

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes
Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 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, Tess Bajek and Jacob Scotto (Student Representatives)

Absent Board Members: N/A

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 CABE student leadership award winners Jalisa Matthews, Zainab Zafar, Tess Bajek and Maeve Dingley and their families. She also thanked all teachers for all they do for our students as this is Teacher Appreciation Week.

I.B. Superintendent's Announcements

- Dr. Grossman welcomed middle and high school students and their families as well as Mr. Michael Dunn, Principal, and high school administration in attendance to present an update on the high school's Continuous Improvement Plan.
- Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week is this week and many things are going on this week to honor them.
- The Granby BOE Budget passed last week and we are now in full steam mode for planning next year and hiring new staff to replace retirements.
- Our new Family Engagement Specialist, Bethany Grupp, will start next week and will work with our Open Choice students and their families. Bethany is a Granby Memorial High School graduate.
- Dr. Grossman stated this was the first year he was able to attend the GEF's GranBee. It was a great community event and encouraged people to attend next year if you can.
- The high school has great news to report this evening but I will leave that for Mr. Dunn to report.
- On Tuesday, May 10th, I will have the pleasure to accompany last year's Teacher of the Year Kim Lo Presti (Narciso) and this year's Teacher of the Year Jeff Stanwood at the Teacher of the Year Ceremony at the Bushnell.
- Online K registration continues and we have 88 students enrolled at this time. This number is below projections and being compared to enrollment projections and we will reach out to our enrollment consultant again to get his thoughts on Kindergarten enrollment.
- A 5th grade music concert will be held in the high school auditorium on Thursday, May 12th at 7 p.m.
- There is a lot going on right now with the high school projects underway for a new choral/band room, new tech areas and a kitchen.
- Received word this evening from Kevin Witkos that Granby was awarded the grant funding that we assumed we would be getting this year.
- Summer enrichment activities will occur July 5-July 29th.
- A Public Hearing will be held regarding funds for the American Rescue Plan to the Town of Granby on Monday, May 23rd at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room. This meeting will also be available via Zoom.
- Upcoming Important Dates: 8th Grade Moving-Up Ceremony on June 7th @ 5 p.m.; Graduation on Thursday, June 9th @ 5:30 p.m.; Last Day of School on June 13th; and BOE Summer Retreat on Monday, August 29th.
- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 18th.

I.C. CABE Student Leadership Awards

The Board recognized CABE Student Leader Award recipients Jalisa Matthews and Zainab Zafar, Grade 8 students at Granby Memorial Middle School, as well as Tess Bajek, Junior, and Maeve Dingley, Senior, at Granby Memorial High School. Ms. Thrall stated the criteria for this award is to possess leadership skills including: Willingness to take on challenges; capability to make difficult decisions; concern for others; ability to work with others; willingness to commit to a project; diplomacy; ability to understand issues clearly; and ability to honor a commitment. Ms. Thrall read bios on each student and stated she is very happy to have these students attend Granby Public Schools.

I.D. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, provided updates from the Assistant Superintendent's office and stated it has been great to be out in the schools and celebrating how far everyone has come this year. As we come into May we are full steam ahead with planning for the 2022-2023 school year. With regard to equity work, we met with our Partners for Educational Leadership and Administrative Council and talked about three levels of data: summative, formative and anecdotal and how to use this data going forward. Additionally, meeting with the Greater Schools Partnership (GSP) team and are working with school level teams and what are our professional learning times during the school day how to use those to the maximum effect going forward. Whitney Sanzo inquired at what point do we expect test results to come back. Ms. Parsons stated the state testing window has to close completely before results are released; however, individual SAT results are starting to come in. Parents will receive results in the fall for SBAC and the district report from the state should be received in mid-June.

I.E. Student Representative Reports

- Jacob Scotto stated AP tests are happening this week and next week as well. Students are working extremely hard studying and feel relieved once their exams are over.
- Spring coffeehouse was held this past Saturday and was the first one held back in the commons.
- Crepe night will be held on Saturday May 14th providing live music and unlimited crepes.
- A few Robotics students will be going to Worlds in Dallas, Texas.
- Tess Bajek reported boys' tennis is 9-1 and undefeated in the conference and their next match is tomorrow at home; boys' lax is 3-6 and senior night tomorrow at home at 5:30; girls' lacrosse is 8-2 with a game on Saturday; track has their senior night coming up; baseball is 3-6 with a game tonight and tomorrow; softball game tonight; girls' tennis will play Friday in East Granby. Spring sports are going extremely well so far.
- The boys' varsity baseball team will be playing at the Dunkin' Donuts Stadium on Wednesday, May 18th at 3:30 p.m. and on Monday, May 23rd at 6:00 p.m. This is a free event.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments this evening.

III. Consent Agenda

III.A. Minutes

III.B. 2022-2023 International Field Trips

The Board considered approval of the minutes of the April 20, 2022 Board of Education meeting as well as the 2022-2023 International field trips. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Donna Nolan to adopt the consent agenda. David Peling inquired what the trip destinations are and Dr. Grossman stated Quebec City and Costa Rica. Dr. Grossman also shared that the foreign exchange trips will hopefully return for the 2023-2024 school year. This motion passed unanimously at 7:26 p.m.

IV. Old Business

IV.A. Continuous Improvement Plan Update for Granby Memorial High School

Mike Dunn, Principal, provided an update to the Board on the Continuous Improvement Plan for Granby Memorial High School and shared exciting news with the Board that the high school was ranked 21 in a list of 200 schools across the state. He reviewed the first goal under *Goal #1: Student Achievement* to have every student enroll in at least one college credit-bearing course by explicit messaging, teacher recommendation process and counselor conversations during scheduling; planning a second AP Boost Camp for this summer as well as a return to the College Explorations program this summer. Mr. Dunn reviewed highlights of testing scores at the high school, such as, growth in 9th and 11th grade made and school counselors supporting accessing scores and linking to Khan Academy. The second goal under *Goal #1 Student Achievement* to increase by 7% 11th grade students meeting benchmark on Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing sections of PSAT/SAT between the fall 2021 PSAT and spring 2022 CT School Day SAT by establishing department goals and measures to support growth in P/SAT standards and skills and establishing first ever "Khan-test" initiative linking College Board and Khan Academy. Mr. Dunn shared data sheets and reviewed actual test data. He explained how this data can be drilled down further and that the data is broken down to see where students fall. He explained how the data can be extrapolated in other ways, i.e., race/gender, and also reviewed all of the data practices in place at the high school including SAT prep courses in the fall and spring. Sarah Thrall inquired if parents have access to the data to see where

students may need to improve and Mr. Dunn stated that, yes, this is available through the College Board. Rosemarie Weber agreed that parents having a link to their student's data is very important but inquired if teachers have access in order that it can inform their instructional practices. Mr. Dunn stated Khan Academy has a wealth of information for classes of students. Ms. Weber also inquired about the dips in 10th grade for ERW and Math and if there is a plan in place to work on that. Mr. Dunn explained that the slide presented was data from the February presentation but stated that once he has that information, he can do the same thing with that data. Ms. Weber stated she was curious if there was an issue identified in the 10th grade that needs to have some attention moving forward into the 11th grade. Mr. Dunn agreed that this should be monitored.

Mr. Dunn continued on with the remaining goals as follows: *Goal #2 Community Engagement* to improve frequency and effectiveness of communication by weekly eblasts to families on upcoming events and important updates including building project progress and ongoing work to develop and support live-streaming and the new Broadcast Club and new Broadcast space. *Goal #3 Safety and Social Emotional Well-Being* to increase staff capacity to create trauma-informed and socially-emotionally responsive classrooms and school environment by partnering with the FVHD to provide training; partnering with district SEL Committee around developing a framework and aligning efforts going forward; and, participating in the state's Voice4Change Initiative. *Goal #4 Budget Development and Fiscal Management* by managing the budget process to maximize efficiencies while increasing needed supports by collaborative efforts to develop responsive and responsible school budget request; partnership with the Building Committee, Business and Facilities offices on GMHS building project; and, continuing to manage replacement cycles. *Goal #5 Embracing Diversity* to continue to improve systems and practices to maximize equitable opportunities for all students by continuing to hone examination of achievement, participation and discipline through an equity lens and staff; student participation in the Granby Equity Team; and, the new Black and Latino Studies elective for next year which 12 students have signed up for thus far. *Goal #6 Professional Learning* to improve staff capacity to clarify outcomes and use data protocols to inform instruction by collaborating with GSP on Elements of Effective Instruction; modeling of data protocols with teams; and, fostering opportunities for vertical alignment in departmental professional learning. Whitney Sanzo commented it was great to see the return on investment and to see scores and she is excited to see future data. She inquired if funding was received for the Voice4Change initiative and Mr. Dunn stated, yes, a generous amount of funding was received.

IV.B. Town of Granby Strategic Plan

The Board continued to discuss and considered the approval of the BOE Goals to be included in the Town of Granby Strategic Plan. Dr. Grossman stated there are two goals: one regarding large capital projects and another regarding communication. A motion was made by Sarah Thrall and seconded by Donna Nolan that the Granby Board of Education approve the BOE goals to be included in the Town of Granby Strategic Plan as presented. This motion passed unanimously at 8:26 p.m.

IV.B. Second Reading and Approval of Revised Policy 5113 - Attendance-Excuses-Dismissal

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 5113, Attendance-Excuses-Dismissal, to the Board for a second reading and approval. David Peling stated there were no comments received on this policy or any of the other policies presented this evening. A motion was made by David Peling and seconded by Whitney Sanzo that the Granby Board of Education adopt revised Policy 5113, Attendance-Excuses-Dismissal, as recommended by the Curriculum/Policy/Technology Subcommittee. This motion passed unanimously at 8:27 p.m.

IV.C. Second Reading and Approval of Revised Policy 5113.2 - Truancy

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology recommended revised Policy 5113.2, Truancy, to the Board for a second reading and approval. A motion was made by David Peling and seconded by Kristina Gilton that the Granby Board of Education adopt revised Policy 5113.2, Truancy, as recommended by the Curriculum/Policy/Technology Subcommittee. This motion passed unanimously at 8:27p.m.

IV.D. Second Reading and Approval of Revised Policy 5141 - Student Health Services

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 5141, Student Health Services, for a second reading and approval. A motion was made by David Peling and seconded by Whitney Sanzo that the Granby Board of Education adopt revised Policy 5141, Student Health Services, as recommended by the Curriculum/Policy/Technology Subcommittee. This motion passed unanimously at 8:28 p.m.

IV.E. Second Reading and Approval of Revised Policy 6146 - Graduation Requirements

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 6146, Graduation Requirements, to the Board for a second reading and approval. A motion was made by David Peling and seconded by Kristina Gilton that the Granby Board of Education adopt revised Policy 6146, Graduation Requirements, as recommended by the Curriculum/Policy/Technology Subcommittee. This motion passed unanimously at 8:29 p.m.

V. New Business

V.A. Approval of Healthy Food Certification 2022-2023

The Board discussed and considered the approval of the Healthy Food Certification for the 2022-2023 school year. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Donna Nolan that pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. This motion passed unanimously at 8:31 p.m.

V.B. Approval of Healthy Food Certification – Exemption of Food and Beverages

The Board discussed and considered the approval of the Healthy Food Certification Exemption of Food and Beverages. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Monica Logan that the board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food sales. This motion passed unanimously at 8:33 p.m.

V.C. Superintendent's Annual Report 2021-2022

Dr. Grossman presented his Annual Report to the Board for the 2021-2022 school year and stated this is his third annual report to the Board and being the Superintendent of Schools is the highest honor of his life. He stated accomplishments and progress are only made possible with the whole community and this school system will also be known for how we moved the school district forward through the pandemic. Dr. Grossman reviewed highlights of his goals under each Board Goal as follows:

Student Learning and Achievement highlights included the implementation of new data driven decision making processes across the district; alignment of PSATs in grades 8-11; drilling down and getting interventions to students in need as well as students who are excelling; focus on student learning and achievement; examining the continuum of special education services to our students; teachers and school-based teams spending time reviewing curriculum and adjusting instructional planning; addition of tutors at GMMS; learning walks including Board members and students; and, the adoption of a Vision of a Graduate during a pandemic in September 2021.

Community Engagement highlights included working with the Granby community on the implementation of the *Granby Public Schools Moving Forward Together Strategic Plan*; working collaboratively with the Town Manager; and, regular communication with the BOE and community;

Safety and Social Emotional Well-Being highlights included opening our school doors last year and this year and never shutting down; transitioning out of a mask-only environment to a mask-optional environment; and, a new Granby Public Schools Emergency Operations Plan was submitted and approved by the state.

Budget Development and Fiscal Management highlights included charging a committee made up of parents, teachers, administrators, and Board members to make recommendations for possible alternative programming in the 2023-2024 school year; securing a \$100,00 grant by the Granby Education Foundation for a new video production studio; and, working with the Business Manager and BOE Finance Subcommittee to extend our current bus contract.

Embracing Diversity highlights included implementing the Anti-Bias/Anti-Racism Plan; a collaborative relationship with the Granby Race Reconciliation Group; appointing our Teacher in Residency Program candidate Mr. Freedman to a full-time position next year and receiving another candidate at Kelly Lane next year; and, partnering with St. Joseph's College to speak to our students about a career in education.

Professional Learning highlights included onboarding a new Director of Pupil Services and continuing to empower second year Principal of Granby Memorial Middle School, second year Assistant Principal of Granby Memorial Middle School, second year Principal of Kelly Lane Primary School, and second year Assistant Superintendent of Schools; leading an Early Childhood State Committee to look at the future of early childhood education; participating in an Early Career Advanced Leadership Program; and, serving as the Chair this year on the State of CT Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity meetings.

Dr. Grossman thanked the Board for their partnership and their support and stated our team has met or exceeded all goals set for this school year. Sarah Thrall thanked Dr. Grossman for all of his work and his leadership on behalf of the Granby Public Schools.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

Dave Peling reported this Subcommittee met this evening to discuss hiring and interviews for next year; scheduling is underway, revision to World Language depending on progress; revisions to the Wellness Policy which will be brought forward to the full Board at the next meeting.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

The Finance Subcommittee has not met.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Sarah Thrall stated CABE is having a workshop next week and she will forward the email. Board members should let Mrs. Powell know if they are interested in attending.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Whitney Sanzo stated the GranBee was a huge success with a lot of support from the community.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Sarah Thrall stated there are many events going on around the district at this time of year.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

Jacob Scotto, Student Representative, stated he will be attending Villanova University in the fall.

VI.E. Action Items

There were no action items this evening.

VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

A motion was made by Sarah Thrall and seconded by Monica Logan to enter into an Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation. This motion passed unanimously at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Nolan
Board Secretary