

**Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes  
October 17, 2018, 7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall Meeting Room**

Present Board Members: Jenny Emery, Mark Fiorentino, Lynn Guelzow, Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber, and Dwaritha Ramesh and Maddy Wilson (Student Representatives)

Absent Board Members: Melissa Migliaccio and Brandon Webster

Mark Fiorentino called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**I. Administrative Reports**

**I.A. Assistant Superintendent's Announcements**

- Welcome to middle school students, parents and middle school art teacher, Jeannie Bryanton, who are here to present for Schools in the Spotlight.
- The \$170K BOE appropriation for the high school roof repair was approved by the Board of Selectmen on Monday evening. It will now move on to the Board of Finance.
- Agenda items are being aligned to the Board Goals. You will now see this on all Board agendas.
- This Friday 4 teachers from the Foundation Public School in Pakistan will be joining the district for 3 weeks. They will come to the next Board Meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup>.
- This past Tuesday was a professional development day for teachers. Dr. Ross Greene presented to the staff on Collaborative Proactive Solutions for social and emotional learning. Thank you to Aimee Martin, Director of Pupil Services, for organizing the event. Over 50 people from other school districts also attended.
- The mentoring program will be up and running the beginning of November. There are a small number of primary school students to start.
- Approximately 10 staff members from the Equity Taskforce attended the Equity Institute at the Wadsworth Atheneum this week.
- The FY20 budget is up and running and budget meetings with administrators have been scheduled.
- Close to hiring the high school security monitor. This will be a contracted service by CREC.
- Sending out communication regarding STOPit to parents this week.
- The PTO Jog-A-Thon will be held on Saturday.
- Thank you to the PTO for sponsoring author Susan Hood to visit Kelly and Wells Road last week.
- Dr. Addley will participate in an Educational Forum held by the YMCA on Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- There will be a professional development day on Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> – no school for students.
- The CABE/CAPSS Convention will be held November 16-17.

**I.B. Student Representative Reports**

- Sports report: Boys' and girls' soccer both won vs. East Windsor and field hockey won 3-1 vs. Canton. Maria Nolan, a Junior soccer player, has been selected as the Hartford Courant Varsity Athlete of the Week.
- The Homecoming Dance is October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Spirit week will be held the following week. The football game is November 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The College Fair was held today. Maddy Wilson stated there were a number of schools attending including trade schools and the National Guard, etc.
- French exchange students arrived last week and their visit overlapped with the Spanish exchange students. French students went to Boston yesterday and are going to Hartford today. Friday they are hoping to sit in on classes other than language classes. They depart on Saturday.
- DECA is having their field trip to the Fall Leadership Conference on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Model UN is going on their yearly NYC trip to meet with Cuba and Brazil delegates.
- The NHS Induction Ceremony will be held on October 24<sup>th</sup>.
- The pep rally will be held on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **I.C. Business Manager's Report**

Ms. Anna Robbins, Business Manager, presented the September statement of accounts and stated there is a negative forecast of \$558K. Special education expenditures are unfavorable at \$545K and regular education expenditures are projected to be unfavorable at \$14K. The unfavorable forecast for special education includes expenditures for 4 additional teaching assistants to meet the requirements for students' individual education plans as well as tuition and transportation for 3 out-of-district placements this month. The unfavorable forecast in regular education is due to the need for additional long-term substitutes to cover for medical leaves. Additional funding for the excess cost grant should be \$163K, which corresponds to the increase in out-of-district placements. Regular education tuition from other towns is favorable at \$15K. The Quality & Diversity Fund continues to show an unfavorable forecast of \$137K as it includes 2 of the 3 additional teaching assistants to support Kindergarten.

### **I.D. Schools in the Spotlight**

Ms. Jeannie Bryanton, Art Teacher at Granby Memorial Middle School, and three of her 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, Isabel Gravlin, Taylor Henry and Amy Rogers, presented to the Board how they incorporate writing in art class using personal artist's sketchbooks. This project was started three years ago when all of the students were in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. As 6<sup>th</sup> graders, students set up their sketchbooks by creating sections for each year as well as copying several pages of notes. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, students began to add samples of work and took notes to refer back to when working on their still life drawings. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students took their own notes and only wrote down important information. Students shared paintings they created from an original piece and compared the two stating they often refer to their notes when they need assistance with art techniques.

### **I.E. NEAS&C Update**

Mr. Michael Dunn, Principal of Granby Memorial High School, updated the Board on the recent visit by the NEAS&C Visiting Committee on September 23-26, 2018. He thanked the entire high school community for their work in the self-study and to the Board for attending the events. The committee worked in teams interviewing students, attending classes and reviewing evidence. The co-chairs of the committee gave Mr. Dunn updates in the morning and the afternoon. On the last day of the visit, one of the co-chairs read a summary of their findings and one of the most important ones was that the high school was on target with their self-study. The committee also found that the high school was getting the big things right and had a clear vision for graduates. They were also impressed with the cleanliness of the physical plant. Mr. Dunn stated he expects to get a draft of the report around the holidays.

## **II. Public Comment**

There were no public comments this evening.

## **III. Consent Agenda**

### **III.A. Minutes**

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Jenny Emery to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed unanimously at 7:34 p.m.

## **IV. Old Business**

There was no Old Business to report.

## **V. New Business**

### **V.A. Annual District Testing Report**

Mr. Christopher Tranberg, Assistant Superintendent, presented the Annual Testing Report to the Board for the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Tranberg presented per pupil expenditure graphs for Granby as it relates to test scores for SBAC ELA, SBAC Math and SAT. The graphs show that Granby is doing a very good job in testing with the money spent per pupil. He then presented the SBAC results for ELA and stated there was a strong area of growth in ELA for Grades 3 and 4. He went on to state SBAC performance this year was very steady. With regard to the SBAC Math results, they were favorable in growth in Grades 3 and 4. Grades 3, 4, 6, and 8 improved in their standing in the DRG. Lynn Guelzow commented that Granby

is generally well above the state average and this year is at the state average. Mr. Tranberg stated, in general, these are our scores and we have work to do; however, the scores are stable and this is not where we want to be. Dr. Addley stated in Grades 3-8 the general average of students meeting goal is 73% and the state is 82%, which means 13 students per grade level in Grades 3-8 need to do better. Ms. Guelzow would like to have a breakdown of students in the advanced category by grade. Advanced Placement testing was presented and the number of students taking at least one AP exam increased and there was also an increase among all test takers scoring a 3, 4, or 5. Lastly, SAT scores were reviewed and, for the Class of 2018, there was a 20-point increase in aggregate performance. The high school will continue to connect students to the free resource Khan Academy as well as utilize PSAT data and College Board analytics to inform instructional decisions. Lynn Guelzow requested a breakdown of SAT scores in the DRG for the last three years as well as a breakdown of AP test scores by course. Mark Fiorentino inquired what the difference is in the number of questions correct/incorrect in a 561 score vs. 585 score. Mr. Tranberg reviewed the strategic actions for ELA and Math and stated the district will be aligning the school improvement plans with district strategic actions. Ms. Guelzow thanked Mr. Tranberg stating she appreciated his honesty as to where the scores are. Jenny Emery stated she is interested in understanding what comparable schools in the DRG do who are doing better than us and spending more money than us. Dr. Addley stated other districts are spending more money but it is very hard to compare districts as structures that work in one town may not work in Granby. It is difficult to draw out the greatest variable of a district that spends more money and receives greater results than Granby.

#### **V.B. First Reading of Revised Policy 5141.5, Reports of Suspected Abuse**

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 5141.4, Reports of Suspected Abuse, to the Board for a first reading. Rosemarie Weber stated any comments should be sent to Christopher Tranberg. This policy will go to the Board for a second reading at the next meeting.

#### **V.C. First Reading of Draft Policy 6163.3, Live Animals in Classrooms**

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended draft Policy 6163.3, Live Animals in Classrooms, to the Board for a first reading. Rosemarie Weber stated this is a new policy which has been recommended by CABE. Any comments should be sent to Christopher Tranberg. This policy will go to the Board for a second reading at the next meeting.

#### **V.D. Granby Association of School Administrators Contract Approval**

The Board will discuss the approval of the contract for the Granby Association of School Administrators effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022. A motion was made by Jenny Emery and seconded by Rosemarie Weber to approve the contract for the Granby Association of School Administrators effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022. Ms. Emery stated the three-year salary includes a wage and step increase of just under \$134K. With regard to health benefits, the PPO is eliminated. Administrators agreed to an increase share in the cost of an HSA from 16.5% to 18%, as well as assumed a smaller but gradual increase of dental costs. Contract language was agreed to related to a reduction-in-force where the Superintendent will have the ability to manage the system as seemed most appropriate and taking seniority out of that language. Mark Fiorentino thanked administrators for their hard work. This motion passed unanimously at 8:21 p.m.

#### **V.E. Superintendent's Goals**

Dr. Alan Addley presented his goals for the 2018-2019 school year to the Board and stated his goals are aligned with the Board goals. He reviewed some of the goals in each category of Student Achievement; Professional/Personal Leadership; Board & Community Relations; Educational Leadership (instructional and curriculum); and, Business Matters. Dr. Addley was asked if he could add another goal that is not listed, what would it be. He stated he wished he had more time and resources to give to the Kearns building as well as another opportunity in town around agricultural resources especially as they relate to educational opportunities for students.

## **VI. Miscellaneous**

### **VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports**

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

This subcommittee has not met.

#### **VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities**

Mark Fiorentino reported this subcommittee met this evening and discussed the statement of accounts; formal approval of a contract with the state for our nutritional program which will come to the next Board meeting; large capital project list – CPPAC is getting active and looking for our updated list (two obvious examples are removal of the high school and middle school roof repairs); and solar project – there is nothing new – just reworking numbers as this is on the CPPAC list. Will probably do some educational sessions on this project. Also had a general discussion about regionalization opportunities and finally briefly discussed the strategic plans assigned to the finance subcommittee.

### **VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports**

#### **VI.B.1. CREC/CABE**

Mark Fiorentino reported CREC met today and had a discussion of the underfunding of magnet schools. The state has been underfunding CREC schools for some time and if the state does not pick up the tab, districts will have to pay the difference. Linda Powell will circulate a resolution from CREC to the Board for review. This will not be voted on at CREC until December 5<sup>th</sup>. The Board may have to separately approve this as a resolution but will cross that bridge when it comes up.

#### **VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation**

Alan Addley reported the GEF met on Monday evening. They are in transition with new board members and are starting to plan the GranBee. Grants were also discussed.

#### **VI.B.3. Start Time Study**

Lynn Guelzow reported the next meeting of the taskforce is Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **VI.C. Calendar of Events**

Mark Fiorentino inquired who is able to attend middle school and high school PAC meetings. Correction: The name of the high school drama play is “Almost Maine”.

### **VI.D. Board Member Announcements**

Mark Fiorentino congratulated Mike Dunn and Julie Groene for a great college fair today at the high school.

### **VI.E. Action Items**

Action items: 1) Breakdown advanced SBAC scores; 2) breakdown of SAT scores in the DRG; 3) breakdown of AP exams by test; and, 4) is there a reflection of how many questions are right/wrong with regard to the SAT test.

## **VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting**

A motion was made by Lynn Guelzow and seconded by Sarah Thrall to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Weber  
Board Secretary