

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes
January 2, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present Board Members: Jenny Emery, Mark Fiorentino, Melissa Migliaccio, David Peling, Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber, Brandon Webster, and Jack DeGray (Student Representative)

Absent Board Members: Dwaritha Ramesh (Student Representative)

Melissa Migliaccio called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She extended a warm welcome to Dr. Jordan Grossman.

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Superintendent's Announcements

- Dr. Jordan Grossman, Superintendent, thanked the BOE, administrators, and community for the warm welcome he has received. He walked around to all of the schools today. He thanked his administrators, his admin. asst. as well as Mr. Mark Winzler.
- He will present the Plus One Budget tonight. It will be posted on the website tonight.
- Rode buses today with the students and also spent some time at the bus garage and spoke to the bus drivers. He visited all of the schools today and met with 3rd and 4th grade students.
- Congratulations to Mr. Christopher Tranberg, Assistant Superintendent, to the CAPPs Executive Board.
- Underway searching for the remainder of the year for the college & career assistant position. Posted the position and looking to filling the position in about a week and a half.
- Setting up meetings within and outside of the community.
- Combined MS/HS PAC meeting. He will attend this meeting and will attend the BOS meeting following to be introduced to the BOS.
- MS choral concert is Thursday, January 9th at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium.
- Prof. dev on Wed. Jan. 15th. Kelly Lane student led conferences using SeeSaw; WR; MS measuring progress for mastering of .. HS using PSAT and refining learning expectations.
- Next meeting will be held on January 15th.
- Dr. Grossman presented each Board Member with a card stating a theme of M&M magical and memorable year and he thanked the Board for trusting him and choosing him to lead the district.

I.B. Student Representative Reports

- The World Language induction will be held on January 14th for the French and Spanish Honor Societies.
- Girls' basketball will be travelling to East Windsor tomorrow night and boys' basketball have a home game against East Windsor tomorrow night.
- There will be a track meet this Saturday and multiple athletes have already qualified for state and conference tournaments.
- Alana King won 2019 All-Courant field hockey player of the year.
- Football lost in the quarterfinals of the state tournament 10-6.
- Jack stated in his AP English class, the teacher divided students into 5 groups and were asked to come up with one thing students would change about the curriculum and 4 of 5 groups stated they would like to see a specialized SAT class.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments this evening.

III. Consent Agenda

III.A. Minutes

A motion was made by Brandon Webster and seconded by Rosemarie Weber to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed at 7:10 p.m. with one abstention (David Peling).

IV. Old Business

IV.A. FY21 Draft Budget Goals

The Board continued to discuss and considered the adoption of the FY21 Budget Goals. A motion was made by Jenny Emery and seconded by Brandon Webster to adopt the FY21 Budget Goals. Jenny Emery stated when the goals were first brought up the goals were developed originally as a result of one of the retreats several years ago to align with our strategy and the work the Board has done. Had a conversation in the Finance Subcommittee meeting and agreed any of the objectives can be assumed under these but some may also be attributable in the future and will hopefully discuss this in a future retreat. Mark Fiorentino stated it is time to go back and look at the strategic plan and that it is too late in the budget process to amend the goals this year. He stated the goals still reflect the vast majority of the strategic plan. This motion passed unanimously at 7:13 p.m.

V. New Business

V.A. FY21 Plus One Budget

Melissa Migliaccio stated that Dr. Grossman has worked collaboratively with Mark Winzler the Interim Superintendent on the Plus One Budget. She reminded the Board that there will be workshops, community input and meetings with three Boards. She requested the Board to send any questions to Dr. Grossman in advance of the next meeting. Dr. Grossman, presented the FY21 Plus One Budget to the Board and thanked the administrators and teachers for submitting the budget requests and he also thanked Anna Robbins for helping to put the budget together. He stated the Plus One Budget is very representative of what we are looking for as a school system and this is just a start and predicts where we feel we are within the budget process at this time and where we project to be in 5 years. Dr. Grossman stated he would present some highlights of the Plus One and informed the Board this is a preliminary look at where we are and this budget will be discussed in greater detail at the next meeting. After the Board approves the Plus One Budget, it will be presented at the January 21st Three-Board Meeting. Dr. Grossman informed the Board that over the past 5 years the average budget increase has been approximately 2.13%. The theme of the budget will be the focus social/emotional well-being for students as well as interventions for special education students but also keeping our enrollment to keep within classroom guidelines. Some assumptions taken into consideration for the Plus One budget are as follows: BOF unapproved guideline at 2.99%; three certified retirements with a savings of \$85K; health benefits is at a 7.5% increase; 4 pre-owned buses and an increase in the bus contract of 6.5%; salaries are 3.4% for administrators, 0.47% for teachers and a placeholder of 2.5% for all other employees; Utilities – Oil @ \$2.25 per gallon; special education will have an increase over the FY20 budget by \$483K; increase in fees and pre-K tuition of 3%; enrollment reflects a decline of 2 students. The Q&D fund maintains a positive balance the next five years to continue to transition kindergarten personnel to the operating budget.

The Plus One budget is currently projected at 3.69%. He stated if the district just rolled over everything and had no new positions or programming it would be 1.85%. Last year's plus one projection was at 3.87%.

Dr. Grossman spoke about enrollment and stated the NESDEC report recently completed and another reported prepared by Peter Prowda in October 2017 are in conflict with one another. The NESDEC report sees enrollment increasing a lot. Dr. Grossman stated he spoke with John Ward

today and learned of an additional proposed apartment complex and that the district needs to be cognizant of that especially since we have two different reports. Dr. Grossman reviewed the small cap purchases, operating budget projections and Q&D budget projections. He stated the Q&D fund relies heavily on Open Choice funding and how the district needs to continue to recruit students from the Open Choice Program to maintain funding.

Dr. Grossman discussed the projected staff additions beginning with a Math Interventionist followed by a number of 0.2 positions at the middle school to accommodate a projected increase in enrollment for Grade 6. He also explained that the last Kindergarten Teacher and 2 Teaching Assistants will be moved from the Q&D budget to the operating budget. Mark Fiorentino requested if there could be a separate presentation for the BRYT program. Dr. Grossman stated items 11 through 16 are all positions related to special education. The Board requested the special education presentation to be as soon as possible and it was decided it should be presented at the next meeting on January 15th and should include the number of students affected that this program would address. Jenny Emery stated it would be useful to know what was not funded last year.

Staffing for the 2021-2022 year was reviewed and it was noted that staff will need to be added for wellness programming to meet state graduation requirements. A Special Education Supervisor was discussed and Dr. Grossman stated this position is necessary to support the Pupil Services Department with primary responsibility for the management of out-of-district placements and transitions. He also mentioned sharing services with the town for technology. Dr. Grossman discussed notables for 2021-2022 including some maintenance items as well as a ramp for the graduation stage. Mark Fiorentino inquired how long will the ramp last and where it will be stored.

Next Dr. Grossman reviewed the funded small capital items under FF&E (furniture, rugs, playground equipment, reorganization of high school office) totaling \$129K, maintenance (bathroom plumbing fixture replacements at the middle school, storage shed, generator at Central Services) totaling \$357K; technology (ipads for AP art program, replace phone system at Wells Road, and replacement technology for projectors, printers, laptops, etc.); and, transportation totaling \$149K which includes 4 pre-owned buses, lawn mowers, a floor burnisher, and auto scrubber for the floors.

Unfunded items were reviewed and there were no staffing positions not funded (Social Worker at the middle school); part-time custodian and part-time secretarial support. Jenny Emery inquired about the maintenance worker requested a year ago and that Shannon wanted to wait to see if it was needed and now there is a 0.6 request.

Dr. Grossman stated he believes the district is in a good spot at 3.69% and happy that it is below the projection of 3.87%. Melissa Migliaccio requested the Board to digest the Plus One Budget and send questions and that there would be a presentation at the next meeting regarding special education.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

Sarah Thrall stated this Subcommittee met this evening to discuss the Assistant Superintendent's Report which included attending the Teacher of the Year celebration, CREC minority recruiting meeting and a trip to Auer Farm in Bloomfield with Science Coaches. She stated the AP Capstone Seminar for English credit was approved. A Staff Development policy was moved to the full Board at the next meeting. Two texts were reviewed - completing a Google doc and hoping to involve the full Board. Ms. Thrall stated the school counseling review discussion will be held at the next meeting.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

Jenny Emery reported this Subcommittee has not met.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports**VI.B.1. CREC/CABE**

Mark Fiorentino reported he met with Patrice McCarthy from CABE to try to get more involved with CABE and stated he will meet with Dr. Grossman to see how active he would like Granby to be with CABE.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Jenny Emery stated the GEF had a very nice holiday party.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Melissa Migliaccio mentioned the MS/HS PAC and Board of Selectmen Meetings on Monday as well as the middle school concert on Thursday evening..

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

Mark Fiorentino stated he may be out of town for the next couple of meetings.

VI.E. Action Items

1) Questions for the budget to Linda, Jordan and Anna; 2) Strategic plan and budget goals to discuss at Board Retreat.

VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Jenny Emery to enter into an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. This motion passed unanimously at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Weber
Board Secretary