

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2024**

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 23, 2024 in the Middle School Library.

The meeting was called to order by President Markland at 6:00 p.m. and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Members present: Christine Horn  
Vicki Gawlinski  
Tim Markland  
Dave Marshalek  
Shari Ohm  
Mike Wells

Member absent: Jerry Loitz

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

Audience of 19

**APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY PRO TEM:**

In Secretary Loitz's absence, a motion was made by T. Markland, seconded by V. Gawlinski, to appoint D. Marshalek as Secretary Pro tem for this meeting. Roll Call: T. Markland – yes; V. Gawlinski – yes; C. Horn - yes; D. Marshalek - yes; S. Ohm – yes; and M. Wells – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

1. Minutes of the regular board meeting of August, 2024.
2. Financial Reports for August, 2024.
3. Direction to pay the September vendor bills in the amount of \$.
4. Approval of the August payroll in the amount of \$314,200.23.
5. To approve Christine Mepham as 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball Coach, Kyle Timmons as 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball Coach, Alexis Mepham as Volunteer MS Girls Basketball Coach, Katie Oberman as Mentor (payment as per CBA) and Jadda Lowry as Special Needs Paraprofessional (\$16.43 per hour).

6. Approval of \$125 as sub rate pay and \$165 for long-term sub rate pay.
7. To affirm Phyllis Fick as School Treasurer, Midland States Bank for Depositories and Himes, Petrarca and Fester as Attorneys of Record.

Roll Call: S. Ohm – yes; C. Horn - yes; V. Gawlinski – yes; D. Marshalek - yes; M. Wells - yes; and T. Markland - yes. Motion carried.

**AUDIENCE TO PERSON'S SCHEDULED IN ADVANCE:** Dr. Palan recognized Susie Crocker on her retirement after over 21 years of service to the district as a bus driver. She was commended for her dedication and commitment to the student's safety. Students Roosevelt Leon, Leah Etter and Kaylie Meherg were acknowledged for their roles in the Decade of Excellence Video. They were given a token of appreciation for participating in the production.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS:** Administrators reports are attached. Ms. Planeta reported that the STEM lab is up and running. Every ES class will have ten days in the STEM lab. Mrs. Pickens will be taking 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders, as well as some MS students, to the STEM competition at the ROE. Mr. Nevills stated curriculum alignment has started with Sarah Dexter, beginning with ELA and then Math. Juniors and seniors are delving into career paths by connecting with local workers in their chosen field. This will give the students an opportunity to explore options before choosing a college or work route.

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

1. A meeting was held regarding the HLS project and what items could be included in the bonds and what projects would be completed using district reserves. The goal is to have a cost analysis by the October meeting, the HLS bond hearing at the November meeting and final approval by the December meeting.
2. Preparation of the levy will begin in October and the public is noting the assessed valuation by the county has increased around 11%.
3. A Cardiac Emergency Response Plan is a new requirement for Illinois schools and the plan will be released by the first of the year.
4. Current enrollment is 442 students, including Pre-K.

**OPENING OF THE FY 2025 BUDGET HEARING:**

Motion was made by S. Ohm, seconded by C. Horn, at 6:15 p.m. to open the FY 2025 budget hearing. Voice vote, all yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**CLOSING OF THE FY 2025 BUDGET HEARING:**

Dr. Palan reviewed the FY '25 budget that has been on display for 30 days and stated that, overall, he is presenting a balanced budget in the amount of \$6,836,831. The Education and O & M funds are balanced. The Transportation fund shows a deficit due to an increase in the cost of the bus leases over the last few years but is offset by a surplus in Working Cash. On the revenue side, Corporate Personal Property Tax is being reduced to pre-COVID levels and the hope is that interest rates on income stay at the same level as previous years.

Currently, the district is receiving about fourteen grants but some 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 M. Wells, seconded by D. Marshalek, at 6:22 p.m. to close the FY 2025 budget hearing. Voice vote, all yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADOPTION OF THE FY 2025 BUDGET:**

Motion was made by D. Marshalek, seconded by V. Gawlinski, at 6:23 p.m. to accept the superintendent's recommendation to adopt the budget for the 2024-25 school year as presented. Roll Call: D. Marshalek – yes; V. Gawlinski – yes; C. Horn – yes; S. Ohm – yes; M. Wells – yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**President:** No report.

**Building and Grounds:** The Village will be covering the engineering costs associated with the drainage problem at the ES parking lot and the district will pay \$25,802 for the paving of the area. The architects have been involved in researching the building codes for the air conditioning for the main gym and Jones Environmental has been contacted as well for permitting issues. School Maintenance Grant money will be used for this project.

**Technology:** No report

**Kankakee Area Special Education Co-op:** No report

**Kankakee Area Career Center:** No report

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

**Chamber of Commerce:** No report

**Communications Committee:** The brand style guide is still being worked on by the committee.

**Student Representatives:** Mr. Nevills introduced Preston Wallace as the new student representative. MS Softball won their Regional but were defeated at Sectionals; Girls Golf has been very successful; Volleyball and Soccer will be hosting their senior nights in the coming weeks; NHS is hosting a blood drive on October 10<sup>th</sup>; and the FFA Club presented a demonstration on tractor safety for drivers.

**Board Communications:** None noted

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion was made by M. Wells, seconded by S. Ohm, at 6:45 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. (Attorney John Fester)

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

**RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING:**

President Markland declared the closed session was over at 7:10 p.m. and the meeting would continue in Open Session.

**APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:**

Motion was made by V. Gawlinski, seconded by D. Marshalek, at 7:10 p.m. to approve the Executive Session minutes as read. Roll Call: V. Gawlinski - yes; D. Marshalek - yes; C. Horn – yes; S. Ohm – yes; M. Wells – yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR 2024-2027:**

Motion was made by S. Ohm, seconded by M. Wells, to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement (certified) for 2024-2027 as presented. Roll Call: S. Ohm - yes; M. Wells - yes; V. Gawlinski - yes; C. Horn - yes; D. Marshalek - yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF SUPPORT STAFF ANNUAL RAISES:**

Motion was made by C. Horn, seconded by V. Gawlinski, to approve the annual support staff raises of 5.5% retroactive to July 1<sup>st</sup>, as presented. Roll Call: C. Horn - yes; V. Gawlinski - yes; D. Marshalek - abstain; S. Ohm - yes; M. Wells - abstain; and T. Markland - yes. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR:**

Motion was made by S. Ohm, seconded by D. Marshalek, to approve the annual contract for Andy Dillman, Technology Director, as presented. Roll Call: S. Ohm - yes; D. Marshalek - yes; V. Gawlinski - yes; C. Horn - yes; M. Wells - yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF RETIREMENT NOTIFICATION FOR LEE ELLEN PALAN:**

Motion was made by M. Wells, seconded by V. Gawlinski, to approve the retirement notification letter for Lee Ellen Palan, ES Reading Specialist, effective June 2026. Roll Call: M. Wells - yes; V. Gawlinski - yes; C. Horn - yes; D. Marshalek - yes; S. Ohm - yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR MS/HS PRINCIPAL:**

Motion was made by C. Horn, seconded by M. Wells, to approve the contract amendment for Kyle Nevills, MS/HS Principal, as presented. Roll Call: C. Horn - yes; M. Wells - yes; V. Gawlinski - yes; D. Marshalek - yes; S. Ohm - yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN:**

Motion was made by D. Marshalek, seconded by M. Wells, at 7:15 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