

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Draft Minutes
Wednesday, January 18, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present Board Members: Kristina Gilton, Monica Logan, Donna Nolan, David Peling, Whitney Sanzo, Sarah Thrall, and Rosemarie Weber

Absent Board Members: Chase Alexander and Tess Bajek (Student Representatives)

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 stated the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Board of Education came together and met on Tuesday evening to discuss the budget. She thanked Board members who were able to attend. Ms. Thrall shared that there will be no student representative reports this evening due to high school exams. She also welcomed Brian Maltese, Athletic Director, who was in attendance to give a report on high school athletics this evening.

I.B. Superintendent's Announcements

- Dr. Grossman welcomed everyone in attendance and extended a special welcome to Mr. Brian Maltese, High School Athletic Director, who was in attendance to present on fall and winter sports programming.
- Dr. Grossman thanked Sarah Thrall for presenting the BOE's FY24 Plus One Budget at the Three-Board Meeting last evening and also to Board members present at that meeting. He stated at the Board of Finance Meeting next week, a budget guideline will be determined in order to generate the FY24 Administrative Budget which will be presented to the Board of Education on March 1st.
- A dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the high school building project will be held tomorrow, Thursday, January 19th at 4:00 p.m. with a reception following.
- The middle school will have a band concert tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. and there will be a 5th grade concert next Thursday, January 26th at 7:00 p.m. Both will be held in the high school auditorium.
- A health benefits meeting will be held with the town on Monday to discuss the health insurance number in our budget currently to see if this number will remain the same.
- Poetry Out Loud finals will be held next Wednesday.
- There will be an 8th Grade Electives Fair on Friday next week for incoming 9th graders at the high school.
- Junior Planning Meetings will be held at the high school on Thursday, January 26th with morning and evening sessions.
- A High School PAC Meeting will be held on Monday, January 31st at 6 p.m. in the High School Media Center.
- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 1st.

I.C. Student Representative Reports

- There were no student representative reports this evening.

I.D. Business Manager's Report

Ms. Anna Robbins, Business Manager, presented the December 2022 statement of accounts stating the full-year forecast shows an anticipated overbudget condition of \$696K which is worse than the previous month by \$82K. The favorable forecast for regular education of \$71K is \$31K better than the previous month. Purchased instructional services, specifically substitutes, continues to contribute to the overbudget condition. The cost of bus fuel has come down in the last month which is reflected in the forecast. The district locked in on a heating oil rate for the remaining deliveries in FY23 at Kelly Lane and Wells Road. The high school and middle school are fueled by natural gas. Ms. Robbins stated special education is overbudget \$767K which is \$113K worse than last month. The overbudget condition continues to reflect multiple changes in placements since the budget was developed. Revenue to the town is projected to be favorable \$443K. The full-year forecast shows a \$363K favorable variance in the Special Education Cost Grant and an \$80K favorable variance in revenues from special education tuition charged to other towns. The Quality &

Diversity Fund is stable and continues to trend positively for this year and for the five-year forecast. Rosemarie Weber stated the statement of accounts was reviewed and accepted at tonight's Finance Subcommittee Meeting.

II. Public Comment

Eileen Swan informed the Board she is a parent of a student currently attending a transition program which has had much upheaval as it is a program for students with varying disabilities and it has taken her son a long time to adjust. She stated Granby currently sends students out to a program that is not in our community. She shared that she does believe there will be growing pains with a new transition program; however, keeping our students in the community will help them tremendously. She stated she also feels this program will only grow and get better and it is good to start small. Ms. Swan stated it is in the Board's best interest to support this program.

III. Consent Agenda

III.A. Minutes

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Donna Nolan that the Granby Board of Education adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed with one abstention (Kristina Gilton) at 7:14 p.m.

IV. New Business

IV.A. Athletic Update: Fall Re-Cap/Winter Preview

Mr. Brian Maltese, Athletic Director, provided an update on the fall sports season as well as a preview of the winter sports season. He stated there was approximately 50% participation at the high school and approximately 44% participation at the middle school and 23 out of 48 students in the Open Choice program participated in sports at the middle school and high school. Mr. Maltese shared that overall, the sports record for high school sports was 87-40-4 and 75% of fall athletes obtained honor roll status the first quarter. The girls' volleyball team were NCCC Champions and field hockey, football and girls' volleyball reached the CIAC State Quarterfinals. Additionally, 7 students made All State athletes; 1 student made All New England soccer; and to-date 9 students committed to further their education and play a sport at the next level which is a tremendous number of students this year. Mr. Maltese reviewed winter participation numbers and stated the CIAC is planning on full tournament play. Unified basketball will begin next week and is planning to have games with Suffield, Windsor Locks, Ellington, and Somers. Next, Mr. Maltese reviewed the 8th grade survey results and about 54% of students are planning to participate in at least one sport while at the high school. Mr. Maltese informed the Board that a new camera was installed outside on the stadium field for livestream sports. He thanked the Athletic Booster Club for the bench shelters for soccer and football players. The Board thanked Mr. Maltese for everything he does for high school athletics.

V. Old Business

V.A. Approval of Post-Secondary Transition Program

The Board continued to discuss and considered the approval of the Post-Secondary Transition Program for 18- to-22-year-old students beginning in the 2023-2024 school year. Dr. Grossman reminded everyone that a proposal was presented at the last meeting regarding a transition program that would align with our goals to bring Granby students back into district; however, he stated it is relative to a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) and is an offering we would provide as a choice. Dr. Grossman stated the YMCA is very excited to have Granby Public Schools as a partner. He stated one question that came up at the last meeting was with regard to sharing financials of the current program and after checking with legal counsel, learned that projected costs within the program can be shared with the Board. Dr. Grossman stated the sole purpose for this program is for students to stay within a familiar community and if it happens to save money that is a great thing as well. He shared the current FY23 cost of \$263K and next year is projected to be \$391K if students remain out-of-district. He shared that if a program is brought in-district, the cost would be approximately \$264K which is a savings of \$130K. The projected cost is relative to transportation, rentals, supplies, a special education teacher, and a job coach as well as services related to the IEP. He stated this projection is based on 5 students; however, it can be up to 8 students and upwards from there if we allow students from other towns to attend and this was explained to the Finance Subcommittee earlier this evening. Rosemarie Weber stated based on the last BOE Meeting, an action item was noted as to what the financial outlook would be and it provides the financial piece of the picture but certainly is a consideration. Ms. Weber stated based on the numbers, the Subcommittee was impressed. Donna Nolan stated it is cost-

beneficial as well as a benefit to our students to bring them back into the community. David Peling inquired if students must attend this program and Dr. Grossman stated PPT discussions need to occur and when a transition plan is put in place, then Granby Public Schools can state that this is the recommended program. If a parent disagrees with the recommendation, this will also get determined in the PPT. Sarah Thrall inquired when the school year would begin for this program and Dr. Grossman stated it would begin on September 1st. Kristina Gilton inquired when the program ends if a student turns 22 in December (mid-year). Angela Ehrenwerth, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, was in the audience and stated the student finishes their public education a day before their 22nd birthday. Dr. Grossman thanked Ms. Ehrenwerth and her team for the tremendous effort put into creating this program. Sarah Thrall thanked Dr. Grossman and Anna Robbins for the financial model put forth. A motion was made by David Peling and seconded by Monica Logan that the Granby Board of Education approve the Post-Secondary Transition Program for 18- to 22-year-old students to begin in the 2023-2024 school year. This motion passed unanimously at 7:51 p.m.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

This subcommittee has not met and minutes are included in the packet.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

Rosemarie Weber reported this subcommittee met to discuss the statement of accounts; a brief update for the Building Committee with the ribbon-cutting ceremony taking place tomorrow; fees for pay-for-participation will be increased as follows: In 2023-2024 from \$100 to \$125/sport and in 2024-2025 from \$125 to \$150/sport as well as increasing the cap in 2023-2024 only from \$200 to \$250 and the family cap from \$400 to \$450. Custodial fees will be increase as follows: In 2023-2024 Saturdays increased from \$45/hour to \$48/hour and Sundays increased from \$65/hour to \$68/hour. The financial documentation for the transition program was also reviewed.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Kristina Gilton reported CREC met today and the meeting was budget focused. CREC reported they are flat budgeted with no debt; however, they are looking through their budget as to whether there will be an increase in magnet school tuition to districts. CREC has asked the State for \$10.4 million related to fees. Ms. Gilton also shared there will be a legislative meeting at the State Capitol on February 16th from 8-10 a.m. Sarah Thrall stated, with regard to CABE, that a legislative mailing was sent to Board members and also that our local legislators will attend a meeting in February to discuss educational issues with the Board.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Whitney Sanzo reported the next GEF Meeting will be held on Monday, January 23rd, at 7:00 p.m.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Sarah Thrall stated there is a PAC Meeting at the high school that she would like to attend. She also mentioned concerts, 8th Parent Night and the Winter Coffeehouse.

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. Adjournment

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by David Peling to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Nolan
Board Recorder