

**Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes**  
**Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Town Hall Meeting Room**

Present Board Members: Liz Barlow, Heather Lombardo, Monica Logan, Donna Nolan, David Peling, Rosemarie Weber, and Chase Alexander

Absent Board Members: Karen Richmond-Godard and Katie O’Neill (Student Representative)

**I. Call to Order and Welcome**

Monica Logan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. Public Comment**

There were no public comments this evening in person or via Zoom.

**III. Student Representative Reports**

- Chase Alexander stated that Student Representative Katie O’Neill is getting ready to go on the band/chorus Disney trip early tomorrow morning.
- Empty Bowls is next Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Students have worked very hard and it has come together nicely.
- The Foreign Food Fest (formerly Crepe Night) will be held on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. World language students will be serving crepes, quesadillas, dumplings, etc.
- AP exams begin the first week of May and classes are currently preparing for them.
- SAT scores should become available tomorrow for Juniors.
- Sports report: Boys’ tennis had their first match yesterday and will play to Windsor Locks on Friday; girls’ tennis will host Windsor Locks at home on Friday; baseball is away at Bolton today; softball hosted Bolton today at home; golf faces East Granby Copper Hill in East Granby on Thursday; boys’ lacrosse heads to Valley Regional on Friday; girls’ lacrosse hosts South Windsor on Friday; and, track has a meet in Canton next Wednesday at 4 p.m.
- The GranBee is on Friday and Chase informed the Board his team is Sesabee Street.

**IV. Reports and Discussion**

**IV.A. Schools in the Spotlight**

Ms. Megan Proto, Teacher at Wells Road Intermediate School, and some of her students presented the Classroom Charter they all agreed to for this school year, which is a promise made to one another as the classroom community is built. Ms. Pauline Greer, Wells Road Principal, introduced Ms. Proto and the students and stated the students have worked very hard on this presentation and also mentioned that Smarter Balanced testing began today. She shared that she and Colleen Bava, Kelly Lane Principal, met regarding these presentations and agreed to topics of Social/Emotional Learning (SEL) and students having choice and voice. This presentation is about the voices of students with regard to how they should feel when in their classroom. Ms. Proto informed the Board that the Classroom Charter takes the place of teacher-given rules and her class spent the first couple of weeks of school talking about “what school should look like”. SEL gives students the life skills necessary to be able to go out into the world and it takes explicit instruction to give them the communication and problem-solving skills. Students shared various aspects of the Classroom Charter as follows: Owen shared the origin of the charter and how students wanted the classroom to feel; Kenny shared next steps of the charter with regard to communication skills to work toward solutions; Ellie and Rachel shared what to do when students need support and what strategies are used to calm yourself when nervous; and, Alex stated the charter is a living, breathing, working document and is a tool for the classroom. Ms. Proto spoke about family connections with regard to the charter and when discussed at conferences, parents were very interested in being involved with homework, SEL lessons and updates as well as weekly parent communication.

**IV.B. FY25 Budget Update**

Board Chair, Monica Logan, provided an update on the FY25 Board of Education Budget and stated the budget passed on Monday with a 14% turnout of voters. She stated she is incredibly grateful for the support of everyone who showed up to vote and for the district to be able to move forward and plan for next school year.

## **V. Business Requiring Action**

### **V.A. Minutes**

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Heather Lombardo that the Granby Board of Education approve the minutes of the April 3, 2024 Board of Education Meeting. This motion passed at 7:30 p.m. with one abstention (David Peling).

## **VI. Committee Reports**

### **VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports**

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

This subcommittee has not met. Next meeting is May 1<sup>st</sup>. Approved minutes are in the packet.

#### **VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities**

The Finance Subcommittee meeting for tonight was canceled.

### **V.I.B. Other Board-Related Reports**

#### **VI.B.1. CREC/CABE**

There was nothing to report.

#### **VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation**

The GranBee is this Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

### **VI.C. Calendar of Events**

Monica Logan stated the calendar of events is as presented and mentioned the Leo Club Alzheimer's Walk on April 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-11:30 on the high school track.

### **VI.D. Board Member Announcements**

There were no Board member announcements this evening.

### **VI.E. Action Items**

There were no action items this evening.

## **VII. Superintendent's Report**

- Ms. Cheri Burke, Superintendent, welcomed everyone back from vacation last week.
- She echoed the Board Chair's comments regarding the budget and is very grateful to the community and Board members for their support and hard work during the budget process.
- A new Director of Finance and Operations has been hired. Mrs. Nicole Stevenson was selected from an outstanding application pool. Thank you to Monica Logan and Donna Nolan for serving on the hiring committee. Mrs. Stevenson's references were outstanding and in almost every way she is currently doing the same work in her current district and is very excited to come to Granby.
- Congratulations to Emily Buder who was the recipient of the Fund for Teachers Grant from the Dalio Education Foundation and will travel to Scotland this summer with all expenses paid. Ms. Buder will be invited to a Board Meeting this spring to be recognized and to share about her trip.
- Also, congratulations to Media Center Specialists, Casey LaPlante, Leigh Ann Ryan, Laurie Smith and Joy Cloukey on receiving the 2024 Connecticut Library Association's Faith Hektoen Award for outstanding library programs that have significantly enhanced children across Connecticut, namely, the Granby Children's Book Festival held this fall which was supported through the GEF as well as the Granby Public Library.
- Attended the Social Media Internet Safety last evening and attendance was better than previous events. There is one more opportunity on May 2<sup>nd</sup> regarding Suicide Prevention by Justine Ginsberg from the Farmington Valley Health Department.
- A Community Conversation will be held on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6-7 p.m. via Zoom.
- Looking forward to the GranBee tomorrow night with Mr. James Whitten, Wells Road Teacher, as Emcee and teachers Jessica Foskitt, Sarah Warner and Lindsay Zuck as judges.
- A reminder that the annual retirement and 25-year luncheon will be held on June 5<sup>th</sup> at the North Barn Pavilion at Holcomb Farm. All Board members are welcomed.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on May 1, 2024.

### **VIII. Chairperson's Report**

Monica Logan, Board Chair, stated many thanks again for voting and being engaged in the budget. With regard to the presentation about social media last night, additional information can be obtained from Principal Dunn and also Officer Abalan who attended from the Granby Police Department. She stated she learned a great deal from this presentation. It was highly informative and she looks forward to attending the next presentation on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is a great opportunity to learn more and get engaged.

A motion was made by Heather Lombardo and seconded by Rosemarie Weber to amend the agenda to add an Executive Session to discuss a student discipline matter regarding a recent incident. This motion passed unanimously at 7:41 p.m.

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Donna Nolan to enter into Executive Session. This motion passed unanimously at 7:42 p.m.

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Liz Barlow to end Executive Session and enter back into regular session. This motion passed unanimously at 7:58 p.m.

### **IX. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Dave Peling that the Granby Board of Education adjourn the Board of Education Meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth H. Barlow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Elizabeth H. Barlow  
Board Secretary