

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes
Wednesday, January 5, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present Board Members: Kristina Gilton, Monica Logan, Donna Nolan, David Peling, Whitney Sanzo (via Zoom), Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber, and Tess Bajek and Jacob Scotto (Student Representatives).

Absent Board Members: N/A

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

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Chairman's Corner

Sarah Thrall, Board Chair, wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated Board Member Whitney Sanzo is joining via Zoom this evening.

I.B. Superintendent's Announcements

- Dr. Grossman welcomed everyone in attendance and virtually this evening and wished everyone a Happy New Year.
- The FY23 Plus One Budget will be presented this evening.
- The district is still looking for bus drivers and substitute teachers. College students are eligible to be a substitute teacher. Substitute teacher pay has been elevated.
- Dr. Grossman commended bus drivers for doing an outstanding job getting our students to school this morning and also stated the Public Works did a tremendous job preparing our roads.
- The district is also looking for substitute custodians. This is the heart and soul of keeping schools open.
- Attended 10th Grade Poetry Out Loud today. This is a great tradition at Granby High School.
- The high school band concert will be held tomorrow evening.
- There will be an early release on Monday, January 10th which will be building-based.
- A SEPTO Meeting will be held on Monday evening at 6:30 in the Wells Road Media Center.
- Middle School Chorus will perform on Thursday, January 13th at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium.
- A Three-Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 18th at 7 p.m. in the Senior Center
- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on January 19th.

I.C. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, provided an update on recently revised COVID protocols. Received guidance from the State Department of Public Health. This guidance has been processed with the FVHD and SDE and it has been communicated that we have moved to the revised 5-day quarantine/isolation as well as a 10-day period where staff/students stay masked. Contact tracing is being limited to scenarios most at risk, such as, lunch and higher risk athletic exposures will be closely monitored. Ms. Parsons also stated that the district has moved to an on-line reporting system which is very helpful to make sure cases are being reported systemically. Home kit results are now being accepted and the district has secured some test kits which are available to staff and students. Please contact the school office if one is needed.

Ms. Parsons also shared a math update with the Board and stated progress has been reviewed with the math consultant who visits once per month and the consultant stated the district is on track and praised the district for continuing to support the coaching model. Currently having conversations about how to carry this support into next year as well as into K-5 and looking forward to gathering data and feedback prior to moving into progress monitoring.

I.D. Student Representative Reports

- Tess Bajek gave a sports report as follows: Boys' basketball is 4-0; girls' basketball is 3-3; boys' swim meet tomorrow away; boys' basketball game this Friday in Ellington; girls' basketball game this Friday at home; boys' ice hockey game this Saturday at home; girls' ice hockey game this Saturday at home; and, indoor track had a meet over the break and has another one this upcoming Monday.
- Students have been enjoying going to games after not being able to last year.
- Jacob stated drama club is starting up rehearsals after the break. The play has changed from *Guys and Dolls* to *Damn Yankees*.
- The high school band concert will be held tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m.
- DECA is practicing for the state competition.
- NHS tutoring began this week to help students with mid-term exams
- Overall students have returned to school engaged and ready to learn after the break.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments this evening.

III. Consent Agenda

III.A. Minutes

A motion was made by David Peling and seconded by Monica Logan that the Granby Board of Education adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed unanimously at 7:13 p.m.

IV. Old Business

IV.A. Second Reading and Approval of Revised Policy 3542.43 - Food Service

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 3542.43, Food Service, to the Board for a second reading and approval. A motion was made by David Peling and seconded by Kristina Gilton that the Granby Board of Education adopt revised Policy 3542.43, Food Service, as recommended by the Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee. This motion passed unanimously at 7:14 p.m.

IV.B. Second Reading and Approval of Revised Policy 4118.11/4218.11 – Personnel

Nondiscrimination

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 4118.11/4218.11, Personnel Nondiscrimination, to the Board for a second reading and approval. A motion was made by David Peling and seconded by Rosemarie Weber that the Granby Board of Education adopt revised Policy 4118.11/4218.11, Personnel Nondiscrimination, as recommended by the Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee. This motion passed unanimously at 7:15 p.m.

IV.C. Second Reading and Approval of Revised Policy 4212.42 - Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 4212.42, Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers, to the Board for a second reading and approval. A motion was made by David Peling and seconded by Donna Nolan that the Granby Board of Education adopt revised Policy 4212.42, Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers, as recommended by the Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee. This motion passed unanimously at 7:16 p.m.

V. New Business

V.A. FY23 Plus One Budget

Dr. Jordan Grossman presented the FY23 Plus One Budget to the Board and stated the process for this budget begins in September with the administrative team. Dr. Grossman thanked the administrative team, teachers and staff and stated without everyone working together, the district would not be where it is now. He gave the Board a high level view of the document presented and reviewed the upcoming dates for the FY23 Budget. Dr. Grossman stated the current Plus One Budget is at 4.26% which includes a 20% increase to health insurance premiums. Last year, the Plus One Budget was predicted to be 4.36% for FY23 and this year it is at a 4.26%. He stated this is clear that the process works. He also presented a

budget number which replaces the 20% health insurance premium to a normal 7.5% increase and he stated the increase would be 3.07%. Dr. Grossman stated just to roll over this year's budget to next year, the increase would be 2.15%. Once special education expenses are added in, the increase would be approximately 3%.

Dr. Grossman reviewed other factors for the Plus One Budget including the Board of Finance unapproved guideline at 2.25%; 20% increase in the bus contract; substantially increased fuel prices; negotiated salary increases of 2.36% for administrators and 3.10% for teachers; and, increased utility prices. He also stated that special education expenses make up 19.81% of total budget; enrollment will increase over the next five years; and, the Q&D Fund will maintain a five-year positive balance. A recent enrollment study was completed in the last month or so and next year, enrollment will increase by 2 students and class sizes in most grades will be comparable to DRG and state averages. In 2026-2027 enrollment will climb to 1,800 (an increase of 42 students over this year).

Dr. Grossman reviewed operating budget projections as well as Plus One Budget proposals over the last five years. He informed the Board what will be included in the 4.26% Plus One Budget and stated some items are taken out of the operational budget, grant funds or the Q&D budget. With regard to staff increases to the budget, Dr. Grossman informed the Board of the proposals to add a Staff Accountant at Central Services; Board Certified Behavior Analysis (grant funded); Family Engagement Specialist to support all Open Choice families (Q&D and Open Choice Academic Support Grant); part-time custodian to provide coverage for staff outages; K-2 Literacy Specialist to support teachers and students in developing mastery with early literacy skills; Art Teacher at Kelly/Wells; Classroom Teacher at Wells Road to accommodate an additional section; 0.1 FTE Strings Teacher to expand the Strings Program to Grade 6; STEM Teacher at the middle school to offer video production and other digital literacy skills; Wellness Teacher at the high school for graduation requirements; and, a Town Technology Technician to provide part-time technology to support the school district and town departments. Dr. Grossman also reviewed other items not related to staffing, such as, support for the Granby Equity Team, a consultant and software platform to support the curriculum for the new resources for the Illustrative Math Program, guided reading materials, continued partnership with the CT Teacher in Residence Program; and, materials for Readers' and Writers' Workshop.

Dr. Grossman reviewed the out years as well which includes an Instructional Technology Specialist K-12; Reading Interventionist at Kelly Lane; and a Intervention Specialist at Kelly Lane. He also discussed a possible alternative school program in 2023-2024 to provide alternative programming to students assigned to this program as well as the creation and formation of the Granby Public Schools Early Childhood Education Taskforce.

Small capital funded items were reviewed under Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment; Maintenance; Technology; and Transportation. Some items noted were metal benches and picnic tables for outdoor seating, band instruments, work tables for F&CS, and an athletic field net. With regard to technology purchases, the district leases equipment for technology and some new purchases will include tech ed lab computers, servers, printers, document cameras, and security cameras. With regard to transportation purchases, there are no new buses being purchased for next year; however, there is a new plow truck in this budget at \$80,000 in addition to snow blowers and a trailer.

In summary, Dr. Grossman stated he is looking at a 4.26% increase which is definitely a moving number and he does not anticipate this number being presented in March. Sarah Thrall stated she loves the fact that a strategic plan has been adopted and thanked Dr. Grossman and Anna Robbins for their work on this budget. She asked the Board if they had any high-level questions now but to send in any other questions to Linda Powell, Anna Robbins and Dr. Grossman by next Wednesday, January 12th. Donna Nolan inquired if the district could wait on purchasing a plow truck due to the high price of vehicles at the present time. Anna Robbins stated this will be watched closely and it does not have to be purchased at this time. It was also discussed to contact the town to see if there could be some purchasing power with the Board of Education and Town purchasing vehicles.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

David Peling reported this subcommittee met this evening. Ken Mouning attended and gave a public comment on behalf of the Granby Reconciliation Committee and proposed a celebration for Juneteenth on June 19th. The district will work with him on this event. Reviewed the Assistant Superintendent's report including implementing new phonics; attending performance matters on Math and Social/Emotional Learning; Covid policies; mental health training by FVHD; and, updates on the recent Wellness Committee and Granby Equity Team meetings. Also received an update on math and discussed an Algebra concepts course as well as revised curriculum for Wellness III and IV, both of which were adopted by the Curriculum Subcommittee. Additionally, discussed new Granby graduation requirements for 2023 and beyond as well as revised performance standards. Policies were also on the agenda but were tabled until the next meeting.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Sarah Thrall stated all Board members should receive a monthly electronic copy of the newsletters. Ms. Powell will check to ensure this happens.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Dr. Grossman stated he gave a report on the video production studio and stated the GEF also discussed the GranBee as well as new members.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Sarah Thrall stated there is a lot going on and drew attention to January 12th for questions on the Plus One Budget and the Three-Board Meeting on January 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the Senior Center. March becomes a bit busy on Wednesday evenings for the BOE with budget workshops.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

There were no Board Member announcements.

VI.E. Action Items

1) Anna Robbins to speak to the Town Manager regarding their needs for plow vehicles to see if any collaboration can be done in purchasing.

VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Donna Nolan to enter into an Executive Session to discuss a collective bargaining issue. This motion passed unanimously at 8:16 p.m.

The Executive Session adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Nolan
Board Secretary