

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes
February 3, 2021 7:00 p.m.
High School Auditorium/Zoom

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

Absent Board Members: Jack DeGray (Student Representative)

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

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Chairman's Corner

Ms. Thrall shared opening remarks and stated hopefully everyone is rested after the snow day and remote day. She thanked the Facilities Department for all of their hard work with snow removal. Ms. Thrall also announced that Aimee Martin, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, is retiring at the end of the year and that the position is currently being advertised. She asked all Board members to let her know if they are interested in serving on the search committee.

I.B. Superintendent's Announcements

- Dr. Grossman welcomed all in-person and remote attendees to the meeting this evening.
- Currently, the last day of school is Friday, June 11th. With the snow day on Monday, 2 out of the 5 emergency days have been used. Dr. Grossman will come to the next meeting with a proposed date for graduation.
- Congratulations to 8th grader Mason Nagy for taking first place and 7th grader Beckett Malone for placing second in the National Geographic Geography Bee.
- Local legislators, Senators Kissel and Witkos and Representative Anderson, have been invited to the February 17th Board Meeting to discuss education issues as they relate to the state budget.
- The FY22 Administrative Budget will be presented at the March 3rd Board Meeting.
- 8th Grade Parents' Night will be held virtually on Thursday evening from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- A Superintendent Community Conversation will be held from 8-9 a.m. via Zoom to discuss issues in the district as well as the budget.
- Will attend a PTO meeting in March and a middle school/high school PAC Meeting in April to discuss the budget with parents.
- The next SEPTO Meeting will be held on Monday, February 8th at 6:30 p.m. Let Linda know if you would like to attend and she will send you the link.
- Updated staff last week as to where they stand with regard to vaccinations. Staff will be in category 1B and will be notified via an email from the State when to make an appointment.
- The food service program with East Granby Public Schools was supposed to begin Monday and Tuesday this week but today was the first day. Approximately 350 students have signed up for lunches this week.
- Kindergarten registration began on February 1st. Forms can be dropped off on February 11th. Currently 101 students are enrolled and we are projecting 125 students in Kindergarten for FY22.
- Aimee Martin, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, is retiring. A survey was sent out to staff. The search process is being developed and, as Ms. Thrall mentioned, a Board member is requested to serve on the search committee. Dr. Grossman congratulated Ms. Martin on her 20 years of service to Granby Public Schools.
- The Board of Finance Meeting scheduled for February 8th has been cancelled due to the delay of the state budget.
- A legislative breakfast will be held on February 11th from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Please let Linda know if you would like to attend.
- The next regular Board of Education Meeting will be held on February 17th.

I.C. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, provided updates from the Assistant Superintendent's office and stated the district continues to communicate weekly regarding COVID and that all schools are in a great place. She stated she appreciates the work of the community in terms of monitoring symptoms and staying home when sick. Remote strategies were tried and tested yesterday and Ms. Parsons stated she received great reports from students and staff. She reported that curriculum work is well underway with the Vision of the Graduate with building on the Mission Statement and the elements of Powerful Thinker, Effective Collaborator and Compassionate Contributor and flushing out what that means and what those statements look like in a graphic. There will be a second meeting next week to go through some of these core ideas. Additionally, Ms. Parsons informed the Board that curriculum alignment work is beginning at middle levels and working out to elementary and high school levels. More information will be forthcoming with regard to world language and parceling out the development of secondary languages across course levels. Ms. Parsons stated with regard to Math, course progression is currently being reviewed. She informed the Board the district just received five consultation days with CREC consultants to work with coaches and teachers on great math mini-lessons through a grant from CREC. Sarah Thrall inquired what the timeline is for completion of the Vision of the Graduate. Ms. Parsons stated there will be three meetings scheduled which will be wrapped up by mid-March and at the end of these meetings, the three skill sets (Powerful Thinker, Effective Collaborator and Compassionate Contributor) will be broken down into three statements under each describing exactly what they mean. The following work will be lining up capstone experiences and ensuring these statements permeate all curriculum and instruction.

I.D. Student Representative Reports

- Jacob Scotto reported mid-terms went well both online and in school and the second semester has officially begun.
- Everyone enjoyed the snow day and remote day this week. Students are ready to learn again.
- The first hockey game will be played away this Friday and girls' and boys' basketball games begin next week.
- Singing valentines are being sold this week.
- Choir program is going strong and a virtual concert will be coming out soon. Currently working on the audio and videos for the production.

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 Rosemarie Weber to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed unanimously at 7:14 p.m.

IV. Old Business

IV.A. FY22 Budget Update

Dr. Jordan Grossman provide an update to the Board on the FY22 Budget. He stated last week, he attended the Board of Finance Meeting with Ms. Robbins and Ms. Thrall. The unofficial guideline was set 3.19% which includes OPEB. The Plus One Budget is currently at 4.5% with OPEB which is a difference of approximately \$470K. Again, this is an unofficial guideline and the Board of Finance is waiting on a health benefits meeting which will take place tomorrow morning as well as the Governor's budget. Additionally, Dr. Grossman informed Board Members that they have in their packet this evening the answer to a question which was asked by Jenny Emery regarding the breakdown of general education budget numbers vs. special education budget numbers in dollars vs. percentage. Jenny Emery stated she was looking for the actual vs. budget numbers.

V. New Business

V.A. FY22 Quality & Diversity Budget

Dr. Grossman presented the FY22 Quality & Diversity (Q&D) Fund Budget to the Board. He stated the district is anticipating receiving 88 students from Open Choice next year which includes 10 Kindergarten students. Dr. Grossman reviewed the guiding principles in developing the Q&D Budget and he highlighted two of them: Enrolling 10 Kindergarten students and transferring some Q&D operating expenses into the operating budget. He informed the Board of personnel currently residing in the Q&D Budget as follows: Bus Monitors, 4.0 FTE Teaching Assistants and 2.8 FTE Social Workers. He stated there are a total of 4 social workers in the district (2.8 FTE are in the Q&D Fund; 0.2 FTE is an Open Choice Liaison under the Choice Academic and Social Support Grant; and, 1.0 FTE is in the operating budget). The Q&D Budget also supports the Summer Enrichment Academy, Bridges Program, extracurricular competitions, and the Granby Equity Team. Some new additions to the Q&D budget in FY22 are an AP Summer Boot Camp and a Minority Teacher Recruitment Program. Jennifer Parsons explained the Minority Teacher Recruitment Program to the Board. She explained that a teacher candidate of color would go through an ARC program and CREC would run an off-site college program for that candidate. While a candidate is starting work during the summer and all next school year, they would be working in a classroom with one of our teachers while taking their coursework. Granby would be paying them to be on campus as well as their tuition for coursework. The following year, they would finish up and in the third year hopefully gain a position in the Granby Public Schools. Dr. Grossman stated CREC is applying for grants which will hopefully help offset the cost for districts. Sarah Thrall inquired if the candidate is obligated to work for Granby after the training is completed. Dr. Grossman stated this is yet to be determined. Mark Fiorentino inquired Granby has an option to pre-screen candidates for this hire after they have received their certificate.

Dr. Grossman went on to review items that are in the Open Choice Academic and Social Support Grant which is not part of the Q&D Budget. He then reviewed magnet school enrollment and stated it is steady throughout the next few years. He mentioned putting the 4 Teaching Assistants back into the Q&D Budget but, for the most part, this budget has not changed much from years past. Jenny Emery expressed concerns about the loss of education and remediation for students due to the pandemic and stated that the \$1M saved was education lost and some guiding principles should be developed for the Q&D Budget going forward. Dr. Grossman stated the State did release information on the ESSER grant and Granby has been allotted \$209K for the next two years and are in the process of analyzing what this means for our budget next year.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

Rosemarie Weber stated this Subcommittee met this evening. Mr. Wrye, principal at GMMS shared a schedule change at the middle school. The goals are to resolve discrepancies in certain subjects and making sure students have time during the day to collaborate with teachers and expose students to different curriculums. Principal Wrye will return to discuss with the entire Board at a later date but a high level view is there will be 8 classes at 50 minutes each, 5 core blocks for the 5 main subjects and an opportunity during the day for students to take advanced or flex time to work on projects they are passionate about or work with other teachers. Also discussed the Assistant Superintendent's report as follows: Work around curriculum math progression at the middle school/high school; phonics units at elementary school; world language content areas; summer school (virtual and in-person options); GEF grant for a high school broadcast channel; COVID-related issues; coordination of vaccines for staff; end-of-year field trips for students; and, work on equity in the district. Two policies were also reviewed for personnel and students regarding drug and alcohol use and will remain in Subcommittee for further review.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports**VI.B.1. CREC/CABE**

Mark Fiorentino reported that CREC did not meet since the last meeting.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Jenny Emery reported the GEF will meet on Monday evening. JG stated that he, Jenn and the high school technology department will be presenting at that meeting.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Sarah Thrall mentioned the SEPTO Meeting on Monday, PAC Meeting and Superintendent's Community Conversation.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

There were no Board member announcements this evening.

VI.E. Action Items

- 1) Clarification on the \$65K Teacher Recruitment Program.
- 2) Jenny Emery requested the history of the change in the actual expenses for special education vs. regular education over the last few years.

VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by Mark Fiorentino to adjourn the meeting and enter into an Executive Session to discuss a collective bargaining issue. This motion passed unanimously at 7:50 p.m. The Executive Session adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Weber
Board Secretary