

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Draft Minutes
February 19, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present Board Members: Jenny Emery, Melissa Migliaccio, David Peling, Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber, Brandon Webster, and Jack DeGray and Dwaritha Ramesh (Student Representatives).

Absent Board Members: Mark Fiorentino

Melissa Migliaccio called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Superintendent's Announcements

- Welcome to our guest legislators Senator Kissel, Senator Witkos and Representative Simanski.
- Hired an Interim Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Marian Hourigan, and will communicate to staff tomorrow. Ms. Hourigan is a retired Assistant Superintendent in charge of Instruction and Curriculum from Rocky Hill Public Schools. She will begin her interim position in Granby on March 11th. Christopher Tranberg's last day is March 13th.
- A doorway has been cut through to the high school main office for the vestibule project.
- Toured Ecology Center with our Emergency Management Director to use the facilities in case of an emergency with the town to shelter animals.
- Received good news today from NEAS&C that they are continuing the high school's accreditation.
- Congrats to Gavin Tulloch who was selected as Employee of the Month for January. Gavin is a Lead Custodian in the district.
- The Board of Finance set the financial guideline at 2.99%. The Administrative Budget will be presented to the BOE at the March 4th meeting.
- Met with the Department of Administrative Services last week regarding the building project for the middle school low-slope roof project.
- A mid-year teachers' celebration was held last week. Thank you to Sarah and David for attending.
- Held a Superintendent's Community Conversation today. The next one will be held on March 9th at 1:00 at the Senior Center.
- A School Building Project Committee Meeting will be held tomorrow, 5:30 p.m. at Central Services.
- Received approximately 50 applications for the Middle School Principal position. Ten candidates have been selected for interviews starting in early March. Thank you to Mark Fiorentino for being on the committee. The BOE will meet the candidate at the April 1st meeting.
- Read Across America Day will be held on Monday, March 2nd. BOE members are invited to attend.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on March 4th.
- Will attend the Legislative Breakfast tomorrow morning at the State Capitol with Sarah Thrall.

I.B. Student Representative Reports

- Sports Report: Boys' basketball is 13-6 after beating Simsbury on Saturday which was Granby's first win since 2013. The team will be celebrating their senior night tomorrow against Weaver. Girls' basketball is 12-8 and lost last Friday against Canton on their senior night. Teams are now preparing for the NCCC Championship which begins on Friday.
- Lauren Roy tied for second in the long jump and Connor Hennessey, Lauren Roy and Tristian Hugabook qualified for State Opens.
- Swimming had their last home meet and senior night was yesterday.
- Singing Valentines were a success last week.
- World Language Honor Societies sang at Meadowbrook on February 11th.
- The Quebec trip was a success over the break. It was very well-organized and it was an excellent opportunity for students to practice their French.
- The senior class photo was taken today during Advisory.
- The NHS First Responders Dinner will be held in the high school commons on February 25th.

- The Winter Coffeehouse is this Saturday, Feb. 22nd, at 7:00 p.m.
- DECA will be heading to the State Competition at the Aqua Turf on March 4th.
- Crepe Night will be held on March 6th by the French Honor Society. There will be live music from a school band.
- On March 3rd, the English Department will have a field trip to see Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime. Also, there is an upcoming field trip to see Jane Eyre on March 12th.
- Robotics will have their first competition on March 7th and 8th in Waterbury.

I.C. Guest Legislators

Senator John Kissel, Senator Kevin Witkos and Representative William Simanski discussed legislative issues related to education with the Board. Bill Simanski stated he sits on the Education Committee and stated two meetings have been held so far to raise concepts and only 35 were raised some of which are: 1) personal and financial management curriculum; 2) teacher retention; 3) school start times; 4) special education cost cooperative; 5) agricultural science education center; 6) inclusion of Native American studies in the social studies curriculum; 7) school district policies that discriminate against natural hair styles; and, 8) climate change in public school curriculum,

Senator Kevin Witkos commented to the Board they made a great choice on selecting Dr. Grossman stating he was on the Board of Education in Canton when he was hired in Canton and that he will do great things for Granby. Senator Witkos spoke about a concern he had with a potential act of removing a BOE member who had a felon stating there is no way to remove a BOE member until the next election. He also stated there were not going to be any draconian cuts to education funding and that the bi-partisan budget has incorporated many good practices.

Melissa Migliaccio inquired about regionalization and the legislators stated it is not moving forward at the moment. She asked the legislators to please follow the bill for captive special education funding and that ECS funding would play into this. She stated Connecticut is one of only 4 states in the country that puts the burden of proof back on the school district. With regard to the curriculum proposals, she stated all or many of these are good ideas but to leave it up to the local BOEs as they know their district best with regard to curriculum and that it takes local control away. She also asked them not to support a bill to remove BOE members as this is done by the voters.

Jenny Emery commented on the special education cost coop and that it is an intriguing idea. She stated her experience so far is there is a lot of cost management on the BOE and she would like relief from the volatility that happens now and there has to be an element of adjusting the funding. Representative Simanski stated he will let Dr. Grossman know when a public hearing comes up so BOE members can send in written testimony. Senator Witkos stated on average, the cost remains relatively consistent at \$490M statewide. Ms. Emery stated she would be interested in commenting via testimony.

Ms. Emery also commented on Granby's plan to build a solar array which has dissolved. She stated hurdles that needed to be jumped through in Connecticut are immense. It is on the district's radar to watch for additional opportunities on energy and solar and Granby will try again as we have to tackle the fixed cost of \$600K for electricity that is a burden to tax payers.

David Peling commented he has been an educator for 27 years getting up at 5:30 in the morning. He stated last year, more than 100 of his students were not supportive of late start times. He suggested getting student input if this topic gets to the legislature. With regard to agriculture curriculum, he stated this is an important idea and that many students are not on the path of a 4-year school. He also stated in regard to forcing out BOE members who are felons, that this is a slippery slope and the same should apply for all government bodies.

Sarah Thrall commented about the personal financial management curriculum stating it is incredibly important for young people to understand personal finance.

Student Representative Jack DeGray stated he is against starting school late and Dwaritha Ramesh stated she is vehemently against it also for a variety of reasons and is the glad decision was postponed.

Brandon Webster inquired if special education was brought up in prior sessions and Representative Simanski stated these things do not happen in one session and he does not think it will be acted on this year.

Senator Witkos informed the Board of a group who developed the ECS formula that the legislature adopted and that this group will not be part of captive special education funding. It will be solely owned by member towns. He stated it will take a lot of time for something like this to be digested and said he would send information to Jordan for the Board to review.

A proclamation for the girls' field hockey and soccer teams was presented to the Board from the state to acknowledge the accomplishment of championship teams.

I.D. Schools in the Spotlight

Mr. Michael Dunn, Principal of Granby Memorial High School, and a few students showcased the high school's College Connections partnership with Asnuntuck Community College. Mr., Dunn stated a record 21 students are attending this year and there are three different tracks for the program (manufacturing, electronic and welding). Jaleel Aldridge stated he has been in the Asnuntuck program for two years and shared a couple of his welding projects with the Board. He stated he would like to go back to Asnuntuck to get his certificate in welding and would like to go into aerospace tig welding (repairing airplane parts) as a career. Connor Fairchild also shared his experiences with the Board and informed the Board that the amount of information and success he has received from this program is incredible. Conrad Ginz shared his Capstone presentation with the Board on why career education is a better choice than traditional college due to lower costs for learning, more direct training and more money to be made.

Dr. Grossman commented that the students shared their pride about the program with him and he is very proud of the students and what they are doing as well as the fact they share the opportunities the program provides with younger students.

I.E. Business Manager's Report

Ms. Anna Robbins, Business Manager, presented the January 2020 statement of accounts and stated the BOE shows negative forecast of approximately \$160K and special education expenditures are unfavorable \$290K with regular education favorable \$131K. The overall forecast is slightly favorable over the previous month. Salaries and benefits are favorable \$144K. At this mid-year point the district is looking at quite a few adjustments in accounts at this time. S&B fav \$73K. Additional negative forecast over-budget condition in special education evaluations and contract services as well as the outsourced district-wide sub account. Transportationand will continue to see movement in these accounts as we continue the year. Revenue to the town of about \$40K overall forecast revenue just under budget by \$10K – major driver being lower cost. Jenny Emery stated this was reviewed in Finance Subcommittee this evening. The big picture is the focus is to continue to tighten the belt as much as possible without affecting the classroom. Two areas over-budget are Asnuntuck and new way of filling subs requiring a budget adjustment.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments this evening.

III. Consent Agenda

III.A. Minutes

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Sarah Thrall that the Granby Board of Education adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed unanimously at 8:16 p.m.

IV. Old Business

IV.A. Third Reading of Revised Policy 4131 - Staff Development

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 4131, Staff Development, to the Board for a third reading and approval. A motion was made by Sarah Thrall and seconded by Brandon Webster that the Board of Education adopt Revised Policy 4131, Staff Development, as recommended by the Curriculum/Policy/Technology Communications Subcommittee. This motion passed unanimously at 8:17 p.m.

V. New Business

V.A. First Reading of Revised Policy 5114 - Student Discipline

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 5114, Student Discipline, to the Board for a first reading. Sarah Thrall stated the revision defines the calendar year which could continue from the end of one school year to the beginning of the next school year. This policy will go to the Board for a second reading at the next meeting.

V.B. Approval of Educational Specifications for the Granby Memorial Middle School Low-Slope Roof Replacement Project

The Board discussed the approval of the educational specifications for the low-slope roof replacement project for Granby Memorial Middle School. A motion was made by Jenny Emery and seconded by David Peling that the Granby Board of Education approve the educational specifications for the low-slope roof replacement project for Granby Memorial Middle School as recommended by the Finance/Personnel/Facilities Subcommittee. Jenny Emery stated part of the middle school roof was replaced by insurance which was included in the bond referendum. If the specifications are approved with the minutes stating so, the project will be put into the queue at the state level. This motion passed unanimously at 8:21 p.m.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

This Subcommittee has not met. Melissa Migliaccio requested to remove the subcommittee that has not recently met from the agenda.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

This Subcommittee met this evening to discuss a leave-of-absence for next year which was endorsed; update on the safety grant received a couple of years ago and things the funds are being spent on; and, Hartford Public Schools has requested the burden of proof of residency be the receiving district's responsibility; however, this has been tabled for one year.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

There was no report on CREC/CABE this evening. The Legislative Breakfast will be held tomorrow morning beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the State Capitol.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Jenny Emery stated she did not attend. Jordan Grossman stated he attended and the GEF discussed the GranBee. He volunteered to be a judge. The GranBee will be held on April 24th in the high school auditorium. BOE members to sponsor a team or two. Jenny Emery inquired if vendor sponsorships be sent out again this year on behalf of the BOE. Dr. Grossman stated, yes, that can be done.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Melissa Migliaccio stated the town budget hearing falls on the vacation week. Additionally, the BOE meeting scheduled for April 15th has been moved to April 22nd.

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. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

There was no need to enter into an Executive Session/Non-Meeting this evening. A motion was made by Jenny Emery and seconded by Sarah Thrall to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Weber
Secretary