

**Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes
Wednesday, December 7, 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 Chase Alexander (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 Ms. Angela Ehrenwerth, Director of Pupil Services, who was in attendance to present her Department's Continuous Improvement Plan. She also reminded everyone about the Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, December 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Senior Center and stated this meeting is being held to discuss the reallocation of excess funds from the Bridges Project to the School Projects. There will be a referendum vote on Tuesday, December 20th from 12-8 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

I.B. Superintendent's Announcements

- In Dr. Grossman's absence, Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, welcomed everyone in attendance and also extended a special welcome to Ms. Angela Ehrenwerth, Director of Pupil Services.
- A letter was sent to families informing them that the state funding for free meals will end on Tuesday, December 13th and the district will revert to charging for meals on December 14th.
- Work to repair the high school track was completed over the Thanksgiving holiday and it looks great.
- Congratulations to Ada Linden, 6th grade student, who was selected as a Student Reader for the Nutmeg State Intermediate Book Award Committee.
- Additionally, congratulations to Gavin Baron, who was selected for the Hartford Marathon Foundation Susie Beris MD Youth Running Program's Junior Team and was invited to participate in the 5K run this past Sunday. The team was made up of 18 students around the state of Connecticut and Gavin finished the race in 20 min. and 36 seconds and came in 49th out of 1,399 runners!
- Congratulations to high school students Cooper Boyd, Ezra Holt, Christian Cusano, and Trevor Thompson who were all accepted into NAFME All-Eastern Mixed Choir for April 2023. This is a school record!
- Creation of the FY24 Plus One Budget is well underway. The Plus One Budget will be presented at the December 21st. Board of Education Meeting.
- PSATs were administered to students in Grades 8 and 9 this week.
- There will be half days for Kelly and Wells only on December 7-9 for elementary conferences.
- All schools district-wide will participate in the CCMC PJ Day fundraiser on Friday, December 7th.
- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 21st.

I.C. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, provided updates from her office and stated the second Granby Equity Meeting of the year was held last week. The committee reviewed how the district did last year with regard to acknowledging cultural heritage months, i.e., Native American Month, etc. Ms. Parsons stated these celebrations have turned into something very special. Additionally, the committee spoke about how to handle tough conversations as adults. Four (4) different teams are collaboratively working on action items in the plan shared last year, such as, how to communicate with families; a community book club; guest speakers; and student leadership clubs. Ms. Parsons stated it is exciting to see the work continue and that she is still looking for additional student members as a few of the students are in high school and will be leaving in the next couple of years so more students are welcome.

I.D. Student Representative Reports

- Tess reported students are finally in the new band and chorus room.
- Students are excitedly waiting for the new commons.
- Auditions for the spring musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*, will be held next week.
- Spirit week is planned for the week leading up to the break, December 19-23.

- The CCMC PJ Day Fundraiser will be held tomorrow. Students can wear pajamas for a \$1.00 donation.
- Chase reported the boys' and girls' basketball teams competed in pre-season scrimmages last night.
- Ice hockey hosted Bolton in their first scrimmage of the season last night. Hockey games will be held at ISCC in Simsbury this year instead of Enfield Twin Rinks.
- Wrestling will have their first meet of the season this Saturday at Hartford Public High School.
- Swimming and Diving will take part in their first competition next Saturday at 4 p.m. at the YMCA.

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 Donna Nolan that the Granby Board of Education adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed with one abstention (David Peling) at 7:11 p.m.

IV. Old Business

IV.A. Second Reading and Approval of Revised Policy 5144.4 - Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students

A motion was made by David Peling and seconded by Donna Nolan that the Granby Board of Education adopt revised Policy 5144.4, Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students, as recommended by the Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee. This motion passed unanimously at 7:12 p.m.

IV.A. Approval of 2023-2024 School Calendar

The Board considered the approval of the calendar for the 2023-2024 school year. A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Monica Logan that the Granby Board of Education approve the calendar for the 2023-2024 school year. This motion passed unanimously at 7:16 p.m.

V. New Business

V.A. Pupil Services Department Continuous Improvement Plan

Ms. Angela Ehrenwerth, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, presented her Continuous Improvement Plan for 2022-2023 and reviewed all of the goals. Goal #1, *Student Learning and Achievement*, is students with special needs will show measurable gains in academic achievement when provided effective core instruction. Ms. Ehrenwerth stated this goal is a focus of the Department's work and will be accomplished by designing specialized instruction that is standards- and curriculum-aligned; developing IEP goals and objectives that include learning conditions; and continuing special education instructional coaching in Grades PK-5. Ms. Ehrenwerth reviewed the STAR Assessment Data for identified students at or above goal for reading and math in the fall as well as shared the targeted percentage goal for this group of students in the spring. Rosemarie Weber inquired about the progress monitoring tools and wondered if there was anything that should be approved through the upcoming budget. Ms. Ehrenwerth stated the Department is looking to continue what is currently being used and making some lateral swaps in technology use. Goal #2, *Community Engagement*, for the Pupil Services Department to partner with families to support engagement, ongoing communication and collaboration between staff and students will be accomplished by continuing to partner with SEPTO; ongoing collaboration with families and improving upon eliciting feedback; and, continuing to build on- and off-campus internships for high school students with special education needs. Goal 3, *Safety and Social Emotional Well-Being*, to support social/emotional/behavioral learning of students and staff will be achieved by utilizing a team process with conducting Functional Behavior Assessments; collaborating with Granby Youth Services; and, continuing to work with the SEL Committee to examine curriculum and interventions and supports at all tier levels. Goal #4, *Budget Development and Fiscal Management*, to be fiscally responsible through careful identification of needs and appropriate spending to support student learning and growth will be accomplished by monitoring caseloads, student needs and staff assignments; supporting current implementation of co-teaching at the middle and high schools; and, investigating the possibility of alternative education programming. Sarah Thrall inquired about typical caseloads at each school level. Ms. Ehrenwerth stated it can vary widely due to larger numbers at the middle

and high schools as well as older students possessing higher skill levels. Donna Nolan inquired what some of the reasons are for the alternative education program and Ms. Ehrenwerth stated for issues, such as, attendance, anxiety and social/emotional needs. Ms. Ehrenwerth continued on with Goal #5, *Embracing Diversity*, to support the implementation of the Granby Public Schools' Anti-Bias/Anti-Racism Plan by promoting equitable practices and outcomes for all students and stated this goal is being accomplished by supporting the mission of the Best Buddies & Unified Sports programs as well as the newly implemented Young Athletes Program at Kelly Lane School; continuing to build staff capacity to differentiate instruction and assessment; and, partnering with the district's Family Engagement Specialist to better support our students across different communities. She concluded with Goal #6, *Professional Learning*, to provide meaningful professional learning opportunities to enhance practice and increase learning outcomes for students which will be accomplished by supporting staff in the implementation of the new State of Connecticut (CT-SEDS) program; providing job-embedded technical assistance for co-teaching teams; and, supporting staff in seeking professional learning opportunities to effectively meet the individual needs of their caseloads. Sarah Thrall stated it is hard to believe Ms. Ehrenwerth has only been with the district for a short time with all that she has accomplished thus far and that Granby is very fortunate to have her as the Director of Pupil Services.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

David Peling stated this Subcommittee met this evening and received a presentation on 18-22-year-old programming in the district. Also discussed the Assistant Superintendent's Monthly report including the review of the reading programming; principal and instructional coaches' meetings; composting at Kelly Lane; the well-attended social media workshop with Justine Ginsberg; monitoring RSV/flu/COVID cases; and Wellness Committee. Briefly spoke about a new course (Psychology of Happiness) which was tabled to the next meeting as well as a couple of policies.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

This Subcommittee has not met. Approved minutes are in the packet.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Kristina Gilton reported the next CREC Council Meeting is in January. Sarah Thrall stated there are a lot of on-line resources available through CABE and encouraged Board members to take a look at them.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Whitney Sanzo stated the GEF will tour the Video Production Studio on Monday, December 19th.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

The SEPTO Meeting scheduled for Monday, December 12th is cancelled.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

Donna Nolan reiterated that there will be a Town Meeting on December 13th to discuss the potential reallocation of funds from the bridge projects to the school projects with a town-wide vote on December 20th. The Town Meeting will be held in the Senior Center and the vote in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

VI.E. Action Items

There were no action items to report this evening.

VII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Donna Nolan to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Nolan
Board Secretary