

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes

February 8, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

Town Hall Meeting Room

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

Absent Board Members: Jenny Emery and Brandon Webster

Melissa Migliaccio called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Superintendent's Announcements

- The snow day yesterday was the third snow day used thus far. At the moment, graduation will be held on Tuesday, June 19th. Thank you to public works and facilities staff.
- Melanie Gibson, Human Resources Coordinator, began last week and hit the ground running.
- Interviews are continuing for the Director of Facilities position. Finalist candidates did not play out.
- Thank you to Melissa Migliaccio and staff who attended the Open Choice meeting for families. The meeting was extremely well received by the Choice families and CREC employees. Also thank you to Mr. Hershon for organizing the event. After listening to families about their requests, hopes and aspirations, the most popular item that came up that evening was to have a late bus for the kids which is in the plus one budget. This meeting will be held on a regular basis going forward.
- Congratulations to Tyler Brown, Alec Jedamonov and Ryan Ziskin for advancing to the MathCounts State Competition on March 10th at the University of Hartford.
- Congratulations to Ashley Payette and Andrew VanAllen, Grade 2 students at Kelly Lane, for being recognized at the CAS Elementary Celebrations of the Arts on Monday, February 12th for demonstrating outstanding ability in performing and visual arts.
- The Robotics team has advanced to the State Competition on February 17th at Greenwich Academy.
- Granby received the entire safety grant submitted in the fall. This will be very helpful to the Town.
- There was tremendous participation from local businesses on STEAM Day last week. This even was well received and well run. The students were very excited.
- Thank you to the Granby PTO for sponsoring a Chess Program beginning on Feb 26th in the afternoons at Wells Road. Transportation will be provided from Kelly Lane to Wells Road. This is a nice opportunity to engage in a fun activity. No skills are required.
- The administrative budget will be presented on Wednesday, March 7th. The Board of Finance will have a special meeting on Monday, February 12th to set the budget guidelines.
- The CREC/CABE legislative breakfast will be held next Thursday, February 15th. Directions and legislative priorities will be sent to the Board.
- Thank you to the maintenance and custodial staff for the extra cleaning efforts to prevent the spread of the flu. There have been minor and manageable cases across the district.
- There will be no school on February 19th and 20th for the short February break.
- The next BOE meeting will be held on February 21st. The two subcommittees will also meet on that date.
- There will be a Superintendent's Community Forum on Feb 20th at 7 p.m. at Central Services to discuss district priorities and the development of the FY19 budget.

I.B. Student Representative Reports

- Sports Report: Swimming 3-4; boys' basketball is 10-4; girls' basketball is 12-5; and, hockey is 5-8. Indoor track had their NCCC Championship recently and Lauren Roy placed 2nd in the long jump while Keon Lawrence, Aniel Smith and David Stewart placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively.
- Chorus will be doing their annual singing valentine's fundraiser for the chorus fund on February 13th. For \$3 you receive a song, lollipop and card and for an extra \$1 you can include a carnation.

- There will be a Jon-a-Thon event on Friday from 2:45-4:30 p.m. It is a trivia afternoon for teachers and students to raise money for CMCC. UConn representatives will be coming as well as a patient from CMCC.
- 8th grade parents' night was held tonight. Students from NHS conducted tours for parents to familiarize them with the high school.
- Random Acts of Kindness week is next week. Cards will be sent to teachers, etc. to spread kindness at the school.

I.C. Schools in the Spotlight/Teaching & Learning

Schools in the Spotlight for the high school has been rescheduled to March 7th.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments this evening.

III. Consent Agenda

III.A. Minutes

A motion was made by Sarah Thrall and seconded by Rosemarie Weber to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed unanimously at 7:11 p.m.

IV. Old Business

IV.A. Secondary School Improvement Plan Updates

Ms. Sue Henneberry, Middle School Principal, and Mr. Michael Dunn, High School Principal, updated the Board on their School Improvement Plans for their respective schools. Ms. Henneberry updated the Board on the three-year team-based model as well as increasing student achievement in literacy across all disciplines. For the instruction goal, Ms. Henneberry stated that learning walks are driving the collection of effective strategies. Melissa Migliaccio inquired what was lost when the middle school schedule went to 55 minutes. Ms. Henneberry explained the RICA program is no longer; however, it has morphed into a writing program used across all grade levels. Dr. Addley asked Ms. Henneberry to explain the middle school teaming concept for next year as it is an expensive model. Ms. Henneberry stated as the middle school shifts into content-specific instruction, there should be a community sense of how it is delivered and this model will meet the needs of the students. Mark Fiorentino inquired what makes it expensive. Dr. Addley stated this model tends to have smaller class sizes.

Mike Dunn presented his school improvement plan update and stated the high school is working on developing equitable systems and practices that personalizes learning for all students. He stated that going through NEAS&C accreditation process helps to boast personalized learning. Opening ceremony for the NEAS&C visitation will be held on September 23rd. Board members will be invited to meet with the visiting team. Mr. Dunn stated the student achievement goal this year is to focus specifically on using measurements aligned to the common core. With regard to the instruction goal of developing and sharing strategies for providing effective feedback and revising work, this year rubrics have helped teachers make changes to their work and share it.

V. New Business

V.A. FY19 Budget Development

Dr. Addley provided an update on the progress of the FY19 Budget and stated since the Board last got together, a Three-Board Meeting was held. The FY19 Plus One Budget was submitted to the BOF at 3.85%. After that, it came to light that there was a \$620,000 difference with healthcare and the model. Dr. Addley stated If the district stayed with the PPO it would have been an additional \$500,000. This means that the Plus One Budget now goes up to about 6%; however, had that been the case prior to submitting the Plus One, he would not have brought a 6% budget forward. The administrative team will try to get the number much lower than that and tough decisions will need to be made prior to presenting the budget on March 7th. Dr. Addley stated it is very difficult to continue to put forward budgets at 1% and 2%. Melissa Migliaccio stated if the district did nothing and shifted from a PPO to an HSA, it would be looking at \$1.1M. Granby does not know what is coming down from the state and it will be very challenging. Dr. Addley stated everything is up for discussion when the administrative team meets and he will try to bring in a reasonable budget. He also informed the Board that he is close to finishing a special education prediction student-by-student and there has been a little bit of a change where some outplaced students will be returning to the district creating a savings. Dr. Addley stated he would still like to move the district forward and will have to be creative in the way things are done and structured.

V.B. FY19 Quality & Diversity Fund Budget

Dr. Addley presented the FY19 Quality and Diversity (Q&D) Fund Budget to the Board and stated the Q&D budget was presented as part of the plus one but this document will give it a little more focus. He stated essentially the district gets money for students who come from other towns. Granby used to receive approximately \$180K from the Open Choice Grant and now receives approximately \$65K due to cuts. Q&D funds are meant to address ethnic, racial and economic isolation. Granby has taken Open Choice kindergarten students since 2006. Dr. Addley reviewed some of the items included in the Q&D fund as well as items included in the Open Choice Grant (\$65,475). Melissa Migliaccio inquired why there is a significant decrease in revenue in summer school tuition. Dr. Addley stated he will look into this. Melissa would also like the drama and pre-K tuitions looked at. Lynn Guelzow inquired why Granby does not receive 10 Open Choice students per grade level. Dr. Addley stated this has not been the Board's philosophy. He stated if the Board is looking for revenue, he could certainly do that and totally agrees he can be a bit more aggressive but it has been Granby's experience that students who drop in at 7th or 9th, grade it is not uncommon to have some social difficulties. He also stated that class sizes need to be taken into consideration when taking additional students. Mark Fiorentino stated he would support recruiting more Hartford students if we can maintain class sizes. Rosemarie Weber stated she agrees that students should be brought in at the lower grades.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

This subcommittee has not met. The next meeting will be on February 21st.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

This subcommittee has not met. The next meeting will be on February 21st.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Melissa Migliaccio mentioned the legislative breakfast next week. Mark Fiorentino stated he will be receiving communications about funding of magnet schools and will pass it on to the Board.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

The GEF will be meeting on Monday evening. There are still no volunteers to become a Board representative.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

The middle school PAC meeting will be held on Valentine's Day. Melissa Migliaccio stated she will attend the February 20th community forum. The next Board Meeting will be held on February 21st. Additionally, the high school PAC meeting will be held on March 5th. Sarah Thrall can attend.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

There were no Board Member announcements.

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 Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Lynn Guelzow to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Weber
Board Secretary