

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes
Wednesday, March 2, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

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

Absent Board Members: None

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

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Chairman's Corner

Sarah Thrall, Board Chair, welcomed high school students Perce Boit and Carly DeMartino as well as Mrs. Bastiaanse and administrators who were present. She also extended a special thank you to Math Coaches, Amy Lupoli, Kristin Rice and Dawn Olsen who presented at the Curriculum Subcommittee this evening.

I.B. Superintendent's Announcements

- Dr. Grossman welcomed those in attendance and virtually and also welcomed students and seniors Carly and Pearce who are here to present for Schools in the Spotlight.
- Congratulations to Katrina McCord, Poetry Out Loud winner, who is one of 5 state finalists to participate in the Poetry Out Loud final competition on March 5th.
- Kelly Lane and Wells Road collected over \$16,000 for the annual Kids Heart Challenge which raises money for the American Heart Association.
- A Superintendent's Community Conversation was held last week and approximately 30 people attended. The next one is scheduled for April 19th at 10 a.m. via Zoom to discuss the budget.
- A combined middle school/high school PAC meeting will be held on April 4th at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom to also discuss the budget.
- Online Kindergarten registration began on Feb 1st and there are 71 students registered including current PK students.
- The snow day last Friday used the 4th emergency day and the current last day of school is Monday, June 13th. There is one more emergency day to give on the calendar before making a decision to add days at the end of the year.
- There will be an early release for all schools for professional development on Friday, March 11th.
- A Budget Workshop will be held on Wednesday, March 9th. The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on March 16th when the Board will vote on the FY23 Administrative Budget.
- March is Board of Education Appreciation Month and Dr. Grossman thanked all Board members for their service on behalf of all of the students and the community stating it is a thankless job involving countless hours working with teachers and administration on behalf of children in the community.

Sarah Thrall also thanked Board members and the student representatives for their service and devoting time to serve on the Board.

I.C. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, stated our three Math Coaches attended the Curriculum Subcommittee tonight to give an update on the work moved forward last year to implement the Illustrative Math Program as our primary math resource in Grade 6-8 and to talk about how we have explored resources and piloted some units in Grades K-5 and also at the Algebra level this year. She shared that teachers are feeling positive about the new resources and the results they are seeing with conceptual understanding and the District will move forward with that resource in K-5 next year and will continue work with CREC. Ms. Parsons also shared that this Friday, the second learning walk will occur and Tess Bajek and Kristina Gilton will join the team of 12 who will visit all four schools to observe what is happening in the learning environment. There will be over 200 short, brief observations. The last

learning walk of the year will be held in May. David Peling inquired if teachers attend the learning walk and Ms. Parsons stated, yes, approximately 6-7 teachers attend.

I.D. Student Representative Reports

- Tess Bajek stated students have been very happy about masks being optional and the energy at school has been much better. Students are also very excited we do not have to wear masks at sports games now as well.
- Girls' basketball won the NCCC tournament and will receive a second banner.
- Boys' basketball is on to their second round of the NCCC tournament.
- Girls' basketball won their first states game and will be moving forward.
- There was a boys' hockey game last night which we sadly lost but there was another one today.
- Boys' basketball will play their second round of the NCCC tournament tonight.
- There was a swim meet yesterday which we won 91-59.
- Spring sports are starting up and students are signing up and preparing for the season.
- Jacob Scotto conveyed congratulations to Katrina McCord for advancing through the regional Poetry Out Loud competition as one of 5 state finalists to compete.
- NHS is hosting Empty Bowls, an event with live music and hot food on March 18th, 5-7 p.m. in the high school commons. All proceeds go to Granby and Hartland food banks
- The GMHS Performing Arts are performing Damn Yankees, March 11-13.

I.E. Schools in the Spotlight

Mr. Michael Dunn, GMHS Principal, welcomed GMHS Seniors Carly DeMartino and Pearce Boit, along with their Capstone teacher, Margaret Bastiaanse who spoke about how the Capstone projects at the high school have evolved. Capstone has been in place at the high school for several years and is one of the graduation projects. Topics range from anything students are passionate about from mental health of students in school with social media as well as air conditioning. Carly DeMartino stated her Capstone presentation was on "Laughter is the Best Medicine" and stated it is one of the most important projects she has done in HS. She stated the research for the project is on a much larger scale than other projects worked on at the high school. One of the parts of the research is to find an expert which is another important step and having a formal interview. Pearce Boit spoke about choosing the topic and his project was on the effects of the BLM protests. He stated finding the topic is one of the most important steps for the project and that it cannot be a broad topic. He is very proud of his project and stated he has learned so much along the way giving him better communication skills in preparing him for college. Ms. Bastiaanse stated it has been one of the best experiences she has had as a teacher in Granby as it gave her an opportunity to support students as a coach/mentor. She stated students are able to leave high school with life and communication skills applicable for their college and career lives. Ms. Bastiaanse thanked Mr. Dunn for giving her the opportunity to end her career in Granby working on these projects.

Sarah Thrall inquired how the students narrowed down their passion project. Pearce stated he went in with a vague idea but after your research is done it leads you to what should be your focus. Carly stated her topic was something she believed in as well as she expanded on a speech she had given. Whitney Sanzo inquired if the Capstone project videos are available online. Mr. Dunn stated the GMHS Media Center has links on the website to Capstone projects. David Peling inquired if all seniors do Capstone Projects and Ms. Bastiaanse stated, yes, there were 3 sections this semester and there will be 7 sections in the spring. Dr. Grossman shared the District is looking for K-12 alignment (which will be presented to the Board next year) for students to build skills toward creating their Capstone projects.

Before moving on to the next agenda item, Sarah Thrall asked Tess Bajek to give an update on the boys' basketball game and Tess reported Granby won with a final score 50-44 and that Granby will be moving on to the final round of the NCCC Tournament and will be in the State Tournament next week.

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 David Peling that the Granby Board of Education adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed unanimously at 7:48 p.m.

IV. Old Business

There was no Old Business to report.

V. New Business

V.A. Approval of Bus Contract Extension

The Board discussed the approval of the bus contract extension for CREC Transportation Services effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2027. Dr. Grossman stated this contract has been reviewed and discussed at the Finance Subcommittee Meeting as well as by our attorney and Town Manager. The district is pleased with the services CREC transportation is providing and requested an extension of the current bus contract. Rosemarie Weber stated the Finance Subcommittee discussed the contract and looked at the numbers of going out to bid or the extension and it made sense financially to keep the quality of the transportation received from CREC as well as the stability. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Donna Nolan that the Granby Board of Education approve the extension of the CREC Transportation Services Contract effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2027. This motion passed unanimously at 7:50 p.m.

V.A. FY23 Administrative Budget Presentation

Dr. Grossman presented the FY23 Administrative Budget to the Board. He thanked the administrative team as well as the teachers for their involvement in the development process and also thanked Anna Robbins stating behind every good superintendent is a very good Business Manager. Additionally, Dr. Grossman thanked the Board of Finance led by Mike Guarco who has been a true partner with the BOE and stated he has never worked in town that worked so collaboratively. He stated this budget is grounded in what is best for children as well our Vision of a Graduate. He reviewed the Board of Education goals as well as the administrative budget priorities, and enrollment numbers for next year and beyond. He stated declining enrollment is a thing of the past and that enrollment will steadily increase over the next 5 years. Class sizes were then reviewed and Dr. Grossman stated Granby's class sizes align with the BOE class guidelines. With regard to per pupil expenditure, Granby performs very well and spends less on education than 105 other districts out of 166 districts. Additionally, Granby performs very well for the money spent per pupil. On the 2021 SAT, only 3 districts performed higher than Granby and spent less on education. Dr. Grossman reviewed projected revenue and stated any revenue that the schools bring in does not go into the BOE account but, rather, into a town account. Dr. Grossman informed the Board that the Plus One Budget was presented at 4.26% and his administrative budget is coming in at 3.69% which is under the BOF guideline of 3.78%. The FY23 Budget comes in at \$34,406,537. He reminded the Board to just roll over this year's budget to next year is 1.74%; add in special education and it is 2.65%; add in all other net additions/reductions and it is 4.06%; and, with the retirement savings it is 3.69%. Dr. Grossman stated that approximately 75% of the budget is on regular and special education salaries and benefits. New personnel in the budget were reviewed as follows: +7.9 FTEs in the Operating Budget; +0.4 FTE in the Title II Grant; +0.2 FTE in the ESSER Grant; +0.5 FTE in the Open Choice Academic & Support Grant; and, + 0.5 FTE Q&D Fund. Small capital highlights were then reviewed as follows: Transportation \$191K; Building Maintenance \$403K; Furniture & Equipment \$115K; and Technology \$290K. Dr. Grossman stated there will be a budget workshop on Wednesday, March 9th and Board members were asked to send any questions to Linda, Anna and Dr. Grossman by noon on Friday, March 4th. Dr. Grossman stated he believes this is a very responsible budget which will continue to move the district forward.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

David Peling stated much of the meeting was on discussing the new math resource for the Illustrative Math Program. Everyone is looking forward to further implementation next year.

VI. Miscellaneous (Cont'd)

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

This subcommittee did not meet.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Sarah Thrall stated she and Dr. Grossman attended the legislative forum last week. Information will be coming out on the CABE Day on the Hill later in the month.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Whitney Sanzo stated a GEF grant was awarded for a poster printer at Kelly Lane submitted by Amber Wyzik. She also shared the GranBee is coming up on April 22nd and the GEF is looking for sponsors and teams. She thanked Sarah Thrall who is sponsoring a DECA team. Kristina Gilton stated the GEF is a great event and the largest fundraiser for the GEF and that Granby Public Schools are the biggest recipient of grants from the GEF. The GranBee has not been held since 2019.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Sarah stated lots of activities going on - Empty Bowls, musical, Wells Road drama performance. Please support where you can.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

Whitney Sanzo stated fall registration opens up for the BearCats on March 17th, which is a youth football league for Grades 3-8 and cheer league for Grades 2-8. Donna Nolan stated her two sons participated in BearCats and it is a great feeder program for the high school. Dr. Grossman offered to post their flyer in the digital backpack on the website.

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 Donna Nolan and seconded by Rosemarie Weber to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Nolan
Board Secretary