

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
DECEMBER 18, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Grant Park Community Unit School District No. 6 Board of Education, Kankakee County, State of Illinois, was held on December 18, 2023 in the Middle School Library.

The meeting was called to order by President Markland at 6:00 p.m.

Members present: Vicki Gawlinski  
Christine Horn  
Jerry Loitz  
Tim Markland  
Dave Marshalek  
Shari Ohm  
Chrissy Pickens

Members absent: None

Also present: Dr. John Palan, Superintendent  
Ms. Tracy Planeta, ES Principal  
Mr. Kyle Nevills, MS/HS Principal  
Mrs. Sue Anderson, Recording Secretary

Audience of 10

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

Motion was made by C. Pickens, seconded by J. Loitz, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Minutes of the regular board meeting of November, 2023.
2. Financial Reports for November, 2023.
3. Direction to pay the December vendor bills in the amount of \$164,135.61.
4. Approval of the November payroll in the amount of \$343,308.23.
5. To accept the resignation of, with regret: Lauren Spang, ES Special Needs Instructor (effective at the conclusion of the 2023-24 school year).
6. To approve the two-year lease of the 14 passenger bus (\$29,990 per year).

Roll Call: C. Pickens – yes; J. Loitz - yes; V. Gawlinski – yes; C. Horn - yes; D. Marshalek - yes; S. Ohm – yes and T. Markland - yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**AUDIENCE TO PERSON'S SCHEDULED IN ADVANCE:** Three MS students from Mr. Stadt's class provided a presentation on Stem Lab Programming. They demonstrated the simple machines they made using spheros (robots) and the computer coding involved in getting their machines to move. It was quite impressive and the students seemed very excited to be able to show off what they've learned and accomplished.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS:** Administrators reports are attached. Ms. Planeta said the Holiday Concert earlier this month had the best turnout ever. Also, the Pre-K classes travelled to Beecher Manor and sang Christmas songs for the residents. She also updated the Board on the Benchmark testing reporting that the goal was for 70% of students to meet grade level expectations and they are not quite there yet. This indicates that more interventions are necessary and that every minute of instruction will count. Reassessment to check growth will need to take place. Mr. Nevills also reported on the status of the MS/HS. On the second benchmark MS math growth was great. ELA showed some growth but more interventions will take place during homerooms. As in the ES, interventions will be maximized and they will make the most of every minute academically. The math interventionist will also push into the MS more often. On the PSAT, grades 9 and 10 were above average but grade 11 did not perform as well. This will be addressed in the interventions.

**Superintendent:** Dr. Palan's report included:

1. As a result of Mr. Boccia's nomination, the district was awarded the Patriotic Employer Achievement Recognition. Mr. Boccia was deployed last year with the Coast Guard and appreciated all the district did to accommodate his absence.
2. Academic achievement targets were discussed and the district plan is for interventions every day. While individual growth is desired overall composites are also key.
3. Overall enrollment decreased by one from October.

**APPROVAL OF TAX LEVY RQUEST RESOLUTION #121823:**

Dr. Palan reported that the EAV is estimated at around \$98,241,000. The request levy is \$4,437,000, which is an estimated \$210,649 increase over last year in the Education fund. A motion was made by S. Ohm, seconded by V. Gawlinski, to approve the 2023 tax levy extension request as presented. Roll Call: S. Ohm – yes; V. Gawlinski – yes; C. Horn – yes; J. Loitz – yes; D. Marshalek – yes; C. Pickens - yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**PRESENTATION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FINANCE OPTIONS:**

John Vezzetti, Bernardi Securities, presented options available to finance the potential ES Capital Improvement Plan. He explored the borrowing options for a referendum if the Board decides to go forward with placing the question on the ballot. He discussed the legal timelines and process involved with adopting a resolution authorizing the issue and sale of bonds for the project. Basically, the board first needs to decide if they can meet the timelines associated with the March 19, 2024 election or the November 5, 2024 general election. Once this is agreed upon, Bernardi Securities will help the district to inform the voters on the

estimated tax impact to the homeowners. The board will also be charged with the task of educating the community about the specifics of the Capital Improvement Plan for the Elementary School.

### **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**President:** No report.

**Building and Grounds:** The Maintenance Grant was submitted but the money has not been received as of yet. The funds will be used to air condition the main gym.

**Technology:** No report

**Kankakee Area Special Education Co-op:** An agreement with the final director candidate is imminent.

**Kankakee Area Career Center:** No report

**IASB-Three Rivers Division:** No report

**Chamber of Commerce:** Christmas in the Village was held recently and the next meeting will be in January.

**Communications Committee:** Discussions at the December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting included: formatting changes for the newsletter; various social media channels; the idea of podcasts; a style guide for the alignment of branding logos/fonts; and videos from the administrative team.

**Student Representatives:** NHS participated in Wreaths Across America and held a hot cocoa fundraiser; recent concerts were performed by the band, jazz band and chorus; HS play practice has started; the basketball teams are in full swing; and finals are taking place this week.

**Board Communications:** The staff was presented with a Christmas ham from the board.

**COMMUNITY FORUM AND OTHER:** There were no comments or questions from the audience.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion was made by S. Ohm, seconded by C. Pickens, at 7:08 p.m. to go into Executive Session for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-0057.

Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

Roll Call: S. Ohm - yes; C. Pickens - yes; V. Gawlinski – yes; C. Horn - yes; J. Loitz – yes; D. Marshalek - yes; and T. Markland - yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING:**

President Markland declared the closed session was over at 7:52 p.m. and the meeting would continue in Open Session.

**APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:**

Motion was made by J. Loitz, seconded by D. Marshalek, at 7:52 p.m. to approve the Executive Session minutes as read. Roll Call: J. Loitz - yes; D. Marshalek - yes; V. Gawlinski – yes; C. Horn – yes; S. Ohm – yes; C. Pickens - yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF SALARY SLIDE SCHEDULE:**

Motion was made by C. Horn, seconded by V. Gawlinski, to approve the Salary Slide Schedule, as presented, due to the minimum wage increase legislation. Roll Call: C. Horn – yes; V. Gawlinski – yes; J. Loitz – yes; D. Marshalek – yes; S. Ohm – yes; C. Pickens – yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN:**

Motion was made by J. Loitz, seconded by V. Gawlinski, at 7:54 p.m. to adjourn. Voice vote, all yes. Motion carried unanimously.

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Jerry Loitz  
Secretary

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Tim Markland  
President