

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Draft Minutes
Wednesday, April 19, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

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 to the meeting and extended a special welcome to Ms. Rice, Math & Science Coach, Wells Road students and their families as well as friends from Granby Memorial High School. She also welcomed Principal Pauline Greer who was present to give an update on the Continuous Improvement Plan for Wells Road. Ms. Thrall also provided an update on Superintendent Search stating the application deadline was April 7th and multiple applications were received. The committee will meet tomorrow evening to review the applications and interviews will follow.

I.B. Superintendent's Announcements

- Dr. Grossman welcomed Pauline Greer, Principal at Wells Road, Kristin Rice, Math & Science Coach, as well as Wells Road and high school students who are here to present this evening.
- Dr. Grossman thanked the Board Chair, Sarah Thrall, for presenting the FY24 Board of Education Budget at the Town Public Hearing during the April break on April 10th. The next step is the town-wide budget vote on Monday, April 24th, from 12-8 p.m.
- A combined middle school/high school PAC Meeting was held last evening in the new high school cafeteria and the main topic was the budget.
- Kelly Lane kicked off One School, One Book this month and students will participate in a STEAM activity this Friday by creating something from the book.
- Bids for the high school roof project are due this Friday. The Building Committee will meet next Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. to select the contractor to start construction on the roof this summer.
- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 3rd.

I.C. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, provided updates from the Assistant Superintendent's office and stated testing is well underway and Wells Road is almost done with SBAC testing. All testing will be completed in a few weeks and there are a lot of great things happening this spring, such as, a meeting of Educator Development Committee which is responsible for TEAM, planning for New Teacher Orientation, Teacher Evaluation, and celebrating new teachers in the beginning of May as well as teachers who have completed the TEAM process. Ms. Parsons thanked those who nominated teachers for Teacher of the Year and stated 15 candidates have been notified that they are moving forward and applications need to be completed by May 7th. Ms. Parsons also shared the GEF-supported opportunity being held on Monday which is a Dave Gunning concert for students at Kelly Lane and Wells Road. He will perform folk songs about kindness as well as conduct a workshop with students from the middle school/high school in the afternoon.

I.D. Student Representative Reports

- Chase Alexander stated SATs were taken in March and students received their results last Friday.
- The Spring Coffeehouse will be held this Saturday, April 22nd.
- The NHS fundraiser, Empty Bowls, will run from 5-7 p.m. tomorrow evening. All proceeds benefit local food banks.
- NHS is also supporting a clothing drive as well as yard clean-ups.
- Sports report: Varsity baseball had its first win of the season and plays Canton tomorrow; boys' lacrosse is 2-3; girls' lacrosse continues their impressive run and returns to action next week in Canton; girls' softball is 4-2 and hosts East Granby today; track has a meet against Canton and SMSA today; boys' tennis is 2-1 and girls' tennis is 0-2; golf has a record of 2-2; and, ultimate frisbee begins their season on Friday at Westminster.

I.E. Business Manager's Report

Ms. Anna Robbins, Business Manager, presented the March statement of accounts and stated the full-year forecast overbudget condition of \$824K which is worse than the previous month by \$34K. The favorable forecast for regular education of \$3.5K is \$19K worse than the previous month. Projected savings in salaries & benefits, transportation, supplies, textbooks, legal services, communications, and conferences & travel offset the overbudget condition in purchased instructional services, specifically substitutes. Special education is overbudget \$827K which is \$15K worse than last month primarily due to changes in out-of-district tuition and transportation. Revenue to the town is projected to be favorable \$548K which is unfavorable \$94K compared to last month. The Quality & Diversity Fund is stable and continues to trend positive for the year. Rosemarie Weber stated the Finance Subcommittee reviewed this report this evening.

I.F. Schools in the Spotlight

Ms. Kristen Rice, Math & Science Coach at Wells Road Intermediate School, along with some 4th grade and high school students presented on the StarBase Engineering Club which is a new club this year for 4th grade students interested in engineering. Ms. Rice stated the goal of the club was to gauge student and family interest in a new engineering club. The club ran for 12 weeks and was comprised of 21 4th grade students, 2 teachers, 1 club leader, and 7 high school mentors who worked with students in small groups as they navigated the engineering challenges of the week. Ms. Rice explained some of the activities such as building a tower out of index cards without using tape; moving along the floor on blue squares without touching the floor; and, building a structure out of straws and tape that could withstand a 240-mph wind without falling over. Students shared with the Board what they liked about the engineering club as well as what their favorite activity was. Students then demonstrated a pipeline activity where they each held a piece of pipeline and moved a ball without it falling to the ground. Sarah Thrall stated she loved seeing this program in action and is so happy that young students are exposed to engineering and collaborating with high school students.

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 Monica Logan that the Granby Board of Education adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed at 7:47 p.m. with two abstentions (Donna Nolan and Rosemarie Weber).

IV. Old Business

IV.A. Wells Road Intermediate School Continuous Improvement Plan Update

Ms. Pauline Greer, Principal at Wells Road Intermediate School, presented an update on the Continuous Improvement Plan for Wells Road presented in fall. She reviewed all of the goals for Wells Road beginning with *#1 Student Learning and Achievement* for Wells Road students to achieve levels of proficiency or higher on state assessment by monitoring their growth and performance over time and providing high-quality, effective instruction. The second goal under *Student Learning and Achievement* is for staff to continue developing a culture of data in which teachers gather and analyze a variety of data sources to inform instruction. These goals are being met by structured discussions focused on curriculum, data and strategies; examining data/benchmark assessments and areas of growth to create targeted goal; and continued collaboration and building Teachers College expertise with reading and writing. Ms. Greer then reviewed the achievement data which showed significant growth in 3rd and 4th grade based on STAR assessments and 5th graders showed growth in STAR reading. Students in 5th grade showed a decrease in meeting or exceeding proficiency in STAR math but did show an increase in Acadience math scores. Ms. Greer stated that Acadience is a paper and pencil test and Wells Road students did very well in all grades on this test. *Goal #2 Community Engagement* for Wells Road to enhance communication that reaches all stakeholders in a timely fashion by continuing to communicate with family and the community; promoting student advocacy and voice to lead community events; and collaborating with parent volunteers and PTO

to re-establish volunteer opportunities. *Goal #3 Safety and Social Emotional Well-Being* to fully implement social and emotional curriculum and behavioral expectations that provide a common experience for all learners and plans for intervention supports and crisis management for students. This goal is being accomplished by providing staff with ongoing professional development focusing on social emotional practices and continuing to create opportunities for celebrations and success. *Goal #4 Budget Development and Fiscal Management* to continue to create a long-term financial plan which aligns with the vision of the Board of Finance is being met by continuing to work with all stakeholders within Granby Public Schools; monitoring class size and staffing; and, continuing to review and analyze current student achievement to ensure adequate supports are in place. *Goal #5 Embracing Diversity* to ensure system-wide practices and structures are in place to support the implementation of the Granby Public Schools' Anti-Bias/Anti-Racism Plan is being met by continuing to build staff capacity around equity and social emotional learning and recognizing and bringing awareness to Cultural Heritage Months. *Board #6 Professional Learning* to implement a common instructional framework that aims to increase student engagement utilizing clear shared outcomes and practices is being accomplished by building teacher and staff capacity in using data for decision-making purposes; building teacher instructional practices by using instructional coaches; and, utilizing specialized consultants for language arts and math professional development. The Board thanked Ms. Greer for her presentation and her leadership at Wells Road and stated the program presented this evening for Schools in the Spotlight perfectly highlighted Wells Road School's emphasis on STEM.

IV.B. FY24 Budget Update

Sarah Thrall provided an update on the FY24 Budget stating the Town Public Hearing was held on April 10th and the FY24 BOE Budget was presented. There were a few questions from the public which were answered at the meeting. The vote will be held on Monday, April 24th from 12-8 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

V. New Business

V.A. First Reading of Revised Policy 4118.11/4218.11, Nondiscrimination

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 4118.11/4218.11, Nondiscrimination, to the Board for a first reading. David Peling stated the main reason for the revision is language regarding age-based discrimination. This policy will go to the Board at the next meeting for a second reading and approval.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

This subcommittee did not meet. Approved minutes are in the packet.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

Rosemarie Weber stated this subcommittee met tonight and discussed the March statement of accounts; projects going on in the district (priorities and impact on the budget); healthy food certification which will move to the full Board for a vote at the next meeting; food service agreement and potential cost going forward based on the consumer price index; and, received a building update on the roof project.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Kristina Gilton stated CREC met today and topics discussed were standardized tests for teachers and the difficulty getting certified to teach in Connecticut; retired teachers teaching as substitutes but being limited by the state as to how many hours they can work; recruitment of two (2) board members per district to be on CREC Council Committee Meetings; and, the legislative deadline of June 7th and not many bills being passed by that point. The annual meeting will be May 17th.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Whitney Sanzo stated that the GEF met on Monday evening and the main topic on the agenda was the upcoming GranBee on Friday, April 28th.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Sarah Thrall stated the calendar of events is attached with many events happening in the community.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

Sarah Thrall extended congratulations to David Peling for defending his dissertation and is now Dr. David Peling.

VI.E. Action Items

There were no action items this evening.

VII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Rosemarie Weber that the Granby Board of Education adjourn the Board of Education Meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna M. Nolan". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Donna Nolan
Board Secretary