

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 25, 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 September 25, 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 8

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

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

1. Minutes of the regular board meeting of August, 2023.
2. Financial Reports for August, 2023.
3. Direction to pay the September vendor bills in the amount of \$202,355.56.
4. Approval of the August payroll in the amount of \$293,035.99.
5. To approve the employment of: Jenni Hoekstra as Room Monitor (\$15.25 per hour), Becky Brown as HS Cheerleading Sponsor (\$2,225), Kyle Timmons as 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach (\$2,669), Joe Bravo as a Substitute Custodian (\$13.60 per hour) and Jessica Sellers as JV Volleyball Coach (\$2,412).
6. To approve the 2023-2024 Support Staff Handbook as presented.
7. To approve the resignation with the intent to retire from Holly Fick effective September 8, 2023.

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

AUDIENCE TO PERSON’S SCHEDULED IN ADVANCE: Student, Aaron Herz, is a College Board National Awardee. Specifically, he received the National Rural and Small Town Award due to the combination of his high PSAT scores and GPA. The district is extremely proud of Aaron not only for this achievement but for being a silent leader and excellent role model at GPHS.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORTS: Administrators reports are attached. Mr. Nevills added that Academic Advisory is being revamped to include more intensive interventions and offer more support for those identified students. He also mentioned a call he received from an official at a recent HS volleyball game in Watseka. The official praised the GP players and fans for their exemplary behavior and outstanding character at the game.

Superintendent: Dr. Palan’s report included:

1. GPHS senior opportunities will be expanded this year to include more shadowing experiences for the students who desire them.
2. The required Intruder Drill was held recently as well as the first Emergency Committee meeting. The Incident Command System is also up and running.
3. A School Maintenance Grant will be offered again this year. It is a \$50,000 matching grant that will be due around the first of December. Projects will be discussed at the next building committee meeting.
4. Enrollment for August totaled 447 students, including the pre-school.

OPENING OF THE FY 2024 BUDGET HEARING:

Motion was made by S. Ohm, seconded by C. Pickens, at 6:15 p.m. to open the FY 2024 budget hearing. Voice vote, all yes. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSING OF THE FY 2024 BUDGET HEARING:

Dr. Palan reviewed the FY ’24 budget that has been on display for 30 days and stated that, overall, he is presenting a balanced budget in the amount of \$6,846,281. The Education and O & M funds are balanced. The Transportation fund shows a deficit but is offset by a surplus in Working Cash. Currently, the district is receiving about fourteen grants but many will be completed this year. This budget will allow for the district to keep its small class sizes for another year. Following this discussion, a motion was made by C. Horn, seconded by V. Gawlinski, at 6:18 p.m. to close the FY 2024 budget hearing. Voice vote, all yes. Motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF THE FY 2024 BUDGET:

Motion was made by J. Loitz, seconded by V. Gawlinski, at 6:18 p.m. to accept the superintendent’s recommendation to adopt the budget for the 2023-24 school year as presented. Roll Call: J. Loitz – yes; V. Gawlinski – yes; C. Horn – yes; D. Marshalek – yes; S. Ohm – yes; C. Pickens - yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF THE FY 2023 AUDIT:

Mr. Russ Leigh, of Russell Leigh and Associates, presented the report on the audit of Fiscal Year 2023, explaining the fund balances and financial condition of the district at the year's end. The district received the highest rating. He said it was a clean audit with no findings. The three operating funds, Education, Operations and Maintenance, and Transportation, are all in solid shape with two of the funds having over a year of cash on hand, which is very rare. As every district in Illinois, the pension liability was extremely underfunded and the state may turn to the local taxing bodies in the future to cover this shortfall. The audit will be placed on file in the District Office. Motion was made by C. Pickens, seconded by J. Loitz, to approve the FY 2023 audit as presented. 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.

GP #6 BRANDING/PUBLIC RELATIONS INITIATIVE:

In order to spread GP's positive image in both the community and county, the idea of forming a Public Relations Committee was discussed. Strategies for enhancing the communication with all of the various stakeholders would be reviewed with committee members. The committee may be comprised of board members, parents, staff, etc. Key messaging methods such as social media, newsletters, website, etc. could be used to "brand" the district in a positive light. More details will be discussed at future meetings.

GP #6 MASTER PLAN DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS:

Healy Bender Architects presented a "Master Plan" with associated timelines for essential, as well as supplementary, projects for the Elementary School. It was decided that the Board will address where the focus needs to be on prioritizing projects. More will be discussed at the October meeting.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President: No report

Building and Grounds: No report

Technology: No report

Kankakee Area Special Education Co-op: There are three candidates so far for the Director's position and the applications are due by November 1st.

Kankakee Area Career Center: No report

IASB-Three Rivers Division: No report

Chamber of Commerce: A craft fair is being planned for December and the Chamber is working in collaboration with the library on a "Giving Tree" for gifts and potentially decorated Christmas trees for those in the community that are in need.

Student Representatives: The NHS Blood Drive will be held on October 26th; Student Council will be hosting Homecoming in January and a Turnabout Dance in December; the Senior Class has met with Mrs. Barrios regarding tentative future plans; a college fair at KCC is coming up; FFA hosted a horse judging contest; golf regionals are this week; the PTO Kindness fundraiser is continuing; and the HS rock has been painted pink for the big game/fundraiser next month.

Board Communications: Dr. Palan informed the Board that the personnel request for dock days has increased over the last two to three years. Due to the difficulty in finding subs to fill these days he will be scrutinizing these requests more carefully in the future. He also wanted to remind the board, and the public, about the “Pink Night” on October 20th.

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

ADJOURN:
Motion was made by J. Loitz, seconded by D. Marshalek, at 7:00 p.m. to adjourn. Voice vote, all yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Jerry Loitz
Secretary

Tim Markland
President