

**Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes**  
**Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Town Hall Meeting Room**

Present Board Members: Liz Barlow, Heather Lombardo, Monica Logan, Donna Nolan, David Peling, Rosemarie Weber, and Katie O'Neill (Student Representative).

Absent Board Members: Whitney Sanzo and 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**

Ms. Logan recognized Mrs. Ingrid Budlong, Granby's 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year and Second Grade Teacher at Kelly Lane Primary School. Mrs. Budlong has been a member of the Granby Public Schools since 2017 and is very involved in the school community. Mrs. Budlong thanked the Board for this recognition and stated she is grateful for the many celebrations throughout the year.

**III. Public Comment**

Mike Kramarenko, Notch Road, Granby, informed the Board students in the Family & Consumer Science Class at the middle school are receiving passing grades for a class that was not taught due to teacher absence. He also shared that he heard that a cell phone was taken away from a student to view a possible video which was not present on the phone. He stated he heard that a student has been able to take breaks to play Minecraft during class, which is disruptive and which he stated he has instructed his child to do as well. Lastly, he shared that the traffic at Kelly Lane in the morning and afternoon is very unsafe and asked for the Board to please address this issue.

No attendees on Zoom raised hands or verbally asked to comment.

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Donna Nolan to amend the agenda to move item *IV. Student Representative Reports* to later in the meeting. Motion passed unanimously at 7:08 p.m.

**IV. Reports and Discussion**

**A. Business Manager's Report**

Ms. Anna Robbins, Business Manager, presented the December statement of accounts and stated the forecast shows an unfavorable full-year forecast of \$227K which is \$38K better than the previous month. Regular education is projected to be underbudget \$18K which is \$93K better than the previous month. Salaries and substitute services continue to fluctuate but major drivers continue to be electricity and substitute services. The special education forecast is overbudget \$245 which is \$54K worse than the previous month with the main driver being out-of-district transportation as student needs and placements continue to fluctuate. Revenue to the town is projected to be favorable \$130K which is \$43K better than the previous month. Contributing factors to the variance include special services billed to other towns. The forecast for the Quality & Diversity Fund continues to be positive with a strong opening balance from the previous year and revenues are holding steady. Ms. Robbins stated that we are hoping for a savings on magnet school tuition based on state legislation capping tuition spending but the state has not yet funded this mandate. Donna Nolan stated the Finance Subcommittee met this evening and approved the Statement of Accounts. The Subcommittee also addressed fee structures for pay-for-participation and compared rates with other towns, decided to maintain current individual sport fees; however, the individual yearly cap will increase to \$325 and the family cap to \$500. Additionally, discussed custodial fees for building use and approved to increase custodial regular time to \$47/hour and overtime to \$68/hour.

**B. Building & Maintenance Update**

Mr. Shannon Sullivan, Director of Facilities, shared priorities for upcoming small capital improvements in the district with the Board. Superintendent Burke thanked Mr. Sullivan for joining the conversation this evening and stated she has done a lot of research to fully understand what is being proposed in the FY25 budget. She stated Mr. Sullivan does an outstanding job managing the facilities. In 2013, there were significant improvements post-Sandy Hook which were completed through a grant process. Since that time, no substantial projects were brought forward to the BOE. It seems as though over time, projects would fall off the list. There was not a

previous opportunity for the Board to accept or decline some of the projects Ms. Burke is proposing. Mr. Sullivan explained the lockdown system stating they were tested when he first arrived in Granby. In 2018, the lockdown system at Kelly Lane did not have an audible lockdown alarm due to the way the system was wired through the fire panel and this was the case for all of the fire panels and this has since been fixed. Donna Nolan inquired if the work can be done in a staged process. Mr. Sullivan stated a staged process would be the preferred method and to begin at the high school which is also the biggest expense. Rosemarie Weber inquired if the project is done in phases, can all the issues be holistically addressed with each school. Mr. Sullivan stated that Kelly Lane is all set and the lockdown systems work and are tested regularly at all of the other schools. He reiterated that it makes sense to start the project at the high school. Liz Barlow inquired if replacing fire panels is the only electrical piece. Mr. Sullivan stated there is much more to it than that. Ms. Burke stated the district is waiting for exact figures for this project but they will definitely be in prior to the March budget presentation. Heather Lombardo inquired if significant costs are incurred when the system trips and must be repaired and Mr. Sullivan stated, yes, especially if the work needs to be done during second shift hours, as has been requested to minimize disruptions to the school day. Ms. Burke informed the Board if any additional questions come forward to please pass them on to her as she meets with Mr. Sullivan often. Ms. Logan thanked Mr. Sullivan for taking the time to come to the Board Meeting this evening and for all of the work he does for the district.

#### **IV. Student Representative Reports**

- Katie O'Neill informed the Board that she won her basketball game this evening and gave the following sports report: Boys' basketball is 4-6; girls' basketball is 8-3; wrestling's most recent meet was tonight but they lost; indoor track will attend the NCCC invitational on January 30<sup>th</sup>; boys' ice hockey has a 7-1 record and girls' ice hockey is 5-5 and their next game is Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> in Simsbury.
- Mid-term exams were pushed back one day due to the snow day. NHS students successfully ran tutoring sessions and also used Google Meet.
- Poetry Out Loud finalists from each grade will recite their poems next Wednesday.
- Next week is the end of the semester and the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.
- Exchange students are leaving soon and Katie shared that she made two good friends, one from Italy and one from Germany.

#### **C. FY25 Athletic Presentation**

Mr. Brian Maltese, Athletic Director, provided a presentation on athletics for 2023-2024 as well as the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. He thanked Superintendent Burke and the Board as well as high school administration and stated 2023-24 has been successful so far both on and off the field. GMHS had 215 students play athletics in the fall and 96 of those students participated in AP/ECE courses; all 7 fall sports teams made it to the CIAC state quarterfinals; 16 athletes received All Conference in the fall; 7 earned All State recognition; and, 3 student athletes earned All New England recognition. Mr. Maltese stated to-date 7 GMHS seniors have signed to play a sport in college. He also shared that Alyssa Bordonaro attained 1,000 points and has her eye on the school record. Mr. Maltese shared the winter participation numbers as well as projected spring participation numbers stating total enrollment has decreased; however, participation rates have remained steady at approximately a 60% total participation rate. Participation rates for middle school students was shared which is a 39% participation rate. GMHS was once again recognized as the recipient of the 2022-2023 CIAC Michael's Cup Award, a "Class Act" sportsmanship award. Mr. Maltese shared website improvements were made enhancing transparency and overall engagement. He thanked Andy Buckle for leading this charge. Additionally, facility improvements were made this year including a new shot clock at the high school, new scoreboards at the middle school, bench shelters for athletes, and new weight room equipment. Overall recommendations for FY25 include ground and field maintenance; an additional staff member or outside fields and facilities; transportation cost increases; track repair; and, tennis court repair. Monica Logan thanked Mr. Maltese for his presentation, especially the focus on community service and sportsmanship.

#### **D. First Reading of Revised Policy 6146 - Graduation Requirements**

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 6146, Graduation Requirements, to the Board for a first reading. Superintendent Burke stated this policy was revised based on legislative requirements. David Peling added that the personal finance course was moved into a general elective requirement. Rosemarie Weber suggested a change to the language in the first paragraph which will be shown as an edit in the next reading. Any further comments should be sent to Jennifer Parsons. This policy will go to the Board for a second reading and approval at the next meeting.

## **E. First Reading of 2024-2025 School Calendar**

Superintendent Burke presented a draft of the 2024-2025 calendar and asked for the Board to review it for a vote at the next meeting. She stated the Board votes on the first day and last day of school as well as the school vacations. The school district team looks at professional learning, curriculum nights, conferences, etc. She noted one change this year is the addition of an early release conference day at the secondary level stating given the feedback through the communications plan as well as from parents directly, an additional day is necessary if parents want to meet with all teachers at the secondary level. An additional half day will not impact the teacher's contract. Liz Barlow stated she strongly agrees with this change as middle school and high school conference days are combined. Ms. Burke informed the Board to forward any questions they might have about the calendar to her attention.

## **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 from the January 3, 2024 Board of Education Meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:22 p.m.

### **B. 2024 Graduation Date**

The Board considered setting the graduation date for Friday, June, 2024 with a rain date on Monday, June 10, 2024 (held indoors if it rains) as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Heather Lombardo that the Granby Board of Education approve the 2024 graduation date for Friday, June 7, 2024 with a rain date on Monday, June 10, 2024 (held indoors if it rains) as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. This motion passed unanimously at 8:26 p.m.

## **VI. Committee Reports**

### **A. Board Standing Committee Reports**

#### **1. Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communication**

This subcommittee has not met. Approved minutes are in the packet.

#### **2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities**

Donna Nolan reported that this subcommittee met this evening to approve the Statement of Accounts and also reviewed pay-for-participation and building use fees.

### **B. Other Board-Related Reports**

#### **1. CREC/CABE**

Ms. Logan stated still looking for a volunteer for CREC/CABE. Ms. Burke will put details in her Friday update.

#### **2. Granby Education Foundation**

The next GEF meeting was rescheduled to January 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **C. Calendar of Events**

Ms. Logan highlighted upcoming Poetry Out Loud finals on January 24<sup>th</sup> as well as the Winter Coffeeshouse on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **D. Board Member Announcements**

There were no Board Member announcements this evening.

### **E. Action Items**

1) CREC/CABE information to be sent to Board members.

## **VII. Superintendent's Report**

- Superintendent Burke thanked members of the Board as well as Chair Monica Logan for presenting at the Three-Board Meeting last night. Awaiting the final guideline from the Board of Finance. The FY25 Administrative Budget will be presented on March 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Submitted the February *Granby Drummer* article highlighting the budget as well as dates and times of budget meetings/workshops. A Superintendent's Community Forum will be held on Feb 24<sup>th</sup>, 9-10 a.m. via Zoom.
- Ms. Burke expressed her gratitude to parents and community members for their patience with recent weather calls. The current last day of school is Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup>.

- There was a middle school concert last week and, additionally, middle school strings students recently performed at Meadowbrook.
- A successful early childhood meeting was held last week. Community members toured Kindergarten classrooms and held meaningful dialogue on the Kindergarten age change. A huge thank you was expressed to Angela Ehrenwerth, Colleen Bava and Jennifer Parsons.
- A reminder that the CREC Legislative Breakfast will be held on Thursday morning, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-10 at the State Capitol. Let Linda know if you would like to attend.
- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on February 7<sup>th</sup>,

#### **VIII. Chairperson's Report**

Ms. Monica Logan, Board Chair, shared remarks stating the Board is very fortunate to have this year's Teacher of the Year present this evening as well as Mr. Brian Maltese and Mr. Shannon Sullivan. It shows an eclectic array of talent and commitment in Granby. Many thanks to all and especially to Cheri Burke and Anna Robbins for the preparation for last night's presentation at the Three-Board Meeting.

#### **IX. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Donna Nolan that the Granby Board of Education adjourn the regular Board of Education Meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth H. Barlow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Elizabeth H. Barlow  
Board Secretary