

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SEPTEMBER 16, 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, September 16, 2021 and called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium 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
John Jared, Secretary
Shelly Booth, Member
Ivy Fleming, Member
Ed Lescher, Member
Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent: None

Administration present:

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Student Recognition

Dr. Sefcik introduced Logan Blancett, in the presence of his parents, Casey and Shanda Blancett, as the September Student of the Month. She read Logan'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 Logan the opportunity to speak to the Board and he thanked the Board for the honor. The Board and audience applauded Logan and Dr. Sefcik presented him with a certificate to commemorate being chosen as the September Student of the Month.

Hall of Fame Induction

Dr. Sefcik provided a brief overview of the Hall of Fame, which includes staff members and alumni. Board members made their way into the audience to watch the video presentations for both Hall of Fame Inductees, Fred Loffredo and Steve Hill. After the video presentations, Dr. Sefcik and President Steve Hill invited Fred Loffredo and Frank Cittadino to the stage. Mr. Cittadino provided details of why he nominated Mr. Loffredo to the Hall of Fame, which included his impact on students, athletes, and the community. Mr. Loffredo spoke to the audience and was grateful to accept the honor. Dr. Sefcik read the Hall of Fame Resolution and Mr. Hill presented the Hall of Fame award to Mr. Loffredo.

** A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Jared to induct Mr. Fred Loffredo into the Grant Community High School Hall of Fame.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

Dr. Sefcik announced that Vice President, Kathy Kusiak, would assume leadership for the next action item.

Dr. Sefcik invited Tracy Vekemans and Steve Hill to the podium on stage. As the person that nominated Mr. Hill, Tracy shared her comments about her dad, Steve Hill. She detailed the numerous ways the school and the community benefited from the years that Mr. Hill served on the Board and his ongoing involvement in the community he has spent his life in. Mr. Hill provided his remarks to the audience, accepting the honor with pride of being chosen with Mr. Loffredo to be inducted into the GCHS Hall of Fame. Dr. Sefcik read his Hall of Fame Resolution and Mrs. Kusiak presented Mr. Hill with the Hall of Fame award.

** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Booth to induct Mr. Steve Hill into the Grant Community High School Hall of Fame.

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

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

Abstain: Hill

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

IASB Board Member Recognition & Lake Division Dinner Meeting

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board that the Illinois Association of School Boards Lake Division Meeting will be held on October 13th beginning at 6pm and will be held in-person at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Mundelein. The program “Prioritizing Emotional Health for Everyone” will be delivered by Meridian CUSD 223 Superintendent Dr. PJ Caposey. She invited the Board to notify the District Office if they would like to be registered to attend.

Learning Update

Dr. Sefcik updated the Board on in-person learning, including 6th day student enrollment figures; 41 remote students are having varying degrees of success; the first progress report will be issued soon; Tina Sonders, Director of Special Education, will attend next month’s meeting to discuss social/emotional challenges; Dr. Bolton will be back to talk to staff; ISBE directives for e-learning; COVID cases update; legislation; and lawsuits against specific schools not following required safety mitigations.

Student Vaccine Pod

Dr. Sefcik reported that the District is once again partnering with Passport Health and our feeder districts to offer a third vaccine pod at Grant. The dates will be September 22 and October 13, and is completely free for attendees and at no cost to the districts.

Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations.

Recommend the employment of the following individuals:

- Noemi Zavala, Attendance Secretary, \$15/hr., starting 9/27/2021
- Jody Davis, Swing Shift Custodian, \$15.40/hr., starting 10/4/2021

- Sarah Pasko, Bus Driver at \$20.15/hr. and Food Service at \$12.00/hr., starting 10/4/2021
- Andrea Kosmicki, Environmental Club Sponsor

Recommend accepting the resignation letters from the following:

- Judy Lawn, Attendance Secretary, effective 9/8/2021
- Rachel Bicknase, Asst. Cheer Coach, effective
- Rodd Hansen, Woodworking Club Sponsor, effective 8/26/2021

Notification of FMLA request from the following:

- Rachel Lesiak, from October 22, 2021 – November 11, 2021

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

Principal's Report

Mr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on Safety Planning, Back to School Night, and Homecoming.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Mrs. Reich combined the first three items on her agenda, which are all compensation reports.

Public Act 97-0256 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.47) Sec. 10-20.47

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that each school board shall report the base salary and benefits of the district superintendent and all administrators and teachers to the State Board of Education on or before October 1st of each year. She noted that “benefits” includes vacation days, sick days, bonuses, annuities and retirement enhancements. The report must be presented at a regular school board meeting prior to submitting to ISBE.

2020-2021 Compensation Over \$75,000 Report

Mrs. Reich presented the 2020/2021 Compensation Over \$75,000 Report. The report includes the “total compensation package” for each employee which exceeds \$75,000 per year of an IMRF-participating employer. “Total compensation package” includes salary, health insurance, housing allowance, vehicle allowance, clothing allowance, bonuses, loans, vacation days granted and sick days granted. This report is required to be posted on our website within five days of passing the budget.

Administrative Salary/Benefits Report 2020/21

Mrs. Reich continued with the Administrative Salary/Benefits Report for 2020/21 which requires the District to post on their website an itemized salary compensation report for every employee in the district holding an administrative certificate and working in that capacity. This report includes base salary, bonuses, pension contributions, retirement increases, the cost of health insurance, paid sick and vacation day payouts, annuities and any other form of compensation paid on behalf of the employee. This report must be presented at a regular school board meeting and submitted to the regional superintendent of schools.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Mrs. Reich informed the Board that the District has been looking into ways to assist all employees with the introduction of an Employee Assistance Program. The program offers free and confidential assessments and short-term counseling for a broad range of issues, both personal and professional, including nurse advice lines and basic legal assistance. The benefits are available to the employee and their dependents. She received quotes from three companies and recommend approval of Perspectives, Ltd. for 6 sessions per episode at \$1.50 per employee per month.

** A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of regular meeting held August 19, 2021

Minutes of closed meeting held August 19, 2021

September Bills Payable

August Treasurer's Report

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Sefcik reported that a FOIA was received and fulfilled.

AUDIENCE

No audience remarks.

CLOSED SESSION

** At 8:12 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Booth to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(5); student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(9); and 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: Yanik, Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Fleming, Lescher

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

- ** At 9:25 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Booth, 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: Hill, Kusiak, Jared, Booth, Fleming, Lescher, Yanik

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

ACTION CLOSED SESSION

- ** A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Real Property.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

- ** A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the Letter of Intent to purchase property.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

ADJOURN

- ** At 9:30 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Hill, second by Mrs. Kusiak to adjourn the meeting.

Steve Hill, President

John Jared, Secretary