

**Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes**  
**Wednesday, October 4, 2023, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Town Hall Meeting Room**

Present Board Members: Kristina Gilton, Katharine Leenders, Monica Logan, Donna Nolan, David Peling, Whitney Sanzo, Rosemarie Weber, and Katherine O’Neill and Chase Alexander (Student Representatives).

Absent Board Members: N/A

Rosemarie Weber called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**I. Administrative Reports**

**I.A. Chairman's Corner**

Rosemarie Weber, Board Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed the Spanish Exchange student group who is near the end of their visit to Granby. She shared that one student stayed with her family and he enjoyed learning about our high school system.

Ms. Weber made a motion which was seconded by Kristina Gilton to amend the agenda to include a discussion on collective bargaining issues during Executive Session this evening. This motion passed unanimously at 7:01 p.m.

**I.B. Superintendent's Report**

- Ms. Burke welcomed everyone in attendance as well as on Zoom and extended a special welcome to Ms. Julie Groene and high school students who were in attendance to present to the Board.
- Curriculum nights concluded at Kelly Lane School last week and were well attended.
- As shared at the last Board Meeting, the curriculum documents are now posted on the website and can be accessed. Information will be sent out to families very soon.
- Ms. Burke was interviewed by Susan Patricelli Regan on CT Valley Views to discuss educational issues and the start of school. This can be viewed on GCTV.
- The parent and community focus groups were held this past week. A number of comments were received and the surveys are now closed.
- Ms. Burke stated she is excited to attend the World Language Honor Society Induction tomorrow evening as well as the Senior Men’s Fall Social this Friday at Holcomb Farm.
- At a Harford Area Superintendents’ Meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the group was addressed by the Commissioner who shared there are a number of legislative changes coming down the pike. The Commissioner also spent a good amount of time regarding the reading waiver which is still paused.
- PSATs will be given to students in Grades 9-11 on October 11<sup>th</sup> and to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students on October 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The process of receiving applications for the Assistant Principal at the Middle School is closed. First round interviews will begin on October 19<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be no school on Monday in observance of the holiday.
- The next regularly scheduled Board of Education Meeting will be held on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

**I.C. Student Representative Reports**

- Katie O’Neill reported on sports as follows: Football is 3-0 and their next game is Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, at home; boys’ soccer is undefeated 9-0 with their next game also on Friday at Somers; girls soccer is 6-1 with their next game at Woodstock Academy; cross country boys and girls las race was in Ellington and net is at Stratton Brook State Park; volleyball is 8-2 with their next game on October 5<sup>th</sup> in East Granby; field hockey is 4-1-1 with their last win on 9/26 against Suffield.
- Chase Alexander reported homecoming and spirit week events are currently being planned. The Homecoming Dance is Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 7-10 p.m.
- The World Language Honor Societies will hold an induction ceremony tomorrow night at the high school at 6:30 p.m.
- The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony will be held on October 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.
- Spanish exchange students have been in Granby for a week and a half and embarked on a trip to Boston today. Chase stated it has been great getting to know them.
- Students are hoping to obtain their Seal of Biliteracy and will take the AAPPL test on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> during the scheduled PSAT time.

## **II. Public Comment**

Susan Regan thanked Superintendent Burke for mentioning the interview on CT Valley Views. Ms. Regan inquired about a parents' bill of rights for Granby stating she would like it to be on the Board agenda on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Weber stated she will respond to her email to let her know.

## **III. Consent Agenda**

### **III.A. Minutes**

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Monica Logan that the Granby Board of Education adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed at 7:11 p.m. with one abstention (Whitney Sanzo).

## **IV. Old Business**

There was no Old Business to report.

## **V. New Business**

### **V.A. College Connections/AP Power Boost Programs**

Ms. Julie Bragg (via video presentation) and high school students presented on the College Connections Summer Seminar Program held in June 2023 and Ms. Julie Groene shared information on the AP Power Boost Program with the Board. Ms. Groene stated the College Connections Program has run in the district since 2008. Hillary Petersen, who works in the College and Career Center, attended the trip as well as Junior students Allison Davis and Katie O'Neill. A video was shown which was narrated by Ms. Julie Bragg, Guidance Counselor. More than 200 students have participated in this program and dozens of colleges have been visited over the years. Katie O'Neill stated her focus was on student life and activities while on the tour. She also learned a lot about how to get involved and volunteer while at college. Allison Davis, stated the tour helped her figure out what size school she would like to attend. She personally liked bigger campuses as they lend more opportunities. Hillary Peterson stated it was a great opportunity for her to go on the trip and she informed the Board that the students asked great questions and it helped her to get to know them.

Julie Groene also shared information on the AP Power Boost Program which began in August 2021 and has run the past 3 years. This year and last year, 21 students attended with 15 students attending in the first year. Ms. Groene shared what the week-long agenda looks like and stated private meetings are held with students to discuss their AP score reports. Ms. Groene shared data with the Board that 21 students sat for 26 AP exams and the mean AP score of those students was 3.23. Additionally, she shared that the AP Environmental Science Pilot Program, which was offered to select 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, that 9 students participated and their mean AP score was 3.66 with 3 students obtaining a 5 on the test.

### **V.B. CABE Board Recognition Award**

The Board discussed the application for the CABE Board Recognition Award, Level Two, and considered its approval. A motion was made by David Peling and seconded by Donna Nolan that the Granby Board of Education approve the application for the CABE Board Recognition Award, Level Two. This motion passed unanimously at 7:39 p.m.

## **VI. Miscellaneous**

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

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

David Peling reported this subcommittee met this evening to review the data from the focus groups and also did a focus group of the Board itself. Ms. Burke stated that the results submitted at the committee level will be posted tomorrow.

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

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

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

#### **VI.B.1. CREC/CABE**

Kristina Gilton reported CREC Council will meet on October 18<sup>th</sup>

## **VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports (Cont'd)**

### **Granby Education Foundation**

Whitney Sanzo reported the GEF will meet next Monday.

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

Ms. Weber stated the calendar of events is as reported.

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

There were no Board member announcements this evening.

## **V.E. Action Items**

There were no action items this evening.

## **VII. Executive Session**

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Monica Logan that the Granby Board of Education enter into an Executive Session to discuss a student discipline matter and a collective bargaining issue as amended earlier. This motion passed unanimously at 7:42 p.m.

In Executive Session, a motion was made by Whitney Sanzo and seconded by Kristina Gilton that the Granby Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to expel Student "B12023-24" from Granby Memorial High School, as well as all buildings and grounds and activities of the Granby Public Schools for violation of School Board Policies #5114, Student Discipline, and #5131.6, Drug & Alcohol Use. This motion passed unanimously at 8:28 p.m.

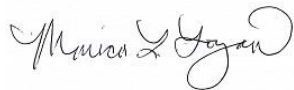
A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Kristina Gilton to adjourn Executive Session. This motion passed unanimously at 8:36 p.m.

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Kristina Gilton to enter back into the regular session. This motion passed unanimously at 8:37 p.m.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Dave Peling that the Granby Board of Education adjourn the Board of Education Meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monica Logan  
Board Secretary