

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
NOVEMBER 17, 2014**

A regular meeting of the Grant Park Community Unit School District No. 6 Board of Education, Kankakee County, State of Illinois, was held on November 17, 2014, in the Middle School Library.

The meeting was called to order by President Dickson at 7:00 p.m. and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Members present: Dave Dickson  
Mardale Ekhoﬀ  
Jerry Fick  
Dale Hansen  
Shari Ohm  
Dave Wheeler

Member absent: Tim Markland

Also present: Dr. John Palan, Superintendent  
Ms. Tracy Planeta, ES Principal  
Mr. Tom Sanidas, MS/HS Principal  
Sue Anderson, Recording Secretary  
Tanner Barrera, Student Representative

Audience of 3

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

Motion was made by D. Wheeler, seconded by M. Ekhoﬀ, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Minutes of the regular board meeting of October 20, 2014.
2. Financial Reports for October, 2014.
3. Direction to pay the November vendor bills in the amount of \$759,237.04.
4. Approval of the October payroll in the amount of \$278,351.33.
5. To approve the resignation of Sarah Koehler, Yearbook Sponsor, as of November 6, 2014.
6. To employ Angela Tieri as ES Part-Time Custodian (\$11.50 per hour) and Jennifer Thiesen/Lee Ellen Palan as Co-Yearbook Sponsors (\$1,211 per person, plus TRS), and Dennis Mahnke, James Amsden and Tyler Tempco as volunteer wrestling coaches for the 2014-15 season.

Roll Call: D. Wheeler – yes; M. Ekhoﬀ – yes; J. Fick – yes; D. Hansen - yes; S. Ohm - yes; and D. Dickson - yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**AUDIENCE TO PERSONS SCHEDULED IN ADVANCE:** None

**ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORTS:** The administrators’ reports are attached. Ms. Planeta added Grandparents’ Day was a resounding success. Close to 400 lunches were served and many compliments were received on the meal and the helpfulness of the volunteer NJHS students. Mr. Sanidas noted the MS play was very successful and well attended. He complimented all those involved. He also reported on GPHS students recent

accomplishments: All-Area Boys Soccer – Connor Claussen, Kaleb Lehnert; All-Area 1<sup>st</sup> Team Volleyball – Holly Anderson; and Jake Perreira signing Letter of Intent for baseball at University of Indianapolis.

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

1. The Schedule of Waiver of Limitation of Administrative Costs is scheduled for December 15, 2014 at 6:45 p.m. in the MS Library. This is necessary due to exceeding the 5% cost increase on this budget line item because of having a Special Education Director on the payroll this year as opposed to sharing the position with St. George last year.
2. The Leadership Summit in February 2015 which will be discussing Vision 20:20.
3. Another Legislative update on SB 16, Pension Reform and the Cost Shift which may have a very detrimental effect on the district.
4. An in-depth review on the District/School Report on State Assessments from 2013-14. In summary, GPES scored a composite of 72.4% versus a state average of 59% on the ISAT, the highest of all Kankakee County schools. GPHS showed a composite ACT score of 22.2 compared to a state composite of 20.7. This is their highest average in comparison to the last five years. Dr. Palan will be providing further information to various media outlets.
5. The current enrollment update shows no change from the previous month.

### **DISCUSSION OF THE 2014 TAX LEVY AND SETTING A HEARING DATE FOR DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>:**

Dr. Palan has been working on the levy but is waiting for the cash flow numbers at the end of November to finalize the tax levy amount. The Board set the hearing date for Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:10 p.m. in the MS library.

### **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**President:** The Illinois Association of School Boards would like GP to pilot a Community Engagement Program. A tentative date for the first session was set for Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Building and Grounds:** The committee received a proposal to re-do the baseball field, at no cost to the district. Work has not been started yet due to the weather.

**Technology:** Two committee members visited the classroom using the Chromebooks for the 1:1 Initiative and were impressed with the students' use of the technology. Also, Dr. Palan noted the technology infrastructure will need updating in the very near future.

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

**Kankakee Area Career Center:** The audit report was given at the last meeting. Also, GPHS junior, Melissa DuMontelle, was selected KACC Student of the Quarter – CNA.

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

**Chamber of Commerce:** Christmas in the Village was discussed at the recent meeting.

**Student Representatives:** The Jazz Band concert will be held Tuesday evening; Spanish classes will take a field trip to a Mexican Museum and restaurant; Girls Basketball is in full swing; and there have been two issues of the school newspaper.

**Board Communications:** An article entitled, “Local Schools Feel Pinch of Drop in Education” was distributed to the board.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion was made by M. Ekhoﬀ, seconded by J. Fick, at 8:05 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: M. Ekhoﬀ - yes; J. Fick - yes; D. Hansen - yes; S. Ohm – yes; D. Wheeler - yes; and D. Dickson - yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING:**

President Dickson declared the closed session was over at 8:34 p.m. and the meeting would continue in Open Session.

**APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:**

Motion was made by D. Hansen, seconded by M. Ekhoﬀ, at 8:35 p.m. to approve the Executive Session minutes as read. Roll Call: D. Hansen – yes; M. Ekhoﬀ – yes; J. Fick – yes; S. Ohm – yes; D. Wheeler – yes; and D. Dickson - yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL TO HIRE HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTOR:**

Motion was made by D. Wheeler, seconded by J. Fick, to hire Brenda Milk, HS Special Education teacher, as Homebound Instructor for \$28.00 per hour, as per the CBA. Roll Call: D. Wheeler – yes; J. Fick – yes; M. Ekhoﬀ – yes; D. Hansen – yes; S. Ohm – yes; and D. Dickson – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN:**

Motion was made by S. Ohm, seconded by M. Ekhoﬀ, at 8:38 p.m. to adjourn. Voice vote, all yes. Motion carried unanimously.

David Wheeler  
Secretary Pro-Temp

Dave Dickson  
President