

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes
October 3, 2018, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

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

Absent Board Members: Melissa Migliaccio

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

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Assistant Superintendent's Announcements

- Mr. Christopher Tranberg, Assistant Superintendent, made announcements in Dr. Addley's absence this evening.
- There has been an increase in the number of students riding the late bus this week from 10-15 to about 23 students.
- A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed for a collaborative effort to purchase fuel for school buses.
- The Equity Taskforce met this week to review data to ensure recommendations are still accurate and focusing on the next level of work.
- The district will be hosting six educators from Pakistan from October 15th through November 9th. There will be five elementary teachers and one secondary teacher from the Foundation School in Pakistan. This is the group's 2nd or 3rd visit to the United States.
- Open houses are complete. There was excellent attendance at all of them.
- The high school completed their NEAS&C visit last week. The initial feedback from the Committee was that the high school is well aligned to the self-study. One of the commendations was there is a supportive Board of Education and consistent messaging of equity being a clear focus of the district.
- The appropriation request approved at the last meeting for the high school roof repair has been sent to the Board of Selectmen and will be on their October 15th meeting agenda.
- Achievement data will be presented at the next Board Meeting on October 17th.
- The FY20 Budget process is underway. Budget meetings with administrators will take place in the upcoming weeks.
- Interviews have begun for the high school security guard. This will most likely be a service provided through CREC.
- There is no school on Monday and Dr. Ross Greene will present to the staff on the professional development day on Tuesday on collaborative proactive solutions.
- The CABE/CAPSS Convention will be held November 16-17 in Mystic, CT.
- The next regular Board Meeting will be held on October 17th.

I.B. Student Representative Reports

- Friday the high school will have a football game. The chamber singers will sing the National Anthem and the band will be performing and playing with 8th grade students for the first time.
- Today in Advisory, anti-bullying discussions were held in honor of anti-bullying month. StopIt software was introduced and possible solutions for speaking up was also discussed.
- A Mark Twain House field trip was held for English students in Grades 11 and 12.
- The robotics team is holding a safety and manufacturing workshop tomorrow. The Granby Grunts also recently presented at Granby Days as well as the Simsbury fly-in.
- Spanish exchange students are here and will be leaving on October 15th. They will spend 3 days in NYC. They also went to the Big E, carved pumpkins and are going to Boston on Monday.
- Sports: Boys' and girls' soccer is undefeated; football took their first win at Ellington 47-0 and Quarterback, Jackson Rome, was recognized in *The Hartford Courant*.
- PSATs will be given on Wednesday.

- The NEAS&C Visiting Committee attended classes last week. Students were prepared for this to happen and it went well.
- The storage issue at the high school for robotics and wood shop supplies has been solved.

I.C. Teaching & Learning

Mr. Christopher Tranberg, Assistant Superintendent, provided an overview of our new USDA Farm-to-School Grant and addressed the project goals of community gardens, developing curriculum to support the use of gardens in schools, and exploring strengthening the farm-to-school relationship with local farms. Granby was awarded a federal farm-to-school grant for \$40,000 and will receive \$30,000 over the next two years and a district match of \$10,000. Mr. Tranberg informed the Board that he traveled to Detroit recently for a farm-to-school grant conference and learned there will be an opportunity to write a larger grant for implementation up to \$100,000. He stated that schools do not generally receive these grants so this is a bragging point for the district. With regard to establishing partnerships, this will be a priority for the Wellness Committee who will work with the Business Manager and Food Services. This is in the infancy stage at this point but there will be much more to come over the next couple of years. A grant administrator is needed for the grant processing and reporting. The Board encouraged collaboration with community organizations.

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 Sarah Thrall to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed at 7:23 p.m. with two abstentions (Jenny Emery and Brandon Webster).

IV. Old Business

There was no Old Business to report.

V. New Business

V.A. Elementary School Improvement Plan - Kelly Lane

Ms. Kimberly Dessert, Principal, Kelly Lane Primary School, presented her 2018-2019 School Improvement Plan to the Board and stated the Vision, Mission and District Achievement Goal focuses on the equity report and, specifically, chronic absenteeism and office referrals to decrease by 10% in all subgroups. Ms. Dessert thanked the Board for adding a social worker in this year's budget for Kelly Lane and stated she has seen a big improvement thus far. She informed the Board that her involvement with the Equity Taskforce has allowed her to bring back knowledge to her staff with regard to equity. Kelly Lane's goal for Student Achievement is to increase achievement in literacy and numeracy across disciplines. There needs to be an increase in progress-monitoring within the standards and within the curriculum to raise students' scores. Ms. Dessert also discussed student-center coaching that leads to measurable student outcomes by using formal and informal assessments and stated something needs to be done differently to improve student achievement in Grade 3. With regard to the Instructional Goal, teachers at Kelly Lane will increase opportunities for students to take ownership of their learning to foster independence by having students self-assess what they are doing; develop a shared understanding of being compliant versus being a fully engaged learner; increase the students' stamina to do the work; make sure the library supports students' choices as well as their instructional goals; and, provide job-embedded professional learning in the classroom to build student independence.

V.B. Secondary School Improvement Plan - Middle School

Ms. Susan Henneberry, Principal, Granby Memorial Middle School, presented her 2018-2019 School Improvement Plan to the Board and stated her school improvement plan starts with feedback from the faculty as to what is working or not working for the middle school. It is a collaborative effort. The Vision, Mission and District Achievement Goal is to focus on the maximum effectiveness of professional teams to increase student achievement, which has shifted this year to be student intervention teams. Every team is a student intervention team, which includes school counselors, a school psychologist and social worker. There has already been a change in student outcomes. PLC teams are focusing more on looking at student work and,

specifically, students who already know the material. SIT teams are student-centered and PLC teams are curriculum-centered. The Student Achievement goal is to increase student achievement in literacy and numeracy standards across all disciplines. Ms. Henneberry stated SBAC is the authentic way to measure these standards. Additionally, progress-monitoring of all students will be done with a focus on high needs' student performance. With regard to the Instructional Goal, middle school teachers will utilize equitable instructional practices that personalize learning for all learners by tapping into students' talents and creativity with the school-wide enrichment program. A process has been created for identifying gifted and talented students and the new Enrichment Coach hired this year will be working with PLC groups and individual teachers.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

This subcommittee met this evening and discussed the Assistant Superintendent's Monthly Report and transitioning to google classroom as the primary platform over the next two years as well as the NEAS&C visit. Two policies, Reports of Suspected Abuse and Live Animals in the Classroom, were reviewed and forwarded on to the full Board for a first reading. Two other topics were discussed with particular interest, which were Developmental Guidance and an update on math. Chris Tranberg shared exactly where we are with the written curriculum for Developmental Guidance, its consistency among counselors and ways to use the student success plans more effectively. The subcommittee will be following up on this topic mid-year. In terms of the math update, the subcommittee had a brief discussion but ran out of time. This will be reviewed again at next meeting and will be brought forward to the full Board at a later date.

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 that he was not able to attend the last CREC Council Meeting.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Jenny Emery reported that she was not able to attend the last GEF Meeting.

VI.B.3. Start Time Study

Christopher Tranberg reported the Start Time Study Taskforce is working on a survey to go out the end of October to parents, students and staff. He stated the Taskforce is broken down into four groups: Academics, Athletics, Health & Wellness, and Research. There will be a presentation to the full Board on March 6th. Jenny Emery inquired about the CIAC Study Group, which was mentioned at the Board Retreat and stated it is probably worth asking about.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

The calendar of events was presented.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

There were no Board member announcements this evening.

VI.E. Action Items

There were no action items this evening.

VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

A motion was made by Jenny Emery and seconded by Rosemarie Weber to enter into an Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations. This motion passed unanimously at 8:09 p.m. The Executive Session adjourned at approximately 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemarie Weber, Board Secretary