

## **Regular Board of Education Meeting – Draft Minutes**

**April 21, 2021 7:00 p.m.**

**High School Auditorium/Zoom**

Present Board Members: Jenny Emery (via Zoom), Melissa Migliaccio, David Peling, Sarah Thrall, Brandon Webster, Rosemarie Weber, and Jack DeGray (Student Representative)

Absent Board Members: Mark Fiorentino and Jacob Scotto (Student Representative)

Sarah Thrall called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **I. Administrative Reports**

#### **I.A. Chairman's Corner**

Ms. Sarah Thrall, Board Chair, welcomed Mrs. Bava, Mrs. Scully and students in the preschool program. She reminded everyone that the town-wide budget vote will be held in person on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### **I.B. Superintendent's Announcements**

- Dr. Grossman welcomed Kelly Lane students, staff and parents for Schools in the Spotlight.
- The Board of Finance approved the BOE budget last week and the budget will be going to vote on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 12-8 at the town hall. All budget information can be found on the website.
- Spring sports are currently going on at the high school. Dr. Grossman stated he was able to see the golf team in action yesterday at the Copper Hill Golf Course.
- The district has initiated a Ball Parks of America Walking Challenge through Anthem for all staff members from May 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31. Participants will receive a free t-shirt just for registering and weekly prizes will be awarded randomly.
- SBAC testing began this week for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students; 4<sup>th</sup> graders will take their tests next week; and, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders the following week. AP testing begins on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The collaborative effort with East Granby Public Schools for providing breakfast and lunch to East Granby students continues to go very well. So far this month, a daily average of 84 breakfasts and 173 lunches were served and Granby numbers thus far in April are 194 breakfasts and 704 lunches.
- Outdoor tents are back up at all of our schools now that the weather is nice enough to go outside.
- There will be a Building Committee meeting tomorrow at 5:30 p.m.
- There will be a Memorial Day Parade this year. Dr. Grossman stated he had a conversation with Jim Hall from the American Legion today and he will be the keynote speaker this year. He invited Board members to walk the parade route with him and stated students will be walking with him as well.
- There will be a special curriculum meeting next Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> and next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on May 5, 2021.

#### **I.C. Student Representative Reports**

- Jack DeGray announced that he will be attending the University of Florida next fall.
- Juniors received their SAT scores last week
- A spring coffeehouse will be held this Saturday and livestreamed from the auditorium.
- Senior Prom and graduation will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup> and June 11<sup>th</sup>, respectively.
- The spring sports season is underway with practices and games being played the last three weeks.

#### **I.D. Schools in the Spotlight**

Ms. Colleen Bava stated she is excited to present a day in the life of a preschooler at Kelly Lane and welcomed Mrs. Scully and her students. Ms. Scully stated the preschool program is an integrated program with a morning and afternoon session and that it has been a different year for the students. It has been challenging to develop social/emotional skills while being socially distant. Students taught board members how to do mindful breathing that they learned this year demonstrating various breathing techniques. A video was shown about the day in the life of a preschool student showing how they learn, play and interact throughout the day.

#### **I.E. School Improvement Plan Update: Kelly Lane Primary School**

Ms. Colleen Bava, Principal of Kelly Lane Primary School, presented an update on her 2020-2021 School Improvement Plan. Ms. Bava reviewed her Vision, Mission and District Achievement Goal to support a positive, safe and collaborative environment by focusing on building and maintaining positive relations with staff, students and families. She said this is being done via a quarterly staff check-in survey; integrated second step

bullying prevention unit; training in Responsive Classroom; school-wide participation in kindness activities; and, school/family communication. Ms. Bava stated the Student Achievement Goal is that all students will increase achievement in literacy and numeracy standards, across disciplines as measured by the STAR Reading/Math and the Benchmark Assessment (BAS) by June 2021. She stated assessments are done 3 times per year. In Kindergarten, students received 81% at or above goal for STAR Reading; 64% for BAS; and there is no assessment for Star Math. First graders do a winter and spring baseline as follows: 59% for STAR Reading; 75% for BAS; and, 87% for STAR Math. Second graders are just under 80% at 79% for STAR Reading; 88% for BAS; and, 79% for STAR Math. With regard to the Instruction Goal that teachers will increase opportunities for students to take ownership of their learning in order to foster an environment of independence and engagement, Kelly Lane organized a Global Play Day and STEAM Day; kindness activities; student-led goal setting; and the establishment of an Equity Team. Ms. Bava stated in looking ahead to next year, Kelly Lane will work on an aligned instructional focus with teaching assistants; review schedule and instructional minutes for all grades, create a School Improvement Team; and, hire an Elementary CAS Leader to support the instructional work and analyze school-wide data.

#### **I.F. Assistant Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, provided updates from the Assistant Superintendent's office and stated regarding COVID, the district is full steam ahead to the end of the year. All staff vaccination clinics are complete and staff will be fully vaccinated the beginning of May. Ms. Parsons stated, with state guidance, she is hoping to encourage vaccinations for 16-18 year olds through the FVHD and is excited to bring some normalcy back to the end of the year such as prom, graduation and perhaps field days. With regard to equity work, Ms. Parsons stated the pool for the Teacher Residence Program is being finalized and the mentor position is currently posted for our internal Granby teacher to work with a resident. The book club for *Stamped* has begun and over 60 staff members and 50 community members have signed up. There will be a library community conversation on April 29<sup>th</sup> and the second staff conversation will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Will continue to promote the book club for students.

Ms. Parsons also provided an update on math progression stating that two Curriculum Subcommittee meetings have focused on this subject and she is hoping to bring forward additional information at the next meeting. She stated the K-12 math program is up for curriculum revision as well as program evaluation. It has been over 5 years since Eureka was brought into the district. Prior to Common Core State Standards, the district made a move to Algebra for all. The onset of Common Core there are now slightly different standards across the nation and state. There are gaps at the middle school level. All students have 2 years of standards condensed into 1 year and not all students are ready to stay with the pacing of the integrated and condensed standards. Currently discussing a model based on readiness accelerating with 3 years of standards which would lead to the same outcome – Algebra for everyone by 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The math curriculum needs to be written for the majority of all the middle school grades; however, it is expensive at \$1,500/unit (\$10,000/course). Ms. Parsons informed the Board that the research continues but the district is focusing on standards-focused math and integrating professional development and best practices.

#### **I.G. Business Manager's Report**

Ms. Anna Robbins, Business Manager, presented the March 2021 Statement of Accounts and stated it reflects a receipt of coronavirus relief funds. After the receipt of grant funds, the general forecast is projected to be slightly better than budgeted at \$14K and is better than the previous month by \$79K. Special education over-budget \$16K which is better than the previous month by \$38K and regular education has a positive forecast of \$30K and is better than the previous month by \$41K. The forecast reflects a final call for purchase orders, where possible, and includes some exceptions, such as, special education, athletics and maintenance expenses. Costs in these areas are difficult to anticipate. The balance in the Q&D Fund is forecasted to be better than budgeted by \$64K which is unchanged from the previous month. Revenue to the town continues to be unfavorable \$80K which is slightly better than last month by \$2K. The Special Education Excess Cost Grant of \$408K has been received by the town and will be adjusted to reflect changes that may occur through June 2021. Pay-for-Participation increased by \$1K reflecting continued enrollment in spring sports. The district received the disbursement of Coronavirus Relief Funds of \$552K of which \$417 was directed to FY21 pandemic expenses incurred prior to December 30, 2020 and the remaining \$134K was applied to FY20 expenses incurred after March 13, 2020. Funds received for prior years' expenses in FY20 were returned to the town which were just over \$1M. Overall, the district is in a very positive place currently considering all of the expenses occurred in bringing everyone back to school safety. Jenny Emery stated the Finance Subcommittee reviewed the statement of accounts this evening

and despite sign unbudgeted COVID expenses, the grant money has made a huge difference. The detail that goes into securing the grants is hard work and we should all be very proud and grateful to our administration.

## **II. Public Comment**

There were no public comments this evening.

## **III. Consent Agenda**

### **III.A. Minutes**

A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by David Peling to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed at 7:50 p.m. with one abstention (Brandon Webster).

## **IV. Old Business**

### **IV.A. Second Reading and Approval of Revised Policy 4118.231/4218.231-Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco-Personnel**

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 4118.231/4218.231, Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco - Personnel, to the Board for a second reading and approval. Rosemarie Weber stated there were no changes made to this policy since the last meeting. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Brandon Webster that the Granby Board of Education adopt revised Policy 4118.231/4218.231, Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco - Personnel, as recommended by the Curriculum/Policy/Technology/ Communications Subcommittee. This motion passed unanimously at 7:52 p.m.

### **IV.B. Second Reading and Approval of Revised Policy 5135.5 - Drug and Alcohol Use - Students**

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications recommended revised Policy 5135.5, Drug and Alcohol Use - Students, to the Board for a second reading and approval. Rosemarie Weber stated there were no changes made to this policy since the last meeting. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Brandon Webster that the Granby Board of Education adopt revised Policy 5135.5, Drug and Alcohol Use - Students, as recommended by the Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee. This motion passed unanimously at 7:52 p.m.

## **V. New Business**

### **V.A. High School End-of-Year Activities**

Mr. Michael Dunn, High School Principal, provided information to the Board on the planning of end-of-year activities for the senior class of 2021. He stated this has all been due to a lot of work and many meetings with staff, students and speaking to other districts. Mr. Dunn stated unfortunately the Senior Outing and Safe Graduation Party have been cancelled this year; however, a traditional graduation on the stadium field will occur on Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Masks and social distancing will be required and guests will be invited (details TBD). There will be rain dates this year versus a rain location with rain dates for Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. Senior Prom will be held on Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at the Riverview in Simsbury from 6-10 p.m. Senior and Underclass awards will be held virtually on Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup> (similar to last year). Spring concerts for band and chorus will be held in-person outside in the main high school entrance circle. The band concert will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup> and the chorus concert on May 27<sup>th</sup>. AP Exams will be held May 3-17 in person. There will be no final exams for high school students this year. Melissa Migliaccio stated she is concerned about the decision on no finals this year. Mr. Dunn stated there have been many conversations about it this year and the impact this year had on students – in consultation with schools in our DRG and the Farmington Valley – most schools did not do midterms but Granby did. Students, especially more vulnerable students...Jack DeGray stated he was quarantined 4 times this year and feels that he would have been at a disadvantage when taking finals this year. RW – are we going to make sure students are up to grade level with standards and they are able to make normal gains in a non-pandemic year. MD. There are other sources of information used – assessments, final presentations/projects. In terms of overall impact, Brandon Webster stated he is happy to see the prom is happening and inquired if any extra chaperones are necessary. Mike Dunn stated students will have to conduct a daily screening and there will be cohorting by tables and table groups with fewer than 10 students at a table. If anyone after prom tests positive, and we are aware of close contacts, then the number of quarantined students should be minimal. Dr. Grossman stated the June 10<sup>th</sup> date was specifically chosen and the chances of quarantine are almost null and void for attending graduation, etc. There is also a very strong possibility that the senior class could be offered vaccines on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **V.B. Educational Specifications for Phase I: Alterations at Granby Memorial High School**

The Board discussed and considered the approval of the educational specifications for Phase 1: Alterations at Granby Memorial High School that includes the construction of a kitchen and reconfiguration of the cafeteria, choral and instrument areas. A motion was made by Sarah Thrall and seconded by Melissa Migliaccio that the Granby Board of Education approve the educational specifications for Phase 1: Alterations at Granby Memorial High School that includes the construction of a kitchen and reconfiguration of the cafeteria, choral and instrument areas as recommended by the Finance/Personnel/Facilities Subcommittee. Jenny Emery stated the educational specifications are part of the process that the state requires in order to follow through and make payment on the grant. The Board of Selectmen had this on their agenda this past Monday. Toby Proctor presented this and it was endorsed. The Finance Subcommittee reviewed and endorsed these educational specifications this evening. This motion passed unanimously at 8:18 p.m.

## **V.C. Educational Specifications for Granby Memorial High School Roof**

The Board discussed and considered the approval of the educational specifications for the Granby Memorial High School roof. A motion was made by Sarah Thrall and seconded by David Peling that the Granby Board of Education approve the educational specifications for the Granby Memorial High School roof as recommended by the Finance/Personnel/ Facilities Subcommittee. Jenny Emery stated the same process is followed for this project. The high school roof was starting to experience some problems and it was realized that this project needed to be done sooner rather than later. The Finance Subcommittee reviewed the educational specifications this evening. Brandon Webster inquired if this is the roof that Shannon Sullivan stated was previously repaired. Dr. Grossman stated it is all related and is basically the entire high school roof. This motion passed unanimously at 8:21 p.m.

## **VI. Miscellaneous**

### **VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports**

#### **VI.A.1. Finance/Personnel/Facilities**

Jenny Emery reported that this Subcommittee met this evening to discuss the following: statement of accounts; began to review a year-end needs assessment; update on the Food Service Program – the federal program of funding meals for students will be continued through the 2020-2021 school year and Granby is hoping to continue our partnership with East Granby; and, Healthy Food Certification which will be brought forward to the Board at the next meeting.

### **VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports**

#### **VI.B.1. CREC/CABE**

There was nothing to report.

#### **VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation**

Jenny Emery stated there was a meeting on Monday evening; however, she was not able to attend. She stated the proposal for the GMHS News Studio will be brought forward to the Board at the next meeting.

### **VI.C. Calendar of Events**

Sarah Thrall highlighted the spring coffeehouse and concerts and stated if Board members are interested in attending graduation, to please let Linda Powell know. She also reminded everyone about the Budget Vote on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **VI.D. Board Member Announcements**

Melissa Migliaccio stated she is in awe as to what Granby accomplished this year by being in school full in-person since September 17<sup>th</sup>, transporting students, holding sports and, on top of that, returning \$1M to the town with a 0% mill rate increase. Jack DeGray stated he is currently looking for college roommates and speaking to students in many different states and learning many students have not been in school much longer than 3 weeks this year.

### **VI.E. Action Items**

There were no action items this evening.

## **VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting**

There was no need for an Executive Session this evening. A motion was made by Sarah Thrall and seconded by David Peling to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Weber, Board Secretary