

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes

February 21, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

Town Hall Meeting Room

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

Absent Board Members:

Maddie Attianese (Student Representative)

Melissa Migliaccio called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and requested moment of silence for the students and families involved in Florida shootings.

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Superintendent's Announcements

- Welcome to Middle School students and parents here to present for Schools in the Spotlight.
- Dr. Addley informed the Board of the young student involved in a serious, unfortunate accident in McLean's Game Refuge yesterday.
- Dr. Addley read a statement with regard to the Florida shootings stating, "It is a sad day when any Superintendent of Schools cannot confirm the safety of our staff of students" and went on to inform the Board of the recent state safety grant awarded to Granby for \$1M. He also stated the district is in collaboration with the Police Department and continues to practice safety protocols stating the safety of our students is always of the utmost importance.
- A Superintendent's Community Forum was held this week. Reviewed the budget and other major points for discussion were middle school enrichment opportunities and comments in support of after-school bussing.
- Thank you to Board members who attended the legislative breakfast last week. Also thank you to Sarah Thrall for organizing the Junior Achievement Day at Kelly Lane.
- Mr. Tom Steinke, Director of Facilities, has been with the district for 20 years and will be retiring on February 28th. Dr. Addley stated there is no one more dedicated and loyal to the school system than Tom. He wished Tom many congratulations and thanked him for his contributions to Granby.
- We will welcome the new Director of Facilities, Shannon Sullivan, on Friday, March 2nd. Mr. Sullivan comes to Granby from Waterbury Public Schools.
- We also welcome Keith Garfield, the new Food Services Director, who begins in the district tomorrow. Keith comes to Granby from Chester Academy.
- Congratulations to high school juniors Madison McFarland and Jonathan Hacia who scored in the top 2.5% among Hispanic and Latino PSAT test takers. They are invited to participate in the National Hispanic Recognition Program.
- Granby received a certificate of achievement as an approved model of a professional learning community.
- Thank you to the Granby PTO for helping to sponsor a new Chess Club that will begin on February 26th. There are 56 students signed up and are evenly split between Kelly Lane and Wells Road.
- A Day on the Hill will be held on March 7th. Let Linda know if you would like to attend.
- The administrative budget will be presented to the Board on March 7th.
- A reminder that all budget documents, including the presentation from last night's Superintendent's Forum, can be found on the website.

I.B. Student Representative Reports

- The winter coffeehouse is this Saturday, February 24th at 7:30 in the Commons.
- There will be a Blood Drive on March 14th from 8-1. Anyone is welcome to attend. One donation saves three lives.
- Sports Report: Swimming 3-5; boys' basketball is 13-7 with the NCCC quarterfinal game this Friday at 7 pm at home; girls' basketball finished 15-5 and are seeded 8th in the state tournament – they play on Monday in Granby at 7 p.m. against Morgan; wrestling finished 33-1 with a 7-0 record in the NCCC and won the NCCC regular season title; and, hockey is 7-10. Tyler Perez, Hunter Fleming, Ben Kibby won weight class at states. Indoor track – Girls came in 18th and boys came in 20th at the Class S State championship. Nicole Szilagyi placed 3rd in hurdles and Keon Lawrence is moving on to New England Regionals.

I.C. Business Manager's Report

Ms. Anna Robbins, Business Manager, presented the January statement of accounts stating there is a negative forecast of \$350K, which is \$62K better than the prior month. Special education is unfavorable at \$325K and regular education is unfavorable this month at \$25K, which is due to long-term substitutes as well as expenditures in broken doors and the installation of a relay system to synchronize our lockdown system. The district continues to evaluate necessary spending at the half-year mark. The financial deadline for processing purchase orders was moved up to March to get an early handle on year-end. Revenue to the town has been calculated and billed. With regard to the special education Excess Cost Grant, because we had special education savings, our grant will be lower which is a good thing overall. Granby is projected to be reimbursed 70% but will actually get reimbursed at 73%, netting to about \$3-4K which is lower than anticipated. We will end up with an over-budget due to special education out-of-district expenditures. Jenny Emery stated the statement of accounts was reviewed in the Finance Subcommittee Meeting this evening and the BOE is keeping the BOF aware and expects there to still be a deficit with special education.

I.D. Schools in the Spotlight

Ms. Sue Alender and Ms. Anne Buckley, Middle School Science Teachers, along with a few students presented an overview of Next Generation Science Standards' (NGSS) instruction in the 6th and 7th grade classroom. Ms. Alender informed the Board that NGSS is being rolled out in both 6th and 7th grade this year. Sixth grade students Alyssa Bordonaro and Luke Ranicar and seventh grade students Isabel Gravlin and Ezra Holt shared their learning with the Board and the difference between this year and last year's science packets stating this year, students figure out problems on their own and have learned to think differently. Ms. Alender informed the Board that NGSS is new way of learning and shared a bookmark with the Board that explains some of the new ideas. Melissa Migliacco inquired how the Chromebooks are integrated in the classroom. Ms. Alender stated Chromebooks are essential for evaluating and researching information. Jenny Emery inquired if there will be a need to develop new interventions for students who learn differently. Ms. Alender stated, yes, and it is a little uncomfortable at first and she tells students she actually wants them to make mistakes and learn from them and that students have to find a way that works best for them. Ms. Buckley stated engagement has increased with this learning method, as there is more ownership by the student.

II. Public Comment

Ben Perron, Chair of the Granby Education Foundation (GEF), informed the Board he is proud to say the GEF has donated over a half million dollars to the community over the years and 2 months ago the GEF received a grant application for a unique opportunity for the possibility of a start-up strings program. The GEF Board agreed to endorse this grant for \$40,000 over two years as it fits into the mission of continual learning. One requirement of the grant is not to fund the operational side (i.e., the instructor). The GEF would need a commitment that the BOE has secured a teacher for the program in order to release the grant to school district. If the program does not happen this budget cycle, a decision can be made at another point in time. Mr. Perron stated the GEF looks forward to what this program can bring to Granby.

III. Consent Agenda

III.A. Minutes

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Lynn Guelzow to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed unanimously at 7:41 p.m. (with one abstention Jenny Emery).

IV. Old Business

IV.A. Elementary School Improvement Plan Updates

Ms. Kimberly Dessert, Kelly Lane Primary School Principal, and Dr. Anna Forlenza-Bailey, Wells Road Intermediate School Principal, shared updates for their respective School Improvement Plans with the Board. Ms. Dessert spoke about the chronic absenteeism and how it is being addressed at Kelly Lane. She also discussed the training for the mentorship program in March to be able to launch the program in April. For the Achievement Goal, Ms. Dessert stated her staff works very hard collaboratively analyzing data and takes pride in knowing each student as a learner. She spoke about math strategies used for students and how students' thinking becomes visible with problem solving. With regard to the instructional goal of utilizing equitable instructional practices to personalize learning, she discussed the junior achievement opportunity as well as collaboration with the high school DECA club working with Kelly Lane students.

Dr. Anna Bailey invited the Board to the 5th Grade Capstone Fair on March 23rd in the afternoon. She discussed her first goal of implementing enrichment opportunities for all students stating there are problem-based learning opportunities under the Enrichment Coach. Alternative curricular options have been developed for students who demonstrate early mastery in math. The inclusion of journals are being used this year where students plan in the journal about their clusters and reflect on their work. With regard to student achievement, teachers are reporting benchmark assessments in PLC meetings and teaching partnerships are strong and provide greater focus with less stress. For the instructional goal to improve teachers' capacity to utilize equitable instructional practices, Dr. Bailey stated the partnership with Simsbury Farms has been very positive and that all fourth grade classes have been involved. Sarah Thrall inquired how the first year of the TEAM system was going at Wells Road for the younger grades. Dr. Bailey stated they had to work through some of the logistics of it and that she is working at doing it a little different next year. She also stated the PLC meetings are either math or science and allow teachers to go deeper into their content area. Brandon Webster inquired if there are interventions or extra help provided for students who will not make their milestones. Dr. Bailey stated there is discussion at PLCs throughout the year where students are progress-monitored every 4-6 weeks, assigned to a team and there is a meeting to determine what is needed going forward. Dr. Addley recognized Dr. Bailey for Wells Road recently being recognized as a Level 1 school primarily for students making progress and benchmarks.

IV.B. FY19 Budget Update

Dr. Addley provided an update on the FY19 Budget stating the budget is currently at 6.01%. There have been some favorable results in recalculating the special education budget. Additional programs need to be cut to get to 3.85% (the BOF guideline) which is about \$307K. He stated there are some things in this budget that support our goals and that the community want. Other things need to be re-evaluated and the administrative team will need to be very creative but the district also needs to make some incremental steps forward in terms of the quality of the some of the programs. Dr. Addley informed the Board to stay tuned as certain things would need to be done differently in order to add new programs this year.

V. New Business

V.A. Indoor Air Quality Report

Since this item was discussed in the Finance Subcommittee this evening, Jenny Emery reported on the report stating administration shared an 8-page checklist that every teacher is provided in order to speak up about any concerns they may have and there is a process available all the time through SchoolDude. The Finance Subcommittee discussed what shows up year after year and noted some things are housekeeping items that Tom and his staff need to take care of and that there have not been any adverse ramifications. Ms. Emery stated a lot of attention is being given to cleaning during the flu season. She stated the Finance Subcommittee was comfortable with the report.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

Rosemarie Weber reported this subcommittee met this evening and discussed the Bridges Program and the impact the students are having during advisory. The subcommittee has asked Christopher Tranberg to do a future presentation to the subcommittee about advisory. Also discussed the new technology, flat panel, currently in the high school media center, which will be moved to the civics on-line class and allow teachers to bring in information from the outside. Also discussed the AP Capstone course, which the subcommittee approved. This is a 2-year AP class with more coursework in the first year and in the second year, a dissertation-type class. The exam is given after the first year. If the student completes the second year of the program and completes four other AP classes, the student would be eligible to receive an AP Capstone Diploma. In terms of cost, there would be a cost for a teacher but this could be absorbed and training would be approximately \$900. Concerns were raised about it being a two-year program. Students will be restricted as to how they can schedule their time. Three policies were discussed: the nutrition policy was approved to go to the Board with one minor change; the attendance policy was tabled; and, the homeless policy student was approved to go to the full Board. Lastly, learning styles were discussed as to what this is and how Granby perceives it.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

Jenny Emery reported this subcommittee met this evening to discuss the health care budget issue and the disconnect to the original plus one submission and the actually projected health care. She stated the disconnect between how the

budget was built and the input from the consultant is a disconnect that has occurred for a while in the spreadsheet as it only impacted the calculation for employees taking the HSA but more employees will be taking the HSA with the new teacher contract. The other item discussed was pay-for-play and building usage fees. Administration will continue to bring to the Finance Subcommittee pay-for-play and building usage fees. These fees have not been increased in a while. The subcommittee is not sure if it is the right message or wrong message so will wait to endorse. Dr. Addley will assume the Board adopt the administration's recommendation in the budget process.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Mr. Mark Fiorentino reported that CREC Council met today and the main thing discussed was that CREC is experiencing some funding issues. The State aid received by CREC is shrinking and their costs are rising. There are a number of workshops with communities to both educate people on the issues and discuss possible solutions. CREC is anticipating asking districts to pay an increase in tuition to magnet schools. CREC will be hosting summer biodiversity camp/science contests over the summer as well as some workshops, one being math vigor. Mr. Fiorentino stated there was a brief legislative report and nothing is happening just yet but a lot will happen in the next couple of weeks. One thing on the agenda is a bill to modify to some extent the student achievement data. Melissa Migliaccio commented that many attended the CABE legislative breakfast and many of the issues are about money.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Melissa Migliaccio thanked the GEF again for their support.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Melissa Migliaccio reviewed events up to the next meeting including the coffeehouse and the CABE Day on the Hill.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

Brandon Webster stated he will be doing a reading at the Granby Public Library from 11:30-12:00 on Saturday for Black History Month.

VI.E. Action Items

There were no action items this evening.

VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

There was no need for an Executive Session this evening. A motion was made by Jenny Emery and seconded by Brandon Webster to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Weber
Board Secretary