

**Regular Board of Education Meeting – Draft Minutes**  
**Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Town Hall Meeting Room**

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

Absent Board Members: David Peling

Jordan Grossman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**I. Organizational Meeting - Election of Officers**

Dr. Grossman called for nominations for the position of Board Chair and stated no second is needed. The by-laws for the Granby BOE call for written votes for Board elections. He stated after the Board Chair is elected, the meeting is handed off to the newly elected Board Chair. Rosemarie Weber nominated Sarah Thrall for Board Chair. Ms. Weber stated Sarah Thrall has the best interest of all children in Granby and that she should continue to be Board Chair. There were no other nominations. Votes were as follows: Kristina Gilton (Sarah Thrall); Monica Logan (Sarah Thrall); Donna Nolan (Sarah Thrall); Whitney Sanzo (Sarah Thrall); Sarah Thrall (Sarah Thrall); and, Rosemarie Weber (Sarah). This passed with 6-0 votes for Sarah Thrall as Board Chair.

Ms. Thrall stated she is looking forward to working with each and every Board member. She asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Donna Nolan nominated Rosemarie Weber for Vice Chair. There were no other nominations. Votes were as follows: Kristina Gilton (Rosemarie Weber); Monica Logan (Rosemarie Weber); Donna Nolan (Rosemarie Weber); Whitney Sanzo (Rosemarie Weber); Sarah Thrall (Rosemarie Weber); and, Rosemarie Weber (Rosemarie Weber). This passed with 6-0 for Rosemarie Weber as Vice Chair.

Ms. Thrall asked for nominations for Secretary. Kristina Gilton nominated Donna Nolan for Secretary. There were no other nominations. Votes were as follows: Kristina Gilton (Donna Nolan); Monica Logan (Donna Nolan); Donna Nolan (Donna Nolan); Whitney Sanzo (Donna Nolan); Sarah Thrall (Donna Nolan); and, Rosemarie Weber (Donna Nolan). This passed with 6-0 votes for Donna Nolan as Secretary.

**I.A. Board Chair Subcommittee Assignments**

Sarah Thrall informed the Board that assignments to the Curriculum Subcommittee as well as the Finance Subcommittee must be assigned. Ms. Thrall asked Rosemarie Weber if she would be willing to Chair the Finance Subcommittee and Ms. Weber stated that, yes, she would. Donna Nolan and Monica Logan were invited to serve on the Finance Subcommittee. Ms. Thrall stated David Peling has stepped up and offered to Chair the Curriculum Subcommittee. Whitney Sanzo and Kristina Gilton will serve as members.

**II. Administrative Reports**

**II.A. Chairman's Corner**

Sarah Thrall, Board Chair, welcomed everyone especially students performing from Wells Road. She also welcomed new Board members, Kristina Gilton, Monica Logan, Donna Nolan, and Whitney Sanzo who were officially sworn in this evening and also to Rosemarie Weber and student representatives Tess Bajek and Jacob Scotto.

**II.B. Superintendent's Announcements**

- Dr. Grossman welcomed everyone in attendance and virtually as well as on Zoom and a special welcome to Ms. Jessica Foskitt, Strings Teacher, as well as some of her 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, who are here to present for Schools in the Spotlight this evening as well as to Angela Ehrenwerth, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, who is here to present her Continuous Improvement Plan for the Pupil Services Department this evening.
- Congratulations to the Drama Club for their performance of *Radium Girls*. Dr. Grossman stated he attended this play in person and it was a wonderful experience for our students as well as the audience.
- Best Buddies had a Friendsgiving today at the high school. It was great to see students having fun together.
- Congratulations to the Board on receiving the CAFE Level Two Leadership Award as well as the Bonnie Carney Communications Award for our Stronger Together Plan. These awards were presented at the CAFE/CAPSS Conference this past Friday.
- The fall edition of the *Vision* is complete and will be in mailboxes in the next week or so.
- Taylor Wrye has been invited to participate in a series of focus groups to share thinking on what should be considered in the design of Virtual Learning Standards for Connecticut Public Schools. Focus groups will be held on November 18<sup>th</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- The high school will participate in a program Voice4change, a state-wide civic initiative. GMHS is the only Farmington Valley high school participating in this program.
- Still in need of bus drivers and substitute teachers. Please contact our business office.
- The FY23 Budget is underway and the Plus One Budget will be presented in January.
- Kelly Lane and Wells Road held outdoor celebrations for Veterans Day and the middle and high schools honored veterans during classroom time.
- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **II.C. Assistant Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, provided updates from her office and stated last week the district announced the "Screen and Stay" program which was instituted by the Governor. This program allows students to remain in school while parents monitor symptoms for COVID-19. A signoff form needs to be completed and the nurse checks the form as well as the student. Ms. Parsons stated this does not apply to out-of-school exposures and areas where mask compliance may not be strong (i.e., lunch, chorus, band, PE). She also stated communications will shift to the building level and principals will communicate with families going forward. The dashboard will continue to be updated on the website. She informed the Board that an average of 6-7 cases per week are being reported. She stated a vaccination clinic was held this evening at the high school for 350 5-11 year olds. She reminded families to send in the vaccination card to the school nurse. She informed the Board there is continued discussion around the math program Grades K-10 as well as Readers' & Writers' Workshop up to Grade 6. She stated she was able to see the Illustrative Math consultant at the middle school this week who is working on how to implement lessons. She also stated she has wrapped up goal-setting and observation meetings and submitted the Perkins Grant which supports college and career. Granby has partnered with Canton this year on this grant.

### **II.D. Student Representative Reports**

- Tess Bajek stated volleyball, field hockey and girls' soccer all made it to the semifinals but sadly lost. Also, boys' soccer made it to the quarter finals and sadly lost.
- Football has their last game this Friday at home and will go into the playoffs.
- Wrestling had a meeting this week to discuss the season.
- Indoor track, swimming, wrestling, hockey, cheerleading, and basketball are getting ready for their seasons.
- Assisted at the vaccine clinic tonight and entertained the kids who received their vaccinations.
- NHS held their annual Turkey Trot and collected \$813.
- The fall coffeehouse will be held this Saturday and tickets are \$5 online or at the door. This event will be livestreamed as well. Both Tess and Jacob will perform at the coffeehouse.
- Drama auditions for the spring musical, *Guys & Dolls* will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Chamber singers will have first performance on December 10<sup>th</sup> for the senior men's breakfast.

### **II.E. Business Manager's Report**

Ms. Anna Robbins, Business Manager, presented the October statement of accounts and stated there is a positive forecast of \$161K which is better by \$43K over last month. Special education expenditures are projected to be unfavorable \$20K and regular education is projected to be favorable \$181K. The driving factor for the positive forecast in regular education continues to be turnover in personnel. The positive variance in special education is in out-of-district transportation, certified staff and teaching assistants have offset the over-budget condition in out-of-district tuition. The Q&D Fund is projected to be favorable at \$106K due to lower magnet school enrollment but also reflects a lower than budgeted enrollment in Open Choice students as well as not running summer school programs. Revenue to the town is better than projected by \$21K. Excess cost funding from the state is projected to be lower than budgeted. Projections for rental and pay-for-participation fees are uncertain at this time.

### **II.F. Schools in the Spotlight**

Ms. Jessica Foskitt, Strings Teacher, and some of her 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students showcased the Strings Program at Wells Road Intermediate School. Mrs. Greer stated it is amazing how quickly students learn to play the violin. Katie Allshouse, Andrew Harvey, Britton Mahoney, Alana Maher, and Megan Rice informed the Board of various techniques when playing the violin. The group performed a few songs for the Board. Sarah Thrall inquired what grade they started playing and most students started in Second Grade. Ms. Foskitt informed the Board of her background in music. She is a freelance performer, taught at the Hartt School for 10 years and currently plays with the Hartford and Springfield Symphonies. Ms. Foskitt stated next year the viola and cello will be added to Wells Road and the Middle School with hopefully an orchestra assembled by the time these students get to high school.

### III. Public Comment

Eileen Swan, Granby, stated if the district continually underbudgets special education they will always be overbudget. Ms. Swan also expressed her gratitude for Angela Ehrenwerth, the new Director of Pupil Personnel Services stating she is making positive and good changes in special education.

Gennie Busse, Granby, thanked Ms. Ehrenwerth for hiring Barbara Trinksm the Out-of-District Facilitator. She also stated she is hosting a Sophomore foreign exchange student from Germany and expressed her gratitude for Colleen Nisbet, Guidance Counselor at the high school who has been very helpful, flexible and supportive.

Laura Matheos, 7 Candlewood Lane, Granby, commented about professional development training for teachers which focuses on the best ways to support kids with emotional and social needs and inquired what the best way is to continue this conversation beyond the public comment of this meeting. Ms. Matheos was told to contact either Ms. Angela Ehrenwerth or Ms. Jennifer Parsons.

### IV. Consent Agenda

#### IV.A. Minutes

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Sarah Thrall to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed with one abstention (Kristina Gilton) at 7:56 p.m.

**V. Old Business** - There was no Old Business to report.

### VI. New Business

#### VI.A. Pupil Services Department Continuous Improvement Plan

Ms. Angela Ehrenwerth, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, presented her Continuous Improvement Plan for the Pupil Services Department and stated she is excited to share the work done so far this year. There are many parallels to the school buildings across the district and presented her goals as follows: **Goal #1 Student Learning and Achievement** is for students with special needs to show measurable gains in academic achievement when provided effective core instruction, specialized instruction and ongoing progress monitoring of performance by continuing to build staff capacity in general education standards; design specialized instruction that is standards and curriculum aligned; and, providing instruction coaching to PK-5 special education teachers in literacy. Ms. Ehrenwerth reviewed some of the measures for identified students. She shared The shared the STAR fall baseline percentage of identified students as well as the spring goal for both Reading and Math. She also reviewed data for identified students for SBAC and SAT testing and shared the percentage of students showing a score increase in 2019-2021 and the goal for these students in 2021-2022. SAT scores were reviewed for identified students in the Class of 2023. **Goal #2 Community Engagement** is to partner with families to support engagement, ongoing communication and collaboration between staff and families by continuing to partner with Special Education Parent Teacher Organization; a monthly newsletter highlighting the work of the department; and ongoing collaboration with families. **Goal #3 Safety and Social Emotional Well-Being** is to support social/emotional/behavioral learning of students and staff to foster a positive learning environment that is responsive and encouraging by ongoing professional development in social/emotional learning; providing support and assistance for interventions; and, working with the district SEL Committee to examine curriculum, interventions and supports at all tiers. **Goal #4 Budget Development and Fiscal Management** is to aim to be fiscally responsible through careful identification of needs and appropriate spending to support student learning and growth by examining PK-12 special education service delivery; monitoring caseloads and assignments of staff; and, collaborating with neighboring towns to explore cooperative programming. **Goal #5 Embracing Diversity** is to support the implementation of the GPS anti-bias/anti-racism plan by promoting equitable practices and outcomes for all students by supporting the mission of Best Buddies and Unified Sports; continuing to build staff capacity to differentiate instruction and assessment; and, examining special education data for trends and patterns using an equity lens. **Goal #6 Professional Learning** is to provide meaningful professional learning opportunities to enhance practice and increase learning outcomes by working with the Great Schools Partnership to align and be consistent with learning environment and shared outcomes; providing quality IEP training; and, conducting needs assessment of professional training needs.

Rosemarie Weber inquired if the STAR assessment data included 504 students and Ms. Ehrenwerth stated it does not. She also inquired if the assessment data is included in their IEP and the answer to that is yes. Ms. Weber also inquired under Goal #3 if there will be any changes to the curriculum regarding SEL and, if so, will those go through the Curriculum SC. Ms. Ehrenwerth stated a district-wide committee will come away with recommendations and Ms. Parsons stated the committee in process of making goals and she does not foresee

curriculum adoption being necessary. Sarah Thrall inquired about CASEL framework and perhaps the Board should take a deeper dive into this to be familiar with it as it is mentioned in all Continuous Improvement Plans. Ms. Parsons stated there may be goals to share with the Board around February. Ms. Thrall also inquired with regard to budget development, what was the average caseload. Ms. Ehrenwerth stated it varies per grade level. Monica Logan inquired with regard to collaboration, why East Granby, Suffield and Windsor Locks. Ms. Ehrenwerth stated she has no historical knowledge of why this is a group. Ms. Logan also inquired about the alternative education program. Ms. Ehrenwerth stated it would be for our students specifically to address social/emotional needs in a different way. Whitney Sanzo inquired if there will be a subcommittee to explore the alternative education program. Dr. Grossman stated it will be run out of the Superintendent's office and will be a long-range plan involving administration, parents and Board members. Ms. Sanzo also inquired if there have been any conversations with Hartland regarding collaboration. Ms. Ehrenwerth stated she does not know but thanked Ms. Sanzo for the suggestion.

#### **VI.B. Draft 2022-2023 School Calendar**

The draft 2022-2023 school calendar was presented to the Board. Dr. Grossman highlighted changes to the calendar as follows: School will start a few days later than last year (August 30<sup>th</sup>); the first two days of school will be early release days to help students and staff transition; and, the professional development day usually held in October will be held on March 10<sup>th</sup>. This calendar will go to the Board for approval at the next meeting.

#### **VI.C. First Reading of Revised Policy 0200 - Vision-Mission-Goals**

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 0200, Vision-Mission-Goals, to the Board for a first reading. This policy will go to the Board for a second reading and approval at the next meeting.

#### **VI.D. First Reading of Revised Policy 1110.1 - Communications with the Public**

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 1110.1, Communications with the Public, to the Board for a first reading. Ms. Parsons stated the major change is to incorporate a virtual component for parent conferences. This policy will go to the Board for a second reading and approval at the next meeting.

### **VII. Miscellaneous**

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

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

Sarah Thrall stated the minutes of the last meeting were attached and this Subcommittee has not met.

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

Sarah Thrall stated this Subcommittee met last Friday to review the statement of accounts.

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

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

Sarah Thrall stated Mark Fiorentino used to provide an update on CREC. A new Board member will be assigned to be on CREC Council. Additionally, she stated Rosemarie Weber and Jenny Emery were honored for 10 years of service to the Board of Education at the CABE/CAPSS Convention this past Friday.

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

Whitney Sanzo stated the GEF is working with the high school on the broadcast studio; the GranBee will be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>; and, GEF will be a judge for the high school poetry jam in January. Sarah Thrall stated a new Board member will be appointed to the GEF.

#### **VII.C. Calendar of Events**

Sarah Thrall stated early release for middle school/high school tomorrow, fall coffeehouse and conferences.

#### **VII.D. Board Member Announcements** - There were no Board member announcements this evening.

#### **VII.E. Action Items** - There were no action items this evening.

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

There was no need to enter into an Executive Session this evening. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Donna Nolan to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Nolan, Board Secretary