

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes
March 3, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
High School Auditorium/Zoom

Present Board Members: Jenny Emery (via Zoom), Melissa Migliaccio, David Peling, Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber, Brandon Webster, and Jacob Scotto (Student Representative)

Absent Board Members: Mark Fiorentino and Jack DeGray (Student Representative)

Sarah Thrall called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Chairman's Corner

Ms. Thrall shared opening remarks and apologized for the late start of the meeting. She welcomed our online and in-person attendees.

I.B. Superintendent's Announcements

- Dr. Grossman stated March is Board of Education Member Appreciation Month and thanked Board members for their commitment to the Granby Public Schools.
- This week is Read Across America at our schools – there will be many guest readers and mystery readers this week.
- The collaborative effort with East Granby Public Schools for providing breakfast and lunch to East Granby students is going extremely well. For the month of February, a daily average of 170 breakfasts and 224 lunches were served.
- Congratulations to Josh Davis, Garrett Holness, Jayden Okoro, David Sigmund, Ginny Sleavin & Will Sleavin as they represented GMMS in the Hartford Chapter of the MathCounts competition last month. Josh Davis led the pack with the highest score which earned him a seat in the next round of the competition. We are eagerly awaiting his results and to hear if he made it to the State Round of competition. Good luck, Josh!
- Second round interviews for a new Director of Pupil Personnel Services will be held tomorrow afternoon.
- The Granby Education Foundation will hold a family scavenger hunt this Saturday, March 6th from 10-11:00 a.m. Compete against other Granby families to find 50 common (and some not-so-common) items in your house. There are prizes for teams that find every item and the first team to complete the hunt.
- Last week over 30 parents attended the Superintendent's Community Conversation to discuss the budget and other topics.
- Dr. Grossman stated he will attend a virtual PTO Meeting on Monday, March 8th at 5:30 p.m. and a combined MS/HS PAC Meeting on Monday, April 5th at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the budget with parents.
- A Virtual Day on the Hill will be held on March 17th from 9-10:30 a.m. Please let Linda know if you would like to be registered for this event.
- There will be a Three-Board Meeting on March 29th to discuss the budget.
- A Budget Workshop will be held next Wednesday, March 10th at 5:30 p.m. and will be held only via Zoom and the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on March 17th.

I.C. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, provided updates from the Assistant Superintendent's office and stated the COVID pandemic continues to interplay with our schools; however, there was a decrease in the number of cases during the month of February largely due to individuals following daily screening and mitigation measures. Except for a few snow days, Granby Public Schools has had

consistent instruction over the month of February. With regard to vaccinations, Ms. Parsons stated she has worked internally with the FVHD and there are 10 towns and 11 school districts to support the vaccination efforts over the month of March and there is a huge push to vaccinate education staff. There is a registration pathway staff will use to obtain vaccinations. 2500-3500 vaccinations will be given over the month. A system was rolled out on Saturday and blocks are currently about 80% full. Ms. Parsons also informed the Board there has been some great work done around equity. There will be a March Book Club to read the book *Stamped* as well as staff and student meetings. A survey is being finalized which will go out to staff and students. Teacher residency program. At the Curriculum Subcommittee meeting this evening math progressions were discussed as well as an overall.... Melissa Migliaccio inquired if any mobile units will come to Granby for vaccinations. Ms. Parsons stated all staff have access to one location in the Farmington Valley over the course of 4 weeks. Sarah Thrall inquired if the Granby Equity Team is sending the survey and Ms. Parsons stated, yes, and it will go to Grades 6-12. Jenny Emery stated she has realized many Connecticut schools are not open fully yet and inquired if we know what percentage is not fully open. Dr. Grossman stated those numbers are changing on a daily basis and that 6 months ago, many schools were not open in-person but now there is a push to get schools open full in-person. He stated currently Granby is the only school district in the Farmington Valley that is open full in-person without a schedule change or time change.

I.D. Student Representative Reports

- Jacob Scotto stated boys' basketball is playing their first game in 18 days tonight against SMSA. Their current record is 1-0.
- The girls' basketball team plays again on Friday and their varsity team is currently 2-4 and they are looking to turn things around against HMTCA.
- Wrestling and the track team continue to practice after school every day. There are no track meets scheduled and wrestling is not allowed to compete against other schools due to COVID restrictions.
- The cheer team will be at the boys' game tonight and have continued to practice and support home games.
- Spring sports registration opened yesterday.
- Seniors have begun to order their caps and gowns and are preparing for graduation.
- Robotics has been meeting after school and has been putting their robot from last year to use.
- NHS had a very successful food drive this year.
- NHS made thank you cards for the faculty which went out this week and were very well received.

Rosemarie Weber inquired if this was one of NHS' more successful food drives given that the donated food was picked up at homes. Jacob stated he would find out and get back to her at the next meeting. Sarah Thrall informed the Board that she will be judging an upcoming DECA competition.

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 David Peling that the Granby Board of Education adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed at 7:21 p.m. with one abstention (Brandon Webster).

IV. Old Business

There was no Old Business to report this evening.

V. New Business

V.A. FY22 Administrative Budget Presentation

Dr. Jordan Grossman presented the FY22 Administrative Budget to the Board stating it is hard to believe this is his second budget presentation he is presenting this evening. He stated this budget is not much different than the budget which was presented for the Plus One. Dr. Grossman reviewed the Vision, Mission and District Achievement Goal as well as the newly adopted Board of Education goals. He reviewed administrative priorities of the budget, such as, maintaining class sizes according to BOE guidelines; responsiveness to the needs of the District during a pandemic; commitment to student achievement and excellence and maintaining a focus on teaching and learning.

Enrollment was reviewed and Dr. Grossman stated enrollment is growing and will continue to increase over the next 5 years. Per pupil expenditure rankings were discussed and Granby spends less than 120 other districts and Granby also performs well compared to other districts. Projected revenues were reviewed and Dr. Grossman stated all revenue funds are given to the Town and that the Education Cost Sharing funds will remain flat next year. Overall, there will be an increase of \$44K in revenue over last year. Dr. Grossman explained that this budget is a 3.56% budget with Other Post-Employment Benefits compared to the 4.5% budget in the Plus One. Savings attributable to this decrease are \$200K savings in our health insurance; \$47K for personnel was moved back into the Q&D budget; the receipt of State of Connecticut ESSER II grant funds of approximately \$122K; and, additional cuts of \$67K. Dr. Grossman explained that to just rollover this budget to next year, it would be 3.57%; however, between the retirement savings and reductions, he was able to get to a 3.56% budget. Dr. Grossman reviewed salary increases for FY22 as well as personnel increases (a total of 4.05 FTEs) of which +1.45 FTEs is in the operating budget; +2.7 FTE in the ESSER II Grant; -0.3 FTE in the IDEA grant; and, +.2 FTE increase in the Title I grant.

Dr. Grossman stated with regard to small capital expenditures, there were no changes from the Plus One Budget. He reviewed some items in transportation; building maintenance; furniture, fixtures and equipment; and, technology. The total appropriation for the FY22 Budget is \$35,240,448. Dr. Grossman informed the Board that this budget does not include any expenses in the event that extraordinary measures are required to continue in-person learning during the pandemic as follows: \$60K for additional cleaning supplies; \$285K additional custodial staff; and an undetermined amount for remote instructional programming. He stated conversations with the Board of Finance would need to take place with regard to pandemic-related expenses. In closing, Dr. Grossman stated he is very pleased to present this budget to the BOE this evening and to kindly send questions to the attention of Linda, Anna and himself by noon on Friday. There will be a Budget Workshop via Zoom at 5:30 p.m. on March 10th and the budget will be brought to the Board for approval at the March 17th Board of Education Meeting.

Sara Thrall thanked Dr. Grossman and the administration for all of their work on the budget and reminded the Board to send any questions by noon on Friday. Jenny Emery congratulated Dr. Grossman on presenting the budget and stated her number one concern is that the \$900K returned to the town is not money saved but education lost. She inquired if administration is confident that we are investing what we need to deliver high education for the lowest dollar possible. Dr. Grossman stated if he didn't feel this budget meets the needs for the community, he would not have presented it and stated more time is needed to look at data as to where students are academically. Al Wilke, Board of Finance member, stated this is a fantastic budget with the constraints of COVID. It is a very good, reasonable budget and he appreciates the fact that the BOE is coming in at 3.56%.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

Rosemarie Weber stated this subcommittee met this evening to discuss the middle school schedule and its alignment with curriculum; strings program, vaccination update; equity team; district policy for anti-bias/anti-racism; and, book club selection; and, a CREC consultant who will work with math coaches. Revised Policy 4118.231 Drug Alcohol Policy for personnel and Policy 5131.6 Drug and Alcohol Use for students were discussed and will be brought forward to the Board at the next meeting. Had a lengthy discussion about K-12 math progression and proposed model shift. The goal of the model shift is to make sure we are appropriately incorporating the 8th grade standards and allowing course progression for STEM and college preparatory students. Lastly, an update on testing was given for SBAC and SATs. Remote learners will be invited on campus to take the SBAC and there is no remote option for SATs. Melissa Migliaccio inquired if there is a plan for the full Board to see the math curriculum or the approach. Ms. Parsons stated that can definitely be added to the calendar. Jenny Emery inquired about the evaluation of all of our music program. Dr. Grossman stated this was brought up at the Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting today. In the FY22 budget, there is a proposed Content Area Specialist position to look at alignment of the music program as a whole to see how general, vocal, instrumental, and strings work together because when the strings program was introduced, there was not a deep understanding of how it aligns with the other music programs.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Sarah Thrall reminded the Board about the Day on the Hill virtual event on March 17th.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

There was nothing to report for the Granby Education Foundation.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Sarah Thrall stated there are many sporting events listed and to try to watch the livestreamed sporting events.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

There were no Board Member announcements this evening.

VI.E. Action Items

1) Jenny Emery inquired if the budget addresses educational losses incurred during the pandemic.

VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

There was no need for an Executive Session/Non-Meeting. A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by David Peling to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Weber
Board Secretary