

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OCTOBER 8, 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, October 8, 2020 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
◆ Ruth Michniewicz, Secretary
Ivy Fleming, Member
John Jared, Member
Kathy Kusiak, Member
Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent:

Paul LaRoche, Vice President

Administration present:

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

◆ Attended remotely via Zoom

AUDIENCE

Priya Audipudy-in person, Matt Maifield-via Zoom

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held September 17, 2020

October Bills Payable

September Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from April 25, 2019

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

** 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, Fleming, Jared, Kusiak, Yanik, Hill

Nay: None

Absent: LaRoche

Motion – **Passed**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Student Recognition

Dr. Sefcik introduced Priya Audipudy, who appeared in person to meet the Board. Dr. Sefcik read through her accomplishments, which included induction into the National Honor Society during her sophomore year, she has been on Honor Roll each semester, has taken five AP classes, and is a Big Dawg Mentor. She holds an impressive 4.71/4.00 GPA. She's involved in numerous extracurricular activities and holds or has held several offices such as Freshman and Junior Class President, FBLA Secretary and Northern Area Vice President and Grant Chapter President, Assistant and Head Secretary of Choir, Volleyball Manager and SAALT Secretary. She was named French Bulldog of the Semester numerous times, FBLA Business Bulldog of the Week as well as placed 4th at State and qualified for Nationals, Congressman Brad Schneider's STEM Scholars, World Affairs Seminar Delegate, and a Kode with Klossy Scholar. Priya has participated in numerous service opportunities, works as a dance teacher and enjoys coding, fitness, public speaking and learning Kannada, her ancestral language. Her plans for the future include attending a four-year university to study engineering. She is evaluating her university options. Dr. Sefcik presented her with a certificate to commemorate the honor and the Board applauded her achievements.

Blended Learning Plan 2.0

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board of the planning efforts to return additional students to in-person learning beginning October 19th. Several staff meetings were held along with a community meeting on October 5th, to review Phase 1 of the Blended Learning Plan 2.0. Families were provided the option to have students return on their designated day or remain learning at home. Family decisions were due on October 7th in order to determine attendance numbers. Dr. Sefcik reviewed the Phase 1 plan and indicated that we will continue to closely monitor health metrics, staff capacity, personal protective equipment, cleaning and sanitization supplies, and local illness/outbreaks. As long as the numbers trend in the right direction, we will continue to take small steps forward to increase the number of students on campus.

Curriculum Changes for 2021/22

Dr. Sefcik presented a number of curriculum changes for the 2021/22 school year and recommends the following changes:

New Courses:

PLTW – Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM)

Academic Literacy II

Course Revisions:

Introduction to Strength and Conditioning (modify grade levels 9, 10, 11)

Reading Workshop title change to Academic Literacy 1

Course Deletions:

Aerobics

Physical Education 11 & Physical Education 12

Spin

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that new course proposals for 2022/23 will be presented next month to follow the two-year approval process. Additionally, the District will be delaying implementation of AP Computer Science to 2022/23, which was previously approved for 2021/22.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the 2021/22 recommended curriculum changes as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: LaRoche

Motion – **Passed**

School Report Card Update

Dr. Sefcik reported that 2020 Illinois School Report Cards will be released on October 30th. A few items she pointed out were:

- Summative designations were not calculated for the 2020 school year. The summative designation for 2019 will be reissued/carried over for 2020 reporting.
- Many metrics typically included will be listed as “Data unavailable due to COVID-19.”
- Metrics included, but that may not represent a complete data set, are noted as “Items possibly impacted by COVID-19 are highlighted.”
- There are items being included in the Report Card that may very well have been impacted by the suspension of in-person instruction last year. However, ISBE is not commenting on the ways they may have been impacted, leaving District users to discern how to interpret the results. These items will be labeled as “Possible data impact due to COVID-19.”
- Participation in the Illinois Youth Survey is a new metric for 2020

Student Clubs

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that there is interest to pilot two additional clubs for this school year: Esports and Special Olympics. The IHSA has identified esports, or electronic sports, as an emerging sport, that provides competition through computer gaming. Special Olympics provides training and athletic competitions in a variety of sports for student athletes with intellectual disabilities. We look forward to a successful pilot for both clubs this school year.

6th Day Enrollment

Dr. Sefcik provided the 6th day enrollment numbers for our District and our feeder districts. Enrollment decreased from 1,843 to 1,812, which closely aligns with the District demographic study. Enrollment for all feeder districts collectively decreased a total of 154 students. We will continue to monitor feeder district enrollment numbers to see what impact, if any, they may have on our enrollment numbers.

Homecoming - 2021

Dr. Sefcik announced that Homecoming 2021 has been set for Friday, September 17. Fortunately, homecoming will occur the same week as our regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting. We look forward to formally inducting our Hall of Fame candidates, Mr. Steve Hill and Mr. Fred Loffredo, on Thursday, September 16th.

Winter Coaches

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

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the winter coaching staff as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: LaRoche

Motion – **Passed**

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Recommend the employment of the following individuals:

- Carol Barbarini, Bus Driver, \$20.81/hr., start date 10/15/2020
- Dawn Falco, Bus Driver, move from Full-Time to On-Call Sub
- Michelle Soenksen, Payroll and Benefits Coordinator, \$50,000/yr., start date 10/1/2020
- Michelle Munaretto, Bookkeeper, \$38,000/yr., start date 10/1/2020
- Rita Gier, 10-month Health Aide at \$15/hr., start date 10/14/2020
- Vern Jones, Building Monitor 2020/21. \$15/hr., start date 10/19/2020
- Ashlyn Maifield, Full-time Substitute Teacher, 2020/21 school year at \$29,871.80/yr
- Randy Splitt, Full-time Substitute Teacher, 2020/21 school year at \$29,871.80/yr.
- AM Lobby and AM Commons Supervisions: Amy Gunsaulus, Walter Alvarenga, Mike Anderson, Michelle Vendegna, and Marissa Meyers

Recommend accepting the retirement letters from:

- Wendi Hardina, Benefits/Payroll Coordinator, effective 10/30/2020
- Ruth Igyarto, Bus Driver, effective 10/31/2020

Notification of the FMLA requests from the following:

- Sandy Schlaf, Food Service, effective Oct. 19, 2020 – Feb. 1, 2021
- Tom DuBois, Bus Driver, effective Oct. 1, 2020 – Jan. 14, 2021
- Krista Koske, Teacher, effective Oct. 5, 2020 – Jan. 15, 2021
- Ellen Skolar, Teacher, effective Jan. 4, 2021 – Feb. 26, 2021

Increase daily substitute teacher pay from \$115 to \$175 through the remainder of 2020/21 school year.

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: LaRoche

Motion – **Passed**

Principal's Report

Mr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on Fall SAT: Senior Administration, Student Non-Compliance with Health Records and Immunizations Requirements, Co-Curricular Clubs and Activities, Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences, and In-Person Learning Update: Transitions, LOP, and Bulldog Remote Learning Support. Mr. Schmidt mentioned an additional transitional event that will welcome freshmen into the building for tours on Saturday, October 17th.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Audit 2019/20

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that the 2019/20 audit was recently completed by Evoy, Kamschulte, Jacobs & Co. LLP. She noted that the district is overall fiscally stable and debt free. She referred to page 14 which captures the year in total.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mrs. Kusiak to approve the 2019/20 Audit as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: LaRoche

Motion – **Passed**

2020 Tentative Tax Levy

Mrs. Reich provided the tentative 2020 Certificate of Tax Levy. The county is predicting that our equalized assessed value will increase from \$927,557,050 in 2019 to \$958,038,748, which is a 3.29% increase from the previous year including new construction. They are projecting our new construction to be \$7,827,178, which is a decrease of 14%. She added that she will bring the resolutions and recommendation for approval of the final 2020 tax levy to the November meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Sefcik reported that we received and fulfilled one Freedom of Information Act request. There will be open Board positions as Ruth Michniewicz and Paul LaRoche will not be seeking reelection to the Board. Steve Hill and Bob Yanik have committed to running again. Petition packets are available for circulating and the filing dates for nomination papers are between December 14 and December 21, 2020.

CLOSED SESSION

No Closed Session was held.

ADJOURN

** At 7:32 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Michniewicz, second by Mr. Jared to adjourn the meeting.

Steve Hill, President

Ruth Michniewicz, Secretary