

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Draft Minutes
Wednesday, March 1, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present Board Members: Kristina Gilton, Monica Logan, Donna Nolan, David Peling, Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber, and Chase Alexander and Tess Bajek (Student Representatives)

Absent Board Members: Whitney Sanzo

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 everyone including administrators in attendance for the presentation of the FY24 Administrative Budget. Ms. Thrall shared that she and Whitney Sanzo attended a Learning Walk on Monday and encouraged other Board members to attend if they have an opportunity. Ms. Thrall provided an update on the superintendent search and stated the Superintendent Search Committee interviewed several search firms and signed a contract with CAFE Search Services. Mary Broderick, Search Consultant, will work with the Superintendent Search Committee to develop criteria and questions for surveys and focus groups. More information will be forthcoming via eblasts, the district website, and *The Granby Drummer*.

I.B. Superintendent's Announcements

- Dr. Grossman welcomed everyone in attendance as well as on Zoom and extended a special welcome to the administrative team who were in attendance for the FY24 Administrative Budget presentation.
- March is Board of Education Appreciation Month. On behalf of all students, families and staff members Dr. Grossman thanked the Board for their service to the Granby community.
- Read Across America is being celebrated this week with activities at Kelly Lane and Wells Road.
- Congratulations to Emmy Attianese and Lucy Boss for receiving Honorable Mentions for the CT Student Writing Magazine and to Savannah Castle for receiving the Gold Award. These students will be recognized on May 11th on the UConn Storrs campus.
- The free breakfast and lunch program began today and will continue for the remainder of the school year.
- Attended a legislative forum last week and heard some of the same information from the Board Meeting but received a little more detail on that day with regard to legislation relating to education.
- The district has used 2 snow days thus far and, currently, the last day of school will be Tuesday, June 13th. Three emergency days remain. As voted on at the last meeting, high school graduation will be held on Friday, June 9th.
- The FY24 Administrative Budget will be presented tonight and next week at Central Services the first budget workshop with a Zoom option will be held. The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on March 15th which will also focus on budget and a possible vote of the FY24 Board of Education Budget at that time.

I.C. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, provided updates from the Assistant Superintendent's office and updated the Board on the Learning Walks held this week stating that Chairman Thrall, Ms. Sanzo as well as Student Representative Chase Alexander attended in a group of about 14. The group started at Kelly Lane, proceeded to Wells Road, then to the high school before lunch, and on to the middle school afterwards. The day focused on the Elements of Effective Instruction, learning environments and clear shared outcomes. The group met at the end of the day and reviewed summaries which showed a lot of commonalities regarding student interactions, instructional teams and clear shared outcomes. Ms. Parsons stated that Learning Walks help the district to monitor progress as a district. The group visits all of the classrooms just to observe which helps with professional learning. Ms. Parsons also shared there will be an upcoming professional development day on March 10th.

I.D. Student Representative Reports

- Tess Bajek extended congratulations to Jayne Hiatt, GMHS Poetry Out Loud champion, who was selected as one of only 5 finalists for the state championships to be held on Saturday, March 11th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Bushnell in Hartford.
- The recent mattress fundraiser was a huge success and 59 mattresses were sold. Fundraising proceeds will go to the senior class.
- A Coffeehouse was held this past Saturday which was livestreamed and will be posted on the website.
- A movie night is being held tonight in hopes to raise money for the Senior class.
- A Glow Dance will be held on March 25th.
- Free Lunch started today and students were excited.
- Senior Prom will be held on May 19th.
- Chase reported that a DECA state-wide conference was held today at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington, CT to compete with other schools. Chase did a role play presentation on a hypothetical business scenario for entertainment marketing and how to most effectively market. He stated there were a wide range of events presented and it was a great opportunity to compete and meet students from other schools. Chase shared that he finished first in his event.
- The Quebec trip went very well and 49 students attended. It was a very enjoyable experience.
- Girls' basketball played today in the first round of the state tournament and won 55-24 against Goodwin Tech. The next game will be held on Friday at 6 p.m. Boys' ice hockey won on Wednesday and will conclude their season tonight. Girls' ice hockey will conclude their season tomorrow night against Avon. Swimming and diving have been inactive since their last meet but will attend the Class S Championships next Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments this evening.

III. Consent Agenda

III.A. Minutes

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by David Peling 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. First Reading of Policy 5141.4 - Report of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 5141.4, Report of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault, to the Board for a first reading. David Peling stated this policy is being revised to reflect updated language around the mandates for training and reporting which are statutory changes. This policy will go to the Board for a second reading and approval at the next meeting.

V.B. First Reading of Policy 5145.511 - Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended new Policy 5145.511, Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program, to the Board for a first reading. David Peling stated this policy is a new policy and speaks to the training and reporting requirements for staff. This policy will go to the Board for a second reading and approval at the next meeting.

V.C. FY24 Administrative Budget Presentation

Dr. Jordan Grossman presented the FY24 Administrative Budget to the Board and thanked the administrative team for being present this evening and doing diligent work to create this budget. He also thanked teachers as they take part by having a vision of what should be shared in the classroom and they

share this with their principal. Additionally, he thanked, Anna Robbins, Business Manager, for all of her work on this budget. Dr. Grossman stated this budget is grounded in what is best for students. He reviewed the Vision of a Graduate as well as Board of Education Goals and stated this budget is aligned with the Board of Education goals. Administrative budget priorities were also reviewed, such as, a commitment to student achievement and excellence; maintaining a focus on teaching and learning; maintaining class size according to the Granby BOE guidelines; and, a continued focus on the District's Anti-Bias/Anti-Racism Plan. Enrollment was also reviewed and in 2023-2024 1,733 students are projected which is an increase of 8 students over this year. Dr. Grossman reviewed class size projections for 2023-2024 which will see a decrease of one section from the current year and he stated all class sizes are within current BOE class size guidelines. Dr. Grossman reviewed the Per Pupil Expenditure (PPE) cost for Granby stating that Granby spends less than 119 other districts in the state of Connecticut and only 8 other districts in the state spent less and scored better than Granby students on the SAT test in 2022. Projected revenue was reviewed and total revenue is projected to be up 9.1% from last year at \$651,605. Dr. Grossman shared that the FY24 Administrative Budget is coming in at 4.88% which is down from 5.94% presented for the Plus One Budget. The reasons for the decrease are as follows: A projected savings of \$127K for the Post-Secondary Transition Program; \$28K in additional retirement savings; fuel savings of \$76K; and, out-of-district tuition and transportation savings of \$138K. Dr. Grossman reviewed the personnel summary for the FY24 Budget and explained how some positions for this year were funded in the Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ESSER) grants and will need to be moved into other areas, such as, the Operating Budget or Quality & Diversity (Q&D) Fund. He shared that +4.5 FTEs will be moved from the ESSER Grant to the Q&D Fund (0.5 FTE Social Worker, 2.0 FTEs Intervention Tutors, and 2.0 FTEs Tutors); +2.0 FTEs will be funded through the Operating Budget (0.2 FTE Board Certified Behavioral Analyst, 0.2 FTE Wilson Reading Tutor, 0.6 FTE Counseling & Academic Support Center Teaching Assistant). An additional 4.0 FTEs will be funded through the Operating Budget for the Post-Secondary Transition Program for a 1.0 FTE Special Education Resource Teacher and 3.0 FTEs Job Coaches. Overall, the FY24 Budget will have a net decrease of 0.63 FTEs which are realized through the reduction, addition and redeployment of staff. Dr. Grossman reviewed small capital highlights for Transportation and Equipment, Building Maintenance, Furniture & Equipment, and Technology totaling \$1M. Upcoming important budget dates were reviewed and Dr. Grossman informed the Board to send any questions on the budget to Linda Powell, Anna Robbins, Jennifer Parsons, and to him as well to discuss at the March 8th BOE Budget Workshop. Sarah Thrall thanked Dr. Grossman and Anna Robbins as well as the administrative team and reiterated to the Board that questions are due by next Monday at 9:00 a.m.

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 including the vetting of data platforms; submission of the KO3 Reading Waiver to the State of Connecticut; professional development focused on assessment and feedback; the Granby Equity Team met and are continuing to work in collaborative teams; professional development day on March 10th; and, met with new teachers. A bullying policy was reviewed and will come to the Board for a first reading. Jennifer Parsons shared the Connecticut State Department of Education website called "Edsight" relative to student achievement and shared with the Board how to navigate this online resource.

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 meeting will be held in a couple of weeks.

Sarah Thrall stated she and Dr. Grossman attended the legislative forum and it was very informative and great to collaborate with other districts in the state.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

The GranBee will be held on April 28th.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Sarah Thrall reminded everyone that the budget workshop will be next week at Central Services and available via Zoom.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

Monica Logan stated she attended the Granby Equity Team (GET) Meeting last week which was a very successful meeting. The group heard from multiple teachers and administrators regarding Black History Month. A musical group Blues and Beyond performed at the high school. Tess Bajek shared that she heard great things and students really seemed to enjoy it. Chase stated it was a creative, interactive presentation. Ms. Logan stated GET was also informed about other activities taking place throughout the District for Black History Month. Sarah Thrall thanked Ms. Logan for her participating on GET.

VI.E. Action Items

Questions from the Board regarding the budget are due on Monday, March 6th at 9:00 a.m.

VII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Monica Logan to adjourn the regular Board of Education Meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:21p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Nolan
Board Secretary