

**Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes**  
**Wednesday, October 12, 2022, 7:00 p.m.**  
**High School Auditorium**

Present Board Members: Kristina Gilton, Monica Logan, David Peling, Whitney Sanzo, Sarah Thrall, and Rosemarie Weber

Absent Board Members: Donna Nolan, Chase Alexander and Tess Bajek (Student Representatives)

Sarah Thrall called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**I. Administrative Reports**

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

Sarah Thrall, Board Chair, welcomed everyone in attendance as well as on via Zoom. She thanked the high school staff for accommodating the Board this evening.

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

- Dr. Grossman welcomed everyone in attendance and on Zoom this evening and a special welcome to high school students Kelsi Stickels and Cole Max as well as Ms. Mara Henze, College and Career Coordinator, and Ms. Jacky Paton, Science Teacher, who are here to present for Schools in the Spotlight.
- Dr. Grossman stated there will not be a student representative report this evening.
- Met with the town regarding the high school track. Many community members use this track beyond our students. There is some puddling on the track and a consultant will be coming out next week to try to figure out what might be causing this. Spending a lot of time looking at this so that our students and community can use the track safely.
- A team from Granby Public Schools will present at the Performance Matters Conference in Hartford tomorrow. Granby was invited by the CT State Department of Education to share how Granby is making growth in student achievement.
- The Robotics Team will present at the Senior Men's Breakfast tomorrow.
- The construction project at the high school is moving along nicely as well as the video production studio. There will be a Boardwalk at the high school this Friday to view the progress. Additionally, there will be an opportunity for the community members to do a walkthrough after the project is completed.
- Creation of the FY24 budget is well underway at the building level. Meetings with administrators begin in November.
- The next Board Meeting will be held next Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

**I.C. Assistant Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, provided updates from her office and updated the Board on committee working happening in the district. The Equity Team had their first meeting which focused on the theme of representation matters and tying in equity work to the elements of effective instruction and making sure our learning environments are representative of our student demographics. Ms. Jacky Paton is a Co-Facilitator this year for these meetings. There will be a few internal meetings and other meetings with partners from Educational Leadership which they will lead at the next meeting in early November. Additionally, Ms. Parsons stated the district-wide Social/Emotional Learning Committee met, which she co-leads with Ms. Angela Ehrenwerth, and revisited goals set last year, i.e., communicating inter-staff working agreements and revisiting rules and expectations at the beginning of school year. Ms. Parsons also stated that STEAM and Wellness meetings are coming up in the next couple of weeks.

**I.D. Student Representative Reports**

There were no student representative reports this evening.

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

Mr. Dunn introduced High School students Kelsi Stickels and Cole Max who participated in the College Explorations Program along with facilitators Ms. Mara Henze, College and Career Coordinator, and Ms. Jacky Paton, Science Teacher. This program has run since 2008 and exposes students to colleges and the college process. Mara Henze stated she is excited to share the College Explorations Summer Tour this year and the goal of the program was to design a financially acceptable introduction to a variety of schools. 20 students visited eight (8) schools and students learned a lot from the campus visits. There was a guided tour at each school and information sessions at a couple of the schools and students were also able to experience the food court as well at some of the schools. Kelsi Stickels (senior), informed the Board that having all of the visits scheduled for her was great and also that her mom did not need to take time off of work to take her. Kelsi also stated seeing schools in person gave her a good idea of where she wanted to be as well as seeing a variety of the schools, large, small, etc. This trip inspired her to get excited about applying to colleges. Cole Max explained how the tour of schools helped to relieve his anxiety related to college searches. He also shared he felt a lot more comfortable making these visits with his peers and he was also very pleased to know about disability services offered to students. Sarah Thrall thanked the high school for having this opportunity for our students. She inquired about a GMHS panel that was available in the past and if that was going to occur again. Mara Henze stated she would like to see this incorporated again; however, there was not enough time to get it organized this year.

### **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 7:23 p.m.

### **IV. Old Business**

There was no Old Business to report this evening.

### **V. New Business**

#### **V.A. Continuous Improvement Plan – Granby Memorial High School**

Dr. Grossman stated he presented the Superintendent goals, which align to the strategic plan, and the next phase is for the schools to present over the next 4-5 meetings their Continuous Improvement Plans. This year we are trying to make it more interactive for Board members so after each goal area, Mr. Dunn will entertain questions from the Board.

Mr. Michael Dunn, High School Principal, presented his Continuous Improvement Plan for Granby Memorial High School. He reviewed the Vision of the Graduate which he stated helps to guide the principles of Granby Memorial High School. Goal #1 under *Student Learning and Achievement* is to increase the percentage of 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders scoring at benchmark on PSAT. Mr. Dunn stated the high school is off to a super start this year and students had multiple opportunities to practice the PSATs before taking them today to better understand the type of skills they need to take this test. This work also helped departments to develop departmental plans and benchmarks which aligned with PSAT questions. Rosemarie Weber inquired about re-establishing writing tutors. Mr. Dunn stated this program was available several years ago where students tutored one another and it will be reinstituted this year. Monica Logan inquired about increasing data capacity to target classroom interventions. Mr. Dunn stated after the scores from today's tests are received, interventions can then take place for students who need them. A chart was shown with regard to Fall PSAT targets showing where students in each grade scored with regard to being at, near or below benchmark in Math and ERW. The second goal under *Student Learning and Achievement* is for every student to enroll in at least one college credit-bearing course while in high school. Mr. Dunn stated there is a remarkable amount of opportunities for students to achieve college credit while in high school and in last year's graduating class (2022) 89% of seniors obtained at least one college-credit course while at GMHS.

For Goal #2, *Community Engagement* is to improve communication that captures and celebrates the school community through online resources and platforms. Mr. Dunn this will be done by reinstituting a newsletter to showcase department/school highlights; increase family and staff input through teams, surveys, and PAC meetings; support the new Advanced Communications course and Broadcast Club; support school-to-career and collaboration with community business; and to increase participation in curriculum nights, parent conferences and PAC meetings. For Goal #3, *Safety and Social Emotional Well-Being* is to create safe, inclusive and socially-emotionally responsive classrooms and school environments by training teachers to use the DESSA (Devareux Student Stress Assessment) instrument which is an online screening tool to target SEL goals/actions; renew school climate/SEL team implementation of goals/actions; increasing student leadership on action teams including grading and social media; and, implement Voice4Change initiatives. Rosemarie Weber inquired if parents will be contacted regarding the DESSA. Dr. Grossman stated communication will be going out to parents and if red flags are raised, parents will certainly be contacted. He stated Ms. Ehrenwerth will get into this in more detail when she presents her plan to the Board. David Peling inquired if parents/students will be able to opt out of this assessment and Dr. Grossman stated, yes, he believes so.

For Goal #4, *Budget Development and Fiscal Management* is to manage the budget process to maximize efficiencies while increasing needed supports for students who struggle academically and socially/emotionally by communicating developments on the construction project; monitoring class sizes to ensure appropriate learning environments; exploring alternative school structures to address SEL needs; and, continuing to analyze achievement data to ensure adequate supports/staffing. Goal #5, *Embracing Diversity* is to continue to improve systems and practices to maximize equitable opportunities for all students by partnering with student-led groups (Bridges, SAFE, Black & Latino Studies, etc.) to celebrate cultural heritage; continuing to partner with the Granby Equity Team; and continuing to build staff capacity to approach conversations around equity with students during Advisory. Goal #6 under, *Professional Learning* is to continue to improve staff capacity to clarify outcomes and use data protocols to inform instruction by restructuring PLC teams; developing the capacity of leadership teams to model and use protocols to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of teams; and, increase data capacity to target classroom interventions. Rosemarie Weber inquired about equitable grading practices. Mr. Dunn stated there is a lot of information around which states things are not consistent and there are equity-based ramifications as to why grading practices are not consistent. Dr. Grossman stated he would like Jennifer Parsons to speak about grading practices in one of her reports at a future meeting.

## **VI. Miscellaneous**

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

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

David Peling reported this Subcommittee met this evening to discuss the Assistant Superintendent's Report as follows: Started coaches monthly meetings; over 100 parents attended the Hartford Athletics Game; resilience family training on QPR (suicide prevention) for parents; and, rollout of new talent ed system. Also received a report on the Teachers Writing Project – accepted a pilot for Grade 3 Phonics. A few policies were reviewed and two will be brought forward to the full board and three policies were deferred to the next meeting. Lastly, a lengthy presentation was given by Mr. Wrye on student achievement.

#### **VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities**

This Subcommittee has not met. Minutes approved at the last meeting are in the Board packet.

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

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

Sarah Thrall stated she attended a legislative update at CABE today and she would be happy to share what she learned with Board members.

**V.I.B.2. Granby Education Foundation**

Whitney Sanzo reported the GEF will meet next week.

**VI.C. Calendar of Events**

Sarah Thrall stated Board members have agreed to attend some meetings in the district. There will be a PAC Meeting at the high school (Kristina Gilton will attend) and there will be a SEPTO Meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup> (Whitney Sanzo will attend). Additionally, a Superintendent's Community Conversation as well as a PAC Meeting is upcoming.

**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. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Kristina Gilton to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Weber  
Vice Chairman