

**Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes**  
**Wednesday, February 1, 2023, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Town Hall Meeting Room**

Present Board Members: Kristina Gilton, Monica Logan, Donna Nolan, David Peling (via Zoom), Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber, and Chase Alexander and Tess Bajek (Student Representatives)

Absent Board Members: Whitney Sanzo

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. She shared that Dr. Grossman submitted his resignation as the Superintendent of the Granby Public Schools effective June 30 2023. Dr. Grossman joined Granby in January 2020 a couple of months before one of the most challenging times in education – a global pandemic. She stated as a parent and board member she will be forever grateful to Dr. Grossman for the way he led our district during this difficult time. He was courageous, decisive and always acted in the best interest of our staff and students. He has also been a great member of our Granby community and has worked hard on behalf of our students and families. Ms. Thrall wished Dr. Grossman well in his next role and stated the Board will begin the search by appointing a search committee and expects the work to begin immediately. Updates will be communicated via email, the district website and *The Granby Drummer*.

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

- Dr. Grossman welcomed everyone in attendance as well as on Zoom and GCTV.
- Communication went out to the school community today. In full transparency, there was an incident at Wells Road Intermediate School on Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> where a student brought a knife into school to show other students. Safety protocols were immediately put into place, parents of the affected classroom were immediately contacted and a letter was sent home to Wells Road families. Dr. Grossman stated the importance of “if you see something, say something” and he commended the staff and students in this instance. He also shared the media story was told with accurate information about the events.
- The middle school and Wells Road concerts held in the last two weeks were very well attended. Dr. Grossman shared he had an opportunity to attend some strings concerts at Kelly Lane last week to see what students are learning and was very impressed.
- A health benefits meeting was held with the town last week to verify the percentage increase for health insurance which will remain the same at 6%. This is an important factor for the FY24 Budget.
- There will be a no school on February 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> in observance of the holiday and short February break.
- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. Senators Lisa Seminara and John Kissel as well as State Representative Mark Anderson are invited to the meeting to discuss educational issues as they relate to legislation. Mrs. Powell will send you some material on upcoming legislation in advance of the meeting.

Sarah Thrall reiterated that the safety of all students and staff is of the utmost importance to the Board of Education and she thanked all who acted quickly and appropriately to keep our staff and students safe.

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

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, provided updates from the Assistant Superintendent's office and added on to what Dr. Grossman said about the new spaces at the high school and shared that the Practical Arts Content Area Specialist at the high school, Ms. Sue Clark, submitted an article to the State Association of Career & Technical Education (CTE) regarding how the new spaces apply to Granby's work with, specifically, a Perkins Grant in order to continue to promote CTE. Hopefully Granby will be highlighted in this regard. Ms. Parsons also shared work that is ongoing throughout the year to ground a framework in effective instruction. This framework is used in Learning Walks to ground the observations made with the learning environment and clear shared outcomes. With clear shared outcomes, questions are asked like “What are we learning today?”; “What are we learning in this unit?”; “What are we learning this year?”; and, “What does it look like?” On Monday, the administrative team met to see where we are with this work as well as work with data teams. In addition to working with administrators, work is being done with the District Leadership Team (Coaches, Department Heads, Instructional Leaders, and Content Area Specialists)

to train that group to go out and do the work with their collaborative teams. Elements of effective instruction are equally applicable in the practical arts as they are to Wellness, to ELA and to Math. Professional learning on March 10 and May 26 will focus on those two elements as well as practicing feedback.

### **I.C. Student Representative Reports**

- Tess Bajek stated she had the opportunity to attend the dedication ceremony and ribbon-cutting which was awesome. Students are loving the new cafeteria and the food is great. New tables will be coming the end of this week and some are high top tables which students are excited about.
- Student Government is working on holding a movie night fundraiser.
- The senior class and Music Department will hold a mattress fundraiser on Sat. Feb. 25 from 10-5 p.m. Tomorrow night there is a Zoom meeting and for every person who logs into this meeting, \$10 is received for every person who joins. This money will be used for prom and Disney trip next year
- Winter coffeehouse is February 25<sup>th</sup> 7-9 p.m.
- A Glow Dance is scheduled for Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Prom is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Chase stated the winter sports season is winding down. Girls basketball is 10-5; ice hockey is 0-11; there is a wrestling match tonight; a CIAC indoor track meet will be held next Thursday at 4:30 p.m.; boys' basketball is 2-12; and, swimming & diving will visit Plainville this Friday at 4 p.m.

Sarah Thrall stated the Granby Grunts will be having an open house on February 11<sup>th</sup> from 1-5 p.m. at the high school where they will be doing a build.

## **II. Public Comment**

There were no public comments this evening.

## **III. Consent Agenda**

### **III.A. Minutes**

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Rosemarie Weber that the Granby Board of Education adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed unanimously at 7:15 p.m.

## **IV. Old Business**

### **IV.A. FY24 Budget Update**

Dr. Grossman provided an update on the FY24 Budget stating the Board of Finance met last Monday to set the guideline and the Board of Education's budget guideline is 4.99%. The proposed Plus One Budget was 5.94%. He stated the administration's recommendation will be as close as possible to the 4.99% guideline by the time he presents the budget on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Sarah Thrall inquired what every percent of the budget equates to and Dr. Grossman stated each percent equates to approximately \$360,000. Ms. Thrall reminded everyone of the budget workshops on March 8<sup>th</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **V. New Business**

### **V.A. FY24 Quality & Diversity Budget**

Dr. Grossman presented the FY24 Quality & Diversity (Q&D) Budget and reminded the Board that the Q&D Budget helps the Granby Public Schools meet the legal requirement for Connecticut school districts to increase opportunities for their students and teachers from diverse, racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds. He stated Granby Public Schools has been a participant of the Open Choice Program since its inception over 40 years ago. In FY24, the District will receive \$14,500 per Open Choice Kindergarten student. The District is hoping to enroll 92 Open Choice students next year. Dr. Grossman reviewed the guiding principles of the Q&D Budget as well as some typical items funded in the Q&D Budget, such as, magnet school and vocational school tuition; staffing; CT Teacher in Residence Program; Summer Enrichment Academy; Club and Enrichment Programs; and the Granby Equity Team. Dr. Grossman shared with the Board the personnel that will be moved from the Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Grant to the Q&D Fund (0.5 FTE Social Worker; 2.0 FTEs Intervention Tutors; and 2.0 FTEs Tutors). The Open Choice projected enrollment for FY24 was reviewed and 10 Kindergarten students are projected to attend; however, the District is learning that Granby is a bit too far for Hartford parents so our Family Engagement Specialist is working hard to recruit families to attend Granby next year. Dr. Grossman reviewed items funded by the Open Choice Academic and Social Support Grant, such as, personnel; summer camp tuition for students participating in the Open Choice Program to attend camp with peers in the community; and equity-focused professional development. Magnet School and Out-of-District student enrollment was reviewed and it is projected that 32 students will attend

magnet schools next year. Dr. Grossman encouraged Board members to discuss magnet school funding with legislators at the next Board Meeting. The District projects that \$153,180 will be spent on magnet school tuition in FY24. Dr. Grossman reiterated the importance of recruiting Open Choice students and stated this may be very difficult because, overall, Choice enrollment is down due to a low number of applications submitted. Sarah Thrall inquired what the long-term plan is for positions being moved from the grant to Q&D. Dr. Grossman stated if student achievement is on the rise, there may be a need for less tutors; however, that decision will be ground in data and is to be determined at this point. David Peling inquired when a decision can be expected with regard to magnet school tuition and Dr. Grossman stated this is a good question to ask the legislators on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **VI. Miscellaneous**

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

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

The Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting scheduled for this evening was cancelled and rescheduled to Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

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

This Subcommittee did not meet. Approved minutes can be found in the packet.

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

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

Sarah Thrall stated there will be a legislative forum on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:45-10:00 a.m. at the State Capitol.

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

There was no GEF report this evening.

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

Sarah Thrall stated the listing of events is attached to the packet.

### **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**

A motion was made by Sarah Thrall and seconded by Monica Logan that the Granby Board of Education enter into an Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent search process. Dr. Grossman was invited to attend the Executive Session. This motion passed unanimously at 7:45 p.m.

In Executive Session, a motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Kristina Gilton that the Granby Board of Education appoint itself as a search committee. This motion passed at 8:30 p.m. with one abstention. A motion was made by Sarah Thrall and seconded by Rosemarie Weber that the Granby Board of Education hire an executive search firm to conduct a search for potential candidates. This motion passed at 8:41 p.m. A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Monica Logan to adjourn the Executive Session. This motion passed unanimously at 8:42 p.m.

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Monica Logan for the Board to move back into regular session, which was seconded by Monica Logan. This motion passed at 8:43 p.m.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and Sarah Thrall to adjourn regular Board of Education Meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Nolan  
Board Secretary