

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes

June 16, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

High School Auditorium/Zoom

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

Absent Board Members: N/A

Sarah Thrall called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Chairman's Corner

Sarah Thrall, Board Chair, once again congratulated the Class of 2021. She stated the last day of school was on Friday, June 11th and it is officially summer. She wished teachers, staff, students, and families a nice summer.

I.B. State Championship Recognitions

The Board presented championship jackets to the boys' tennis team as well as to Lauren Roy, Class S Long Jump State Champion. Brian Maltese stated he is excited to be back to recognize state champions. Unfortunately, in the fall there were no state championships, however, we were able to participate in the spring. He stated Lauren Roy, who received the state championship for the long jump, also received this award in 2019.

I.C. Superintendent's Announcements

- Dr. Grossman welcomed everyone in person and on-line this evening.
- All end-of-year activities went well: 8th grade promotion, graduation, top scholars, and closing ceremonies.
- Congratulations to the BOE on the receipt of the CAFE Level II Leadership Award. This award will be presented at the CAFE/CAPSS Convention in November.
- Continuing to monitor Kindergarten enrollment and will continue to update the Board.
- Summer school will begin on Monday, June 28th and will run through July 30th.
- The last issue of the *Vision*, which is a celebratory issue, should be in mailboxes the end of June.
- A Reopening Task Force meeting was held on June 7th. The State of Connecticut is requiring our plan for next year be posted on our website next week as to how the Granby Public Schools will open. Currently, there is an Executive Order by the Governor for all school buildings to continue to mask within buildings when students are present. The Executive Order will run out the end of June/beginning of July and we are awaiting guidance from the State of Connecticut. If the Executive Order does not have anything regarding mask wearing, the FVHD will be contacted. Dr. Grossman stated he will update the community as soon as he can. With regard to quarantine for students who are vaccinated, again waiting for the guidance for quarantining. He also stated other districts may be announcing their plans; however, they are jumping ahead of the guidance anticipated.
- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 1st.
- Dr. Grossman wished all students, staff and their families a great summer and he looks forward to welcoming everyone back in August.

I.D. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, provided updates from the Assistant Superintendent's office. She stated it is full speed ahead moving forward planning for next year and there is a lot to celebrate on this past year. An Administrative Retreat was held this week to discuss what went well and what we want to focus on next year. It was a very productive conversation. Additionally, a dedicated group of teachers have not checked out for the summer and will be doing 800 hours of curriculum development. Lastly, Ms. Parsons stated the Reopening Task Force reconvened for a meeting on June 7th.

I.E. Student Representative Reports

- Jacob Scotto stated students have been out of school for about a week.
- Prom and graduation were held and went extremely well. Students said prom was great.
- Choir and band performed at graduation. It was a beautiful graduation and beautiful evening.

Jenny Emery stated she heard from a few parents that they liked prom the night before graduation. Jacob Scotto stated he did not hear about anything personally; however, he did hear that some students normally would stay out late and have friends over but they did not since graduation was the following day.

I.F. Business Manager's Report

Ms. Anna Robbins, Business Manager, presented the May statement of accounts and stated the forecast is slightly better than budget. As the month of May closes, continue to incorporate results from the beginning of June and are projecting \$80K better than budget which is better than the previous month by \$17K. Special education is over-budget by \$10K with a positive change from the previous month of \$7K. Regular education has a positive forecast of \$90K which is better than the previous month by \$7K. This incredibly busy time of year has budgetary impacts which have been accounted for in the forecast. The Quality & Diversity Fund balance is forecasted to be better than budgeted by (\$102K) and continues to reflect limited extracurricular activities and enrollment in the Asnuntuck and Suffield VoAg programs. Overall, revenue to the town is unfavorable \$47K which is better than last month by \$20K. Funds received for prior year's expenses in FY20 (\$140K) were returned to the town bringing the total expenses returned to the town in FY20 to \$1,036,358. Jenny Emery stated at the end of the day the revenue returned to the town is excess because one of the grants was received before everyone else knew to get in line for these funds. Closing the books with a likely positive forecast is nothing short of remarkable. She also stated we were starting to run a deficit for the lunch program at the beginning of the year and thanks to creative thinking by Anna and Jordan and collaboration with East Granby, we are down to a small number. Jenny thanked the Business Office for all the great work done this year.

II. Public Comment

Mike Mercier, clearly stated that to defer to Governor's Executive Order regarding next year. Mr. Mercier inquired if the Board can adopt a resolution for the Governor to drop the requirement of mask wearing in school.

Ruth Mercier expressed her concern regarding critical race theory stating one of the premises is to try to create equal outcomes. She stated this is not possible due to different talents, different skills and different motivations and cited examples. Ms. Mercier stated she believes in equal opportunity not equal outcome.

III. Consent Agenda

III.A. Minutes

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Jenny Emery to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed with two abstentions (David Peling and Brandon Webster) at 7:33 p.m.

IV. Old Business

IV.A. Food Services Update

Ms. Anna Robbins, Business Manager, updated the Board on our new food service provider, Fresh Picks Café. She stated Fresh Picks began the year in this unprecedented time which caused the schools to span to multiple lunch waves as to the ways lunches were offered. The free breakfast and lunch program was implemented in Granby and this began a relationship with East Granby Public Schools which started in February 2021. As of April 2021 there were 140,000 meals served. Additionally, Ms. Robbins stated a good relationship with the Wellness Committee was established including great feedback from students. She also shared that there was great success with staff transitions and many staff members chose to stay with Fresh Picks. Ms. Robbins shared pictures of some of the food as well as many comments received by students about the food. For next school year, Ms. Robbins stated Fresh Picks is hoping to implement all of the aspects of their program which prides themselves on fresh food. Ms. Robbins stated that breakfast will be implemented at the high school and the free breakfasts and lunches will continue next year. Fresh Picks is anticipating the need for faster service lines and cashless service lines to get the students through the lines. Ms. Robbins stated Fresh Picks is also working with a design team on the new high school cafeteria. Ms. Robbins concluded that the district is very pleased with year one of this new vendor.

V. New Business

V.A. Annual Technology Report

Mr. Jon Lambert, Director of Technology, presented the Annual Technology Report to the Board. Mr. Lambert stated it has certainly been a challenging year for technology and that his staff really rose to the occasion for distance and hybrid learning. He reviewed the types of technology supported: telecommunications, software systems, information management, instructional technology, assistive technology, and end-user support and training. Mr. Lambert stated his staff was able to distribute mobile devices to all students for remote learning and that Wells Road received 250 Chromebooks from a grant. Laptops were also given to all teachers to work at home or in school as well as web cameras, speakers and microphones to also assist with remote learning. Mr. Lambert reviewed the replacement technology, such as, security cameras, network switches, projectors, and printers. He stated projects this year included the website upgrade, a new phone system at Wells Road Intermediate School,

and security system improvements. Mr. Lambert reviewed some overall initiatives for FY22 including providing outstanding support, replacing phone systems at Kelly Lane and Central Services, updating town and school financial system, transitioning from classroom projects to interactive displays, and continuing the use of streaming live events. Sarah Thrall commented that Granby would not have been able to do what we did this year without Jon Lambert and his staff. Rosemarie Weber also thanked Mr. Lambert for all he and his staff have done for Granby students this year. She inquired how well was Granby set up for what was accomplished and what needed to be adjusted. Mr. Lambert stated the district was in really good shape due to the support of the BOE and the adoption of the 1-to-1 program. The district had devices in-house and did not receive help from the State until afterwards. Adjustments were made with the replacement cycles in order to get the teachers laptops and Chromebooks were on hand. Some additional funds were received for software which was great. Mr. Lambert stated he feels very supported with funding from the Board. David Peling commented that it was amazing how seamless the transition was to remote learning and that the infrastructure was in place. Brandon Webster thanked Mr. Lambert and his team for the efforts this year stating it was challenging at times but more problems were with Cox than the network. Mr. Webster inquired about the expansion of 1-to-1 computing and Mr. Lambert stated Granby is in a good place in this regard and he does not see additional increases in the near future.

V.B. Vision of the Graduate

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, along with Lis Diemer, Second Grade Teacher, and Jennifer Miller, Special Education Teacher at Kelly Lane, presented the Vision of the Graduate (VOG) for the Granby Public Schools. Ms. Parsons stated the VOG is a portrait of the skills that every student should possess when leaving the Granby Public Schools. She stated all of the standards in English, Math Science and Social Studies were pulled together as well as the high school learning expectations and all of the work performed before the committee got together. All of this material was looked over and the committee had some really great conversations. The group committed to three meetings and ended up meeting 8 or 9 times. Ms. Parsons stated every word in this proposed VOG is intentional. There are three categories: Resourceful Learner, Effective Communicator and Positive Contributor. When these categories were broken down, they were broken down into individual indicators. Next steps will be looking at these indicators and breaking them down as to what they look like to be a resourceful learner, effective communicator and positive contributor. Jennifer Miller stated the most important element looked at is that it is acceptable for all students and that all students can achieve them. Lis Diemer stated what resonated with her the most is what will students do to make the world a better place and will have these skills in their toolbox. Ms. Parsons stated the group came together to wordsmith this document and it has been vetted through the administrative team and teacher leadership teams. Sarah Thrall inquired where this document will be seen and Ms. Parsons stated the course catalog and halls of high school. It will be a foundational document in the schools moving forward and we want our students and teachers to internalize it. David Peling inquired if there will be an opportunity for students progressing through the school system to evaluate along the way and remediate weak spots. Ms. Parsons stated this will be tied to Capstone experiences which will be based on these indicators. Melissa Migliaccio inquired if there is a plan for the Board to adopt this document. Dr. Grossman stated this is nothing the Board needs to adopt. It will be part of the strategic plan which will be reviewed at the Board Retreat. This is a document the committee put together which is grounded in the work of the committee two years ago. Ms. Migliaccio stated if this is a foundational document, she personally feels the Board should have a discussion and a motion to support this at some point. Dr. Grossman stated the ultimate goal is to give this document to the staff in the fall and inquired if this is something the Board might want to see as a motion on the September 1st Board Meeting. Rosemarie Weber stated this document should also probably be aligned with the Board goals and having the Board's endorsement will ensure they are explicitly on the same page. Dr. Grossman stated the committee looked at the Board goals to ensure the VOG was aligned with them. The Board agreed to endorse the VOG at the Board Retreat in order to assist in completing the strategic plan. Jenny Emery suggested to send Jennifer Parsons anything that Board members feel might be missing from the VOG. Ms. Parsons stated, yes, please ask questions or reach out if you feel something is missing. Mark Fiorentino suggested in order to demonstrate support and community feedback, the September 1st meeting might be best to endorse this document.

V.C. 2021-2022 BOE Meeting Schedule

The Board discussed the Board of Education Meeting Schedule for the 2021-2022 school year. A motion was made by Sarah Thrall and seconded by Mark Fiorentino that the Granby Board of Education approve the Meeting Schedule for the 2021-2022 school year. Dr. Grossman stated he would like to return to the normal schedule for the Board Retreat happening just prior to when school opens which will include the strategic plan, board self-evaluation, etc. This motion passed unanimously at 8:35 p.m.

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 summer programming; hiring; issues with scheduling and staffing; success classes at the middle school for 6th grade next year; community outreach at vaccine clinics; GEF broadcast studio; Teacher of the Year; and, Reopening Taskforce. A match was found for the mentor in resident program and the teacher and mentor will be located at Wells Road Intermediate School next year. Ms. Weber stated the Subcommittee also discussed what next year will look at with regard to the Reopening Taskforce and what strategies may need to be put in place for students next year and that needs are met.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

Jenny Emery reported this Subcommittee met this evening to discuss a building committee update and the stairway and science classroom projects are kicking off at the high school. There is a Building Committee Meeting tomorrow to review the RFP for an architect for the high school roof. The State has pushed to progress with the high school roof along with the high school renovations in the summer of 2022. Anna Robbins is working on getting Granby options on security grants which require matching funds from us. The items relate to items which have been identified in security audits. The first ESSER Grant was received and spent. ESSER II will be spent on lost learning as well as a third federal round on another new grant. Ms. Emery stated kudos to Dr. Grossman and Anna Robbins for staying on top of these grant funds.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Mark Fiorentino reported CREC had their final meeting and discussed the cooperative purchasing program for supplies, etc. He stated he gave the report to Anna Robbins with regard to the savings Granby received. He also stated the House is expected to pass legislation and there are substantially more sessions related to education. He received one summary already which he will forward to Dr. Grossman to give to the Board. He also stated there is a CABE webinar next Tuesday which will also be posted on the website afterwards.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Dr. Grossman stated he is working with the GEF on the grant for the TV news studio and working out final details on the receipt of the possible award. He will report out in the next couple of weeks to the Board. Jenny Emery stated annually the GEF has a tribute program and honorees get their name mentioned.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Sarah Thrall stated she is looking forward to seeing everyone if not over the summer then at the Board Retreat on August 25th.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

Sarah Thrall announced that the Teacher of the Year was announced on Friday and this year it is Mr. Jeff Stanwood, Business Teacher, from Granby Memorial High School. He was celebrated at convocation on Friday. Also a staff member of the year is awarded every year and this year the award went to Linda Powell. Congratulations!

VI.E. Action Items

There were no action items this evening.

VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

There was no need for an Executive Session/Non-Meeting this evening. A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by Rosemarie Weber to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Weber
Board Secretary