

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes
Wednesday, June 15, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present Board Members: Kristina Gilton, Monica Logan, Donna Nolan, Whitney Sanzo, Sarah Thrall, and Rosemarie Weber

Absent Board Members: David Peling

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 everyone in attendance as well as congratulated the Boys' Championship Tennis Team. She stated school is out and the weather held out for a beautiful outdoor graduation as well as 8th grade moving-up ceremony. She thanked all Granby staff who made these special events possible.

I.B. Superintendent's Announcements

- Dr. Grossman welcomed everyone in attendance this evening and extended a special welcome to our Boys' Championship Tennis Team who will be recognized by the Board this evening.
- There are currently 94 students registered for Kindergarten which is way below projections. This is something that will be monitored over the summer. If this number stands there will be 6 sections (approximately 16 students); however, 7 sections were projected.
- Congratulations to all of our seniors including one Board member who had a senior and one board member who had an 8th grade student as well.
- Closing ceremonies were held on Monday. It was a nice celebration for staff to end the school year. Students performed and gave speeches. Board student representative, Tess Bajek, and her sister, Alexa Bajek, hosted the event and did a great job.
- Congratulations to Marie Caruso, who was named Staff member of the 2021-2022 school year, and the new 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year, Mr. Mike Dombrowski.
- Summer Enrichment is being advertising continuously.
- A BOE Retreat will be held on Monday, August 29th.
- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 7th.

I.C. Boys' Tennis CIAC State Championship Team

The Board recognized the Boys' Tennis Team as CIAC State Champions. Mr. Maltese thanked the Board on behalf of tennis coach Kevin Imbt and the entire tennis team for allowing the opportunity to congratulate the team on this accomplishment. The team worked hard throughout the whole season and are back-to-back state champions. Team members received embroidered state championship sweatshirts.

I.D. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, provided updates from her office and stated it was a great last couple of weeks of school. Highlights included: older students working with younger students at STEAM Night and graduates walking through the halls of Kelly and Wells. Ms. Parsons stated these things bring to light the Vision of a Graduate. She stated the district is well on the way to filling up summer programs which are about $\frac{3}{4}$ full. The first day of retreat for administrators was spent talking about co-teaching which will be implemented at the middle school and high school and to some extent the elementary schools as well. Tomorrow administrators will be working on their Continuous Improvement Plans as to how they relate to the Strategic Plan. Sarah Thrall inquired as to how many classes will be co-taught and at what subject levels. Ms. Parsons stated English and Math at the 9th grade level as well as some of the math classes will be co-taught at the middle school. The co-taught model involves two teachers, one regular and one special education teacher, working together to deliver that material as one and both teachers will be the teacher of record. She also inquired whether it will always be the same teacher with the special education teacher and Ms. Parsons stated, yes, they will remain a pair for the year.

I.E. Business Manager's Report

Ms. Anna Robbins, Business Manager, presented the May statement of accounts. The BOE shows a positive balance of \$297K which is roughly the same as last month; however, there was a shift in regular education and special education expenses. Special education expenditures are projected to be under budget \$120K which is \$41K better than last month. This is due to changes in out-of-district tuition and transportation as well as evaluation services. Regular education is favorable \$177K which is worse than last month by \$41K. These changes are offset by other areas of the budget where the forecast has been adjusted based on actual use. The Q&D fund balance is projected to be favorable \$193K. Favorable variances in afterschool activities, certified staff, Kindergarten support staff salaries, as well as summer school expenses, contribute to the favorable forecast. Revenues to the town are projected to be better than budgeted by \$151K which is higher than last month's projection due to the town receiving the final payment for the Special Education Excess Cost Grant which was lower than budgeted but higher than anticipated. All final payments were received from other towns for both regular and special education. Rosemarie Weber stated the Finance Subcommittee reviewed and accepted this report this evening.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments this evening.

III. Consent Agenda

III.A. Minutes

III.B. Food Services Contract Amendment Approval

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Monica Logan that the Granby Board of Education adopt the consent agenda. Rosemarie Weber stated this is a process the district goes through at the end of every year and the purpose is to ensure we have a break-even contract. She stated there is a minimal increase to both management and administrative fees in order to get to the that break-even number. This motion passed unanimously at 7:19 p.m.

IV. Old Business

IV.A. Granby Equity Team Update

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, provided an update on the Granby Equity Team's (GET) Anti-Bias/Anti-Racism Plan which was worked on this year by the Granby Equity Team. The plan is broken down into three categories: Advocacy, Responsiveness, Consciousness and the highest level is Advocacy which is changing policy and taking action to address issues. Ms. Parsons reviewed the structures in place and reviewed the stakeholders on the team consisting of Board members, parents, students, teachers, administrators, school-based staff, and community members. She stated the plan is designed for the team to exercise the Anti-Racism/Anti-Bias Plan as well as to help spread the knowledge they are gathering in their constituent groups. Ms. Parsons, Ms. Greer and Ms. Paton meet regularly to plan with our partners and steer some of the work on the GET. There were 6 meetings this year, of which 3 were in-person: 1) at the beginning of the year, the group took stock of where the Team was; 2) mid-year (December) to monitor the work and craft a statement on recognizing national heritage months; and; 3) in May, the team reflected on the work. The other 3 meetings the team worked with Partners for Educational Leadership to build the capacity of everyone in the room, build equity lenses and support the networks. Highlights from this year included an updated equity statement; collaboration with community groups; cultural heritage months; reignited student leadership; expansion of culturally diverse books; and, the hiring of a Family Engagement Specialist, Ms. Bethany Grupp, who will build partnerships with students in the Open Choice Program. The team collaborated with the Granby Reconciliation Group in the planning of the Juneteenth celebration. During Black Heritage Month, there were podcasts of Black scientists, inventors, mathematicians, and politicians. Some of the work was shared from the Honors Chemistry and American Studies courses and students highlighted the careers of professions of color. Next year Hispanic heritage will be highlighted. Ms. Smith created the 50 First Book Club at Wells Road and Kelly Lane also started this program. Ms. Parsons stated Mr. Freeman who was our Teacher in Residence this year was hired for as a 5th Grade Teacher for next year and Ms. Cooper was selected to be our second Teacher in Residence who will work with Mrs. Cathryn Kibby next year at Kelly Lane. Ms. Parsons concluded with how GET wants to grow and shared areas of focus, such as, balancing the

work with personal development; regular participation in GET; consistency in follow-up network meetings; building common language; and, embedding classroom conversations in all areas. Sarah Thrall thanked Ms. Parsons and Monica Logan for their participation as a Board Member on GET. She inquired if the podcasts were available and Ms. Parsons stated they are currently housed in the schools as they are student projects. Ms. Thrall also inquired how Granby does with recruiting for a teacher. Ms. Parsons stated other districts who are in closer proximity to Hartford are able to pull from their own staff internally but Granby has not been able to do that. She stated CREC gathers a pool of candidates and candidates who make it to a second round were available for districts to choose. Nine (9) individuals were interviewed and the top 3 were put forward by Granby and, for the second year in a row, Granby was matched with their top candidate. Monica Logan commented that every GET meeting was very well organized. She thanked Ms. Parsons for the amazingly hard work she does and that she can see all of the wonderful things happening across the schools. Kristina Gilton mentioned the need for partnering with Granby families and Hartford families who want to participate in after-school activities and perhaps this is something that Ms. Grupp can assist with next year.

V. New Business

V.A. Custodial and Maintenance Contract Approval

The Board considered the approval of the contract for The United Public Service Employees Union, Local 424, Unit 61, for custodial and maintenance employees. A motion was made by Sarah Thrall and seconded by Kristina Gilton that the Granby Board of Education approve the contract for The United Public Service Employees Union, Local 424, Unit 61, for custodial and maintenance employees pending ratification by the Union. The union is looking to ratify this contract on Friday. Ms. Thrall stated highlights as follows: 4-year contract (2022-2026); standardized language in workmen's compensation and retiree participation in health benefits once Medicare eligible; position title changed from Lead Maintenance to Facilities Manager (this position requires a valid Connecticut HVAC license); and, a reconfiguration to the monthly merit program to include a scholarship award for a senior student studying at a technical institution. Ms. Thrall thanked Donna Nolan and Monica Logan for serving on the negotiating team. This motion passed unanimously at 7:51 p.m.

V.B. BOE Summer Retreat and 2022-2023 Meeting Schedule

The Board reviewed the meeting schedule for the BOE Summer Retreat and the 2022-2023 school year. The retreat is scheduled for Monday, August 29th and will be held the whole day. Sarah Thrall pointed out that in October the Board will not meet on the first Wednesday but will meet the 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays that month. Dr. Grossman stated the April 10th and April 24th dates should be draft dates. These dates are listed in the town charter; however, the public hearing occurs during the vacation week so the town may try to change the charter. He asked Board members to please consider these dates tentative at this point.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

This Subcommittee did not meet.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

Rosemarie Weber stated this subcommittee met this evening to review the May Statement of Accounts; review the food service contract amendment with minimal increase to the managerial fees; breakfast and lunch prices will increase to \$3.00 at the elementary schools and to \$3.15 at the middle/high schools; discussed statutory changes regarding lunch the coop program which now allows people to donate to the school lunch program; reviewed year-end assessments and things on the to-do list - the Finance Subcommittee authorized the administration to move forward with 4 projects: middle school café tables/chairs; backstop. Also received a Building Committee update – demo is started and the project is underway.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Sarah Thrall stated she will be on a call with CABE tomorrow morning to review the year. Kristina Gilton will be attending CREC Council meetings in the fall as it was determined emails from CREC were going into her spam email.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Whitney Sanzo stated the next meeting is on June 20th.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Board Retreat

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

Kristina Gilton gave the Board an update on the safe graduation party stating she was able to attend graduation as well as the safe graduation party this year. It was the first party since 2019 and seniors spent the whole evening at the YMCA and loved every minute of it. Many businesses donated very large raffle prizes and every student went home with a \$20 gift card to somewhere. It was a great community event and great to see that Granby could bring it back.

Monica Logan mentioned the Juneteenth celebration this Saturday at Salmon Brook Park. The event is free with lots of activities for kids, music, artists, poets, and speakers. The event is partially sponsored by the GEF.

Sarah Thrall recognized John Bell who was recognized by the Board of Selectmen last week as their representative and for his service to the town on the Board of Selectmen. On behalf of the Board, Ms. Thrall stated she wishes him the best as he heads to Elon in the fall.

VI.E. Action Items

There were no action items this evening.

VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

There was no need for an Executive Session this evening. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Donna Nolan. This motion passed unanimously at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Nolan
Board Secretary