

**Regular Board of Education Meeting – Draft Minutes**  
**Wednesday, December 1, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Town Hall Meeting Room**

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

Absent Board Members: N/A

Sarah Thrall called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**I. Administrative Reports**

**I.A. Chairman's Corner**

Sarah Thrall, Board Chair, stated at the last subcommittee assignments were made for Board members. Additionally, with regard to other committees, she thanked Board members for volunteering to attend the following meetings: Monica Logan - Granby Equity Team; Whitney Sanzo – Granby Education Foundation; and, Donna Nolan - BOE Representative on the Building Committee.

**I.B. Superintendent's Announcements**

- Dr. Grossman welcomed everyone in attendance and virtually as well as on Zoom this evening.
- Congratulations to all sports teams on their tournament play. It was a tremendous fall season. The District is very proud of athletes, coaching staff and fans. Winter sports are gearing up.
- Attended the Coffeehouse this past weekend and it was terrific!
- Attended the Lion's Club Holiday Party today with students from the Leo and Best Buddies Clubs.
- The high school will be hosting a concert for the Men's' Senior Breakfast on Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.
- A PJ Day Fundraiser for CCMC will be held by all schools on Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The high school roof project is slated to begin the Summer of 2023. Awaiting state funding for the high school choral and band rooms, technology areas, commons, and kitchen. Will continue to give updates.
- The District is still in need of bus drivers and substitute teachers. Will be bringing an idea to the Finance Subcommittee Meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup> with regard to substitutes. With regard to bus drivers, it takes a while to get certified to become a bus driver so the District is waiting on the State for approvals.
- The FY23 Plus One Budget will be presented on January 5<sup>th</sup>. A timeline on the budget process will be presented at the next Board Meeting.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**I.C. Assistant Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, provided updates on the TV production studio as well as an equity update. She shared an update on the TV Production Studio sponsored by the GEF. The proposal was to create a well-equipped TV production studio space at the high school to support other classes, clubs and students as well as the community at large. This year the District is working with students exhibiting interest at the middle and high school; in 2022-23, a news production will be integrated into an Advanced Communication Technology and Broadcasting course at the high school and continue the Broadcasting Club as a production studio; in 2023-24, the Audio Visual Communications course at the high school will be revised and the Broadcasting Club continued as a production studio. Ms. Parsons stated a check was received by the GEF for \$100,000 in August 2021. Since then, internal planning meetings were conducted and current space was reviewed; local architects were selected to support the project; met with architects to finalize the design and crafted a budget proposal. In January, all plans will be finalized, a desk will be built by high school students, and internal demolition will take place in order to remodel the new studio space. Rosemarie Weber inquired if the Board will see any budgetary implications for this project in the next budget cycle. Ms. Parsons stated the only thing the grant cannot cover is the cost of the teacher as well as any professional development needed. Ms. Parsons stated about 30 hours of curriculum writing for a new course will also be in the budget.

Ms. Parsons also provided an equity update and shared the Equity Statement and Mission for the Granby Equity Team (GET). She stated GET has been around for a number of years and meets 6 times throughout the year and involves mixed stakeholders. GET monitors, implements and suggests revisions to the Anti-Bias Anti-Racism Plan and works with the Partners for Educational Leadership (formerly the Center for School Change) who attend 3 GET meetings to help in developing an equity lens and tools for leading equity focused discussions. Ms. Parsons

reviewed some of the highlights for the year including bringing back and expanding Bridges and Any Town student trainings; recruitment and retention efforts for the Open Choice Program; integration with the Vision of a Graduate; and, connecting equity work with the work on Learning Environments. Sarah Thrall asked Jennifer Parsons to give the Board some background on both the Bridges Program and Any Town. Ms. Parsons stated students recently attended training for the Bridges Program and Tess Bajek, Student Representative, stated she attended the training last week and approximately 20 students attended. Tess informed the Board that it was similar social justice training that acquainted students with issues and that she enjoyed it very much. Ms. Parsons informed the Board that Any Town is a second level of training and is the next level of leadership which runs across districts. Students will come together and work on their next level of leadership through Any Town.

#### **I.D. Student Representative Reports**

- Tess Bajek stated last night the football team made it to the playoffs and sadly lost with a record of 7-3
- Winter sports are starting. Wrestling began practicing; boys' basketball tryouts take place tomorrow; girls' basketball started conditioning; and, indoor track, hockey and cheer will start practicing.
- NHS students will assist in another vaccination clinic next Wednesday.
- Leo Club/Best Buddies attended the Lions Club Holiday Party today.
- Chamber Singers in-person concert on Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Musical auditions will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup> for Guys and Dolls.
- NHS stocking drive has started and is filling 40 stockings for children ages 3-18.

#### **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 Donna Nolan that the Granby Board of Education adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed at 7:37 p.m. with one abstention (David Peling).

#### **IV. Old Business**

##### **IV.A. Second Reading of Revised Policy 0200 - Vision-Mission-Goals**

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 0200, Vision-Mission-Goals, to the Board for a second reading and approval. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by David Peling that the Granby Board of Education adopt revised Policy 0200, Vision-Mission-Goals, as recommended by the Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee. This motion passed unanimously at 7:38 p.m.

##### **IV.B. Second Reading of Revised Policy 1110.1 - Communications with the Public**

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 1110.1, Communications with the Public, to the Board for a second reading and approval. A motion was made by David Peling and seconded by Rosemarie Weber that the Granby Board of Education adopt revised Policy 1110.1, Communication with the Public, as recommended by the Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee. Ms. Parsons stated there is one minor change to reflect electronic platforms in lieu of a homework hotline. David Peling suggested changing the word "electronic" to "digital". The motion on the floor was removed and a new motion was made by David Peling and seconded by Rosemarie Weber that the Granby Board of Education adopt revised Policy 1110.1, Communications with the Public, changing the word "electronic" to "digital". This motion passed unanimously at 7:42 p.m.

##### **IV.C. Second Reading and Approval of 2022-2023 School Calendar**

The Board discussed and considered the approval of the 2022-2023 school calendar. A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Kristina Gilton that the Granby Board of Education approve the 2022-2023 school calendar. This motion passed unanimously at 7:44 p.m.

#### **V. New Business**

##### **V.A. Superintendent's 2021-2022 Annual Goals**

Dr. Jordan Grossman presented the Superintendent's goals for the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Thrall stated that this report is typically presented a little earlier in the year but with the elections in November, it was pushed back in order to present it to the new Board members. Dr. Grossman stated his superintendency has been defined by

working in and through a global pandemic and stated his goals are aligned with the vision and mission of the Granby Public Schools. He also stated a Strategic Plan was recently developed which will move the district forward in a tremendous way. He presented a high-level view of the goals as follows: *Student Learning and Achievement*: implement new data driven decision making processes across the district; continue to assess current and future practices in the area of special education services; continue to focus on learning recovery and learning acceleration for all students; and, implement the new Vision of a Graduate. *Community Engagement*: Implement the new Granby Public Schools' Strategic Plan and Vision of a Graduate as well as work with the new Town Manager for continued collaboration with the town. *Safety and Social Emotional Well-Being*: Implement the Stronger Together: A Working Plan for the Granby Public Schools and implement a new Emergency Operations Plan for the Granby Public Schools. *Budget Development and Fiscal Management*: Create an alternative school within the Granby Public Schools; continue to obtain all state and federal grants for which Granby Public Schools qualifies; and, develop a budget that supports the Board's Strategic Plan. *Embracing Diversity*: Continue to implement the Anti-Bias/Anti-Racism Plan for the Granby Public Schools and continue to support minority recruitment on the CREC Teacher In-Service Program. *Professional Learning*: Mentor and model professional leadership for new administrative team members; Chair the Early Childhood State Committee; and, participate in the CAPSS Early Career Advanced Leadership Program. Dr. Grossman stated it is an honor to serve as Granby's Superintendent of Schools. Sarah Thrall thanked Dr. Grossman for all that he does for our district and students and stated she looks forward to seeing him accomplish the goals presented.

## **VI. Miscellaneous**

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

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

David Peling stated this Subcommittee met this evening. Jennifer Parsons presented the monthly assistant superintendent's report including strings programming; FVHD meetings; and, budget for curriculum. Three policies will be brought to the full Board at the next meeting. Also reviewed the Graduation Requirements Policy which will stay in subcommittee. Discussed 2 of 4 possible new courses. Advanced Communication Technology and Broadcasting and Black & Latino Studies were approved. Student representative, Jacob Scotto, inquired if there will be a course on gender studies and Ms. Parsons stated she has not received any policies coming forward; however, if there is potential interest by a student, this could possibly come through the Bridges Program.

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

This Subcommittee did not meet. Approved minutes included in the packet.

### **VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports**

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

There was nothing to report on CREC/CABE this evening.

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

The GEF will meet on Monday. Whitney Sanzo will attend this meeting.

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

Sarah Thrall wished Tess and Jacob good luck on their performance next Friday in the high school auditorium.

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

There were no Board member announcements this evening.

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

1) Include a link to the Bridges Program on the Equity webpage on the district website.

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

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by David Peling to enter into Executive Session to discuss a school safety issue. Jennifer Parsons was invited to attend the Executive Session. This motion passed at 8:10 p.m.

The Executive Session adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Nolan, Board Secretary