinois suburban school district administrators and board members. This organization keeps member districts informed of potential legislation and remains involved in the legislative process and proactively represents our district in the Illinois legislature. They have a great deal of success in advocating for or against pending legislation. Membership also allows for valuable collaboration with other districts around educational priorities, processes, and policies.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve membership in ED-RED in the amount of \$5,000.00.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

#### Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Recommend the employment of the following individuals:

- Debra Kossak, Business Office Assistant, \$33,800/yr., starting 11/30/2020
- Nicole Helbig, Full-time Paraprofessional, \$14.72/hr., starting 10/19/2020
- Rodd Hansen, Woodworking Club Sponsor

Recommend accepting the retirement/resignation letters from the following:

- Joanne Holtz, Special Education Teacher, effective December 31, 2020
- Joseph Zarr, Transportation, effective December 31, 2020
- Paula Hain, Part-time Food Service, effective October 14, 2020

Notification of the FMLA requests for the following individuals:

- Stephen Liddle, Science Teacher, October 19, 2020 – January 29, 2021
- Nicole Frett, English Teacher, January 4, 2021 – April 8, 2021
- Leonard Grodoski, English Teacher, January 4, 2021 – April 8, 2021
- Dave Behm, PE Teacher, November 16, 2020 - March 1, 2021

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

#### Principal's Report

Mr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on Academic Supports for Students including T.E.A.M., PBIS, and Final Exams; Elyssa's Mission; Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences; and Student Future Scheduling Requests.

## **BUSINESS AFFAIRS**

### **2020 Final Tax Levy**

Mrs. Reich presented the final 2020 Certificate of Tax Levy, along with the Resolution to Spread a Tax Levy for Year 2020, the Resolution to Levy Certain Special Taxes for Special Education District IMRF Purposes, and the Resolution for Levying for Working Cash Fund Purposes for the Year 2020. There has been no change to what was presented to the Board last month.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the 2020 Final Tax Levy. Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

### **Property Tax Appeal Board and Lake County Board of Review**

Mrs. Reich discussed the spreadsheet outlining properties that have filed appeals regarding their assessments with the Lake County Board of Appeals. She also noted that there are also a couple of appeals pending at the Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB).

### **Property Tax Relief Grant**

Mrs. Reich reported that, in the past, the state of Illinois has provided \$53.65 million beginning in fiscal year 2019 for a property relief grant to eligible school districts. In return for abating a portion of taxes, qualifying districts received a state grant that is a portion of the tax relief they provide. Due to lack of appropriation, there will be no new Property Tax Relief Grants for FY 2021.

### **Settlement Agreement with Baxter Healthcare Corporation, Grant Township Assessor and Fox Lake Fire Protection District Regarding Assessed Value**

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that the District has been working collaboratively with the Fox Lake Fire Protection District and the Grant Township Assessor to negotiate a settlement with Baxter Healthcare Corporation regarding their appeal to their 2018 and 2019 property tax assessment. She provided the settlement agreement for review.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. LaRoche, second by Mrs. Michniewicz to approve the settlement agreement with Baxter Healthcare Corp. as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

### **Intergovernmental Agreement Between Certain Lake County Taxing Districts**

Mrs. Reich stated that the District received notification that a large property within our boundaries applied for an Application for a Non-Homestead Property Tax Exemption, which alleges it qualifies as a charitable organization under Illinois law. The other taxing bodies that would be impacted are Gavin District 37, the Village of Fox Lake, Fox Lake Fire Protection District, and Grant Township. All groups agree that we are in opposition to the tax-exempt filing by this property and the Intergovernmental Agreement formalizes the verbal agreement and shows the share of legal cost by each district.

- \*\* A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Yanik to authorize entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement as presented.  
Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:  
Aye: Michniewicz, LaRoche, Fleming, Jared, Kusiak, Yanik, Hill  
Nay: None  
Absent:  
Motion – **Passed**

## ***OTHER BUSINESS***

Dr. Sefcik reported a FOIA was received and fulfilled from SmartProcure. She informed the Board that there are two individuals interested in an upcoming Board vacancy: Ed Lescher and Shelly Booth.

## ***CLOSED SESSION***

- \*\* At 8:17 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. LaRoche, second by Mr. Yanik to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(9); the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1).  
Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:  
Aye: LaRoche, Fleming, Jared, Kusiak, Yanik, Hill, Michniewicz  
Nay: None  
Absent:  
Motion – **Passed**
- \*\* At 8:37 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Ms. Fleming to end closed session and return to open session.  
Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:  
Aye: Fleming, Jared, Kusiak, Yanik, Hill, Michniewicz, LaRoche  
Nay: None  
Absent:  
Motion – **Passed**

## ***ACTION CLOSED SESSION***

- \*\* A motion was made by Ms. Fleming, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the adjustment of food service salaries as presented.  
Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:  
Aye: Jared, Kusiak, Yanik, Hill, Michniewicz, LaRoche, Fleming  
Nay: None  
Absent:  
Motion – **Passed**
- \*\* A motion was made by Ms. Fleming, second by Mr. Jared to approve the adjustment of teacher aide salaries as presented.  
Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:  
Aye: Kusiak, Yanik, Hill, Michniewicz, LaRoche, Fleming, Jared  
Nay: None  
Absent:  
Motion – **Passed**

- \*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Michniewicz, second by Mr. Jared to approve the contracts of the Superintendent, Chief School Business Official, and Principal as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

## ***ADJOURN***

- \*\* At 8:42 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Hill, second by Mrs. Kusiak to adjourn the meeting.

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Steve Hill, President

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Ruth Michniewicz, Secretary