

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Draft Minutes
Wednesday, November 1, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Central Services

Present Board Members: Kristina Gilton, Katharine Leenders, Monica Logan, Donna Nolan, David Peling, Whitney Sanzo, Rosemarie Weber, Chase Alexander and Katie O’Neill (arrived @ ~7:35 p.m.) (Student Representatives).

Absent Board Members: N/A

Rosemarie Weber called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Chairman's Corner

Rosemarie Weber, Board Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended a special welcome to Principal Colleen Bava and Principal Pauline Greer. She also welcomed Jenny Emery, former BOE member. Ms. Weber stated there is a lot to celebrate and a lot of spirit in the schools. She attended the National Honor Society (NHS) Induction Ceremony last week. She also shared that she read an article in *The Drummer* about our graduates, Kylie Coxon, who published a book of poems. Ms. Weber highlighted Kylie to showcase the success of Granby students.

I.B. Superintendent's Report

- Ms. Burke informed everyone that tonight’s meeting is being taped by GCTV and will be available tomorrow.
- Ms. Burke welcomed everyone in attendance and extended a special welcome to Ms. Colleen Bava, Principal of Kelly Lane Primary School, and Ms. Pauline Greer, Principal of Wells Road Intermediate School, who were in attendance to present their Continuous Improvement Plans to the Board.
- Congratulations to the Board of Education on receiving the CABE Leadership Award, Level Two, for the 14th year in a row! The Board will be recognized at the upcoming CABE Convention on November 17th.
- Congratulations to all of the students who were inducted into the National Honor Society last week.
- The new Assistant Principal of the Middle was announced this week. Mr. Alex Schwartz will join Granby Public Schools on November 27th and is coming to us from Farmington Public Schools where he is an instructional coach and teacher leader. He was selected from over 80 applicants.
- The District Communications Plan is coming together and will be presented for a first reading at the next Board Meeting on November 15th.
- Work began on the first edition of the *Vision* for this school year which will be out the end of November/beginning of December.
- PSATs for 8th graders were held on Wednesday last week and went well.
- The first PTO Meeting of the year was also held last week and was very well attended.
- Jennifer Parsons and Ms. Burke attended a meeting held by the State Department of Education and consultants with regard to Granby’s reading waiver. Ms. Parsons did an excellent job responding to the request for additional information. A decision will be made by December 1st and the district can plan accordingly for the 2025 school year.
- There has been an adjustment regarding the age of children starting Kindergarten as a result of recent legislation. Children need to turn 5 years old on or before September 1st to be automatically legible for kindergarten. Information can be found on the website here: https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/991/GPS/3664343/Kindergarten_Age_Letter_10-23-23.pdf
- The next regularly scheduled Board of Education Meeting will be held on November 15th and will be held back in the Town Hall Meeting Room and available via Zoom as well GCTV.

I.C. Student Representative Reports

- Chase Alexander reported that Katie O’Neill is at a NCCC playoff volleyball game this evening vs. SMSA; boys’ soccer completed the regular season and will play on Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. at home; girls’ soccer will scrimmage Avon at home on November 3rd and will play in the State tournament at home on November 6th; field hockey will play Glastonbury on November 3rd; cross

country finished their season and will play in a State meet on November 6th; football will play on November 3rd at Cromwell.

- Halloween was yesterday and all of the sports teams put together team costumes. Field hockey won with Alice in Wonderland.
- GMHS will host a mattress sale fundraiser on Saturday, November 18th from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. to benefit the Music Department and the senior class.
- The GMHS drama production *A Christmas Carol*, will be held on November 10th at 7 p.m., November 11th at 7 p.m. and November 12th at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for Senior Citizens, Teachers and Students and \$18 for the general public.
- GMHS hosted a blood drive last week and the event ran successfully with a strong mix of first-time and returning donors. Chase volunteered and said it was great to see people and it was a good cause.
- Students in AP/ECE French have been practicing for the UConn Quiz Bowl, which is a trivia contest that will be held at UConn on Thursday, November 9th.
- Students created positive messages and developed questions in their advisories in preparation for the Veterans' Day assembly.
- The NHS Induction Ceremony was held last week and NHS held their first meeting with all of the new members.

II. Public Comment

Tricia Rivard, 29 Strawberry Fields, Ms. Rivard stated she her children graduated from the Granby Public Schools and she was attending this meeting to support teachers. She stated there is an 18% turnover in teachers this year which is out of control. She shared with the Board that she is seriously concerned about this.

Jenny Emery, 71 Loomis Street. Ms. Emery stated she moved from the BOE to the BOF because money matters but stated she continues to believe in a strong public education system which Granby has. She thanked the Board and Granby Public School staff for all they do and have done for students. Granby is an open and affirming school system which is very important to her. She thanked the Board for making the broadest and most inclusive education possible for the children in Granby and developing their critical thinking skills.

III. Consent Agenda

III.A. Minutes

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Monica Logan that the Granby Board of Education adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed unanimously at 7:17 p.m.

IV. Old Business

There was no Old Business to report.

V. New Business

V.A. Elementary Continuous Improvement Plans

Ms. Colleen Bava, Kelly Lane Primary School Principal, and Ms. Pauline Greer, Wells Road Intermediate School Principal, presented their respective Continuous Improvement Plans to the Board. Ms. Bava reported on student learning and achievement that all students will demonstrate growth toward mastery of ELA and Math as measured by performance at the proficiency level or higher. With regard to Math scores, Ms. Bava explained there is no spring assessment for Kindergarten students; however, in the fall, Kindergarten students achieved 77% in Math which is huge and she informed the Board growth trends are starting to go up post-COVID. The goal for Kindergarten in 2024 is 80%. First grade students scored at 82% in the spring but fell to 49% in the fall. The goal is 70% and Ms. Bava stated she is very confident students will attain this goal. Second grade students scored 71% proficiency in the spring and dipped slightly in the fall to 69%. The goal is 80% which is attainable. Ms. Bava reviewed the ELA (DIBELS) test scores and stated this test is computer-based and is the first time students take this type of test. Kindergarten students scored 37% and she is confident they will attain the 80% goal. First graders

scored 75% in the spring and dipped to 53% in the fall. Ms. Bava reviewed Kelly Lane's academic action steps for this school year as well as MTSS. She stated it is a collective responsibility. Instructional coaches work with teachers, classroom teachers work with students, interventionists work with students who have a little more need, and everyone meets weekly in PLC to talk about the data.

For *Goal #2, Community Engagement*, Kelly Lane will enhance communication and build trusting relationships with all stakeholders by hosting principal/parent events three (3) times per year; reviewing survey data to reflect on areas of improvement to communications practices; and, classrooms engaging in two (2) parent learning engagement opportunities. Ms. Weber stated she is impressed with the parent opportunities and wished those opportunities were available when her children were small.

Ms. Greer presented her plan and informed the Board the alignment with Kelly Lane and Wells Road will be noticeable. She stated for SBAC, growth of students at Wells Road can be seen and she noted SBAC is not an easy test and a challenge for students. Wells Road is adopting 100% of growth towards mastery with proficiency or higher levels of 80% in ELA; 70% in Math; and, 80% in Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for 5th grade students. She shared the STAR test is the best predictor for SBAC. Third grade students scored 50% on Star as well as 50% on STAR in the fall and the goal is 80%. Fourth grade students scored 60% on Star in the spring and scored 63% on SBAC in the fall with an 80% goal for 2024. Fifth grade students scored 66% on STAR in the spring and 71% on SBAC in the fall. In Math, 3rd grade scored 53% on STAR in the spring and 55% on STAR in the fall; 4th grade students scored 66% on the spring STAR, 67% on SBAC and 58% on the fall STAR; and, 5th grade students scored 56% on the spring Start, 66% on the fall SBAC and 47% on the fall Star. The NGSS test is taken in Grade 5 students scored 64% in 2022-2023. Ms. Parsons stated as students get older, their foundational skills get stronger as well as their ability to dive into comprehension. Reading tends to get stronger and Math sees the increase in the number of standards. Monica Logan inquired if the district is still seeing the impact of the now 3rd graders when they were in Kindergarten due to COVID and the answer is, yes, this impact is still being seen. Ms. Greer reviewed the action steps for Wells Road as well as MTSS which aligns with Kelly Lane to ensure each other's information is accessible. Kristina Gilton inquired if vertical articulation is helpful for students coming into Wells Road from Kelly and Ms. Greer stated, absolutely. conversations are had with Ms. Bava as well as middle school administration. David Peling inquired if data was primarily discussed in PLC meetings and Ms. Greer stated it is one of the places that data is discussed as it is also discussed in MTSS cycles, leadership teams, and grade level meetings. Ms. Weber inquired how often the literary and math staff developers go to Wells Road and Ms. Greer stated both Wells Road and Kelly Lane get 5 full days each. Ms. Weber also inquired what makes up a coaching cycle. Ms. Greer stated there is an ELA, Math/Science and an Instructional Coach. Teachers sign up for 4-6-week cycle with a goal. Ms. Parsons stated the Curriculum Subcommittee will look at different coaching models at their next meeting; however, a coach may work with multiple teachers in a coaching cycle.

For *Goal #3 Community Engagement*, that Wells Road will enhance communication and build trusting relationships with all stakeholders is being accomplished by providing at least two learning engagement or academic celebration opportunities for families; establishing at least two (2) whole school or grade-level events; and, increasing classroom use of mobile app-based communication.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

David Peling reported the Curriculum Subcommittee met this evening to discuss the Assistant Superintendent's monthly report as follows: Met with the principals; met with the State regarding the K-3 reading waiver; reviewed data platform and coaching cycles; curriculum work with Dept. chair; held first learning walk; met with FVHD on mental health; SEL Committee met and planned for DESSA administration; Wellness Committee had their first meeting; hired Middle School Assistant Principal; met with CREC Open Choice coaches; and Granby Equity Team met. Reviewed and approved a new course proposal, Strength and Conditioning and Human Performance at the high school. There is an option of getting a certificate for a Strength & Conditioning Coach. A Motion passed in favor 3-0. Received a curriculum cycle overview and plans going forward. There will be a 5-year curriculum program review. Also discussed the Kindergarten age adjustment requirement.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

This subcommittee did not meet.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Kristina Gilton reported CREC Council has not met. Will report at next meeting.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Whitney Sanzo reported the GEF has not met. Will report at next meeting.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Rosemarie Weber highlighted the upcoming drama play, *A Christmas Carol*; SEPTO meeting; conferences starting November 16th with early release days; and, the mattress fundraiser. There are many good things going on in the district.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

Donna Nolan asked Katie O'Neill how her game turned out and she informed the Board the girls' volleyball team won the game 3-0 and will advance to the conference semi-finals on Thursday, November 2nd vs. Coventry.

VI.E. Action Items

There were no action items this evening.

VII. Executive Session

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by David Peling that the Granby Board of Education enter into an Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining. This motion passed unanimously at 8:18 p.m.

In Executive Session, a motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Katie Leenders that the Granby Board of Education hold a Special Meeting on Friday, November 3, 2023 to discuss ratification of the GEA contract. This motion passed unanimously at 8:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Kristina Gilton that the Granby Board of Education enter back into regular session. This motion passed unanimously at 8:33 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Katie Leenders that the Granby Board of Education adjourn the regular meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Logan
Board Secretary