

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Draft Minutes
Wednesday, October 19, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present Board Members: Kristina Gilton, Monica Logan (via Zoom), Donna Nolan, David Peling, Whitney Sanzo, Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber and Chase Alexander (Student Representative)

Absent Board Members: Tess Bajek (Student Representative)

Sarah Thrall called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Chairman's Corner

Sarah Thrall, Board Chair, welcomed everyone in attendance as well as Ms. Buckley, Ms. Alender and Dr. Wrye and 7th grade students who are here to present on their recent field trip. Additionally, she congratulated Ms. Parsons and the team of coaches who represented the Granby Public Schools at the recent Performance Matters Conference on student achievement.

I.B. Superintendent's Announcements

- Dr. Grossman welcomed everyone in attendance and on Zoom this evening and a special welcome to middle school students as well as Ms. Ann Buckley and Ms. Sue Alender, Science Teachers, who are here to present for Schools in the Spotlight.
- An update regarding the high school track was provided. At the last meeting, it was reported that puddling is happening in one section of the track. On Thursday morning, a company will come to moor some holes in the track to see if it can be determined what is causing this puddling. Dr. Grossman will report back on this issue.
- Dr. Grossman also congratulated Ms. Parsons, Ms. Belding, Ms. Olsen and Ms. Piotrowski stating it was truly special to watch this presentation with the Board's focus on student achievement.
- The Robotics Team presented at the Senior Men's Breakfast last week and nearly \$300 was raised in support of the program.
- Thank you to Ms. Thrall and Ms. Gilton who attended the Boardwalk at the high school last Friday.
- On Wednesday, October 26th from 12:15-2:15, Board members are invited to a Boardwalk at the middle school which follows tonight's Continuous Improvement Plan presentation.
- Creation of the FY24 Budget is well underway at the building level. Site budgets are due on Monday, October 31st and meetings with administrators begin in November.
- There will be a Superintendent's Community Conversation via Zoom on Tuesday, October 25th from 6-7 p.m. Email Linda Powell to obtain the link.
- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 2nd.

I.C. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, provided updates from her office and stated the assessment results which were presented at a recent Board meeting have been sent home to parents for students in Grades 4-9. Ms. Parsons stated some assessments are administered several times throughout the year which are check-in screeners. If students are flagged in terms of skill development, parents are contacted and additional information is gathered on the students. She shared that the same attention is given on social/emotional development of students. Ms. Parsons stated in two weeks, all of K-12 students will have a DESSA (Devareaux Student Stress Assessment) screener and teachers will complete 8 questions on each student as to how students interact with other students and how are they feeling with schoolwork, etc. If there are concerns, staff will reach out to parents. She stated parents will receive a letter explaining DESSA in the near future. Sarah Thrall inquired if this is state mandated and Ms. Parsons stated it is recommended that something be in place this year; however, it is required that districts have a screener in place for next year. She also inquired if the data is accessible by the state since the state purchased the screener and Ms. Parsons stated, yes, it is. Sarah Thrall also inquired if parents can opt out of this screener and Ms. Parsons stated, yes, they can opt out.

I.D. Student Representative Reports

- Chase reported football is 3-2 and will play this Friday at 7 p.m.; volleyball is 12-3; field hockey tied 1-1 w/Simsbury and has a record of 8-3-1; cross-country visited Bolton for NCCC conference meet and next Saturday is the CIAC Class S Championships; girls' soccer is 7-4-1; boys' soccer is 6-5 after a 3-0 win against Windsor Locks on Monday night.
- A pep rally will be held this Friday in anticipation for homecoming weekend and a homecoming dance will be held on Saturday 10/22. Spirit week will be held next week leading up to homecoming games on October 27th and 28th.
- The NHS Induction ceremony will be held on October 26th in the high school auditorium.
- French and Spanish World Language Honors Society induction ceremonies will be held soon as well.
- A college fair was held today in the community gym where students visited schools with 4-year and 2-year programs as well as trade schools and military organizations.

I.E. Schools in the Spotlight

Granby Memorial Middle School Science Teachers, Ann Buckley and Sue Alender, along with 7th grade students Thomas Erickson, Ashley Hodgkin, Sean Pomponi, Joseph Tofil, and, Mia Woods shared their recent field trip experience to Project Oceanology in Groton. Ms. Buckley stated after a year of planning this trip, they were finally able to attend on October 22nd and 23rd. The purpose of the field trip was to provide a real-world science experience that supports the Grade 7 science curriculum. Joe Tofil shared what they learned about water chemistry and water quality; Sean Pomponi described the types of fish they were able to see; Thomas Erickson explained how they were able to catch the fish stating students had two nets and explained how the fish were collected in them; Ashley explained plankton to the Board stating that some plankton turn into other sea animals and some stay plankton for their whole lives; and, Mia spoke about the crab habitat lab, specifically, Asian green crabs which are an invasive species.

I.F. Business Manager's Report

Ms. Robbins presented the Statement of Accounts for September stating the fiscal year forecast shows an anticipated over-budget condition of \$551K. The forecast for regular education is favorable \$67K but \$62K lower than the previous month. This change centers around staffing adjustments. Expenses in salary line items are favorable due to two (2) open positions currently filled using the instructional purchased services line item. Special education is over-budget \$618K but is better than last month by \$66K. The over-budget condition is due to changes in out-of-district transportation caused by the shift in the ride sharing program and bus driver shortages. Revenue to the Town is projected to be favorable \$400K due to the projected increase in the Excess Cost Grant. The Q&D Fund continues to trend positively but there is lower than budgeted revenue due to slightly lower enrollment of Open Choice students. Rosemarie Weber stated the Statement of Accounts was reviewed and accepted in the Finance Subcommittee Meeting this evening.

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 Donna Nolan that the Granby Board of Education adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed unanimously at 7:35 p.m.

IV. Old Business

There was no Old Business to report.

V. New Business

V.A. Continuous Improvement Plan - Granby Memorial Middle School

Dr. Taylor Wrye, Middle School Principal, presented his Continuous Improvement Plan for Granby Memorial Middle School to the Board. Dr. Wrye stated students and teachers are working extremely hard and he is seeing exceptional things happening in classrooms every day. He reviewed all of the goals as follows: *Goal #1, Student Achievement*, for GMMS students to achieve levels of proficiency or higher on the state assessment in Math by monitoring their growth and performance over time and providing high-quality,

effective instruction in Math, ELA and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). In Math, GMMS will provide professional development for teachers in the Illustrative Math Program; have data team discussions during team meetings; and, implement a co-teaching model. In Reading and Writing, GMMS will provide professional development for teachers from the Teachers College; implement the Teachers College Reading and Writing Workshop model; and, provide small group instruction on specific standards/skills identified to students receiving reading interventions. In Science (NGSS) which is offered to students in Grades 5, 7 and 8, GMMS will analyze data by the department and have data discussions during team and department meetings; implement formative assessments with fidelity to monitor student progress; and, determine where science and math overlap and how teachers can support each other. Kristina Gilton inquired about crossing over with math and science. Dr. Wrye stated, yes, this is happening with the new STEM teacher and Math Coach, Ms. Olsen. Tutoring was brought up regarding intervention services and there is definitely a need for this at the middle school level. David Peling voiced a concern with all of the assessments being done throughout the year and could any of these be scaled back. Ms. Parsons stated the STAR assessment is a predictor and should only take 25 minutes 3 times a year and that assessment blocks are at the most 10-15 minutes and are used as a teaching tool as well as to pre-assess and measure retention after a unit ends.

Dr. Wrye continued reviewing the goals as follows: *Goal #2, Community Engagement*, to continue to improve the transition process for all new students entering GMMS by hosting events before the arrival at school; new students meeting support staff; celebrating new students and providing new opportunities to connect with peers and other new students; and, GMMS 6th grade teachers collaborating with 5th grade teachers at Wells Road to support the students' transition. The second goal under *Goal 2* is to develop a school-wide plan for branding GMMS by acknowledging Granby Bear (Student) of the month; an active presence on social media and school website; and develop a morning news Broadcast Club. *Goal #3, Safety and Social Emotional Well-Being*, for GMMS teachers to utilize a restorative approach around inclusive, relationship-centered and culturally responsive practices to create supportive classroom environments by creating school-wide expectations; implementing the DESSA assessment; and, continuing to implement and utilize Restorative Practices. *Goal #4, Budget Development and Fiscal Management*, that GMMS will continue to create a long-term financial plan which aligns with the vision of the Board of Finance by monitoring class sizes to ensure appropriate BOE class guidelines and conducting a staff structure review of the middle school to ensure that the middle school's structures are the best possible support structure. *Goal #5, Embracing Diversity*, to ensure system-wide practices and structures are in place at GMMS to support the implementation of the Granby Public Schools' Anti-Bias/Anti-Racism Plan by acknowledging Cultural Heritage Months and developing classroom libraries. *Goal #6, Professional Learning*, for the learning environment to have classroom routines that are well understood and initiated by students by developing the capacity of the leadership team to model and use protocols and utilize Restorative Practices to build a classroom culture of connectedness. Additionally, under *Goal #6*, for clear, shared outcomes where students in classes can explain how their learning connects to short- and long-term learning outcomes by providing professional development based on the Elements of Effective Instruction (EEI) and developing the capacity in EEI indicators, including using standards to develop clear shared outcomes.

V.B. First Reading of New Policy 4113.12 – Minimum Duty-Free Lunch Periods for Teachers

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications recommended new Policy 4113.2, Minimum Duty - Free Lunch Periods for Teachers, to the Board for a first reading. Ms. Parsons stated this policy is legislatively driven for teachers to have a 30-minute duty-free lunch period which is in place at all of our schools. Ms. Thrall stated any questions regarding this policy should be sent to Ms. Parsons. This policy will go to the Board for a final reading and approval at the next meeting.

V.C. First Reading of Revised Policy 5113.2 – Truancy

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications recommended revised Policy 5113.2, Truancy, to the Board for a first reading. Ms. Parsons stated the changes are legislatively mandated as to how truant students are handled, i.e., following procedures and supporting these students with interventions and contacting families prior to a student's truancy. Ms. Thrall stated any questions regarding this policy should be sent to Ms. Parsons. This policy will go to the Board for a final reading and approval at the next meeting.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

This subcommittee has not met. Minutes approved at the last meeting are attached to the packet.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

Rosemarie Weber stated this subcommittee met this evening to discuss the September statement of accounts and the shortage of Speech & Language Pathologists, bus drivers, etc. and the impact on the budget. The roofing project was discussed briefly and administration is looking at the increased costs of this project and town leadership is meeting to discuss options. Also received a food service update and administration is continuing to monitor this program; received a GEF Grant update on the Video Production Studio; approved a leave-of-absence request; and, discussed storage space for robotics.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Kristina Gilton reported that CREC Council has not met. Sarah Thrall reported she attended a CABE workshop last week.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Whitney Sanzo stated Dr. Grossman and Sarah Thrall attended the GEF Meeting last Monday evening to provide the GEF with an update of the video production studio. GEF members were able to go through the details of project as well as the progress of the project. Ms. Sanzo stated classes will start next semester and there is a lot of excitement about it. The next GEF Meeting will be held on November 21st at 7 p.m.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Sarah Thrall stated homecoming week is upcoming; a Superintendent's Community Conversation on October 25th from 6-7 p.m.; MS PAC on October 27th (Whitney Sanzo & Sarah Thrall to attend); and, the next BOE Meeting will be held on November 2nd.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

There were no Board member announcements this evening.

VI.E. Action Items

There were no action items this evening.

VII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by David Peling. This motion passed unanimously at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Nolan
Board Secretary