

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes
September 18, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present Board Members: Jenny Emery, Mark Fiorentino; Lynn Guelzow, Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber, Brandon Webster, and Dwaritha Ramesh and Jack DeGray (Student Representatives).

Absent Board Members: Melissa Migliaccio

Mark Fiorentino called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Superintendent's Announcements

- Mark Winzler, Interim Superintendent, welcomed Jack DeGray, a Junior, as the new BOE Student Representative. He also welcomed Julie Groene, Assistant Principal at the High School, and Jacky Paton, High School Science Teacher, who are here to present for Schools in the Spotlight.
- Open houses are going well so far. The final open houses will be held this week and next week for Grades 3, 4, and 5 on September 19th, 24th and 26th respectively.
- Central Services had their annual professional day yesterday which focused around high reliability organizations.
- The high school vestibule project is moving along with the first phase beginning October 9th (school holiday for students). Depending on weather, work may continue into the 10th or 11th. Any disruption in the flow of vehicles or people will be managed by the high school staff and facilities department.
- The first meeting for the building committees will be an organizational meeting and will be held tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m.
- The playground shade has been installed at Kelly Lane.
- Students at Kelly Lane celebrated International Dot Day on Monday by participating in creative time. International Dot Day is named for the classic Peter H. Reynolds storybook *The Dot*.
- The budget process is moving along with meetings taking place with principals for technology, curriculum and facilities.
- The district participated in the Sandy Hook Promise Safety and Assessment & Intervention (SAI) training this week. SAI is a national evidenced-based violence prevention program which establishes and trains multidisciplinary teams/school safety teams within schools to identify, assess and respond to threats of violence.
- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on October 2nd.

I.B. Student Representative Reports

Mr. Mark Fiorentino introduced new BOE Student Representative Jack DeGray and stated that the BOE expects student representatives to not only report on the high school but to also be involved and ask questions. Mr. Fiorentino asked Jack to introduce himself to the Board. Jack DeGray stated he feels he will be able to contribute his peers' ideas and thoughts to the Board. He stated he takes a good variety of classes including AP and Honors classes as well as plays high school basketball, lacrosse and soccer. He also plans on joining the Spanish National Honors Society and the Model UN Club this year. He gave an update to the Board as follows:

- All fall sports are undefeated so far. There are 12 less students participating in fall sports this year vs. last year; however, student enrollment is down by 80 students so it is actually 42% of the student body participating this year and 39% participated last year.

I.C. Business Manager's Report

Ms. Anna Robbins, Business Manager, presented the June 2019 and July/August 2019 statement of accounts. For June 2019, the results were as anticipated with special education expenditures unfavorable \$668K and regular education expenditures favorable \$348K. Salaries and benefits made up 76.3% of the total budget for FY19 and were forecasted with almost 100% accuracy. The additional appropriation for \$320K was needed to balance the budget for FY19. The Quality & Diversity fund was favorable \$77K largely due to savings in vocational and magnet school tuition as well as savings in transportation line items.

For FY20, the BOE is opening with a negative forecast of \$52K. Special education expenditures are projected to be unfavorable \$179K and regular education expenditures favorable \$127K. The special education variance is due to the net change in out-of-district placements for students whose needs have changed since the budget was prepared. Ms. Robbins stated this is a very difficult area to project. Revenue to the town reflects a projection of additional revenue of \$15K for tuition from other towns. Excess cost funding is lower than anticipated. Although out-of-district costs for special education are higher than budgeted, fewer students are meeting the stop loss limits. Jenny Emery stated these statements of accounts were reviewed in the Finance Subcommittee Meeting this evening and the Board will act on an end-of-year transfer later in the meeting.

I.D. Schools in the Spotlight

Ms. Julie Groene, High School Assistant Principal and Director of Guidance, Jacky Paton, High School Science Teacher, and a couple of high school students spoke about the recent Summer College Connections trip that took place over the summer. Ms. Groene stated the tour was held July 9-12 this year. She stated students who take the time to go on this tour really put themselves in the driver's seat and are able to articulate what they are looking for in a college. 22 students attended this year in Grades 10-12 with eight (8) of those students being Sophomores. Ms. Groene stated financial aid as well as transportation (for Hartford students) was offered to students who wanted to attend. Over 225 students have attended this program over the past 11 years. Junior, Spencer Bennett, attended this year and stated the tour gave him a great sense of what to expect with regard to the application process as well as what college would be the best fit for him. Sophomore, Alex Camilleri, stated she was not sure what she wanted out of a college and was very excited to learn of this tour. The tour helped her to know that she would like to go to a public college vs. a private college. Both Alex and Spencer stated this tour should be promoted better next year as students do not seem to know about it. Ms. Paton stated she has done this tour for 11 years and stated this is not only a tour of schools but truly a seminar as much discussion takes place regarding the college process. She spoke about the advertising of the program and stated students have advertised the program through the Summer Enrichment Academy; by having students walk around to advisories; students also received e-mails about the program; and, mailings about the program were sent home. Ms. Groene stated the alumni panel is a great highlight of the week for students to be able to speak to Granby alumni who are currently attending college.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments this evening.

III. Consent Agenda

III.A. Minutes

A motion was made by Jenny Emery and seconded by Brandon Webster to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed with one abstention (Lynn Guelzow) at 7:35 p.m.

IV. Old Business

IV.A. Third Reading of Draft Policy 6159, Individualized Education Program

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended draft revised Policy 6159, Individualized Education Program, to the Board for a third reading and approval. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Sarah Thrall that the Granby Board of Education adopt Policy 6159, Individualized Education Program, with corrections as presented. Rosemarie Weber stated this policy was presented to the Board at the last meeting and a few changes were made due to statutory language which has been added. This motion passed unanimously at 7:37 p.m.

IV.B. CABE Board Recognition Award Application

The Board reviewed the final application for the CABE Level Two Leadership Award. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Jenny Emery that the Granby Board of Education approve the submittal of the CABE Board Recognition Award Application for the Level Two Board Leadership Award. This motion passed unanimously at 7: 38 p.m.

V. New Business

V.A. FY19 Year-End Budget Transfers

The Board discussed the approval of FY19 year-end budget transfers as recommended by the Business Manager and Finance Subcommittee. A motion was made by Jenny Emery and seconded by Brandon

Webster that the Granby Board of Education approve year-end budget transfers for FY19 as recommended by the Business Manager and Finance Subcommittee. Jenny Emery stated this is standard procedure throughout the year. Between regular education and special education and a \$30M budget, the \$357K deficit all related to special education. She stated the Board of Finance knew the deficit would be there and made an appropriation for more than what is needed. Ms. Emery stated overall, the impact to a taxpayer was budget-wise and that education had a surplus of approximately \$500K. This motion passed unanimously at 7:42 p.m.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

This Subcommittee has not met.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

Jenny Emery reported this Subcommittee met this evening to discuss the statement of accounts discussed earlier as well as cybersecurity. CAFE sent out information to ensure school boards are on top of issues relating to protecting data. Jon Lambert, Director of Technology, attended the meeting and reviewed a lot of what is done in the district. The Board encouraged Mr. Lambert to make sure he lets the Board know if there are resources he needs. The Subcommittee received an update on the school vestibule project and also discussed health benefits and the Health Benefit Advisory Committee and making sure the right resources are in place to receive the correct information for the budget.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CAFE

Mark Fiorentino reported CREC met today. Information was provided on Open Choice enrollment. Generally, the trend is very static and is about the same as it was 5 years ago. A brief legislative report was given. CAFE is not looking to finalize legislative priorities until after the convention. The Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for February 20th. Jenny Emery inquired about magnet school tuition being held flat and wondered if that was reflected in the budget. Anna Robbins stated a slight increase was budgeted. Mark Fiorentino stated there was a brief discussion about that and CREC was partially successful in getting the state to raise tuition rates for magnet schools by 5% and they got a little less than 2%.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Jenny Emery reported the GEF met on Monday evening; however, she was unable to attend. A mailing will be going out town-wide for their annual appeal.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Mark Fiorentino noted the BOE candidate forum to be held on September 24th and thanked Mr. Dombrowski and his students at the high school for their work on this event. The college fair is on October 23rd and is a good opportunity to see many colleges. Jenny Emery stated she will be away on October 16th so the Finance Subcommittee Meeting will need to be rescheduled.

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. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

There was no need to enter into an Executive Session/Non-Meeting this evening. A motion was made by Jenny Emery and seconded by Rosemarie Weber to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Weber
Board Secretary