

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes
Wednesday, September 6, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present Board Members: Kristina Gilton, Katharine Leenders, Monica Logan, Donna Nolan, David Peling, Whitney Sanzo, Rosemarie Weber, and Katherine O’Neill and Chase Alexander (Student Representatives).

Absent Board Members: N/A

Rosemarie Weber called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Chairman's Corner

Rosemarie Weber, Board Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting as well as those joining on Zoom. Ms. Weber stated she is wearing her t-shirt which has on it the theme for the school year “let kindness ripple” and stated these words matter and hit at the core of what Granby does as a district, a Board and in classrooms. Ms. Weber stated this is her first Board Meeting as the Chair. She thanked Sarah Thrall for all of her work as Board Chair. She informed everyone that Katharine Leenders will occupy the seat for Ms. Thrall and announced the new Vice Chair is Donna Nolan; the Secretary is Monica Logan; and lastly a new Student Representative is joining the board, Katie O’Neill, who is a Junior at the high school and plays volleyball, basketball and the flute. Ms. Weber stated the other student representative, Chase Alexander, is at a soccer practice this evening, so she made a motion which was seconded by Whitney Sanzo to amend the agenda moving the student representative reports down a little further. This motion passed unanimously at 7:03 p.m.

I.B. Superintendent's Report

- Ms. Burke stated it has been a great start to the school year and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She also extended a special welcome to Ms. Jennifer Miller, Ms. Katie Busbey and Ms. Bethany Grupp who were present this evening to report on summer programming.
- Congratulations to Ms. Heather Tanis who was selected as the new Principal of GMMS at the start of the school year. Ms. Tanis emerged as the top candidate for this position and the staff is extremely happy that she is the new leader. Ms. Burke also shared that the district is very fortunate that Mr. Bogen will continue on as an Interim Assistant Principal while a search is conducted.
- 23 new teachers began on August 21st with new teacher orientation. All staff started back on August 24th for convocation. Meet and greets were held for Pre-K through Grade 6 as well as Freshman Orientation. August 29th was the highlight welcoming students back to the 2023-2024 school year.
- Thank you to all of the staff members (custodians, maintenance, office staff) who worked over the summer preparing for the school year.
- School projects ran on schedule and the high school roof was completed in time.
- Weather-related early release days were scheduled for September 6th and 7th due to the heat.
- Upcoming events: Curriculum Night at the high school September 7th at 6:30 p.m.; Curriculum Night for the middle school on Sept. 14th from 6-8; and a SEPTO Meeting on September 11th in the Wells Road Media Center at 7:30 p.m.
- The process of developing a district communications plan has begun. The district is sending an email regarding a survey and focus groups. Community members who do not have children in the district can also participate. The first community focus group is on September 13th.

I.C. Student Representative Reports

This item was moved to later in the agenda.

I. Public Comment

Bill Regan, 62 Hungary Road, Granby, extended his congratulations to the new Board Chair, Rosemarie Weber, on her appointment. He stated he wrote a Letter to the Editor in the last edition of *The Drummer* and is hopeful that the new Superintendent’s goals posted on the agenda will come to fruition. It was not helpful at the meeting in June that all parents in person and on Zoom were not able to speak at that meeting; however, he is hopeful the new Superintendent will take these comments under advisement.

Beth Carroll, Quail Lane, North Granby, stated she was pleased to hear about community surveys as it speaks to herself living in town for 20 years with no children. She shared an observation as a person who has lived and worked in a variety of countries throughout her career and finds the ELA skills of students in town could be better and would rather it be a priority for all grade levels.

II. Consent Agenda

II.A. Minutes

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by David Peling that the Granby Board of Education adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed with one abstention (Whitney Sanzo) at 7:17 p.m.

III. Old Business

There was no Old Business to report.

IV. New Business

IV.A. Summer Programming Report

Ms. Jennifer Miller, Director of Extended Year Summer School, Ms. Katie Busbey, Director of the Summer Enrichment Academy, and Ms. Bethany Grupp, Family Engagement Specialist, provided a report to the Board on this year's summer programming. Ms. Miller presented on the Extended School Year Program for students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) as recommended through PPTs. All programs were offered in-person as follows: Pre-K Camp Kelly; Targeted Academic Tutoring; Social Skills Camp; and a Secondary Social, Academic & Vocational Program. 76 students received individual tutoring sessions which based on students' goals and objectives in the IEP. She stated the vocational program had 16 students participate in Grades 7-12+. Katie Busbey presented on the programming for general education students and stated the credit recovery program had 17 students participate to remediate credit toward graduation requirements. The enrichment part of the summer programming is optional with a total of 110 registrations with many students taking multiple classes. Classes were offered for Grades 1-3 and 4-6. Students participated in hands-on science experiments, clay projects, watercolor painting and strings performances. Students were invited to attend an intervention program based on intervention services and 35 students participated. Ms. Busbey stated moving forward for summer programming, the changes made this year were extremely successful and a future goal would be to advance program opportunities for students to meet their unique learning needs. Bethany Grupp presented on the Salmon Brook Park Camp offered to all Open Choice participants in Grades 1-5. Twelve (12) students participated this year which was a little lower than last year. Lunch and bussing to/from central locations was provided for all students. She also shared students were able to participate in a special program called CT Invention Convention, Inc. which involved entrepreneurial and innovation activities. Ms. Weber stated the summer programming enriches students and is appreciated by parents. She inquired how the Board can assist in summer programming in the upcoming budget season. Ms. Busbey will keep the board informed regarding future program needs.

V.B. Superintendents Annual Goals 2023-2024

Ms. Burke presented her annual goals for the 2023-2024 school year to the Board. She thanked the Board for allowing her to share her commitment to Granby and stated she reviewed the Strategic Plan as well as all of the individual school continuous improvement plans. Ms. Burke stated her goal has been to listen and learn as much as she can about the current practices of the district with regard to what is working very well and what may not be working well to assess where the district is in a very quick amount of time. She hopes to bring an articulated plan of purposeful and measurable goals. While all goals will continue to be embedded in the district's work, Ms. Burke highlighted Goal #1, *Student Learning and Achievement*, as an overarching goal for 100% of students to demonstrate growth toward mastery of Science, ELA and Math as measured by performance at the proficiency level or higher on state summative assessments. She explained the expected growth this year as follows: 80% of students to meet proficiency or higher in ELA (14% increase); 70% growth in Math (Approx. 17% increase); and, 80% in Next Generation Science Standards (9% increase). Ms. Burke also highlighted Goal 2, *Community Engagement*, to enhance communication and build trusting relationships with all stakeholders, Ms. Burke shared components to develop a District Communications Plan: Assess current practice; conduct survey groups; connect with focus groups; identify strengths and weaknesses and determine priorities and recommendations; create communications plan with measurable objectives, prepare strategies and timeline; and, implement and evaluate the plan. Donna Nolan thanked Ms. Burke stating the main ideas that came from the community feedback during the Superintendent Search were student assessment and

communication. Ms. Weber echoed what was stated and she appreciated the fact that Ms. Burke selected two goals in order to make progress and zero in on what is important to the community.

V. Miscellaneous

V.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

David Peling stated this subcommittee met this evening to discuss the Assistant Superintendent's Monthly Report as follows: EduClimber has been rolled out; planning for a community Book Festival at Granby Public Library; 23 new staff successfully onboarded; reviewed new legislation on social/emotional learning; grant writing for the Open Choice Academic & Social Support Grant as well as Title I, II, III and IV; Open Choice enrollment; Teacher in Residence (3rd Year); and, professional learning plans. Also reviewed SBAC and SAT data and looking forward to more information going forward. Additionally, there are four potential policies which will be brought forward to the subcommittee in October.

I.C. Student Representative Reports (Motion was made to move further down on the agenda)

- Chase Alexander stated high school sports are up and running. The boys' soccer game is rescheduled to Saturday, September 8th, at 9 a.m. due to the heat; girls' volleyball plays Suffield at 6 p.m. tomorrow night; football returns to action Friday night vs. Rockville at 6:30 p.m.; field hockey plays Canton next Tuesday; cross country starts their season next week vs. Rockville and Coventry; and, girls' soccer kicks off their season next Thursday vs. Stafford at 4 p.m. Best of luck to all student athletes!
- NHS and Student Government have held their first meetings and started to plan events including blood drives, tutoring opportunities, and homecoming week festivities.
- Senior traditions kicked off on the first day with seniors decorating their parking spots and enjoying the sunrise with games and snacks the first morning of school.
- The GMHS activities fair scheduled for today will be rescheduled.

V.A. 2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

This subcommittee has not met. Minutes from the last meeting are in the packet.

V.B. Other Board-Related Reports

V.B.1. CREC/CABE

Kristina Gilton stated CREC has not yet met this year.

V.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Whitney Sanzo stated the GEF will have their first meeting on September 18th.

V.C. Calendar of Events

Rosemarie Weber stated the calendar of events is as shown.

V.D. Board Member Announcements

There were no Board Member announcements.

V.E. Action Items

There were no action items this evening.

VI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by David Peling that the Granby Board enter into an Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining matters. This motion passed unanimously at 7:57 p.m. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Whitney Sanzo for the Board to adjourn Executive Session. This Motion passed at 8:17 p.m. A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by David Peling that the Granby Board of Education enter back into the regular session. This motion passed unanimously at 8:18 p.m. A motion was made by Kristina Gilton and seconded by Donna Nolan that the Granby Board of Education adjourn the regular meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monica Logan
Board Secretary