

# **GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 124 MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SEPTEMBER 21, 2023**

## ***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 21, 2023 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:

Mr. Steve Hill, President  
Mrs. Kathy Kusiak, Vice President  
Mr. John Jared, Secretary  
Mrs. Shelly Booth, Member  
Mrs. Ivy Fleming, Member  
Mr. Ed Lescher, Member  
Mr. Bob Yanik, Member

Members absent:

Administration present:

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

Student Representative: Ms. Julia Podgorski

## ***AUDIENCE***

Kushi Viramgami, Alpesh & Nandita Viramgami, family and friends of Howard "Bud" Scott, William Lomas, and Mark Barczak.

## ***CONSENT AGENDA***

Minutes of regular meeting held August 17, 2023

Minutes of closed meeting held August 17, 2023

September Bills Payable

August Treasurer's Report

Destruction of closed meeting audio recording from March 17, 2022

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mr. Jared 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, Hill

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

## ***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Recognition and Informational Items***

### Student Recognition

Dr. Sefcik introduced Kushi Viramgami, in the presence of her parents, as the September Student of the Month. She read Kushi'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 Kushi the opportunity to speak to the Board and she thanked the Board for the honor. She also said thank you to not only her teachers, but other staff members and her parents for the support that she has had throughout her years at Grant. The Board and audience applauded Kushi and Dr. Sefcik presented her 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 down to watch the video presentations for the Hall of Fame Inductees, Howard "Bud" Scott, William Lomas, and Mark Barczak. After the videos, Dr. Sefcik and President Steve Hill invited Fritz Kazlauskus and Kristina Kazlauskus to the stage. Mr. Kazlauskus said that he's known the Scott family for a very long time as their dads worked together. He provided details of the many ways that Mr. Scott impacted the school and the community. Kristina Kazlauskus, Bud Scott's daughter, thanked the Board for the honor and for moving it to this year so that more family could attend. She also thanked Fritz for nominating her dad. She noted how her dad would fight for the things and people he believed in and had a way of making kids believe in their potential. Dr. Sefcik then read the Resolution to Induct Mr. Scott into the Hall of Fame. President Steve Hill presented Kristina with the award to commemorate Mr. Scott's induction into the Hall of Fame.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Fleming to approve the induction of Mr. Howard "Bud" Scott into the 2023 Hall of Fame.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

Dr. Sefcik then invited Mr. Jeff Sefcik and Mr. William Lomas to the stage. Mr. Sefcik introduced his nominee, Bill Lomas. He said that Mr. Lomas was his mentor and taught him the importance of love of family, loyalty, and kindness, and he has tried to emulate those traits. He related a few student stories that showed how much Mr. Lomas cared about his students and others he worked with. Mr. Lomas thanked Mr. Sefcik and noted how nervous but well-prepared he was. He also thanked the staff, students, and parents for their support; his wife of 43 years, Mary and his kids, Brian and Amy and their families. He wanted to especially thank his Mom who stressed academics. Additionally, he thanked Sheri Doran who encouraged him to go to college, Tom Maple, Fritz Kazlauskus, Jack Rayburn, John Welter, Ralph Stanton, who also provided important life skills while at Grant, such as setting goals, having a professional manner, and your role within a team, work for your personal best, and how to best compete. He also learned so much from Jeff Sefcik through his infectious energy and his work as the finest child advocate he has ever known. Dr. Sefcik read the Resolution to induct Mr. Lomas into the Hall of Fame. President Steve Hill presented Mr. Lomas with the award to commemorate his induction into the Hall of Fame.

\*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mr. Yanik to approve the induction of Mr. William Lomas into the 2023 Hall of Fame.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

Dr. Sefcik invited Mr. Tom Evans and Mr. Mark Barczak to the stage. Mr. Evans introduced Mr. Barczak as a humble man who had an influence on his students on the mat or field, and in the classroom. His coaching legacy is the successful community he influenced. Mr. Barczak said that he feels like Grant is his school after 36 happy years. He loves this school and feels his teams were his family. He believes his success was due to the talented people he surrounded himself with, student-athletes, coaches, and others. It was important to him that his athletes were well equipped as other schools in our conference and started the golf outings to pay for things that students couldn't afford. Among the people that influenced and supported him, he named Don Rowden, Frank Cittadino, and the Booster Club. He thanked Superintendent Sefcik, Board President Steve Hill and the entire Board of Education, the community, players, coaches, teachers for the honor of allowing him to serve. Dr. Sefcik read the Resolution to induct Mr. Barczak into the Hall of Fame. President Steve Hill presented Mr. Barczak with the award to commemorate his induction into the Hall of Fame.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the induction of Mr. Mark Barczak into the 2023 Hall of Fame.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

#### IASB Fall Dinner

Dr. Sefcik informed the Board of the IASB Lake Division Dinner and Meeting that will be held on October 11, 2023 at Neal Math and Science Academy in North Chicago. The meeting will feature Illinois State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Tony Sanders. She said that anyone that was interested in attending, we will register them. Dr. Sefcik, Mrs. Reich, and Mrs. Kusiak were interested in attending.

#### Principal's Report

Mr. Schmidt presented his monthly report which included information on Back to School Night, Homecoming, and the College Board National Recognition Program.

#### Student Representative's Report

Julia Podgorski provided her report which included information on Activities: National Honor Society, Student Council, National Art Honor Society, Fall Play, Marching Band and Color Guard; and Sports: Fall Dance, Boys' Soccer, Girls' Golf, Cheer, Girls' Volleyball, Cross Country, and Homecoming window painting.

### ***PUBLIC COMMENT***

None

## ***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Action Items***

### School Board Policy Modifications – Second Reading

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the following School Board Policies based on direction from the Illinois Association of School Boards and legal counsel:

#### Section 400 Operational Services

4:45 Insufficient Fund Checks and Debt Recovery

4:100 Insurance Management

#### Section 500 Personnel

5:230 Maintaining Student Discipline

#### Section 700 Students

7:305 Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the Board policies, 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**

### Tuition Reimbursement – Non-Certified Staff

Dr. Sefcik proposed a new tuition reimbursement benefit for non-certified staff members. She noted that we have staff members that have expressed interest in pursuing degrees and/or further developing their workplace knowledge and skills. The fund of \$20,000 would be dedicated annually, with individuals eligible for \$2,000 in reimbursement each year for pre-approved courses, on a first-come, first-served basis.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Lescher, second by Mrs. Booth to approve the tuition reimbursement benefit for non-certified staff members, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

### Overnight Travel

Dr. Sefcik recommended approval of the overnight travel requests for the following:

- The wrestling team to travel to a tournament in Kaukana, Wisconsin, January 5-6 for approximately 14-17 student-athletes and three coaches. Costs will be covered through fundraising and activity funds, with no cost to students.
- The girls' softball team to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, March 23-27 to compete in six softball games at the Cal Ripken Fields, for approximately 15 student-athletes and three coaches. Cost will be paid through activity funds.
- The baseball team to Marion, Illinois from March 24-28 to compete in 4-6 baseball games at Mountain Dew Park, for approximately 27 student-athletes and 2 coaches. Costs will be paid through activity funds.
- The theater department to the Illinois Theater Festival at the University of Illinois, January 11-13, 2024, for approximately 24 students and 3 teachers. Students will pay their festival fee, meals, and split their hotel costs. The District will cover teachers' costs, estimated to be \$891.

\*\* A motion was made by Mr. Yanik, second by Mr. Lescher to approve the overnight travel, as presented.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

### Personnel

Dr. Sefcik made the following personnel recommendations:

Employment of the following individuals:

- Dulce Olmos Ocampo, EL Teacher, BA Step 2, starting 8/21/2023
- Lily Wu, Accounting and Fiscal Coordinator, \$80,000/yr., starting 9/11/2023
- Michelle Jones, CIA/MTSS Admin. Asst., \$28.00/hr., starting 9/25/2023
- Kimberly Geiman, Asst. Transportation Director, \$48.58/hr., starting 9/25/2023
- Sheryl Dempsey, LOA position 9/25-11/10, salary \$7,653.60
- Marcy Wax, LOA position, 10/18-12/15, salary \$9,192.00
- Czara Trujillo-Wicinski, FT Paraprofessional, \$18.07/hr., starting 10/2/2023
- Kim Christesen, Fall Play & Spring Musical Costume Director
- Amanda Jacobs, National Art Honor Society Sponsor
- Martin Grum, Math Team Assistant Coach
- Cassi Reid, Future Medical Professionals Sponsor
- Austin Caraher, Assistant Marching Band Director
- Emmy Diana, Gamers Club Sponsor
- Laura Widenhoefer, Environmental Club Co-Sponsor
- Meghan McKinney, Computer Science Club Sponsor
- Lauren Becmer, Chess Team Co-Sponsor

Accept the resignation letter from:

- Tom DuBois, Transportation, effective 9/30/2023

Notification of FMLA requests from the following:

- Patricia Qasabian, September 29, 2023 - November 10, 2023
- Katherine Sagritalo, September 27, 2023 - October 20, 2023
- Corey Hutcheson, October 30 - November 10, 2023 and January 23 - February 15, 2024

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

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

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

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

## ***BUSINESS AFFAIRS***

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

This report shows the base salary and benefits of the district superintendent, administrators and teachers employed by the school district.

### 2022-2023 Compensation Over \$75,000 Report

This is the report for an IMRF-participating employer that shows the “total compensation package” for each employee exceeding \$75,000 per year.

#### Administrative Salary/Benefits Report 2022-2023

This report shows an itemized salary compensation report for every employee in the district holding an administrative certificate and working in that capacity.

Mrs. Reich presented all of these reports together, informing the Board that they are required to be reviewed by the Board, presented at a Board meeting, and posted online for the public to view.

### ***OTHER BUSINESS***

None

### ***CLOSED SESSION***

- \*\* At 8:48 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Fleming, second by Mrs. Booth to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(9); other matters relating to individual students 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(10); 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: Jared, Booth, Fleming, Lescher, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

- \*\* At 9:00 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Lescher, 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: Booth, Fleming, Lescher, Yanik, Hill, Kusiak, Jared

Nay: None

Absent:

Motion – **Passed**

### ***ACTION CLOSED SESSION***

- \*\* A motion was made by Mrs. Kusiak, second by Mr. Yanik to authorize the Notice to Remedy for Erin Smith, 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**

***ADJOURN***

\*\* At 9:01 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jared, second by Mrs. Kusiak to adjourn the meeting.

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Steve Hill, President

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John Jared, Secretary