

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

Present Board Members: Kristina Gilton, Monica Logan, 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 7:00 p.m.

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Chairman's Corner

Sarah Thrall, Board Chair, thanked the administrative team for attending this evening for a review of the testing data.

I.B. Superintendent's Announcements

- Dr. Grossman welcomed those in attendance and virtually and also welcomed administrators.
- A question was raised at the last Board Meeting regarding Open Choice student participation in winter athletics and the answer is 14/27 students are participating in winter athletics.
- The middle school band concert held last week was very well attended and the student performance was terrific.
- 8th Grade Parents' Night will be held tomorrow night with tours beginning at 5:45 p.m. and the program beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- Kelly Lane and Wells Road celebrated Twos-Day today with the date being 2-2-22 by wearing tutus, ties and mismatched tennis shoes.
- The annual Wells Road Kids Heart Challenge event will be held February 14-18.
- State legislators and representatives are slated to attend the next meeting on February 16th. Board members were asked to bring questions to the meeting if they had any.
- Online Kindergarten registration opened yesterday.
- A Superintendent Community Conversation will be held on February 24th at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.
- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 16th.

I.C. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, provided an update on mid-year assessments and stated as a reminder when principals created their School Improvement Plans in the fall, under the first goal area, goals were designed to get back to pre-pandemic levels. The majority of the data presented will be in percentages of reaching the proficiency levels or higher. She stated all tests are universal screeners and progress monitors as we work toward summative assessments this year. The district is looking to see if students are reaching the 50th percentile and making sure assessments are aligning as students transition between test assessments. Ms. Parsons stated quarantines continue to be a factor this year as well as a disruption. Colleen Bava, Principal, presented data for Kelly Lane Primary School stating students have grown across the board from 9 up to 20 percentage points and she is seeing consistent growth across grade levels hoping to hit 100% at the end of the year. Kelly Lane is working with TAs to target skills students need to progress throughout the year. Ms. Bava reviewed areas for additional growth in 1st and 2nd grade math as well as individualized goal setting and next steps with students. Rosemarie Weber inquired if the STAR test is much different than DIBELS and why there is greater growth in STAR. Ms. Bava stated student growth is similar and the tests are aligning. Whitney Sanzo inquired what indicates the predictor. Ms. Parsons stated that STAR is a universal screening tool and it correlates students' scores to national percentiles. STAR is also used as a predictor for how students will do on SBAC.

Ms. Parsons presented student achievement data for Wells Road Intermediate School stating 3rd graders do not have a previous spring SBAC score as they did not take it the prior year; however, 3rd grade grew from 57% to 63% proficiency and are on track for spring. In 4th and 5th grades, literacy proficiency maintained over the summer where they ended in the spring and continued to grow. Ms. Pauline Greer, Principal, stated 3rd grade have come in very strong and are excited to learn. In 5th grade, to help improve literacy proficiency, longer, stronger books are being offered to read which are more complex for readers and the level of comprehension is a challenge; however, the good news is that students are reaching these levels. Ms. Greer reviewed areas for growth, such as, working with math coaches and the new Illustrative Math Program. It is hoped by the end of the year growth will be seen. Ms. Thrall inquired about teacher feedback on Illustrative Math. Ms. Greer stated teachers are very excited about it and conversations about math are very strong. Ms. Parsons added that teachers were meant to pilot for the first half of the year and asked if they can continue to use the resource. David Peling inquired if scores are broken out by subgroups. Ms. Parsons stated scores are broken down to individual students, not necessarily by subgroup. Monica Logan inquired if scores are communicated to parents. Ms. Greer stated this is done during conference time for parents but shared with students as quickly as possible. Sarah Thrall inquired what is being done with regard to the slip in numeracy scores over the summer and Donna Nolan echoed that perhaps an enrichment packet can be given over the summer so as not to see a slide in the fall.

With regard to middle school student achievement, Ms. Parsons stated although there are achievement gaps from previous years, students are grasping what is currently being taught. 8th grade scored 71% proficiency for the winter; 6th grade literacy has a minor decline; 7th/8th grades maintained in spring and fall and will see continued growth in the winter; and, 6th grade exhibits trends seen in 4th and 5th graders. Taylor Wrye, Principal, stated students are doing a great job transitioning with the new schedule. Overall 7th and 8th grades have improved and teachers are working collaboratively on subjects to ensure consistency across all grade levels. He reviewed areas for growth including the fact that 6th grade was hit hard by COVID as there were students out 10+ days for quarantines in addition to the transition from one school to another. He also informed the Board the middle school is shifting to Readers' and Writers' Workshop this year for 6th grade which will hopefully make students more active in reading. He stated even though there is an improvement in math, there is a long way to go. Kristina Gilton inquired in relation to math if there is a more realistic goal the middle school is hoping to reach. Ms. Parsons stated the middle school is moving in the right direction and will keep striving for 80-90% proficiency. Rosemarie Weber inquired if there is any vertical alignment in 9th grade to identify 8th grade learning gaps. Ms. Parsons stated there will be on-the-spot remediation. Sarah Thrall inquired if there is a math learning center at the middle school as in the high school and Ms. Parsons stated there is a math tutor at the middle school to assist students as well as 25 minutes per day where students can see their teachers for support.

Ms. Parsons stated the high school chart looks a little different for student achievement due the transition into the PSAT/SAT assessments and stated there is a fairly good alignment with 9th graders comparing previous years' SBAC scores that students maintained and grew on the fall PSAT. 10th grade scores are not quite maintaining and the district is diving into why this could be. The data can be questioned due to shifts from the remote environment. Success in 11th grade grew 7% in literacy and 13% in numeracy. Mike Dunn, Principal, stated PSAT testing is taken seriously and there is an alignment with 8th and 9th grades for an opportunity to look at PSAT scores. He stated he is pleased with the growth from SBAC into PSAT. This year a lot more work with students is happening as well as individualized students linking to college resources. Mr. Dunn stated each department has set a goal around working with students. There are still areas of growth. Several students in 10th grade made significant growth but still did not reach the benchmark. David Peling inquired if there is anything the Board can do to achieve these goals. Mr. Dunn stated the Board's attention to student

achievement is important and there are many challenges being faced so keeping the goal in mind that all students should succeed as well as active supports such as technology and coaches. Jacob Scotto stated the College Board released a statement that in 2024 the SAT will have a different format and shorter sections and inquired if it is anticipated how this will change the scores for current 9th and 10th graders and any curriculum changes to allow for this adjustment. Dr. Grossman stated this just came out a few weeks ago regarding preparing for online testing this spring and he stated the district will adjust. Concepts and skills will be the same; however, the tools and what students are being asked to do will be the same.

Dr. Grossman thanked the administrative team stating this team is not only leading through a student achievement lens but also leading during and in the middle of a pandemic lens. The district is doing the best we can and the eye is always on the prize which is children. He commended teachers and administrators for the fact that there has been growth in our students. Sarah Thrall stated it was phenomenal to be able to look at the data for all of the schools with principals present and thanked Ms. Parsons and Dr. Grossman for their leadership on this issue. Ms. Parsons stated she is excited to come back in the spring with a report.

Ms. Parsons also gave the Board an Equity Team update stating the team met last Wednesday and co-facilitated with Partners for Educational Leadership on developing knowledge of equity work in the district and experience that can be brought back and shared with others. Also discussed perspectives on Black History Month and how heritage is honored throughout the year. All schools will acknowledge Black History Month. The Granby Equity Team will meet again in March and then in May and will bring forward an action plan to the Board by the end of the year.

I.D. Student Representative Reports

- Tess Bajek gave a sports report as follows: boys' and girls' basketball made it into states; boys' basketball has senior night this Friday and boy's hockey has their senior night on Saturday; indoor track got 3rd overall in their conference meet and will be in the states on Monday. Registration for spring sports is going on now.
- Jacob Scotto stated the high school choir will perform singing valentines in-person and virtually.
- NHS has multiple events upcoming: Empty Bowls fundraiser is March 18th at 5:00 p.m. and Random Acts of Kindness week starts Monday, February 14-18 and a lot of activities are planned.
- State auditions for band/choir are due this Saturday so good luck to all students participating.
- In order to make up for the loss of the Northern Regional Festival, the high school will hold a smaller scaled down version of that festival with a few other schools (Farmington/Avon/Canton) and approximately 70 students will participate with a workshop on Saturday, March 26th, 9-2 p.m.

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 Monica Logan that the Granby Board of Education adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed unanimously at 8:34 p.m.

IV. Old Business

There was no Old Business to report.

V. New Business

V.A. FY23 Quality & Diversity Fund Budget

Dr. Grossman presented the FY23 Quality & Diversity (Q&D) Budget to the Board and explained what it is and what it is used for, such as, Open Choice students, magnet school tuition and support for various other enrichment activities for Granby Public School students. He also reviewed the BOE Goal for the

Q&D Fund as well as the guiding principles. Some of the expenses in the Q&D Fund were reviewed, such as, magnet and vocational school tuition; Open Choice bus monitors, Summer Enrichment Academy; Extracurricular Competitions, Granby Equity Team, etc. New items projected in FY23 are for a Family Engagement Specialist to support all Open Choice students, families and programs and continued efforts in the Minority Teacher Recruitment Program for minority teacher recruitment. Funds are also received from the Open Choice Academic and Social Support Grant which is not part of the Q&D Fund. Some items funded in the grant are personnel, summer camp tuition for students participating in the Open Choice Program to attend camp with peers in the community; equity focused professional development; and, transportation, meals, snacks, etc. to support homework club and after-school activities. Magnet school and out-of-district student enrollment was reviewed. In FY23, 33 students are projected to attend magnet schools and 33 students are projected to attend technical, vocational and agriscience schools. Dr. Grossman stated we are on budget based on our projection; however, we may need to work hard to get our targeted amount of kindergarten students.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

David Peling stated this subcommittee met this evening to discuss the Assistant Superintendent's Report including graduation requirements; mid-year assessments; math progression, Granby Equity Team; SEL partnership with FVHD; QPR training with high school staff; review of software budget; summer school planning; and professional development. Also had a curriculum update and rolling out next steps. Lengthy discussion on graduation requirements and shift to humanities/math/stem and had to table the discussion. Policies also had to be tabled until the next meeting.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

This Subcommittee has not meet.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Sarah Thrall stated there was nothing to report.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Whitney Sanzo reported the GEF has not met since the last meeting.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Sarah Thrall stated Job shadow day has been moved to next Friday, February 11th.

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. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by David Peling to enter into an Executive Session to discuss a student safety issue. Ms. Thrall invited Dr. Grossman and Ms. Parsons into the Executive Session. This motion passed unanimously at 8:52 p.m. The Executive Session adjourned at approximately 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Nolan
Board Secretary