

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes

April 4, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

Town Hall Meeting Room

Present Board Members: Jenny Emery, Lynn Guelzow, Mark Fiorentino, Sarah Thrall, Brandon Webster, and Maddie Attianese and Sarah Cusano (Student Representatives).

Absent Board Members: Melissa Migliaccio and Rosemarie Weber

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

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Superintendent's Announcements

- Welcome to members of the Equity Task Force and a special welcome to Patrice Nelson and Kerry Lord from the Connecticut Center for School Change who guided the work of the Task Force.
- The budget passed at the Three-Board Meeting. The public hearing is on April 9th and the referendum on April 23rd.
- Conferences were well attended last week and professional development focused on NEASC,
- Congratulations to Addyson Earl, 6th Grader at GMMMS, who is a finalist out of over 1,000 entries in a talent competition, which aired on PBS. The program will air again on Saturday, April 7th at 7:30 p.m. and Monday, April 9th at 10 p.m.
- Middle school students Kylie Coxon, Galen Platt, Alexa Becker, Caelum Janski, Jason Brown, and Alec Jedamonov who participated in a regional history day competition at Manchester High School. All will advance to the state contest in April.
- Congratulations to CAS award winners Noah and Caleb
- Thank you to Amber Wyzik for collaborating with the PTO for family coding night –well received event.
- SBAC testing will take place later this month.
- Received a few communications from parents advocating replacing teaching assistants in Kindergarten.
- Met with a group of high school students this past week on school safety and touched on being prepared, lockdown drills, etc. It was a good conversation. The students were reassured by some of the things the District is doing.
- Thank you to Linda Touchette, English Teacher and Content Area Specialist at the high school, for volunteering to be a teacher representative for the Granby Education Foundation.
- The GranBee will be held on April 27th. Thank you to the Board for sponsoring teams.
- Summer School registrations are going well. Offerings have been updated for this summer.
- The French/Spain trip departed today.
- Sixth grade left for Nature's Classroom today as well.
- The budget edition of the *Vision* will go to the community prior to the meeting on Monday.
- April break is next week. The next regular meeting will be held on April 18th. The agenda for this meeting will be posted on Monday, April 16th.

I.B. Student Representative Reports

- The French/Spain trip left today at 11:30 and are flying out of New Jersey to Paris. Students were excited.
- Today during Advisory, the Granby Registrar of Voters came to speak to seniors.
- Spring sports are getting a slow start due to the weather.
- The Empty Bowls event raised over \$3,000 which is the highest amount ever raised.
- The French Honors Society is hosting Havana Soup Friday, which means sugar shack in French. They will be serving crepes and will have music for entertainment.

Mark Fiorentino inquired about the Powder Puff Football Game on April 20th. Maddie stated each grade has a team and girls will play two-hand touch with the guys coaching. Money raised will go to the Booster Club.

I.C. Teaching & Learning

Mr. Christopher Tranberg, along with some members of the Equity Task Force Committee, presented an Executive Summary to the Board on the work and recommendations of the Task Force. Patrice Nelson and Kerry Lord from the Connecticut Center for Change gave an overview of the report stating Granby was partnered with Bridgeport Public Schools to use focused strategies to get to root causes, particularly in the classroom. There were key components of the work to put into place and those strategies came from research and work that was done. Kerry spoke about building a capacity for change stating it was an iterative process and the Task Force looked at many data sources. She stated the Task Force has recommendations for the District and hopes to continue the partnership to continue building and improving upon the work already being done. Categories were broken down into 4 categories: 1) Professional Capacity; 2) Special Education Identification; 3) Climate; and, 4) Achievement. Commendations and recommendations for each category were reviewed. In the professional capacity category, although Granby does not employ many minorities, teachers do stay employed with the District. For special education identification, Granby has a tiered intervention support model designed to provide appropriate instruction and behavioral support services to students. Lynn Guelzow presented on the category of Climate and stated being on the Task Force was one of the most rewarding things she has done while being on the Board. When looking at the data for office referrals, she stated there was no real obvious answer for the number of referrals in Black vs. White male office referrals. Teachers openly participated in a survey providing insight into the disparity of this problem. The next step for this group is to do more interviewing and create more consistent data collection. Jacky Paton, Science Teacher at the high school, presented on the Achievement subgroup which looked at AP Enrollment and PSATs for Grade 11. Students in Grade 11 were surveyed and a smaller subset of students were interviewed. Key points were discovered, such as, students did not know they could take AP classes if they were not recommended. Additionally, some students did not realize the PSAT tests were mandatory and it was an indicator for SAT achievement. Guidance practices will be revised to target groups and provide differentiated developmental programming and course planning.

Jenny Emery commented on the great work of the Task Force and inquired if there is a parallel effort for the diversity and equity for community members and if this is an opportunity for the GEF. Ken Mouning, Task Force Member, spoke about being a Black person living in Granby and about the book *Waking up White*. He has recommended this book for high school students. Brandon Webster inquired if the Task Force will continue. Mr. Tranberg stated there is a chance for some new memberships and moving forward there will be quarterly meetings. Mr. Webster echoed Jenny Emery's concerns about educating the community. Mr. Tranberg informed the Board that policies and practices will need to be in place to help guide the work. Mark Fiorentino commented it should be an easy fix to inform students they can get on track to take advanced courses and inquired if taking one advanced class could be a graduation requirement. Mr. Fiorentino inquired what the Board's next step is and how will the Board see if these strategies are implemented. Mr. Tranberg stated it is part of the charge for the Task Force to report progress made back to the Board. Sarah Thrall inquired if students from the Bridges Program could contribute to the Task Force in any way. Mr. Tranberg stated, yes, perhaps students from the Bridges Program could join the Task Force. Dr. Addley stated he hopes Granby can continue this work with the Connecticut Center for School Change.

II. Public Comment

Sarah Pomponi, Stonewall Drive, West Granby, requested the Board change their decision with regard to reinstating the teaching assistants at Kelly Lane stating it ties to the achievement gap spoken about this evening. The proposed budget is taking away resources and setting students up to stay behind. She stated the district receives \$12,500 for Open Choice Kindergarten students and inquired if the District could add a few more to add back in the Teaching Assistants. Additionally, she inquired if there is other money in the Q&D fund that could be tapped into or if the Board could reduce their contribution for the HSA accounts for teachers. She stated she is confident the Board looked at other options but also inquired about electricity usage and computer leasing agreements for cost-saving measures.

III. Consent Agenda

III.A. Minutes

A motion was made by Brandon Webster and seconded by Sarah Thrall to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed unanimously at 8:23 p.m.

IV. Old Business

IV.A. Third Reading and Approval of Draft Policy 3542.34 - Nutrition Program

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended draft Policy 3542.34, Nutrition Program, to the Board for a third reading and adoption. A motion was made by Lynn Guelzow and seconded by Brandon Webster that the Granby Board of Education adopt Policy 3542.34, Nutrition Program, as recommended by the Curriculum/Policy/Technology/ Communications Subcommittee. This motion passed unanimously at 8:24 p.m.

IV.B. Third Reading and Approval of Revised Policy 5118.1 - Homeless Students

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 5118.1, Homeless Students, to the Board for a third reading and approval. A motion was made by Lynn Guelzow and seconded by Sarah Thrall that the Granby Board of Education adopt revised Policy 5118.1, Homeless Students, as recommended by the Curriculum/Policy/Technology/ Communications Subcommittee. This motion passed unanimously at 8:25 p.m.

IV.C. FY19 Budget Update

The Board discussed preparations for the upcoming budget hearing and referendum. Dr. Addley stated there is a limited amount the administration can do to promote the budget. Lynn Guelzow inquired if there has been any discussion from the Board of Finance (BOF) on negatively moving on the budget. Dr. Addley stated the BOF meets after the public hearing to discuss the budget going forward to referendum. Jenny Emery stated the only feedback she has heard from parents is about the cut in teaching assistants. Mark Fiorentino stated he is confident Dr. Addley will do the right thing and monitor this situation closely, fixing it if necessary. The budget is never perfect and the solution is not to be passive and allow the budget to fail, as it will get much worse if it does. He encouraged Board members to advocate approval for the budget. Lynn Guelzow inquired if there was any update from the State on funding. Mark Fiorentino stated there is no good or bad news on funding. The overall bad news is that the legislature is considering bills that propose new mandates with no means to pay for them. Lynn Guelzow stated although she did not vote for the budget she would encourage voters to pass the budget.

V. New Business

V.A. First Reading of Revised Policy 5113 - Attendance

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 5113, Attendance, to the Board for a first reading. Lynn Guelzow stated any comments or questions should be sent to Christopher Tranberg. Mr. Tranberg stated the only change in this policy is that in-school suspensions cannot count as an absence. This policy will go to the Board for a second reading at the next meeting.

V.B. Date for Graduation and Last Day of School

Dr. Addley stated if there is another snow day, Tuesday, May 29th would become a school day for students and Friday, June 22nd would become a professional development day for teachers. Dr. Addley recommended Thursday, June 21st as graduation and the last day of school. A motion was made by Lynn Guelzow and seconded by Jenny Emery that the Granby Board of Education set the graduation date and last day of school for Thursday, June 21, 2018. This motion passed unanimously at 8:40 p.m.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

Lynn Guelzow reported this subcommittee met this evening and discussed the high school advisory program. Elaine Chagnon and Christina Strain have been instrumental in revamping the advisory program tying to connect students and adults. Discussed the Assistant Superintendent's monthly report. There will be three days on professional development related to high achievement, mastery learning and gifted and talented; the summer school brochure has been published and enrollment is up already; and, the minority recruiting fair. Also looked at two new draft policies: Directory Information and Truancy. These policies will stay in subcommittee. Sarah Thrall will review a 6th Grade Chinese textbook.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

This Subcommittee did not meet.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Mark Fiorentino stated this topic was reported on earlier in the agenda.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

The GranBee will be held on April 27th.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

The calendar of events is as you see it.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

There were no Board member announcements.

VI.E. Action Items

There were no action items to report.

VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

There was no need for an Executive Session this evening. A motion was made by Lynn Guelzow and seconded by Jenny Emery to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Powell
Board Recorder