

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes
Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present Board Members: Jenny Emery, Mark Fiorentino, Melissa Migliaccio, Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber, Brandon Webster, and Tess Bajek and Jacob Scott (Student Representatives)

Absent Board Members: David Peling

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

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Chairman's Corner

Sarah Thrall, Board Chair, stated Sarah this is the last Board Meeting for some of our members and she thanked all Board members for volunteering to be on the Board.

I.B. Superintendent's Announcements

- Dr. Grossman welcomed everyone in attendance and virtually as well as on Zoom and a special welcome to elementary principals, Ms. Colleen Bava and Ms. Pauline Greer, who were in attendance to present their Continuous Improvement Plans this evening.
- Dr. Grossman congratulated Sarah Thrall on her re-election to the Board and to Mark Fiorentino to the Board of Selectmen and to Jenny Emery to the Board of Finance. He also congratulated Whitney Sanzo and Donna Nolan on their elections to the Board.
- Three students from Wells Road entered the Kid Governor's Challenge: Allyson Phinney, Eva Bragoni, and Sara Brenson. Sara was the winner of the primary; however, did not make it as a final candidate. Today the Kid Governor Rally bus arrived on campus to promote civics education.
- On Tuesday professional development went well and work focused on the Great School Partnership, equity and social/emotional well-being.
- The district is still short on substitutes. Please contact human resources or Kelly Services to get on the substitute list. The district is also short on bus drivers. If you know someone interested in driving a bus, please contact our school offices and we will do what we can to get people certified to drive a bus. An email will go out to families with regard to being prepared for any transportation issues that may arise due to this shortage.
- Monday night 28 students were inducted into the World Language Honor Societies for French, Spanish and Chinese.
- The 2022-2023 calendar will be proposed for a first reading at the next Board meeting.
- The FY23 budget is underway and meetings will begin this week. The Plus One will be presented to the Board on January 5th.
- There will be many Veterans Day celebrations going on district-wide next week.
- The next meeting will be held on November 17th. This will also be an organizational meeting to nominate Board Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary and committee assignments will also be made at that time.

I.C. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, provided updates from her office and stated the district is continuing to see some impact with regard to COVID and all of our learners are being accommodated. Weekly communication will be sent out this week that FDA and CDC approved vaccinations and will communicate with families regarding clinics. On the professional development day on Tuesday there were three 2-hour sessions on social/emotional learning, elements of effective instruction and clear outcomes for instruction, and equity efforts. With regard to an update on the math initiative, middle school students and teachers in Grades 6-8 are using Illustrative Math this year. Working with the consultant from CREC on implementing the Illustrative Math resource. The Math Coach is also working in between the consultant visits with teachers on day-to-day planning. Teachers are sharing that students are picking up on the concepts. Lessons are structured where teachers will plant an idea and students will explore it. All K-5 teachers are trialing at least one unit of Illustrative Math. Starting to implement the interim assessment blocks which are shorter than seen on the SBAC. A lot of good math work is happening.

I.D. Student Representative Reports

- Tess Bajek stated Volleyball had their senior night and this week is conference tournament for volleyball.
- The first state game for girls' soccer was on Monday and the boys' soccer first state game was on Tuesday.
- Registration for winter sports has been starting as fall sports come to an end.
- There is a football game on Friday in Old Lyme.
- Jacob stated fall coffeehouse auditions will be held this Friday and next Monday and the performance will be on November 20th.
- The high school drama play, *Radium Girls*, premieres this weekend, Friday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. You can purchase tickets at the door.
- World Language Honor Societies had their induction ceremony this Monday and welcomed many new members to their group.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments this evening.

III. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes

A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by Jenny Emery to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed at 7:15 p.m. with one abstention (Brandon Webster).

IV. Old Business

There was no Old Business to report this evening.

V. New Business

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. Dr. Grossman thanked both principals for their tremendous work and leadership and informed the Board the Principals have aligned their goals with the Strategic Plan. Ms. Bava presented her plan and Kelly Lane goals under each Board Goals as follows: **Board Goal #1 Student Learning & Achievement** is to increase reading and math scores based on fall assessment data by Spring 2022 by establishing an intervention block with small group focus as well as have regular coaching meetings to focus on achievement and instructional conversations. The data collected this year was presented showing growth percentages for K-2. Second grade students are doing Dibels and STAR as this is a transitional grade and will be a good indicator of where they will achieve on the standardized tests. The second goal under Student Learning and Achievement is to develop a culture of data in which teachers gather and analyze a variety of data sources by sharing data across groups. **Board Goal #2 Community Engagement** is to work collaboratively create an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect to ensure effective communication by creating opportunities for formal and information communication; establishing opportunities for families to connect through scheduled events; and, work collaboratively with the PTO. **Board Goal #3 Safety & Security** is to create an equitable learning environment by ongoing professional learning activities that focus on student social emotional by creating a crosswalk between programs already in use as well as connect student social/emotional learning to academics. **Board Goal #4 Budget Development and Fiscal Management** to create long-term financial plan with aligns with the vision of the Board of Finance will be accomplished by working with all stakeholders within the district to ensure an up-to-date small cap budget as well as monitor class sizes. **Board Goal #5 Embracing Diversity** is to ensure system-wide practices by continuing to build the equity team at Kelly Lane to embed experiences into grade level and staff meetings; work in partnership with the Media Specialtion and matain a book distribution of diverse literature; and work with the CREC Early Childhood Liaison. **Goal #6 Professional Learning** is to implement a common instructional framework to increase student engagement by working with the Great Schools Partnership to align and be consistent with learning as well as increase teacher capacity with the Teachers College Staff Developer for instructional focus on reading, writing and phonics.

Ms. Pauline Greer, Principal at Wells Road Intermediate School, presented her Continuous Improvement Plan and stated for **Board Goal #1 Student Learning and Achivement** is for Wells Road students to achieve levels of proficiency or higher on the state assessment by reviewing and discussing progress monitoring data including interim assessment blocks; focus on small group instruction; and, progress monitor through the student

intervention team process. Goals for the Smarter Balanced Assessment were presented. Ms. Greer stated 3rd Grade is the first year these students take this assessment. She stated in Math, 4th grade is moving from 50% to 65% and 5th grade is 47% to 69%. For ELA Ms. Greer stated 4th grade is moving from 66% to 70% and 5th grade from 62 to 75%. She stated this test gets increasingly more difficult so how students perform historically is reviewed. Science only happens for 5th grade. The second goal under Student Learning and Achievement is to develop a culture of data in which teachers gather and analyze a variety of data sources by using School Improvement Team Leadership to review whole school data and trends as well as utilize grade level/department meetings to discuss benchmark data and next step planning. **Board Goal #2 Community Engagement** is to enhance communication that reaches all stakeholders by continuing weekly school and classroom communication; sustain monthly newsletter; increase regular communication including digital media; and, work collaboratively with the PTO. **Board Goal #3 Safety & Social Emotional Well-Being** is to implement a social and emotional well-being curriculum and behavioral expectations by using minute meeting data to identify at-risk students as well as create and maintain a schedule with designated time for morning meeting and SEL curriculum. **Goal #4 Budget Development and Fiscal Management** is to create long-term financial plan which aligns with the vision of the Board of Finance by working with all stakeholders in the district to ensure an up-to-date small cap budget as well as monitor class sizes. **Board Goal #5: Embracing Diversity** is to ensure system-wide practices and structures are in place at Wells Road to support the GPS Anti-Bias/Anti-Racism Plan by having Granby Equity Team members meet with the School Improvement Team to discuss and embed culturally proficient practices in daily routines as well as continue the First 50 school-wide diverse book program. **Board Goal #6 Professional Learning** is to implement common instructional framework to increase student engagement by working with the Great Schools Partnership to align and be consistent with shared outcomes as well as focus on instructional practices that emphasize personalized student goals. Rosemarie Weber inquired about students who are near mastery and if there is a plan for those students as well. Ms. Greer stated, yes, because another thing being monitored through star is growth percentile to measure high proficiency/high growth.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

Rosemarie Weber reported the Assistant Superintendent's Report included math assessments for Illustrative Math in Grades 6-8. Feedback thus far is students are picking up quickly on the content. K-5 is trialing at least one unit of Illustrative Math. There will be budgetary implications for this program during the budget process. Also discussed the Strings Program moving forward. Reviewed a series of policies and two policies are moving forward (Policy 0200 Vision-Mission Goals and Policy 1110.1 Communications with the Public). The remaining 4 policies will stay in subcommittee for further review. Lastly, spoke about new texts/new courses. There is no anticipation of new texts coming to the subcommittee; however, revisions to existing courses are forthcoming, such as, Grade 6 ELA Workshop Model; Wellness course at the high school; and, revisions to the Broadcasting course to reflect the news studio. At this point all revisions will come through the subcommittee and, depending on the scale of the revision, it may also come to the Board as a whole if it is a significant impact to the course. Jennifer Parsons added the other item discussed was the recent learning walk with teachers, administrators and our own Jacob Scotto who attended as well. Jacob stated he was impressed with the learning environment and that in the "What I Need" program, students were really engaged. Dr. Grossman stated Tess Bajek will attend next time as well as a Board Member.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Mark Fiorentino reported CREC has not met since the last meeting.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Jenny Emery reported GEF has not met since the last meeting

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Sarah Thrall stated there is a lot going on with athletics, the high school play, SEPTO, PAC Meetings, and the fall coffeehouse.

V1.D. Board Member Announcements

Sarah Thrall stated it is bittersweet to say goodbye to current Board members and she acknowledged Brandon Webster, Melissa Migliaccio, Jenny Emery and Mark Fiorentino stating each of their roles and commitments on the Board over their terms. Each Board member was presented with a clock as a token of appreciation for their time and effort over the years.

V1.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 Brandon Webster and seconded by Melissa Migliaccio to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Weber
Board Secretary