

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes

November 1, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

Town Hall Meeting Room

Present Board Members: Mark Fiorentino, Lynn Guelzow, Melissa Migliaccio, Steve Royer, Ronald Walther, Rosemarie Weber, and Maddie Attianese and Sarah Cusano (Student Representatives).

Absent Board Members: Jenny Emery

Ronald Walther called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Superintendent's Announcements

- Connecticut State budget has passed. Granby's ECS and excess cost for special education payments will make the District close to our projected amounts. The district budgeted \$4.8M and will receive \$5.9M. The education component of the budget is just over \$1M. The net loss to the town is approximately \$485K.
- The PTO raised over \$20K for the recent auction held. It was a herculean effort by a small group of dedicated people.
- The annual Character Day Parade was held at Kelly Lane and attended by many parents.
- The district continues to raise funds for hurricane relief. There is a current push at the high school this month.
- The *Vision* was delivered to residents this week and profiled equity.
- There will be a Farm-to-School Meeting tomorrow night at Holcomb Farm. Dr. Addley and the Manager of Sodexo in Connecticut will be in attendance.
- Administrators are working on next year's budget proposals. They have submitted plus one and small cap budgets at this point with operating budgets due next week.
- The Superintendent's Community Forum is moved to Tuesday, November 21st at 7 p.m. at Central Services. Please note this is a change in date from November 16th.
- Dr. Addley is reviewing a new enrollment report that he just received.
- The CABE/CAPSS Convention will be held November 17-18. Mark Fiorentino will accept the Level II Leadership Award on behalf of the Board.
- Joy Cloukey, our 2017 Teacher of the Year, will be honored at the Bushnell on November 15th.
- No school on Tuesday, November 7th for professional development which will focus on numeracy, literacy and equity.
- Dr. Addley made some remarks on behalf of Board Chair, Ron Walther, who will be stepping down from the Board. Ron was the Board Chair for 4 years and gave steadfast leadership to the Board during that time.

I.B. Student Representative Reports

- Yesterday Halloween awards were given for best teacher costume, funniest, most creative, best group and scariest. Additionally, the kids from small world visited for trick-or treating
- Girls' soccer 15-1 with their last season game tomorrow night; boys' soccer 14-0-1 and are NCCC champions; field hockey 14-1-1 and also NCCC champions; football 3-4; volleyball 13-7, boys' cross country 10-3; and girls' cross country 11-2 (girls came in 4th and boys came in 5th at the NCCCs and both teams came in 9th at the state meet).
- Blood drive was held on October 24th and 40 people donated. There will be another blood drive in March.
- 36 students were inducted into the National Honor Society (juniors and seniors) for a total of 51 members. New inductees attended the first full meeting yesterday and kicked off a Yankee Candle fundraiser.
- On Feb 9th Maddie Attianese stated she is working with UConn to host a 3-hour dancing marathon to raise money for the CT Children's Medical Center. The goal is to raise \$2K.
- The high school play, *Our Town*, opens this weekend. Performances Fri. at 7 p.m., Sat. 3 & 7 p.m. and Sun. at 3 p.m.
- NHS annual turkey trot November 15th – all NHS members run around for one minute to raise money which will be donated to the local food bank.
- On Friday, November 17th there will be a Fall Coffeehouse which showcases the high school's talented singers and musicians.
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II. Public Comment

There were no public comments this evening.

III. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by Rosemarie Weber to enter into an Executive Session to discuss a summary report for collective bargaining negotiations. This motion passed unanimously at 7:18 p.m.

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Lynn Guelzow to enter back into regular session. This motion passed unanimously at 7:44 p.m.

IV. Consent Agenda

IV.A. Minutes

A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by Lynn Guelzow to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed unanimously at 7:45 p.m.

V. Old Business

There was no Old Business to report.

VI. New Business

VI.A. Teaching & Learning

Mr. Christopher Tranberg, Assistant Superintendent, along with Ann Belding and Ken Mouning, members of the Equity Task Force Committee, updated the Board on the work of the Committee thus far. Patrice Nelson was also introduced from the Connecticut Center for School Change. Mr. Tranberg stated he attended a 2-day institute attended last fall with four Granby teachers. Granby applied for a grant by the Graustein Memorial Fund and Connecticut Center for Change and received the grant along with Bridgeport Public Schools. Challenges faced by both districts are very much the same. The taskforce will develop a strategy and recommendations for the administration. The grant we received was a technical services grant for \$75K.

VI.B. Elementary School Improvement Plans

Ms. Kimberly Dessert, Principal of Kelly Lane Intermediate School, and Dr. Anna Forlenza-Bailey, Principal of Wells Road Intermediate School, presented their School Improvement Plans. Ms. Dessert's goals included to decrease chronic absenteeism and for students to maintain or improved their literacy and math performance on assessments, and personalized learning. Lynn Guelzow inquired what the school's current performance was on these measures and what the improvement the school was hoping to achieve year to year. Dr. Anna Forlenza-Bailey presented Wells Road's goals which included enrichment; improvements in SBAC scores; and equitable instructional practices. Wells Road students are partnering and meeting with students from Hartford at a community farm in Simsbury, which is funded through a grant.

VI.C. Education Support Personnel Employment Practices

The Board discussed the approval of the Education Support Personnel Employment Practices document effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020. A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by Lynn Guelzow that the Granby Board of Education adopt the Education Support Personnel Practices document effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020. Ron Walther stated this document defines salaries and practices for teaching assistants and is not a contract; but needs Board approval. It is valid for three years and has been completely revised the structure of our teacher assistant (TA) population with respect to their day-to-day duties and how they are paid. Compensation in Year 1 increase to 5.3% (not all TAs will receive a 5.3% increase but affects the new structure of the salaries for the TA population); Year 2 increase is 3.1% and Year 3 increase is 3.1%. With regard to health benefits, there was progress in the addition of HSA option but they still do pay a large premium relative to other employees. The amount of the contract is over budget at \$28K. Dr. Addley stated it was worth noting 3% was budgeted and the \$28K represents the amount over the 3% which was budgeted. He stated he feels this can be accommodated within the TA line item. This motion passed unanimously at 8:37 p.m.

VI.D. Granby Education Association Contract

The Board of Education discussed the approval of the contract for the Granby Education Association effective July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021. A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by Lynn Guelzow that the Granby Board of Education approve the contract for the Granby Education Association effective July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021. Ron Walther stated this contract is for 3 years and is for the teacher population. The cumulative cost of the contract with regard to salary increases over the three years is 8%. There were some concessions on health benefits.

Starting next year, teachers who decide to stay with a PPO will need to pay difference between HSA and PPO. In the last year of the contract, newly hired teachers will only have the option of an HSA. There is an increase in stipends of 1.3% per year for athletic and extracurricular positions and a language change with regard to retired teachers who are eligible for insurance through the Teacher's Retirement Board being required to move to the Teacher's Retirement Board plan, or another plan of their choice, for insurance. Mark Fiorentino thanked the teachers on the negotiating team stating they were very professional and the focus was on working together to find solutions to do the best they can for the students of Granby. This motion passed unanimously at 8:41 p.m.

VI.E. Hartland/Granby Designated High School Agreement

The Board discussed the approval of the Agreement between the Hartland and Granby Boards of Education to designate Granby Memorial High School as the designated high school for the instruction of Hartland students in Grades 9 through 12. The high school takes Hartland students beginning in 9th grade. The current agreement is about to expire. This agreement allows for the high school to accept students from Hartland without an interview process. This is a five-year contract. Hartland is responsible for special education costs as well as transportation costs. A motion was made by Mark Fiorentino and seconded by Stephen Royer that the Granby Board of Education adopt the Agreement between the Granby and Hartland Boards of Education designating Granby Memorial High School as the designated high school for the instruction of Hartland students in Grades 9 through 12. This motion passed unanimously at 8:45 p.m.

VII. Miscellaneous

VII.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

Rosemarie Weber stated this committee met this evening and reviewed the Assistant Superintendent's Monthly Report which included expanding the Chinese program; professional development in the district on November 7th; a 5-day professional development series on performance assessments; moving the enrichment program forward and using the UConn consultant in the data; restructuring of the STEAM committee into CATs (content area teams); and, equity taskforce work. Reviewed three policies, two of which will be staying in subcommittee (nutrition and food services program). Will also send these policies to the wellness committee and Sodexo. The tutoring policy, a new policy, was revised a bit and was moved to the full Board for consideration at the next meeting. This policy prohibits teachers from providing private tutoring services to students they are currently teaching. Also discussed the equity taskforce update and what is on the horizon as far as course offerings in the FY19 budget. A course name change was approved by the subcommittee from *Drama I* to *Introduction to Drama*.

VII.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

This subcommittee did not meet.

VII.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VII.B.1. CREC/CABE

CREC/CABE has not met.

VII.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Dr. Addley stated different committees of the GEF are meeting to review their strategic plan. He informed the Board he submitted a formal request to the GEF for some support on the strings program.

VII.C. Calendar of Events

Ron Walther stated November 15th is the next Board Meeting; HS PAC is on November 6th; MS PAC is on November 8th in the morning; PTO meeting will be held on November 13th at Wells Road; and, a Superintendent's Forum will be held on November 21st.

VII.D. Board Member Announcements

Ron Walther thanked Dr. Addley and his staff for their hard work and support over the 12 to 13 years he has served on the Board. Melissa Migliaccio made a few remarks regarding Ron Walther's integrity and intelligence and stated that he as well as his wise counsel and sharp mind were going to be missed.

VII.E. Action Items

Request was made for data on the Kelly Lane Improvement plan.

A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by Lynn Guelzow to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Guelzow, Board Secretary