

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Draft Minutes
Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present Board Members: Liz Barlow, Heather Lombardo, Monica Logan, Donna Nolan, David Peling, Karen Richmond-Godard, Rosemarie Weber and Chase Alexander and Katie O’Neill (Student Representative).

Absent Board Members: None

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Monica Logan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Logan shared that Whitney Sanzo resigned from the Board for personal reasons and wished her the best. She welcomed Karen Richmond-Godard as a new Board member stating Karen is a World Language Teacher and Department Head in the Region 10 school district.

II. Organizational Meeting

II.A. Subcommittee Assignments

Ms. Logan appointed Karen Richmond-Godard to the Curriculum Subcommittee and stated she will also be the Chair of the subcommittee as well.

III. Public Comment

There were no public comments this evening in person or via Zoom.

IV. Student Representative Reports

- Katie O’Neill gave a sports report stating girls’ basketball is 14-4 for the season and senior night will be held tomorrow night; boys’ basketball is away at East Windsor tonight and won their game on senior night on Monday; boys’ ice hockey hosted Hall today and won 3-2; wrestling is at Portland today; swimming and diving will visit Windsor on Friday; indoor track participated in the NCCC conference meet on Tuesday and finished their season.
- Chase Alexander shared Poetry Out Loud finals were held on Jan. 26th. Chase shared that he participated in the event and the memorization skills of students was outstanding.
- Student guides led 8th grade middle school and Hartland students during the High School Electives Fair and students also received a comprehensive tour of the building.
- Underclassmen are selecting classes for next year and each grade level participated in a Principal’s chat to learn about course offerings.
- The prom committee has been planning for prom. The theme this year will be a Starry Night theme and prom will be held on May 17th at The Riverview in Simsbury. Tickets are expected to go on sale in March.
- Coffeehouse auditions were held today. The Coffeehouse will be held on February 24th.
- Job shadow day was held on Friday. Valuable experiences were held for a wide spectrum of careers. Katie shared that she shadowed a neurosurgeon at CCMC.

V. Reports and Discussion

V.A. Enrichment Programming

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, shared enrichment opportunities and AP/ECE course offerings with the Board. She shared a graphic showing the range of levels for tier instruction and stated all four schools program for students who may need tier 2 and 3 enrichment instruction and intervention. At Kelly Lane regular differentiated instruction occurs throughout the entire day. As students move up to Wells Road and the middle school, students are identified as gifted/talented and offered direct instruction. At the high school, there is true personalization allowed for students to progress in their courses. Ms. Parsons reviewed the policy changes that occurred last year. The state requires that the district identify students; however, the district is not required to service those students, although Granby has long serviced these students as well. Identification typically occurs in grades 3-4. Ms. Parsons reviewed next steps including the extension of the identification process from K-12; including measures for “outstanding talent”; reviewing the measures used; developing a Planning and Placement Team (PPT) identification process; and, monitoring and examining trends. The Board inquired about identification of students as well as the implementation of the PPT process. Superintendent Burke stated there is homework to do around the best practice in this area. Special Education teachers are currently working around the clock for students in the PPT process. She stated she is very proud to say that Granby has already had this

work underway for many years. For students who do not meet the guideline of Gifted and Talented, the district still pulls in and encourages all students. Rosemarie Weber inquired if teachers are aware of students who are identified. Ms. Parsons stated that in the new data platform there is an area that will allow for this to be entered in order that teachers can see it. With regard to enrichment opportunities already happening in the district, Ms. Parsons stated there are advanced math groups; writing contests; curriculum compacting and unit extensions for students who are already exhibiting knowledge of the material; stock market game at the middle school; and additional clubs and activities. She reviewed availability of programming for our gifted and talented students in the area of music, visual and performing arts, such as, jazz band and select choir ensembles; regional music competitions; art contests; art club; drama performances; and, attendance at the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts. At the high school level, Ms. Parsons stated there are advanced college coursework opportunities available. Granby High School offers 21 Advanced Placement opportunities and 7 UConn Early College Experience courses. Out of just under 600 students at the high school, there are 432 seats (some students take more than 1 course) this year. The Board inquired if parents can be involved with student course selection in the future and also given more information in the identification letter sent home to perhaps direct parents where to go for resources, etc. Ms. Parsons thanked Ms. Weber for this suggestion.

VI. Business Requiring Action

VI.A. Minutes - January 12, 2024

A motion was made by Heather Lombardo and seconded by David Peling that the Granby Board of Education approve the minutes from the January 12, 2024 Special Board of Education Meeting. This motion passed with two abstentions (Donna Nolan and Karen Richmond-Godard) at 7:52 p.m.

VI.B. Minutes - January 17, 2024

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by David Peling that the Granby Board of Education approve the minutes from the January 17, 2024 Board of Education Meeting. This motion passed with one abstention (Karen Richmond-Godard) at 7:53 p.m.

VI.C. Approval to Revision of 2023-2024 School Calendar

The Board considered the approval of a revision to the 2023-2024 school calendar to make April 2, 2024 a professional development day for teachers and no school for students due to the presidential primary election and make March 8, 2024 a full day for students (originally a professional development day with no school for students). Superintendent Burke stated Rosemarie Weber (Board Chair at the time) worked collaboratively with First Selectman Mark Fiorentino and the Registrar of Voters to attempt move the voting to an alternate location. A letter was submitted to the State of Connecticut; however, the request was denied due to the large number of voters expected. Since that time, Ms. Burke met with Monica Logan and the administrative team and the schedule change was the most reasonable situation. If approved, communication will be sent to all families tomorrow morning. A motion was made by Heather Lombardo and seconded by Donna Nolan that the Granby Board of Education approve a revision to the 2023-2024 school calendar making April 2, 2024 a professional development day for teachers and no school for students and March 8, 2024 a full school day for students and teachers. This motion passed unanimously at 7:56 p.m.

VI.D. Second Reading and Approval of 2024-2025 School Calendar

The Board considered approval of the school calendar for the 2024-2025 school year. A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Liz Barlow that the Granby Board of Education approve the 2024-2025 school year calendar. This motion passed with one abstention (KRG) unanimously at 7:57 p.m.

VI.E. Second Reading and Approval of Draft Policy 6146 - Graduation Requirements

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended Revised Policy 6146, Graduation Requirements, to the Board for a second reading and approval. A motion was made by Heather Lombardo and seconded by Donna Nolan that the Granby Board of Education approve revised Policy 6146, Graduation Requirements, as recommended by the Curriculum/Policy/Technology/ Communications Subcommittee. This motion passed with one abstention (Karen Richmond-Godard) at 7:58 p.m.

VII. Committee Reports

VII.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

This subcommittee did not meet this evening. The next meeting will be held on March 6th.

VII.A. 2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

This subcommittee did not meet this evening, Approved minutes are in the packet.

VII.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VII.B.1. CREC/CABE

There was no report given for CREC/CABE.

VII.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

The Gran-Bee will be held on April 19th. Ms. Logan stated the Board can participate on a team or be a sponsor.

VII.C. Calendar of Events

Monica Logan stated the Coffeehouse will be held on February 24th as well as an NHS sports tournament and conferences in March.

VII.D. Board Member Announcements

Liz Barlow shared that she registered for a CABE conference on disconnected students next Thursday. Ms. Burke stated if you register for a CABE conference and cannot attend, you will receive a recording of it via email which is a nice feature.

VII.E. Action Items

There were no action items this evening.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

- Ms. Burke welcomed Karen Richmond-Godard stating she is a wonderful addition to the Board and thanked Whitney Sanzo for her service to the Board.
- Thank you to the PuzzleSlam team from the middle school: Heather Tanis, Lauren Farley, Sandy Field, and Stephanie Stupienski who participated and had a great time. Thank you also to the *Granby Drummer* as well for organizing the event.
- Welcome to our new Human Resources Coordinator, Jennifer Brown, who begins this coming Monday at Central Services. She thanked Melanie Gibson for her role as Human Resources Coordinator and wished her well in her retirement. Additionally, Ms. Burke shared the new Director of Pupil Services, Kathryn Weingartner, will begin on February 26th and comes to Granby with more than 20 years of service in the special education arena.
- Recently attended the Suffield Agriscience Capstone project and was very impressed with program quality.
- Attended the Lion's Club Meeting on Tuesday evening. The Lion's Club is an impressive group of volunteers. Shared the goal of communication, such as intergenerational mentorship with the group.
- The Granby Senior Men's Breakfast will be held on Friday morning and students from Wells Road and the middle school will share STEAM activities/projects (coding and computer science) and students from the culinary class at the high school will assist with making some breakfast items.
- The date for the Legislative Breakfast has moved to February 21st.
- A reminder there will be a Superintendent's Community Forum via Zoom on Thursday, Feb. 22nd from 9-10 a.m. It will be a Q&A and brief presentation on the state of the budget.
- There is no school on February 19th and 20th.
- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 21st.

IX. Chairperson's Report

Monica Logan shared on January 24th she met with the Granby Equity Team. It was a very productive meeting and an honor to be a part of it. Implicit and explicit bias were discussed as well as robust discussion on Supreme Court decisions. Jennifer Parsons is continuing to do good work with this group and it is great to see the progress being made. Ms. Logan extended a special thank you again to Karen Richmond-Godard for joining the Granby BOE.

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Rosemarie Weber to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth H. Barlow
Board Secretary