

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OCTOBER 21, 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, October 21, 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
Kathy Kusiak, Vice President
Shelly Booth, Member
Ivy Fleming, Member
Bob Yanik, Member
+ Ed Lescher, Member

Members absent:

John Jared, Secretary

Administration present:

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

Kathy Kusiak assumed the duties of Secretary Pro Tem in the absence of John Jared

+ Arrived at 8:09 pm

AUDIENCE

Connor Hinkle, Holly and Fred Hinkle, Steven Ligeza, Ryan Geist, Tina Sonders

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held September 16, 2021

Minutes of closed meeting held September 16, 2021

October Bills Payable

September Treasurer's Report

Quarterly list of authorized depositories, investment managers, dealers, and brokers

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

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

Aye: Kusiak, Booth, Fleming, Yanik, Hill

Nay: None

Absent: Jared, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Student Recognition

Dr. Sefcik introduced Cameron Hinkle, in the presence of his parents, Fred and Holly Hinkle, as the October Student of the Month. She read Cameron's profile of accomplishments, which included academic achievements, extracurricular activities, service to the community, what he enjoys in his spare time, and future plans. Dr. Sefcik offered Cameron the opportunity to speak to the Board and he thanked the Board for the honor and that he tries be a leader with the elements of Portrait of a Graduate that upcoming students can emulate. The Board and audience applauded Cameron and Dr. Sefcik presented him with a certificate to commemorate being chosen as the October Student of the Month.

Student Support Services Data

Dr. Sefcik introduced Tina Sonders, Director of Special Education, and Ryan Geist, Assistant Principal who provided an overview of the Student Services Department and the social/emotional supports they are providing students. The presentation included data on the District's suicide prevention program, risk assessments conducted, students receiving school counseling services, and interventions/supports provided to students. Mr. Geist provided an additional handout that details the average major dean referrals by month.

Transitional English

Dr. Sefcik reported that the Advanced English 12 teachers collaborated with the College of Lake County (CLC) to revise our curriculum to meet the new State competencies to offer at Grant and submit as a potential representative course for the State Portability Panel. Our course was chosen, among others from area schools, as the representative course for the State and has received conditional approval. The focus was on core competencies, and activities and assessments that align with those competencies. She thanked Divisional Administrator, Veronica Lukemeyer and the English 12 teachers: Ashley Gaura, Garrett Olsen, Emmy Diana, and Bob Schmitt for their hard work. She also said how fortunate we were to collaborate with Kathy Kusiak, CLC Lake County High Schools English Liaison. Mrs. Kusiak provided some remarks about the enthusiasm received about the curriculum and noted there was a bit more tweaking to do to receive full approval.

Curriculum Changes for 2022/23

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval for the following course deletions, revisions, and additions:

Course Deletion:

1. Website Design II

Course Revisions:

1. Advanced Health prerequisite change
2. Advanced Lifestyle Fitness from 1 semester to 2 semesters (.5 to 1.0 credit)
3. Advanced Team Sports from 1 semester to 2 semesters (.5 to 1.0 credit)
4. Personal Fitness and Nutrition from 2 semesters to 1 semester (1.0 to .5 credit)
5. Applied Math (1.0 credit) split into two different courses:
 - a. Applied Math I (.5 credit)
 - b. Applied Math II (.5 credit)

Course Additions:

1. PLTW Engineering Design and Development
2. Academic Tutor
3. Career Internship
4. Peer Mentor
5. Student Aide

- ** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Kusiak to approve the curriculum changes for 2022/23 as presented.

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

Aye: Booth, Fleming, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: Jared, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

School Report Card Update

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that the 2021 Illinois School Report Cards will be released on October 29th. She provided an outline of the changes to be expected with this year's Report Card due to the pandemic.

6th Day Enrollment

Dr. Sefcik supplied the 6th day enrollment numbers for Grant and our feeder districts. She noted that enrollment increased and closely aligns with the District's demographic study. Feeder district enrollment also increased, however their total enrollment is still less than pre-pandemic levels as was ours. She said that enrollment numbers will continue to be monitored.

Homecoming – 2022

Dr. Sefcik requested approval to move the September 15, 2022 Board meeting date to September 29, 2022. This would align the Board of Education meeting date with homecoming week and the Hall of Fame induction.

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve moving the Board of Education meeting from September 15, 2022 to September 29, 2022.

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

Aye: Fleming, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak, Booth

Nay: None

Absent: Jared, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

Overnight Travel Requests

Dr. Sefcik presented two overnight travel requests for approval consideration. The Speech Team requests an overnight trip from January 21 to January 22, 2022, who will be attending a two-day tournament at Downers Grove South High School. The theater teacher and theater set director are requesting an overnight trip for two senior theater students to the Illinois Theater Festival from January 6 through January 8, 2022.

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the overnight travel for the Speech Team and the Theatre requests as presented.

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

Aye: Yanik, Hill, Kusiak, Booth, Fleming

Nay: None

Absent: Jared, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

Out of State Travel

Dr. Sefcik reported that several requests for out-of-state travel have been received. At this time, the administration has decided to not forward any out-of-state travel requests to the Board of Education to approve. In order to recommend the travel, the administration needs to consider factors and guidelines for out of state travel that can change to make travel difficult or unwise. Due to these complex considerations, the administration is requesting any student opportunities to occur in-state. Dr. Sefcik also discussed recent developments in regard to the spring foreign language trips. She noted that the program, the countries, and many of the venues that will be visited, travelers need to be vaccinated in order to travel to these destinations without a quarantine period.

Winter Coaches

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the winter coaching staff as presented.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Kusiak to approve the winter coaches as presented.

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

Aye: Hill, Kusiak, Booth, Fleming, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent: Jared, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Recommend the employment of the following individuals:

- Danielle Graffeo, Transitions Job Coach, \$16.07/hr., starting 10/4/2021
- Rosa Ramirez, split position Food Services at \$12/hr. and Custodian at \$14/hr. starting 10/4/2021

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the personnel recommendations as presented.

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

Aye: Kusiak, Booth, Fleming, Yanik, Hill

Nay: None

Absent: Jared, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

Illinois Association of School Board Lake Division Dinner Meeting & Member Recognition

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that several Board members attended the IASB Fall Division Meeting along with District leadership. Annual business of the association was completed and followed by engaging speaker PJ Caposey. Our own GCHS Board member, Kathy Kusiak was recognized as a Level 1 Master Board Member! Dr. Sefcik presented Mrs. Kusiak with her IASB Level 1 lapel pin.

Joint Conference Planning

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that the IASB/IASA/IASBO Joint Annual Conference will take place in person November 19 – 21. Information has been shared regarding general session speakers. Conference details can be found at <https://www.iasb.com/conference/attend>. She encouraged the Board to identify their planned sessions and sync them to their phone or calendar. She discussed coordinating session attendance and to share session highlights from those that were attended at the December meeting. Resolutions up for discussion at the Delegate Assembly will be on the November BOE agenda.

Principal's Report

Mr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on Professional Development; Elyssa's Mission; Assessment Updates: Illinois Science Assessment & PSAT/NMSQT; Student Non-Compliance with Health Records and Immunizations Requirements; Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences; and National Merit Scholarship Recognition.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Audit 2020/21

Mrs. Reich stated that the 2020/21 audit has been delayed due to a personal medical issue affecting our auditor. When Evoy, Kamschulte, Jacobs & Co. LLP has completed it, it will be brought to the Board for approval. Extensions have been requested with all agencies that require copies of our audit.

2021 Tentative Tax Levy

Mrs. Reich provided the tentative 2021 Certificate of Tax Levy. The county is predicting that the district's equalized assessed value will increase from \$951,966,797 in 2020 to \$996,578,225. This is a 4.69% increase from the previous year including new construction. They are projecting our new construction to be \$6,218,860, which is a decrease of 20.55%. She said that she will bring the resolutions and recommendation for approval of the final 2021 tax levy to the November meeting.

Referral Incentive for Food Service Employees

Mrs. Reich reported that like many other employers, we have struggled to fill positions this year. We have seven open positions in our food service department, which are part-time cashiers/servers. She is asking approval to create a referral incentive program for the food service department staff. For each cashier/server they refer, and we hire, they can earn \$100 paid at the end of the school year once the person they referred completes the school year. With seven open positions, the maximum cost to the District this year is \$700.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mrs. Kusiak to approve the referral incentive for food service employees as presented.

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

Aye: Booth, Fleming, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent: Jared, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) – Docket 20-06541.001-C-3 thru 20-065413.003-C-3

Mrs. Reich told the Board that Timber Oaks apartment complex has filed an appeal of their 2020 assessment at the state property tax appeal board. We have joined with Gavin School District 37, the Village of Fox Lake, Fox Lake Fire Protection District, and Grant Township to intervene in the appeal. Our legal counsel is recommending we take the next step and hire an appraiser. If all parties agree, we will split the cost of the appraisal. The maximum of hiring an appraiser is \$6,500 for an appraisal of the Timber Oaks apartment complex and split the cost as presented.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mrs. Kusiak to authorize the District to hire an appraiser up to a maximum of \$6,500 for an appraisal of the Timber Oaks apartment complex.

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

Aye: Fleming, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak, Booth

Nay: None

Absent: Jared, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

OTHER BUSINESS

FOIA – three requests were received and responses were given.

CLOSED SESSION

- ** At 8:09 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Fleming 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); and the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(5).

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

Aye: Yanik, Hill, Kusiak, Booth, Fleming

Nay: None

Absent: Jared, Lescher

Motion – **Passed**

- ** At 8:20 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Booth, second by Mr. Yanik to end closed session and return to open session.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

- ** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Fleming to accept the resignation from Nicholas Gaona as Girls' Volleyball Coach effective October 6, 2021.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Yanik to accept the leave of absence from Nicholas Gaona as Boys' Tennis coach for 1 year.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Jared

Motion – **Passed**

ADJOURN

- ** At 8:21 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mrs. Booth to adjourn the meeting.

Steve Hill, President

Kathy Kusiak, Secretary Pro Tem