

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes
January 15, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present Board Members: Jenny Emery (via telephone), Mark Fiorentino, Melissa Migliaccio, David Peling, Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber, and Jack DeGray and Dwaritha Ramesh (Student Representatives).

Absent Board Members: Brandon Webster

Melissa Migliaccio called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Superintendent's Announcements

- Thank you again to the community, families and students for a warm welcome to the District.
- Tonight I will be answering some of the Board's questions with regard to the Plus One Budget.
- Congratulations to Susan Henneberry on her impending retirement. A timeline was shared with the Board for a Board member to be a representative on the search committee. A survey was sent to staff and will also be sent to parents.
- Congratulations to Sydney Henry, Grade 7, on her winning essay for the Daughters of the American Revolution Essay Contest. Sydney will be recognized at a ceremony on March 8th.
- Congratulations to Chase Alexander, Grade 8, for taking first place in the Geography Bee last Friday.
- Congratulations to Dale Kittelson who was recognized as Employee of the Month as a Lead Maintenance Mechanic in the Facilities Department.
- We hired Mara Henze, as the new Teaching Assistant in the College & Career Center. Mara will begin her position on January 27th.
- Attended the PTO and GEF Meetings on Monday evening.
- There was an early release today for professional development. Walked through all of the buildings with Christopher Tranberg. The professional developed focused on student-led conferences using SeeSaw (Kelly Lane); building relationships, strategies and student accountability (Wells Road); measuring student progress toward mastery of curriculum standards and interim assessment data (Middle School); and using PSAT data and refining learning expectations measures (High School).
- Met with the Director of Facilities today regarding the High School Vestibule Project. This project is currently in a holding pattern as the contractor is waiting for the glass to arrive. The contractor stated the job should be complete sometime in February. Will provide updates.
- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on February 5th.

I.B. Student Representative Reports

- The college application process is winding up for seniors and decisions are being received.
- About half of the senior class completed Capstone presentations successfully last Wednesday.
- The semester is coming to an end and mid-term exams will be held next week Jan. 21-24.
- An 8th grade elective fair will be held next Friday, January 24th.
- The World Language Honors Society induction was held last night. Jack DeGray was inducted.
- Job Shadow Day is on February 3rd. This is a great way to get a feel for the world of careers.
- The Ensign Bickford Co-Op Program for selected juniors will continue every Wednesday for the next 8 weeks for students interested in Engineering.
- Rehearsals for the spring musical *Mama Mia!* have begun. The play is slated to be held March 13-15, 2020. It is a busy time for chorus and drama.
- Planning a winter coffeehouse on February 22nd at 7 p.m. in the high school commons.
- The Robotics Team is in full swing. In process of finishing up the design and prototype for this season. The team will be leading activities at the MS Steam Day on January 31st.

- The NHS Empty Bowls Fundraiser will be held on April 3rd from 5-7 p.m. Proceeds will go to the Granby and Hartland food banks.
- A NHS Emergency Responders Dinner will be held for Granby and Hartland First Responders on January 21st, time and place to be determined.
- Boys' basketball is 5-2 and playing against Ellington at home on Friday at 6:45 p.m. Girls' basketball is 5-3 and playing away against Ellington on Friday.

I.C. Business Manager's Report

Ms. Anna Robbins, Business Manager, presented the December statement of accounts and stated there is a negative forecast of \$160K. Special education expenditures are unfavorable \$345K and regular education expenditures are projected to be favorable \$185K. The overall forecast better than last month by \$47K. Salaries and benefits represent 76% of the budget still showing a slightly favorable variance. The Quality & Diversity Fund continues to show a favorable forecast of \$24K. Updated Excess Cost funding from the state are slightly lower than budgeted by \$63K. Billed special education from other towns is favorable \$21K bringing the forecast revenue under budget. Jenny Emery stated the Finance Subcommittee reviewed the statement of accounts in detail this evening and stated in the month of January, a lot of items get purchased and by February the Subcommittee can start to look at spending over the next few months.

I.D. FY21 Athletic Budget Presentation

Mr. Brian Maltese, Athletic Director, presented the FY21 Athletic Budget to the Board. And thanked the Board, Superintendent and high school administration for their continued support of the Athletic Department. He informed the Board it has been a successful school year thus far on and off the field with over 249 athletes of which 185 (or 74%) achieved honor roll. In the fall, 7 out of 7 varsity teams qualified and participated in the CIAC tournament. Field hockey and girls' soccer won State Championships. Mr. Maltese stated 15 different Varsity sports are offered and there is one girl on the football team and 2 girls on the wrestling team. Participation numbers were reviewed there was a drop in enrollment in the fall of 2019-20 vs. the fall of 2018-19 as there was a drop in enrollment from 650 to 590 students. Approximately 60% of the total population plays at least one sport. The sports survey projection numbers for the 2020-2021 school year were reviewed and there are increases in field hockey and boys' and girls' soccer as well as track. Mr. Maltese stated he anticipates overall numbers from this year to next year will relatively be the same. The athletic budget numbers were reviewed for the last 5 years. Increases next year are due to transportation costs, an increase in supplies (uniforms, etc.) as well as coaching stipends and costs for officials. There will be an increase in the pay-to participate fee from \$375 to \$400 for the family cap next year. Recommendations are to continue funding for the football program as well as the addition of Unified Sports, such as, basketball, volleyball and bowling with shared practices and competitions and a goal to participate in the NCCC basketball season. A grant of \$2K from the CIAC will help with the cost of transportation and uniforms. Dr. Grossman stated he is confident Granby Public Schools would be well on their way if the Board supports it and there would be student and family interest.

II. Public Comment

Eileen Swan, Granby, stated she had eight parents in attendance with her this evening and wanted to make a comment on Unified Sports stating she is Local Coordinator for the Simsbury Special Olympics Chapter in the state. Unified Sports Program is run through Special Olympics and that Special Olympics provides training for coaches. Simsbury has one of the biggest bowling tournaments in the country and they use the bowling alley in Simsbury. Ms. Swan stated 12 students from Granby participate in bowling. She informed the Board students from the high school call her to volunteer for community service hours. She offered her assistance and support to Mr. Maltese including financial support in terms of getting uniforms, etc. She thanked Dr. Grossman as well as Brian Maltese for bringing this program to Granby.

III. Consent Agenda

III.A. Minutes

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Sarah Thrall that the Granby Board of Education adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed unanimously at 7:52 p.m.

IV. New Business

IV.A. Graduation Date/Calendar

The Board discussed the approval of the graduation date for 2020 and discussed how to make up any future emergency days. A motion was made by Mark Fiorentino and seconded by Sarah Thrall that the Granby Board of Education approve setting the graduation date for Friday, June 12, 2020 or Friday, June 19, 2020. Melissa Migliaccio stated due to a new state law, the Board can set the graduation date and it only has to be 180 days not contingent on snow days or emergency days. Dr. Grossman stated three schools used 5 snow days and Kelly Lane used 6 days thus far which takes us out to June 17th. The original graduation date was June 10th. Rosemarie Weber stated she does not believe graduation should be set prior to the last day of school. Student representative, Dwaritha Ramesh, inquired about using the April break to make up days. Ms. Migliaccio stated families have planned vacations around that week so that is not on the table and stated she is leaning toward June 19th. Jenny Emery stated she does not like the idea of seniors waiting around to graduate and is curious how teachers feel about a later graduation date so she would vote for the 12th. Mr. Dunn stated if graduation is set to June 19th, it may be a problem due to contractual issues. Sarah Thrall stated having the date in set in stone is far better than not and she understands value of education but June 12th would be her choice. David Peling stated it is always a struggle for seniors after Memorial Day so he is in favor of June 12th. Ms. Migliaccio stated due to not knowing how many more snow days we will have, plus the contractual issues, she would like to table the motion and wait until the first meeting in March to set the graduation date. Dr. Grossman stated he has received calls by other districts for space at the YMCA as well as heard from parents with regard to being able to plan the safe graduation party. Mark Fiorentino withdrew his first motion and made a new motion that the Granby Board of Education set the graduation date for Tuesday, June 16, 2020. Jenny Emery seconded this motion and it passed unanimously at 8:23 p.m. Dr. Grossman will communicate the graduation date to parents as well as adding any additional emergency days on to June.

IV.B. Revised Policy 4131 - Staff Development

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended Revised Policy 4131, Staff Development, to the Board for a first reading. Sarah Thrall stated the revision in the policy includes an emphasis on culturally responsive pedagogy and practices and she has not received any feedback. This policy will go to the Board for a second reading at the next meeting.

IV.C. Special Services Presentation

Ms. Aimee Martin, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, gave the Board an overview of the Special Education Department as it relates to services for students as well as costs for special education in the 2020-2021 budget. Ms. Martin stated she will explain what special education expenses are as well as how they are funded. Special education expenses consist of staffing; out-of-district tuition and transportation; professional services (psychiatric evaluation, requested evaluations for outside providers, consulting, private services); and, supplies and professional development. Special education services are entitled to students up to age 21. Funding sources were discussed such as the IDEA Grant (set by the state and only funds personnel); Excess Cost Grant (money reimbursed from the state); per pupil expenditure of \$16K (for every student who goes over 4.5 times that amount, Granby gets reimbursed; and, tuition from other towns (towns reimbursing Granby for students who attend here). Ms. Martin stated that although special education costs are rising, our enrollment of 1,785 students, 275 students have Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Special education staffing vs. special education enrollment was reviewed for the past 5 years and 64 students were added over the last five years and one staff member was reduced. Personnel requested for FY21 are a 1.0 Special

Education Resource Teacher at the high school; 0.2 FTE Speech and Language Pathologist (making the current person full-time) and 0.5 FTE Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant. In FY22, Ms. Martin stated she has requested an Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services. Currently the department has an Out-of-District PPT Coordinator; however, she cannot help with overseeing the programming in the schools and an Assistant Director would be able to assist with this.

Ms. Martin discussed the Bridge for Resilient Youth in Transition (BRYT) Program, a general education program, that assists students with transitioning back to school after missing significant amounts of school (typically 5 or more consecutive days). Melissa Migliaccio inquired why this was budgeted as a special education item if it is not a special education program. Ms. Martin stated the program is staffed by a clinician who provides coping support for absences due to illness, anxiety, etc. She stated this is a low-budget item that can be done well in a small district. The program originated at the Brookline Center for Community Mental Health and will provide support for a cost of \$5,000 which is in the budget. Ms. Migliaccio stated this was a helpful overview for the Board as they head into budget season. Mark Fiorentino requested to meet with Ms. Martin off-line to learn how students are identified for special education.

V. Old Business

V.A. FY21 Plus One Budget

The Board continued its discussion on the FY21 Plus One Budget presented at the January 2, 2020 Board Meeting. Dr. Jordan Grossman reviewed all of the Board's questions. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by David Peling that the Granby Board of Education approve the FY21 Plus One Budget to be sent to the Board of Finance. Dr. Grossman gave a synopsis of the Plus One Budget which is currently at 3.69%. and stated the Plus One was projected to come in at 3.81%. Dr. Grossman reviewed questions asked by the Board. Melissa Migliaccio stated she appreciated the questions being answered. Three items were moved from the Plus One (farm mural, playground shade and BRYT furniture). The Plus One Budget will be corrected to reflect these changes. A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by Rosemarie Weber to amend the motion to move the Plus One Budget forward to the Board of Finance absent the playground shade (\$25K), farm mural (\$7K) and BRYT chairs (\$2K). These items will affect the small cap total. Mark Fiorentino stated he is very comfortable supporting this budget and sending it on to the Board of Finance. This motion passed unanimously at 9:25 p.m.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

Sarah Thrall stated this Subcommittee has not met but a Google Classroom assignment is due on Friday.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

Jenny Emery stated this Subcommittee met this evening to discuss the approval of the Superintendent's signature for the Child Nutrition Program. Also discussed staying on top of large capital/small capital expenditures. Dr. Grossman and administration are looking for a way to strategically keep these up-to-date. Additionally, the food service contract is up for renewal. An RFP will be going out soon and is very constricted by state regulations. Looking to bring a final contract to the Board in April. Anna Robbins also reported the town/school audit is complete and there were no management comments made to the BOE.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Mark Fiorentino stated CREC Council met today and reviewed the annual report. Mr. Fiorentino gave this report to Dr. Grossman to review.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Jenny Emery stated the GEF met on Monday evening but she did not make the meeting.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Melissa Migliaccio stated there was a holiday on Monday as well as band concerts and the Three-Board meeting on January 21st.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

There were no Board member announcements.

VI.E. Action Items

There were no action items this evening.

VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

Melissa Migliaccio stated there was no need to enter into an Executive Session/Non-Meeting this evening. A motion was made by Sarah Thrall and seconded by Rosemarie Weber to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Weber
Board Secretary