

Regular Board of Education Meeting –Approved Minutes
Wednesday, June 1, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present Board Members: Kristina Gilton, Monica Logan, Donna Nolan, David Peling, Whitney Sanzo, Sarah Thrall, and Rosemarie Weber, and Tess Bajek and Jacob Scotto (Student Representatives)

Absent Board Members: None

Sarah Thrall called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Chairman's Corner

Sarah Thrall, Board Chair, welcomed those joining via Zoom and in attendance and stated Jacob Scotto will be joining us a little later as he is at a tennis match which was delayed due to rain. Ms. Thrall also welcomed the Granby Grunts Team who will be sharing about the program and recent competitions. Ms. Thrall stated we are nearing the end of the year with only 8 days until the last day of school. She thanked the Granby Community for all of their support for our students during the Senior Scholarship and Award Night last week. She also thanked the staff members who organize all of the events at the end of the year and also to our facilities staff who assist in these events.

I.B. Superintendent's Announcements

- Dr. Grossman welcomed everyone in attendance this evening as well as those on Zoom and extended a special welcome to Margaret Bastiaanse and the Granby Grunts Robotics Team who were presenting tonight as well as to Jon Lambert, Director of Technology, who was presenting his Annual Technology Report to the Board this evening.
- Congratulations to our retirees and 25-year employees who were honored at a luncheon today. Retirees are Margaret Bastiaanse, Karen Bergmann, Marie Caruso, Michele Dafgek, Jane Sullivan, and Lisa Sweeney and 25-year employees Ann Boardman, Marie Caruso and Don Scott. Not present today and also retiring are Ellen Buda, Brenda Miller and Mark Neri as well as 25-year employees John Bikowski and Caryn Neff.
- Thank you to Mr. Neri and our high school marching band for participating in the Memorial Day Parade on Monday.
- Graduation is in 7 days and Mr. Dunn is arranging for our seniors to do a parade through our elementary schools next Wednesday after the graduation rehearsal.
- There will be a middle school chorus concert tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium and a middle school spring fling dance on Friday night from 6-8 p.m. in the middle school gym.
- Summer enrichment opportunities are being advertised and will run July 5th through July 29th.
- Important dates to note: 8th Grade Moving-Up Ceremony (Tuesday, June 7th at 6:00 p.m.); Graduation (Thursday, June 9th at 5:30 p.m. (rain or shine)); Last Day of School (Monday, June 13th); and, Summer Board Retreat (Monday, August 29th).
- Any Board members who would like tickets for graduation, please let Linda know.
- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 15th.

I.C. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, provided updates on the professional development day on Friday. Teachers were hard at work learning with their colleagues throughout the day. Vertical teaming was initiated and teachers worked in content specific teams. It was the first of many to come and a lot of curriculum work and review will happen in these meetings 2 to 3 times per year. The Vision of the Graduate was looked at and how it can fit into each content area. In addition, teams had time with building level teams and completed some SEL training around suicide prevention. Other updates included: Concluding committee work for the year on STEAM, Wellness and SEL Committees, the last Granby Equity Team meeting was last week and on June 15th there will be an update on the Anti-Bias/Anti-Racism Plan; and, there will be one last District Leadership Team Meeting on Monday as well as AdCouncil Retreat at the end of the school year.

I.D. Student Representative Reports

- Tess Bajek stated girls' lacrosse has a record of 13-5 and will move onto their next states game this Friday against New Fairfield; boys' lacrosse has a record of 7-10 after a loss today which finished off their season; girls' tennis had their second states game today; boys' tennis also had their second states game today; golf had a match today; girls track had a meet yesterday; boys' track will have a meet Thursday; and, baseball finished their season with a 9-11 record.
- Tess shared that she had the honor of attending the retirement luncheon today which she enjoyed very much.
- Seniors are looking forward to the walkthrough at the elementary schools.
- Senior exams started today and next week are underclassmen finals.

I.E. Robotics Presentation

The Granby Grunts Robotics Team provide an update and overview of the Robotics Program. Team members Noah Collen, Elliot Hosack, Charlie Krut, Eric Myers, Prior Waskan and Kian Woods introduced themselves. The students explained what FIRST robotics means: **F**or **I**nspiration and **R**ecognition of **S**cience and **T**echnology. Prior stated that FIRST robotics opens the door to a world of opportunities including soft skills, such as, teamwork, interpersonal skills, innovation, and leadership and hard skills, such as, experience in engineering, computer science, business and problem solving. The Granby Robotics Team was founded in 2008 by Dr. Rethke (Dr. Flush), a NASA engineer. Students explained that the team is organized just like a business and mentors teach the students how to build the robot. The build season was explained and it begins with a kickoff event describing this season's game. There are then 6 weeks to design, build, program, wire, and test the robot. This year was the best year of Granby's history ranking 31 out of 185 teams in New England. The team also won the Quality Award at the Hartford event. The Granby Grunts attend many outreach events, such as, the Simsbury Fly-In, Kelly Lane STEAM Night and the Memorial Day Parade. A video was shared from the team's district championship. The Granby Robotics Team mentors were introduced: Dr. Don Rethke (founder); Mr. Puskar (working with the team since 2009), and, Ms. Bastiaanse, faculty representative who has been with the program since the start in 2009. Mr. Meyers and Mr. Kaufman are new mentors this year.

Rosemarie Weber inquired as to how is strategy is used to form alliances to assist during competitions and the students stated they approach their alliances prior to matches. Ms. Weber also inquired if an engineering journal is kept as part of the building and strategies. Elliot stated this was not done this year; however, the entire process is documented with photos and drawings. Dr. Grossman stated he spent the year trying to figure out the transition of this program with Mrs. Bastiaanse retiring and also stated the team is very impressive with what they do with community outreach. Dr. Grossman also stated the team has the commitment from the district and the Board to build up this team in the coming years. Whitney Sanzo inquired if each robot is kept every year. Prior Waskan stated very often robots are taken apart each year but robots that do especially well are still together. David Peling inquired if this team is fully funded by the district and Dr. Grossman stated an advisor is in the budget as well as \$2-3K for transportation. The team has also received grants and private donations. Mr. Peling also inquired if the students have any interest in pursuing robotics in college. Prior Waskan, senior, stated he will be attending WPI for that exact reason.

I. Public Comment

There were no public comments this evening.

II. Consent Agenda

III. Minutes

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by David Peling to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed at 7:51 p.m. with one abstention (Whitney Sanzo).

III. Old Business

There was no Old Business to report.

IV. New Business

V.A. Annual Technology Report

Mr. Jon Lambert, Director of Technology, presented the Annual Technology Report to the Board and introduced the Technology Staff as follows: Frank Melanson, Systems Support Specialist; John Kroninger Technology Support Specialist; and, contracted services, Carolyn Dei Dolori, Software Support Specialist and Ed Lyman, Data Specialist. The Technology Department supports the infrastructure of the school buildings, communications, administrative systems, and A/V Equipment; Security (cyber and physical); software and information management; website; instructional technology, assistive technology; as well as supporting staff, students and community/special events. Mr. Lambert explained the technology support system in place which creates work orders for the department as well as working with each school's media specialist. He reviewed highlights for FY22 as well as initiatives for FY23 and informed the Board that the district is moving away from projectors to interactive boards. There are 20 in the budget this year for the middle and high schools. Also, a grant was received which will enable the purchase of additional interactive boards and next year, 20 additional boards will be added to the budget. Mr. Lambert informed the Board that all phone systems are being replaced. This year, Kelly Lane and Central Services were replaced. The entire district is on the same phone system enabling dialing by extension. Mr. Lambert reviewed ongoing projects, such as, the on-line employee portal, human resources records and application tracking program which will integrate with our student information system as well as include a teacher evaluation system; replacement of the IEP system for the Pupil Services Department to be uploaded into the new state IEP system; and, collaboration with the town as well as assisting them with events. He briefly discussed cloud-based software and products as well as Google workspace and Google apps which are used a lot by students. Sarah Thrall inquired how the last two years has affected the Technology Department. Mr. Lambert stated they were well prepared for it due to the Board adopting the 1:1 initiative.

V.B. Superintendent's Contract Approval

The Board considered the approval of the Superintendent's Contract effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025. Sarah Thrall stated for the 2021-2022 school year, Dr. Grossman, Superintendent of School, met or exceeded all of the goals. A motion was made by Sarah Thrall and seconded by David Peling to approve the Superintendent's contract effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025. Board members thanked Dr. Grossman for everything he does for the staff and students of Granby as well as his leadership during the pandemic by keeping our schools open and students safe. Dr. Grossman informed the Board it has been the professional honor of his life to serve as Superintendent and stated it is hard work but having a supportive Board makes the work easier. This motion passed unanimously at 8:22 p.m. Ms. Thrall presented Dr. Grossman with flowers for his family stating that the Board knows when he attends all of the school events, those are times he is not with his family.

V. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

David Peling stated this Subcommittee met this evening to discuss the Assistant Superintendent's report and discussed the hiring process and schedules for next year are well underway; recent learning walk; town-wide composting initiative; summer enrichment program is back to pre-COVID style classes; curriculum work going on in the health and language departments; and, curriculum revision work to be done.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

This Subcommittee has not met.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Kristina Gilton stated she still has not heard from CREC about CREC Council Meetings.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Whitney Sanzo stated the GEF will meet on June 20th.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Sarah Thrall stated many end-of-year events and to let Mrs. Powell know if you need graduation tickets.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

Sarah Thrall thanked Jacob Scotto for his 2 years of service helping to guide the Board on the student perspective impact during the most difficult time in education. She stated Jacob performed *in Grease, Mama Mia, Damned Yankees*; is a member of student choir and chamber singers and a three-time and two-time member of All State Choir. Ms. Thrall thanked Jacob for his contributions not only to the BOE but to the Granby Community and for his willingness to speak up and give his valuable insight. Jacob will be moving on to Villanova University in the fall and was presented with a Villanova thermos by the Board.

VI.E. Action Items

There were no action items this evening.

VI. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Donna Nolan to enter into an Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining. This motion passed unanimously at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Nolan
Board Secretary