

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes
Wednesday, March 16, 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 (Student Representative)

Absent Board Members: Jacob Scotto (Student Representative)

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 the 5th Grade Drama Club students, Dr. MacDonald, Ms. Hayden, Ms. Greer, as well as all of the students' families. Additionally, she thanked Kristina Gilton and Student Representative, Tess Bajek, for attending the recent learning walk.

A motion was made by Sarah Thrall and seconded by Rosemarie Weber to reorder an item on the agenda. Item I.E. Schools in the Spotlight will be presented after Item I.B. Superintendent's Announcements. This motion passed unanimously at 7:01 p.m.

I.B. Superintendent's Announcements

- Dr. Grossman welcomed those in attendance and virtually and also welcomed Dr. Heidi MacDonald and Ms. Kelly Hayden as well as the 5th grade Drama Club who will perform for Schools in the Spotlight and also welcome to Ms. Pauline Greer, Principal of Wells Road, who is here to present an update on her Continuous Improvement Plan.
- A budget workshop was held last Wednesday and approval for the FY23 Budget is on the agenda for approval this evening. If approved, the budget will be presented as a Board of Education Budget to the Board of Finance on Tuesday, March 29th.
- Attended the boys' basketball game last night and also attended the game held over the weekend along with the drama club performance. Both events were held at the high school on the same night and it was flawless. Our custodians did a fabulous job handling both events with parking, etc. The drama club performance of *Damn Yankees* was amazing. Congratulations to the cast and crew.
- Board members have been taking walking tours of all of the schools and seeing some very nice things happening around the district. There is another tour tomorrow at 1:00 p.m.
- Online Kindergarten registration began on February 1st and, thus far, 74 students are registered which includes our current Pre-K students which is on target with our predictions.
- Spring conferences are coming up and there will be an early release for the middle school/high school on Tuesday, March 22nd and for Kelly Lane/Wells Road March 23-35.
- A combined middle school/high school PAC Meeting will be held on April 4th at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom to discuss the budget.
- The budget edition of the *Vision* is currently being developed and will be delivered to all town residents prior to the public hearing on the budget on April 11th.
- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 6th.

Ms. Thrall echoed Dr. Grossman's comments regarding the two events last weekend stating it was a well-oiled machine.

I.C. Schools in the Spotlight

Dr. Heidi MacDonald and Ms. Kelly Hayden, Wells Road Drama Club Directors, and the Wells Road 5th Grade Drama Club students performed one of the numbers from their upcoming play, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. It was an amazing performance and everyone was very impressed. Dr. MacDonald stated this is her fifth production for the 5th Grade Drama Club. Due to potential COVID restrictions, this cast has only 18 students in the performance. Ms. Hayden informed the Board this is her first production and she is excited because the Drama Club promotes confidence, leadership and engagement in school. She also shared that parents are assisting with the stage sets, props, concessions, programs, and t-shirts. The performance is Thursday, March 31st and Friday April 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

I.D. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, stated everything is going very well with masks being optional and it is great to see smiling faces again. Students and staff are very excited to interact with one another and are very respectful of one another. With regard to the learning walk which took place recently, many classrooms were visited and feedback will be brought back to each respective school's staff. Learning walk participants were able to see Illustrative Math resources and materials in action as well as lessons based in the Teachers College curriculum at Kelly Lane. Ms. Parsons stated things are coming together with the Social Emotion Learning district-wide committee which is taking a look at where the district is and unifying efforts as to what to continue and any gaps to fill. Goals will be forthcoming and shared with the Board. With regard to the new position of the Family Engagement Specialist, Ms. Parsons stated it is important to have one contact person K-12. A few candidates are moving forward. Sarah Thrall inquired if there will be another learning walk this year and Ms. Parsons stated there will be another one in May.

I.E. Student Representative Reports

- Tess Bajek stated the boys' basketball team won their semi-final game last night against Cromwell and will play in the championship game at Mohegan Sun either Saturday or Sunday.
- Many spring sports tryouts start this week and weekend.
- The Swim Team has their final states meet.
- Spring sports will officially start practicing next week.
- The Junior Khan Academy "Khan Test" is rolling along with 98% of juniors having their college board linked to their Khan account and 99% of these juniors have spent time practicing. Weekly drawings are being awarded including game tickets, ice cream coupons, Granby gear, and even chances to enter a scholarship drawing. We are proud of our juniors and the SAT is a week away!
- Congrats to all of the performers in *Damn Yankees* this past weekend.
- NHS will host Empty Bowls this Friday, March 18th, in the Commons at the high school from 5-7 p.m. to help raise money and donations for the Granby and Hartland food banks. There will be live music and hot food, and we hope to see you all there!
- The juniors will be taking the CT SAT next Wednesday on March 23rd, so good luck to all of them with their tests and preparation.
- DECA had 10 students place in state competitions the past few weeks, so congratulations to all of them. Great to see their hard work and dedication pay off!
- Good luck to the Granby Grunts Robotics Team who is heading off to the Western New England Regional Competition this Saturday and Sunday.
- With regard to the recent learning walk, Tess shared it was super interesting to see it from a teacher's perspective and felt it was important for her to see the learning going on district-wide.

Kristina Gilton stated there is some talk about trying to get a fan bus together so students can attend the game this weekend. This may be sponsored by the Athletic Booster Club.

I.F. Business Manager's Report

Ms. Anna Robbins, Business Manager, presented the February statement of accounts stating the BOE still has a positive forecast with \$118K which is \$14K higher than last month. Special education is projected to be over-budget \$105K and regular education is projected to be favorable \$224K which is better than last month by \$14K. The driver for the positive forecast this month is savings in regular education transportation and general supplies in addition to a positive forecast in regular education salaries. Ms. Robbins stated with 4 months remaining to the school year, the district is requesting all funds to be encumbered as of yesterday. The Quality & Diversity Fund balance is favorable at \$129K. Revenues to the town are better than budgeted by \$100K. The first payment for the special education Excess Cost Grant was received for \$322K and the district expects to get a little more in the next payment which would make the statement of accounts a little more favorable. Rosemarie Weber stated this was reviewed and accepted in the Finance Subcommittee this evening. David Peling inquired if there are any areas of concern with regard to inflation. Anna Robbins stated fuel oil is typically locked in at this time; however, this is not the time to do so. Ms. Robbins also shared there are slight delays in deliveries but not anything that would disrupt the education process.

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 to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed unanimously at 7:45 p.m.

IV. Old Business

IV.A. Wells Road Continuous Improvement Plan Update

Ms. Pauline Greer, Principal, provided an update on the Wells Road Intermediate School Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) presented in the fall. Dr Grossman described the CIP process due to the number of new Board members. He stated the BOE adopted the *Moving Forward Together Strategic Plan* this past fall and this document will guide all administrators, and eventually departments, in aligning their Continuous Improvements Plans in the 6 areas of: Student Learning and Achievement; Community Engagement; Safety and Social Emotional Well-Being; Budget Development and Fiscal Management; Embracing Diversity; and, Professional Learning. Tonight Ms. Greer will provide a brief overview of these 6 areas. At the end of the school year, Ms. Greer will provide a final column in the CIP with results of where the school is on the CIP. In the fall Ms. Greer will be back to present her 2022-2023 CIP. He stated everything the district is doing now is ground in the Strategic Plan.

Ms. Greer stated everything is moving in a positive direction and reviewed her goals as follows: *Goal #1 Student Achievement*: Midyear data was reviewed in the classroom as well as with teachers and at grade level. Students in the red zone who may need additional support were flagged and spoken about with regard to next steps. Progress monitoring continues during coaches' meetings and PLC meetings as well as through the SIT (student intervention team) process. *Goal #2 Community Engagement*: Wells Road sends weekly e-blasts; weekly live feed notifications on the website; monthly newsletters; Facebook page posts; and, is working collaboratively with the PTO to re-establish volunteer opportunities in the classroom. *Goal #3 Safety & Social Emotional Well-Being*: Consistent morning meetings and SEL curriculum via second step; class meetings; daily school-wide morning message; and a school charter created to focus on adult SEL to build a strong trusting community. *Goal #4 Budget Development and Fiscal Management*: A redesign of the current playground area and utilizing the current space to be a little more usable for students is currently being reviewed. *Goal #5 Embracing Diversity*: Wells Road is doing a wonderful job with sharing stories and books. Laurie Smith, Media Specialist, does this in a variety of ways. Additionally, Ms. Greer shared Wells Road has Granby Equity Team members on their leadership team to view school-wide data and have discussions through an equity lens. *#6 Professional Development*: Leadership team continues to discuss teaching, learning and culture practices; SIT meetings are used to review student data and plan small groups with targeted intervention for tiered students; and, the Math Instructional Coach and grade-level team leaders continue to explore Illustrative Mathematics resources.

Sarah Thrall stated it is very rewarding to see how the CIP is aligned with the Strategic Plan. David Peling inquired if the district has been using the CASEL framework for a while and Dr. Grossman stated it is used district-wide. Kristina Gilton inquired about transitions from Kelly to Wells and from Wells to the middle school and if there is a means to inquire about the 2nd grade class coming in and the 5th grade class exiting. Ms. Greer stated the middle school comes to Wells Road and Wells Road goes to the middle school. Additionally, smaller groups of students go to the schools as well (504 plans, anxiety, etc.) and the special education team gets together with students over the summer to assist with the transition.

IV.B. FY23 Budget Approval

The Board continued to discuss and considered the adoption of the FY23 Board of Education Budget. Sarah Thrall stated many Board of Finance members attended the budget workshop last week. Dr. Grossman reminded the Board the budget is at a 3.69% and the BOF guideline is 3.78%. A motion was made by Sarah Thrall and seconded by David Peling that the Granby Board of Education adopt the FY23 Board of Education Budget. Ms. Thrall thanked Board members for reviewing and adopting this budget. This motion passed unanimously at 8:28 p.m.

IV.C. Graduation Date

The Board considered revising the motion made on February 16, 2022 to hold graduation on Thursday, June 9, 2022 with a rain date of Friday, June 10, 2022 (held indoors if it rains) to Thursday, June 9, 2022 (rain or shine). Dr. Grossman stated the reason for this amendment is the Safe Graduation Committee is struggling to secure vendors for two days. He stated the high school met with class officers and the students decided they wanted to have a graduation party. A motion was made by Sarah Thrall and seconded by Donna Nolan that the Board of Education revise the motion made on February 16, 2022 to hold graduation on Thursday, June 9, 2022, with a rain date of Friday, June 10, 2022 (held indoors if it rains) to Thursday, June 9, 2022 (rain or shine). This motion passed unanimously at 8:32 p.m.

V. New Business

There was no New Business to report.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

This Subcommittee did not meet. Approved minutes are in the Board packet.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

Sarah Thrall stated this Subcommittee met this evening to discuss a Building Committee update. Donna Nolan shared the Building Committee received approval for the project which consists of construction of a new band room, choral room, technology education classroom, commons, and a kitchen and that the project is now out for bid. A walkthrough for potential vendors will be conducted at the high school tomorrow, March 17th, with bids due by March 31st and a recommendation on April 1st. Ms. Thrall stated the Finance Subcommittee also reviewed the statement of accounts; received an update on contract negotiations; and, approved two (2) leave-of-absence requests. Additionally, the transportation contract approval; and, also what is expected down the road for the healthy food certification approval.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Sarah Thrall stated nothing to report.

VI.B.2 Granby Education Foundation

Whitney Sanzo stated the next meeting is on Monday. The GranBee is on April 22nd.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Sarah Thrall stated there is a lot going on and mentioned the Wells Road play on March 31st and April 1st and the NHS Empty Bowls fundraiser this Friday night.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

There were no Board member announcements this evening.

VI.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 Monica Logan and seconded by Whitney Sanzo to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Nolan
Board Secretary