

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes

January 3, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

Town Hall Meeting Room

Present Board Members: Jenny Emery (via telephone), Mark Fiorentino, Lynn Guelzow, Melissa Migliaccio, Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber, Brandon Webster, and Maddie Attianese and Sarah Cusano (Student Representatives).

Melissa Migliaccio called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Superintendent's Announcements

- School is officially closed tomorrow which will be the district's first snow day
- Thank you to the Facilities staff and the bus company for getting the schools and buses up and running for the return to school with the cold temperatures.
- In the midst of final interviews for the human resources position.
- First round interviews for the Director of Facilities will commence shortly.
- The Choice parent meeting scheduled for tomorrow evening has been rescheduled.
- There will likely be a meeting on January 9th for the Plus One Budget. The Three-Board Meeting will be held on January 16th.
- Action item from the last meeting: Can an oil tank be installed in the basement at the middle school? Answer: No, as there is no basement in the middle school so this is not possible.
- There is an opportunity for Board members and members of the community to get involved with the Generations Program at Kelly Lane. If you would like to spend time with a first grader at the primary school, the district is looking for men and women to mentor our young students. Additional information can be found on the front page of the website. You may also contact Christopher Tranberg if you are interested in participating.
- Schools will be closed on January 15th in observance of the Martin Luther King holiday.

I.B. Girls' Soccer Championship Team

The girls' soccer team received jackets from the Board for winning the state championship. Dr. Addley stated he was very impressed with performance of the team and expressed congratulations to the team and Coach "Moose" Dzielak. Coach Dzielak presented the Board with an autographed ball. Board Chair, Melissa Migliaccio, stated this is the first title since 2001 so congratulations in bringing this title back to Granby. She noted that players should be noted for their athletic abilities but also for a good many who are on the honor roll and in the National Honor Society. Ms. Migliaccio also congratulated Brian Maltese, Athletic Director, and Moose for shepherding the team to the state title.

I.C. Student Representative Reports

- Senior class had last poetry out loud today. The school-wide competition is next week
- Winter sports: Boys' basketball 0-2; girls' basketball 4-0; hockey 1-3; wrestling first match tonight; swimming has first meet today; indoor track no win/loss record due to their season is based on invitational meets.
- New Year's Dance this Friday 7-10 p.m.
- Rehearsals for the spring musical, Fiddler on the Roof, have begun. The performance will be held March 16-18.

I.D. Teaching & Learning

Ms. Amber Wyzik, Media Center Specialist and Technology Coach at Kelly Lane, presented on the use of technology for primary school students. Dr. Addley recognized Ms. Wyzik as being a leader in technology at the elementary level and an expert in the apple field. He stated her presentation is a prelude into what is coming as a proposal in the budget as far as what 1-to-1 looks like conceptually at the primary school which is the last level of implementation. Ms. Wyzik explained her role as a Technology Coach stating she ensures teachers are supported and trained with the application of technology in their curriculum and supports them as they integrate technology into their classroom. All students visit the media center once a week for one hour and learn keyboarding, website navigation, graphic design, etc. She shared videos of how students use i-pads as a creation tool or a research tool. Mark Fiorentino inquired what the difference is for next year with regard to this program. Dr. Addley stated there is a proposal in the Plus One Budget where Ms. Wyzik will be taken out of the media center for one year to become an instructional coach around technology spending time with teachers. A one-year position will be hired and she will then return to the media center.

II. Public Comment

Richard Smith, 20 Heather Lane, North Granby stated he has a 3rd and 5th grader in the school system. Before the holidays, the Board heard from Tami Brown on her experiences with her gifted and high-achieving students in the school system. Mr. Smith stated he is here to echo her sentiments and be an advocate for placing a higher priority on meeting the unique needs of gifted students. His 5th grader is gifted and has excelled in language arts and math and has received enrichment activities in math. He is grateful for those activities but is concerned as his son moves forward in the middle school stating he is not sure enrichment will be enough. He is in favor of opportunities for accelerated instruction and honors courses in English or math at the middle school. Mr. Smith asked the Board to keep this issue in the forefront as they consider curriculum, funding, etc. and to look at what other towns are doing, especially for younger students.

III. Consent Agenda

III.A. Minutes

A motion was made by Brandon Webster and seconded by Mark Fiorentino to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed with two abstentions (Lynn Guelzow and Rosemarie Weber). This motion passed at 7:27 p.m.

IV. Old Business

IV.A. Second Reading of Draft Policy 3542.43 - Food Service

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended draft Policy 3542.43, Food Service, to the Board for a second reading. Rosemarie Weber stated she has not received any comments. Christopher Tranberg stated he has received some formatting changes which will be reflected at the next meeting. This policy will go to the Board for a third reading and approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

IV.B. Second Reading of Revised Policy 5145.15 - On-Campus Recruitment

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommends revised Policy 5145.14, On-Campus Recruitment, to the Board for a second reading. Rosemarie Weber stated she has not received any comments. Rosemarie Weber stated she has not received any comments. This policy will go to the Board for a third reading and approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

V. New Business

V.A. FY19 Plus One Budget

Melissa Migliaccio stated the Board will hear Dr. Addley's presentation this evening. The Board will further review the document and meet again on January 9th. Dr. Addley stated the Plus One Budget reflects some of the challenges as well as short- and long-term planning and some items proposed in this document may not make it to the budget process. The Plus One Budget consists of three parts: Operating Budget, Small Capital and the Quality and Diversity (Q&D) Fund. Dr. Addley noted some of the assumptions to develop the Plus One Budget, such as, 2% Board of Finance guideline; 6 retirees; health benefit rate increase of 10%; 3 replacement (used) buses; and, a special education increase of over \$500K in outplacement tuition and transportation. Small capital, which includes furniture, fixtures and equipment, transportation and technology, comes to approximately \$900K. Dr. Addley stated the Plus One Budget comes in at 3.85%. He discussed personnel included in the FY19 budget including a Speech and Language Pathologist, Enrichment Coach, Maintenance Worker, Chinese Language Teacher, Technology Teacher, and Elementary Strings Teacher. Dr. Addley stated he puts items in this budget, such as a strings program, to make Granby a highly attractive school system. There will be a transfer of 1 classroom teacher from Q&D to the operating budget and a reduction of 2.4 classroom teachers to reflect the decline in student enrollment. Some other notable items are a one-time fee for the NEAS&C visitation; supplies for the strings program; and, new courses for high-performing students. Dr. Addley discussed the increase in transportation expenses which are mostly to do with an increase in voag transportation costs. For the out years, Dr. Addley brought attention to the 2022-2023 school year and the placeholder for personnel and contracted services costs for implementation of an integrated Town and School Technology Services Department (\$152,771). He reviewed the funded and unfunded items in the budget. The Reading Interventionist position is currently unfunded so the budget could be presented to the Board under 4%. Additionally, a security monitor at the high school is unfunded. Presently, there is someone in the hallways until 5:30 p.m. This position would provide a better level of security contracted by outside services. Also unfunded is the provision of two late buses to support student participation in extracurricular activities. Dr. Addley discussed the Q&D run-out which shows a balance of \$469 in FY22 as well as the 10-year small capital plan. He informed the Board that if nothing was added to the budget, and only allowances for contractual and other obligations such as special education expenses, the increase would be 2.61%. Dr. Addley informed the Board that, in principle, the BOE needs to bring to the BOF what next year's budget may look like. Melissa Migliaccio

opened the floor to questions from the Board. Lynn Guelzow inquired if \$500K would need to be cut to get to 2%. Dr. Addley stated, yes, probably a little over \$500K would need to be cut. Mark Fiorentino inquired what the strategy is of starting the strings program in the lower grades as opposed to the higher grades. Christopher Tranberg stated the design of the program is a compulsory strings program. Students are taught as a class with a class set of violins. This is developmentally the appropriate way to teach a string instrument. The program stops becoming compulsory after 3rd grade. In 4th grade students can choose to play a viola, cello or bass. Mr. Fiorentino inquired if he can get an estimate on the annual cost of the fund the program when it is fully implemented. Lynn Guelzow inquired about the projected decline in electricity and fuel. Anna Robbins, Business Manager, explained that electricity costs last year included the last installments on loan payments for improvements and, with regard to fuel, oil prices have declined and the middle school oil tank will not need to be filled if removed. Dr. Addley stated the projected priorities presented in the Plus One Budget should align to the Board goals/superintendent goals and many of the topics have been at the forefront of the Board's discussions and plan. The Board will discuss the Plus One Budget further at the January 9th meeting.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

VI.A.1. Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communication

Rosemarie Weber stated this subcommittee met this evening and tabled a number of discussions. The district is working with a consultant to review the rigor of the Chinese program and to make suggestions about the expansion into 6th grade. Discussed that the Generations Program is still looking for mentors as well as several alternative revenue sources in terms of grant funding: Farm-to-School Grant; Open Choice Grant (\$5K less than last year); Title IV Grant \$10K (used for UConn enrichment training); and, Graustein Foundation Funding which will be continued in part for the Equity Task Force. Also discussed the nutrition policy which will remain in subcommittee; on-line civics course starting in January which is a blended course 2 days in the class and 2 days on-line in the building; and the following new courses: Arts through History, Calligraphy and Lettering Design, AP Calculus BC, and AP Computer Science Principles which were all approved. AP Capstone was tabled. The agenda item, 1-to-1 Computing Rollout, will be discussed at the next meeting.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

This subcommittee has not met.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Mark Fiorentino reported has not met. Melissa Migliaccio once again encouraged Board members to attend the upcoming CABE legislative breakfast being held at the capitol on February 15th at 8:00 a.m.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

The Board is looking for another board member to replace Jenny Emery as the liaison with the GEF.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Melissa Migliaccio reviewed the calendar of events noting the New Year's Ball at the high school, PTO and PAC meetings, as well as upcoming concerts and Board of Education/budget meetings.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

Dr. Addley asked the Board to send any questions regarding the Plus One Budget to him. Maddie Attianese inquired if there is a snow day tomorrow, would high school exams be pushed back. Dr. Addley stated this is generally the practice.

VI.E. Action Items

Action item: Annual cost of Strings Program when fully implemented.

VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

There was no need for an Executive Session this evening. A motion was made by Lynn Guelzow and seconded by Rosemarie Weber to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemarie Weber
Board Secretary