

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes

September 20, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

Town Hall Meeting Room

Present Board Members: Jenny Emery, Mark Fiorentino, Lynn Guelzow, Steve Royer, Ronald Walther, Rosemarie Weber, and Maddie Attianese (arrived at 8:00) and Sarah Cusano (Student Representatives).

Absent Board Members: Melissa Migliaccio

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

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Superintendent's Announcements

- Enrollment is down 12 but up 20 from projections. We have 35 Hartland students, 80 Choice students and magnet school enrollment is at 31 students.
- The State has not passed a budget and Granby's funding is uncertain after October 1.
- Met with the Commissioner of Education today along with other superintendents regarding outplacements for expelled students. New legislation would mean additional expenditures for districts.
- A Farm-to-School Grant Meeting was held this week to increase the use of local produce in schools.
- The Wells Road playscape will be repaired by next week.
- Central Services had a professional development day.
- Support service staff met with the town Social Services Department. It is critical to work closely with the town for the social/emotional well-being of students.
- E-mailed 16 legislators last week with regard to the solar project.
- CABE/CAPSS Convention, November 17-18.
- There will be no school on Thursday in observance of the Rosh Hashanah holiday.

I.B. Student Representative Reports

Ron Walther introduced Sarah Cusano as the new student representative for the high school stating that Sarah demonstrates academic excellence through our most challenging course load, serves as our Student Government Executive President, manages our Cross Country team and participates in drama, track and National Honor Society. She received the CABE Student Leadership Award while in 8th grade, and the Principal's Cup last year. She wants to serve the BOE to represent her multitude of interests and "give people a voice who don't have one."

I.C. Business Manager's Report

Ms. Anna Robbins, Business Manager presented the June 2017 and July-August 2017 statement of accounts. FY17 ended with a positive balance of \$352K with special education and regular education expenditures favorable. Salaries and benefits ended with a positive balance of \$247K representing a 98.88% accuracy in budgeting process. This year in FY18 as of the end of August there is a negative forecast of \$547K with special education expenditures projected to be unfavorable at \$399K and regular education unfavorable at \$148K. The driving factor for the high cost in special education is for the residential outplacement of one student and additional out-of-district placements for students who have just moved to town or have been identified since the budget was prepared. Regular education transportation costs are anticipated to be over budget at \$155K due to our new transportation contract. Jenny Emery stated the Finance Subcommittee reviewed the reports this evening and noted the transportation cost increase came in after the budget was approved.

I.D. Schools in the Spotlight

Ms. Julie Groene, Assistant Principal and Director of Guidance, gave the Board a report on the College Explorations Summer Seminar. Twenty one students visited 8 colleges. Ellie Fiorentino, Sophomore, shared her experiences. She felt it was a good experience, even for a Sophomore. Keon Lawrence learned what colleges typically look for and how to make college more affordable. Ayden Lidestri, Sophomore, said the highlight of the program was the opportunity to sit in front of 3 GMHS alumni students and ask questions.

I.E. Annual Equity Report

Mr. Christopher Tranberg, Assistant Superintendent, presented the annual equity report to the Board. Equity indicators included graduation, college readiness, student achievement (Gr. 3-10) and school engagement. The graduation rate for minority populations is high at 97.6%. Lynn Guelzow inquired if there were Hartford students who started Freshmen year but did not graduate from Granby. She asked if we knew where they went and how they did in other districts. Achievement gaps

remain unacceptably large in many areas across the district. Mr. Tranberg discussed next steps and stated the biggest action is the work of the Equity Task Force. Administration is also working to improve equitable instructional practices. Granby will be partnering with NCCJ (Bridges Program) at the middle and high schools. Granby will also pilot a mentoring program "Generations", a Big Brother/Big Sister program of sorts, to work with 1st grade students by either parent or staff request/recommendation.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments this evening.

III. Consent Agenda

III.A. Minutes

A motion was made by Jenny Emery and seconded by Rosemarie Weber to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed unanimously at 7:54 p.m.

IV. Old Business

IV.A. Superintendent's Contract

The Board discussed the approval of the Superintendent's Contract for 2017-2020. The changes in the contract which is for July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020 as follows: a 3% raise for a salary a little over \$213K; reduced vacation days to carry over; mileage reimbursed at IRS rate; an addition of \$1,500/year matched annuity; and, a one-time only \$3,000 matching annuity. A motion was made by Mark Fiorentino and seconded by Rosemarie Weber to approve the Superintendent's Contract for 2017-2020. This motion passed unanimously at 7:57 p.m.

IV.B. CAFE Leadership Awards

The Board discussed the application for the CAFE Leadership Award. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Jenny Emery to approve the application for the CAFE Leadership Award. This motion passed unanimously at 7:59 p.m.

V. New Business

V.A. FY17 Year-End Budget Transfer

The Board discussed the approval of a year-end budget transfer for FY17 as recommended by the Business Manager and Finance Subcommittee. A motion was made by Jenny Emery and seconded by Steve Royer to approve a year-end budget transfer for FY17 as recommended by the Business Manager and Finance Subcommittee. This transfer accommodates any account that was over budget and under budget to an amount of \$351,961. With this action, all of the accounts are closed out at \$0. This motion passed unanimously at 8:02 p.m.

V.B. Draft Policy 4118.211/4218.211 - Retaliation and Whistle Blowing

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended Policy 4118.211/ 4218.211, Retaliation and Whistle Blowing, to the Board for a first reading. This is a revision from a prior statute and language from taken from a CAFE model policy. Please e-mail Chris Tranberg or Rosemarie Weber with any changes or corrections. This policy will come to the Board for a second reading at the next meeting.

V.C. Draft Revised Policy 5131.6 - Drugs & Alcohol

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended draft revised Policy 5131.6, Drugs & Alcohol, to the Board for a first reading. This policy was revised to conform to statutory changes and incorporates the addition of e-cigarettes and medical marijuana. Please e-mail Chris Tranberg or Rosemarie Weber with any changes or corrections. This policy will come to the Board for a second reading at the next meeting.

V.D. Draft Policy 6142 - Basic Instructional Program

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended draft Policy 6142, Basic Instructional Program, to the Board for a first reading. Rosemarie Weber stated this is a brand new required policy and is a very broad overview of what Granby needs to provide in terms of programming. It is a much broader scope than our graduation policy. This policy requirement is also based on health and wellness components. Please e-mail Chris Tranberg or Rosemarie Weber with any changes or corrections. This policy will come to the Board for a second reading at the next meeting.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

This subcommittee has not met.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

This subcommittee met this evening. Administration shared the policy regarding Teaching Assistants which defines compensation, work status, etc. The Finance Subcommittee will look at this policy and it will ultimately be presented to the full Board for endorsement. Also discussed large capital projects. A capital forecast project was completed this summer and is now in a database to help determine the useful life of our facilities. Anna will summarize this report and revise the capital projects forecast which will be reviewed at the next meeting. Administration will apply for a security grant (matching grant). There was also an update on the solar effort. Legislation must happen to allow the district to begin the project under Virtual Net Metering. The Finance Subcommittee has enlisted the services of Mark Fiorentino as our CREC/CABE Representative.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Mark Fiorentino attended the first CREC/CABE first meeting today. An update on the budget was given. This budget passed both houses and the legislature but has not been transmitted to the Governor yet. The Governor has 15 days to act. There is generally good stuff in the budget and it restores funding. A summary of the budget will be distributed and Mr. Fiorentino stated he will send it to anyone interested. With regard to ECS cost sharing, there is no consensus on the detail of any formula going forward. A task force may be formed to do that correctly. Also discussed services which need to be provided to expelled students. CREC committed to working on this through the process. Mr. Fiorentino stated he would like to volunteer to be on the Legislative Committee. The Board thought that would be a good idea.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Jenny Emery stated there is an Executive Meeting coming up in a couple of weeks and she plans to attend.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Add October middle school and high school PAC meetings.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

There were no Board Member announcements.

VI.E. Action Items

Choice students who were in the high school as Freshmen but did not graduate from Granby.

Ron Walther welcomed Maddie Attianese to the meeting. Maddie is also a new student board representative. She had a game this evening and arrived late to the meeting. Mr. Walther stated he would introduce her formally at the next Board Meeting.

VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

There was no Executive Session. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Jenny Emery to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Guelzow, Board Secretary