

**Special Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes**  
**August 10, 2020, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Granby High School Auditorium**

Present Board Members: Jenny Emery (via Google Meet), Mark Fiorentino, Melissa Migliaccio, David Peling, Sarah Thrall (via Google Meet), Rosemarie Weber, and Brandon Webster.

Absent Board Members: N/A

Melissa Migliaccio called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**I. Chairman's Corner**

Ms. Melissa Migliaccio, Board Chairman, shared opening remarks and stated this is the Board's fourth Special Board of Education Meeting this summer in order to get our schools reopened. She thanked the administration, Dr. Grossman, Ms. Parsons, and their team. She also thanked the Board for their efforts in attending meetings this summer as well as to Board members Rosemarie, Jenny and David for attending the Reopening Task Force Meetings.

**II. Superintendent's Announcements**

- Dr. Grossman stated it is great to see everyone in public this evening and stated this meeting is also being live streamed via Zoom.
- He thanked the administrative team for the countless hours they have put in and the work they are putting forth to ensure our students and staff come back in the safest way possible.
- Final interviews for a Middle School Assistant Principal have taken place and it is hoped that the candidate will start the school year as early as possible.
- The Reopening Task Force will meet tomorrow afternoon.
- Dr. Grossman thanked Ms. Martin and the Special Education staff for bringing students in to meet with staff for 1-on-1 skills.
- Meetings will be held by principals on August 12<sup>th</sup> and August 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on both days.
- The roof project at the middle school is progressing and will be done by the start of the school year.
- There will be potential child care at the YMCA for parents and staff who may need this service.
- There will be a Special Finance Subcommittee Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>.
- A Board of Education retreat will be held on Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> and as part of the retreat there will be a facilities tour.

**III. Approval of July 22, 2020 Board of Education Minutes**

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Brandon Webster that the Granby Board of Education approve the minutes of the July 22, 2020 Board of Education Meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 6:38 p.m.

**IV. Reopening Plan Update**

Dr. Grossman reminded the Board that an extensive update was given at the last Board Meeting and stated since the last meeting, the Governor has given districts flexibility in their reopening plans. Administration is bringing a reopening plan to the Board this evening for a vote. Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, provided a brief review of the district as well as individual school reopening plans. Ms. Parsons stated since the last time the Board met, the new Stronger Together website was launched where you can find each school reopening plan as well as the district plan as well as all correspondence from the Superintendents. For a responsive return, administrators have reviewed proactive health and safety measures including face coverings; traveling cohorts; social distancing; hand hygiene, cleaning protocols; and, building awareness. The district has been in collaboration with the Farmington Valley Health District (FVHD) and the CSDE

to develop tools to use every day such as a self-assessment checklist, sick protocol and containment procedures. Ms. Parsons informed the Board the State has required us and Granby is ready to launch into any of the models for either a high COVID spread; moderate spread, minimal spread or contained/vaccine (full in-person). Granby's plan will involve all of these models. Data points will be reviewed, such as, number of cases, percentage of positive rates, new hospitalizations, and COVID and flu-like symptoms. Weekly updates from the FVHD with our numbers which will help to determine which one of the models to employ at any given point. Ms. Parsons discussed next steps for releasing school-level plans with school-level Zoom calls and videos.

Melissa Migliaccio inquired if the FVHD released guidelines today and if the Board could get either get a copy or have it put on the website. Ms. Parsons stated, yes, they did and they will be up on the website. She also inquired about containment procedures. Ms. Parsons informed the Board that if there is a suspected case, the FVHD will be called for assistance with contact tracing. There is not one specific procedure but rather a lot of what ifs. Ms. Migliaccio inquired if the FVHD will be updating the district daily for Granby only and Ms. Parsons stated the FVHD will be giving the district a weekly report and access to Hartford county and the state as a whole will also be available. She stated the FVHD would let us know if they see a jump in the numbers. Mark Fiorentino inquired someone needs to be tested, how does that happen and how will the results be received. Ms. Parsons stated there is a point in the sick protocols, will be care will be turned over to the parent/health provider to advise the individual to test or not test. Mr. Fiorentino expressed a concern of lag time between people getting tested and receiving the results. Ms. Parsons again stated in the containment plans in the sick protocols it does say how long you need to stay home and when you can return and are contingent upon if you were tested or just having symptoms and all of those scenarios are accounted for. Jenny Emery inquired if students can learn online if they are home sick. Ms. Parsons stated, yes, this can happen and students will have access to whatever is posted in SeeSaw and Google Classroom; however, she does not know to what extent material will be available online. Brandon Webster inquired where we are with substitute teachers. Dr. Grossman stated we are still working on getting substitute teachers and also informed the Board that the district posted bus monitor positions.

#### **V. Adoption of Fall 2020 School Reopening Plan**

The Board discussed the adoption of the Fall 2020 School Reopening Plan. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Mark Fiorentino that the Granby Board of Education hereby adopts the Fall 2020 School Reopening Plan and directs the Superintendent of Schools to revise the plan as needed. Melissa Migliaccio shared that on the CABA listserv other Board Chairs around the state are weighing in on how each district is approaching their own plan and several comments are that this our plan at the moment because this situation is so fluid. The motion is drafted to adopt the plan as it is today but directs and empowers the Superintendent to revise the plan as needed. Mark Fiorentino stated this is a difficult decision and believes it is best for students to be in school and interacting with their teachers. There is no such thing as a perfect plan; however, this plan is a good one. This motion passed unanimously at 6:59 p.m.

#### **VI. Approval of Full Reopening Dates**

The Board considered approval of tentative full reopening dates for Kelly Lane Primary School, Wells Road Intermediate School, Granby Memorial Middle School, and Granby Memorial High School which will occur after the transition period using a hybrid model beginning on September 1, 2020 pending health metrics and preparedness. A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by David Peling that the Granby Board of Education approve the tentative full reopening dates for the district which will occur following a transition period using a hybrid model beginning on September 1, 2020 pending health metrics and preparedness. The full reopening dates are as follows: Kelly Lane Primary School and Wells Road Intermediate School on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, and Granby Memorial Middle School and Granby Memorial High School on Monday, September 21, 2020. Dr. Grossman stated when the Governor announced a couple of weeks ago

that there would be local control, the district conducted a survey to see where the community stood on this issue. Last week a questionnaire was sent out and 88% responses were received (1,544 responses); 1,252 students will attend in-person (81%); 263 students are opting into the online environment (17%) which will be taught by an online certified teacher; and, 29 students will not return to the Granby Public Schools (moving, homeschool, etc.). In consultation with the FVHD, they recommended for schools to come back in a hybrid model where 50% of the population comes back at a time. This will help to establish healthy and safety routines in smaller groups. It will also help staff and students to build relationships with one another and assisting with social/emotional well-being. Dr. Grossman stated he is recommending an approximate 10-day transitional entry breaking the community into Maroon (A-K)/Gold (L-Z) teams with Kelly Lane and Wells Road coming back in full on September 16<sup>th</sup> and the middle/high schools coming back in full on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Migliaccio stated there is overwhelming communication in the community to get the students back in school as often and as safety as possible. She stated she appreciates the plan for the transitional entry and supports it with the hope that Granby will return to a full reopening. Jenny Emery inquired if teachers are in support of this plan. Dr. Grossman stated he has been speaking with the teachers' union president and is working on a Memorandum of Understanding. Mark Fiorentino inquired if middle school/high school students might be on campus for sports on their off day. Dr. Grossman stated, yes, this is true. Brandon Webster commented he likes the transitional entry and thinks it is a good way to go to ease students into wearing masks, etc. Mark Fiorentino inquired if the split A-K and L-Z is a fair split especially for Hartford students and blended families. Ms. Parsons stated administrators will speak more about this issue tomorrow and will be looking at the split from various lenses. David Peling inquired how we can best serve the students in-person and on-line learning with regard to staffing. Dr. Grossman stated the survey was a tool to find out how we best service both sets of students to a high level. There will be some staff members who will be asked to teach remote to children who are learning at home. Ms. Migliaccio stated the level of detail in the plan is a challenge and she appreciates the work. She inquired what will happen with parents who opt out and want to opt back in. Dr. Grossman stated families are being asked to opt back in at the beginning of a marking period, if possible. This motion passed unanimously at 7:26 p.m.

#### **VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting**

Ms. Migliaccio stated there was no need for an Executive Session/Non-Meeting this evening. A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by Rosemarie Weber to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Weber  
Board Secretary