

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes
Wednesday, May 1, 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 Katie O’Neill.

Absent Board Members: Chase Alexander (Student Representative)

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Monica Logan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Awards and Recognition

The Board recognized Stephanie LaPointe, Ann Marzo, Kristin Rice, and James Janski for their time and dedication to the Future Innovators Club for students. Ann Marzo shared the great things the club does and how it provides opportunities at multiple levels in the community. Last year Granby Public Schools provided the mentors and Starbase provided the programming and resources. Ms. Marzo’s Computer Science Club students added some sessions and there were 7 sessions in all which included computer simulation and a robotics team demonstration. High school mentors provided feedback on the program stating they experienced leadership, mentoring and communication skills; how to prepare materials needed to execute the program; and, present challenges to the students. Ms. Marzo stated she reached out to students not only interested in engineering but also students interested in teaching as a career to be mentors for this program. There were eighteen (18) 4th grade students in the club and there were 9 high school student mentors. Donna Nolan commented that it is very nice to see students engaged in STEM activities.

III. Public Comment

A woman came up to make public comment but when stating her address in East Haven, she was immediately told by the Board Chair that public comment was for residents only.

IV. Reports and Discussion

A. Update on Superintendent Goals for 2023-2024

Superintendent Cheri Burke provided an update on the communication and student achievement goals for the 2023-2024 school year and stated she is grateful for the opportunity to share the progress of the two goals for this year. *Goal 1: Student Learning and Achievement* is to improve student achievement, academic performance and opportunity at all grade levels and decrease achievement gaps on the path to college and career readiness. She presented the proficiency targets for the 2023-2024 school year as follows: 80% in Literacy for Grades 3-8 on the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) and Grades 9-11 on the PSAT/SAT; 70% in math for Grades 3-8 on SBAC and Grades 9-11 on PSAT/SAT; and, 80% in science for Grades 5, 8 and 11 on the Next Generation Science Standards assessment. She shared that data will be presented by principals in the next couple of weeks as scores are received and a comprehensive testing report will be presented in the fall. Superintendent Burke shared highlights of the focus on student learning and achievement, such as sharing a message that “All Kids Can”; engaging in an administrative book study *Think Again* by Adam Grant; working to grow the district leadership team; emphasizing student-center data to inform instruction; focusing on meaningful practice and feedback; and, advocating for a Math Intervention Teacher at the middle school in the fall. Next, Superintendent Burke shared highlights of student individual growth such as, individualized and small group instruction within the classroom; students setting goals and tracking their own progress; utilizing Instructional Specialist positions to oversee and coordinate Multi-Tiered Systems of Support; and increasing support for student mental health and behavioral needs at all levels.

Superintendent Burke shared that *Goal #2 Community Engagement* to enhance communication and build trusting relationships with all stakeholders is a perfect partner to student achievement and shared the components of the goal as follows: To assess current practice; survey groups; connect with focus groups; identify strengths and weaknesses; determine priorities and recommendations; create a communications plan; and, implement and evaluate the plan. All components were achieved between September and December 2023. She stated that effective two-way communication with all district audiences promotes

trust and supports a positive environment for teaching and learning and shared that the majority of stakeholders learned about the district primarily from the website and *The Granby Drummer*. Facebook and Instagram accounts were set up which are a lot of work to keep updated but she stated it is very enjoyable to send out good news and celebrations. Information is also sent out via emails, texts and phone calls. Kelly Lane uses Canva and Smore for E-blasts as an example and she shared that administrators were charged this year to identify patterns in their E-blasts when sending essential information. Web pages have also been organized so that they are visually pleasing and informative. The athletics page has been updated to display the CIAC schedule immediately. Superintendent Burke also shared curriculum documents and resources which are linked on the website, as well as a library catalog of materials housed in each library.

The second part of the *Community Engagement* goal to increase opportunities for audiences to express concerns, share suggestions, participate in decision-making, and be a meaningful part of the school community is being accomplished this year by holding a meeting with the area preschools; creating an "Ask GPS" blog on the website where questions can be asked and answered; Superintendent Community Conversations; and monthly articles in *The Granby Drummer*. Monica Logan commented on the improvement in the visibility of curriculum and resources documents available on the website stating it was a tremendous amount of work but is much appreciated. Rosemarie Weber inquired if a link for the Program of Studies can be placed on the curriculum portion of the website.

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by David Peling to add in a forgotten agenda item, **Student Representative Reports**, to the agenda. This motion passed unanimously at 8:03 p.m.

B. Student Representative Reports

- Boys' lacrosse is undefeated 9-0 and the only undefeated left in the state; girls' lacrosse plays Suffield tomorrow; baseball plays at home on Thursday and Friday at Windsor Locks; softball plays at home on Thursday against Suffield; boys' tennis plays at Ellington on Thursday; girls' tennis plays Thursday at home against Ellington; and track had a meet today against Ellington and their next meet is May 8th.
- Band and choir attended a Disney music competition in Orlando and spent 3 days in the parks. Both groups did very well in their categories.
- The Empty Bowls fundraiser held last Friday raised over \$3,000 for Granby and Hartland Food Banks.
- Junior planning meetings have begun and the Guidance Department is helping juniors prepare.
- The spring band concert will be held on Thursday evening.
- A Foreign Food Festival will be held on Friday night from 5-8 p.m. in the cafeteria. A \$5 entry fee for all you can eat crepes, dumplings and quesadillas sponsored by the World Language Honor Societies.
- AP testing begins next week – good luck to students!
- The Senior Prom is quickly approaching on May 17th at Riverview.

V. Business Requiring Action

A. Minutes

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by David Peling that the Granby Board of Education approve the minutes of the April 17, 2024 Board of Education Meeting. This motion passed with one abstention (Karen Richmond-Godard) at 8:07 p.m.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Board Standing Committee Reports

1. Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communication

Karen Richmond-Godard reported this subcommittee met this evening and discussed the Assistant Superintendent's report as follows: Plan for ELA pilot program moving forward; third learning walk of the year took place on April 29th; elementary art show at the Granby Public Library; community conversations about social media and another one tomorrow on QPR (suicide prevention) at Wells Road. A draft policy, 5131.911 School Climate, was discussed for implementation in the 2025-2026 school year. Staff will need to be trained. Also received a report on new teacher supports and the way the district strives to retain new teachers.

2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

Monica Logan stated this subcommittee is scheduled to meet on May 15th.

B. Other Board-Related Reports

1. CREC/CABE

2. Granby Education Foundation

C. Calendar of Events

The calendar of events is as attached. There are many upcoming end-of-year concerts and events.

D. Board Member Announcements

There were no Board member announcements this evening.

E. Action Items

There were no action items this evening.

VII. Superintendent's Report

- Thank you to David Peling and baseball friends who painted the dugouts this past weekend. They look great!
- The GranBee was awesome. Congratulations to the winners.
- Kelly Lane artwork was on display at the Granby Public Library last week.
- The last Superintendent Community Conversation of the year was held on April 23rd and is posted on the website. It was a great turnout.
- The new Director of Finance and Operations starts on Monday, May 13th and will be present at the next Board Meeting on May 15th.
- Testing is wrapping up and data will be presented in the next couple of Board meetings.
- Grade 8 students leave for the Washington, DC trip on May 21-23,
- Save the date for the retirement party on June 5th.
- The last Board Meeting of the year will take place on Tuesday, June 18th due to the Juneteenth holiday.

VIII. Chairperson's Report

Ms. Monica Logan, Board Chair, commented on the recent learning walk she attended with Liz Barlow, Jennifer Parsons, and a team of teachers and administrators this past Monday, during which the group visited each school with an objective eye to observe and offer constructive feedback. She had a great day and was thrilled to see the variety of things going on in the schools and it was a great opportunity to see the hard work that teachers do.

A motion was made by Heather Lombardo and seconded by Donna Nolan to amend the agenda to add an Executive Session. This motion passed unanimously at 8:15 p.m.

IX. Executive Session

A motion was made by Heather Lombardo and seconded by Karen Richmond-Godard to enter into an Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation and contract. This motion passed unanimously at 8:16 p.m.

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Liz Barlow to adjourn the Executive Session. This motion passed unanimously at 8:49 p.m.

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Rosemarie Weber to enter back into the regular session meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:50 p.m.

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Rosemarie Weber that the Granby Board of Education adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth H. Barlow
Board Secretary