

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes
October 2, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present Board Members: Jenny Emery, Mark Fiorentino; Lynn Guelzow, Melissa Migliaccio, Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber, Brandon Webster, and Dwaritha Ramesh (Student Representative).

Absent Board Members: Jack DeGray (Student Representative)

Melissa Migliaccio called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Superintendent's Announcements

- Mark Winzler, Interim Superintendent, stated the last of the open houses were held for Grades 4 and 5 and went well.
- There are a lot of new after-school programs taking place at Kelly Lane this year in collaboration with the Town Parks and Recreation Department.
- The Town Public Works will have an Open House this Saturday with many activities for children.
- A literacy consultant was in the district yesterday to provide job embedded professional learning for teachers in Grades K-2.
- Small capital, large capital and plus one budgets are complete. Operating budgets are due on October 16th and budget meetings will take place shortly thereafter with all administrators.
- The Town Building Committee for the solar project held their first meeting last week and the Building Committee for the School Projects met earlier this evening. They reviewed project details and discussed challenges and next steps.
- The high school security vestibule project is on schedule with “groundbreaking” taking place next Wednesday, October 9th, weather permitting. Mike Dunn will be sending out information to parents and students about some changes which will be necessary during the time of construction.
- There is a new recognition program in our Facilities Department called “Employee of the Month”. This program acknowledges employees that go above and beyond to make day-to-day life in the Granby Schools better. Congratulations to our Employees of the Month for July, August and September: Mr. Charles Watts, Mr. Jeff Larsen and Mr. Luis Sulca, respectively!
- With the warm weather continuing, mosquitoes are still present. Granby will continue with the practice of moving up start times of our games. Friday’s game is moved up to 3:30 p.m. and the following week’s game is also moved up to 4:00 p.m. Neither of these games are home games.
- The annual PTO Jog-a-Thon will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the Kelly Lane grounds on Saturday, October 19th. This is the main fundraising event for the PTO.
- A reminder there will be no school on October 9th in observance of the Yom Kippur holiday; on October 14th in honor of Indigenous People Day; and, October 15th for professional development.
- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on October 16th.

Melissa Migliaccio inquired how long the disruption will last at the high school with regard to traffic. Mike Dunn, Principal, stated an e-blast will be sent to parents tomorrow with details regarding parking.

I.B. Student Representative Reports

- Boys’ soccer won tonight 2-1; this past week girls’ soccer defeated Rockville 9-2; volleyball defeated Bolton in a three-team match; field hockey defeated Suffield yesterday 4-0; and, girls’ soccer defeated Suffield 2-0 yesterday.
- Boys’ soccer will play on Friday, 10/4 vs. Ellington at home; JV football will play on Saturday 10/5 vs. Classical; and, volleyball plays on Monday at home against Wethersfield.
- Robotics was at Granby Days and the Simsbury fly-in as well as the Air Museum last Saturday. Been doing a lot of outreach events and receiving many donations.
- The two countries the Model UN Club will be representing this year are Italy and Iceland.
- DECA is electing new officers tomorrow morning

- Fundraising is in full swing for the chorus spring trip. Cookies and butter braids are on sale through Monday.
- SATs will be held this Saturday October 5th.
- A bake sale hosted by NHS will be held this Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. outside of Geissler's to support the Empty Bowls fundraiser.
- During advisory today there was discussion regarding the StopIt App designed to help prevent bullying.

I.C. Teaching & Learning - Equity Taskforce Update/Annual Equity Report

Mr. Christopher Tranberg, Assistant Superintendent, updated the Board on the Equity Taskforce as well as presented the Annual Equity Report for the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Tranberg informed the Board that the Granby Equity Taskforce has been newly named to the Granby Equity Team (GET) as it is now a continuous group. He shared the statement of equitable practices which tie in with the Board's core values. The focus areas of the Equity Team are 1) underrepresentation of minority students in college readiness course; 2) overrepresentation of black male students receiving referrals/discipline; 3) overrepresentation of black male students receiving special education services; and, 4) underrepresentation of minority teachers.

Mr. Tranberg then presented the Achievement Gap Report to the Board and gave an overview as well as the equity indicators with definitions. He stated the greatest point of pride in Granby from year-to-year is the graduation rate of students. In the college readiness area, there is a 20-point difference in closing the gap in the areas of college course completion and college readiness exams. The district is close to goal in the college course completion area. Mr. Tranberg stated going forward for this report he would recommend comparing "race" instead of "residence". For Grade Level Testing, there are wide achievement gaps which consistently persist by program and residence. Jenny Emery inquired if other districts in like size to us compare data regarding Open Choice students as we do. Mr. Tranberg stated there are other districts who are just starting to do equity work so this may be seen in the near future. With regard to school engagement, the district has done very well in the attendance and discipline categories when comparing programs and residences. Mr. Tranberg reviewed broad next steps the Equity Team would like to take. Melissa Migliaccio inquired in what area do you need money and for what reason. Mr. Tranberg stated the grant funding is no longer and in last year's budget money was allocated to support the equity team and the administrator coaching positions; however, his was only instituted for one year so more funding will be needed for resources (staff) for student interventions. Mark Fiorentino requested that those items are easy to find in the budget. Dwaritha Ramesh inquired if there is a way to be more transparent about the Equity Team and if it is only communicated through the networks. Mr. Tranberg stated there will be a presentation at the CABE/CAPPS which will speak about that and how it is intentional for people to talk in their network and feel courageous enough to have the conversations they need to have. He also stated there is only one student involved and more are needed so if anyone knows someone who is passionate about this subject have them get in touch with him. Melissa Migliaccio will be joining GET on Monday nights once a month and she encouraged other Board members to get involved in a network. Mark Fiorentino stated he would like to be put into a network and also that he would like to see another "open house" in Hartford again this year for parents. Mr. Tranberg reviewed the recommendations for the 2019-2020 Action categories as follows: professional capacity, achievement, climate, and program participation. Mark Winzler stated he never heard of an equity report in the past 10 years of being an Interim Superintendent in other districts and he congratulated Granby on doing this hard work.

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 Jenny Emery to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed at 7:53 p.m. with one abstention (Melissa Migliaccio).

IV. Old Business

There was no Old Business to report.

V. New Business

V.A. Secondary School Improvement Plans

Ms. Susan Henneberry, Middle School Principal, presented her School Improvement Plan to the Board. Under the Vision, Mission and District Achievement Goal, the middle school has shifted a few teams to maximize the effectiveness to increase student achievement. Ms. Henneberry stated all teams act as Student Intervention Teams which measure Tier I and Tier II intervention progress monitoring data and student success. Additionally, PLC teams are aligning formative assessments with priority standards and Collaborative Proactive Solutions Teams implement consistent behavior expectations. For the Student Achievement Goal to increase student achievement in literacy and numeracy standards across all discipline areas as indicated by standardized measures, 2019 SBAC target reports will be used to guide instructional plans and identify areas of growth; PLCs will be used to create common formative assessments to inform instruction of curriculum standards; and, progress-monitor student achievement. The Instructional Goal for the middle school is to utilize equitable instructional practices that personalize learning for all learners. This year is the second year for the school-wide enrichment program and gifted and talented program; Fall clusters with enrichment classes and enrichment opportunities embedded in lessons; and, student-centered coaching is also in its second year and hoping to expand on it this year by increasing the number of teachers participating in coaching cycles.

Mr. Michael Dunn, High School Principal, presented his School Improvement Plan and stated the plan is about fostering and maximizing offerings for students. The Vision, Mission & District Achievement Goal is to improve systems and practices that maximize equitable opportunities for all students by enlisting staff to recruit and support increased percentage of minority students in college-level courses; implement revised SRBI intervention practices; and, partner with CCSC and NCCJ to develop equity-focused culture. For the Student Achievement Goal, all students will meet Learning Expectations as measured by departmental measure and an increase in the percentage of juniors meeting benchmark from 2019 PSAT to 2020 CT SAT by refining measures of learning expectations; engaging teams in tracking cohorts to monitor student growth in college readiness standards; and, focus professional development and supports around practices to promote growth in SAT-assessed standards. The Instruction Goal is to use formative assessments of clear learning targets to adjust instruction by focusing on educator feedback and coaching around standards-based learning targets and formative assessments; supporting implementation of Pre-AP; and, engaging the school leadership team to reduce inconsistencies in formative assessment, homework, grading, and communication. Mr. Dunn stated inconsistencies in these areas were mentioned in the NEAS&C report as well as inconsistencies in homework through student surveys. Jenny Emery inquired if parents are aware of learning targets for students in order that parents can get engaged. Mike Dunn stated a syllabus is shared in the beginning of the year with parents as well as progress for students in PowerSchool and Google Classroom. Brandon Webster inquired if the increased percentage in college-level courses is geared toward Freshmen. Mr. Dunn stated, yes, and the high school is always looking for ways to expand enrollment in these courses. Sarah Thrall inquired what the goal is for work-force ready and career-ready students and encouraging students to take challenging college-level courses and be successful, as well as, where the line is for social emotional learning not to stress out students. Mr. Dunn stated the line is individual for each student and college- and career-ready standards allow students on either path to do well with college-level courses. With regard to course level, it is necessary to look at a student as a whole person with regard to course load. Rosemarie Weber commented the guidance piece is very important for counselors to help guide students. Mark Fiorentino stated students should be challenged in all classes, not just be encouraged to take college-level classes. Melissa Migliaccio requested the Guidance Department come to a subcommittee meeting to speak on how they are aligned to the School Improvement Plan.

V.B. Authorized Signatures Change Form for the Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs

The Board considered the approval of an Authorized Signatures Change Form for the Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs. A motion was made by Sarah Thrall and seconded by Brandon Webster that

the Granby Board of Education approve the Authorized Signatures Form for the Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs. This motion passed unanimously at 8:48 p.m.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

This subcommittee met this evening and discussed the Assistant Superintendent's report including equity and the revamping of the STEAM mission statement. Rachel Schaumburger and Karen Richmond-Godard presented on the Seal of Biliteracy, a special testing for Level 4 and AP students which has a writing and computerized component. Student would receive a Seal of Biliteracy proficiency of foreign languages on their diploma. It has been adopted in other districts. Discussed Policy 6111, Calendar, which gives flexibility to set the graduation date. This policy was approved to move forward to the full Board for consideration at the next meeting. Also had a discussion about high reliability schools and how the district is studying high reliability organizations.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

This subcommittee has not met. Melissa Migliaccio stated she and Mark Fiorentino will attend the Finance Subcommittee on October 16th but no action would be taken. Jenny Emery stated if she is able to call in she will let Linda know.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Mark Fiorentino reported that CREC has not met.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Jenny Emery stated the GEF has not met. Melissa Migliaccio stated the GEF is still looking for a new Board Member. The GEF meets the third Monday of each month.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Melissa Migliaccio stated the Calendar of Events is as reported.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

There were no Board member announcements this evening.

VI.E. Action Items

Action items this evening: 1) Jenny Emery inquired about comparisons to other schools our size who present an Equity Report; 2) Brandon Webster requested the year-to-year comparisons for the Equity Report; 3) Mark Fiorentino requested resources needed for equity projects get highlighted in the budget; and, 4) Melissa Migliaccio requested setting up a time for Guidance to visit the Curriculum Subcommittee to see how their mission aligns with the School Improvement Plan.

VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

There was no need to enter into an Executive Session. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Lynn Guelzow to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Weber
Board Secretary