

**Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes**  
**October 16, 2019, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Town Hall Meeting Room**

Present Board Members: Mark Fiorentino; Lynn Guelzow, Melissa Migliaccio, Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber, and Dwaritha Ramesh (arrived at 7:12) and Jack DeGray (Student Representatives).

Absent Board Members: Jenny Emery and Brandon Webster

Melissa Migliaccio called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**I. Administrative Reports**

**I.A. Superintendent's Announcements**

- Mark Winzler, Interim Superintendent, welcomed Ms. Denise Marti, Middle School F&CS Teacher, as well as some of her students who were in attendance to present to the Board this evening.
- Professional development for teachers took place in the district yesterday and focused on self-care and wellness.
- Budget meetings began today with Wells Road and will continue the next few weeks.
- The high school vestibule project began on schedule last week and is going well.
- Work on the middle school roof continues and it is expected to have all roof panels up by the end of October and then finish trim work to follow.
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will be going to the Science Museum in Boston tomorrow.
- The PTO Jog-a-Thon will be held this Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, on the Kelly Lane grounds.
- Congratulations to Caroline Hall, 8<sup>th</sup> grader, and to Lizzy Cappelli, Senior, who were chosen as the Farmington Valley Superintendents' Association award winners. They will be recognized at a luncheon on November 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The district will be removing the "after 6 p.m. ban" on activities effective Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Despite the fact there has been no killing frost, the risk is extremely low and the district will ensure people to take necessary precautions.
- There will be no school on Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> for professional development.
- Sent out communication to all parents and staff for when/if there is a need to delay school, there will be a 2-hour delay vs. a 90-minute delay. The decision was made for the following reasons: 1) A half hour makes a difference 2) Staff traveling into Granby from other towns; and, 3) Harford and Hartland students always have 2-hour delays and it is an inequity to those students.
- The next Board Meeting will be held on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

**I.B. Student Representative Reports**

- Students took the PSATs at the high school today.
- The homecoming dance will be held this Friday from 7-10 p.m.
- The DECA Fall Leadership Conference will be held next week on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- A blood drive will be held on October 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Community Gym.
- The NHS Induction Ceremony will be held at 6:00 p.m. on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Model UN trip to NYC will be held on Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.
- NHS will hold a bake sale on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 10-2 p.m. in front of Geissler's to benefit Empty Bowls.
- The fall coffeehouse has been rescheduled to Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> due to a conflict with a football game.
- The last opportunity to take SATs will be on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Sports report: Girls' Field Hockey is undefeated with 8-0 record and next game is Friday at home vs. Conard; girls' soccer 10-0 record and game held today @ HMTCA; girls' volleyball 9-3 record and game home today vs. Ellington; next meet for cross country is the NCCC Championship tomorrow at Bolton; boys' soccer 8-1-1 record and game held today vs. HMTCA; and football has a 4-1 record and their next game is 10/25 at home vs. Windsor Locks/Suffield/East Granby Co-op.

Melissa Migliaccio commented on the Hartford Courant article featuring Senior Lizzy Cappelli.

### **I.C. Business Manager's Report**

Ms. Anna Robbins, Business Manager, presented the September statement of accounts and stated as of September 30<sup>th</sup> the BOE shows a negative forecast of \$197K. Special education expenditures are projected to be unfavorable \$321K. Regular education expenditures are projected to be favorable \$124K. During the budgeting process, the BOE projects expenditures for out-of-district placements and personnel needs known at that time. Spending in the regular education category is on target. Salaries and benefits represent 76% of the budget and are slightly favorable. Natural gas is projected to be over budget but is offset in a projected savings in electricity. Excess cost funding from the state is expected to be lower than budgeted. Although out-of-district costs for special education are higher than budgeted, fewer students are meeting the stop/loss limits. The remaining revenue items expected to meet budget at this time.

### **I.D. Schools in the Spotlight**

Ms. Denise Marti, Family & Consumer Science Teacher at the Middle School, and some of her students shared how they use healthy food choices as well as what they have learned from Junior Achievement to become wise consumers. Ms. Henneberry introduced Ms. Marti to the Board and stated she has done a great job in shifting the program. Ms. Marti stated the main areas covered are financial literacy, nutrition and food preparation and that students love the cooking days. Students informed the Board how they have learned to be wise consumers and make good decisions. They also learned about different advertising techniques. Eighth grade students spoke about the Junior Achievement (JA) Program and stated JA comes every Friday for 6 weeks and every year there are different focuses. This year's focus for Grade 6 is preparing students for the working world; Grade 7 will be applying entrepreneurial skills; and Grade 8 will focus on personal finance and identifying education and career goals based on skills, interests and values. Seventh grade students have the opportunity to make healthy pumpkin muffins and made some to share with the Board.

## **II. Public Comment**

Todd Klein, Strawberry Fields Road, Granby, informed the Board that many middle school dances are scheduled on the same night as football games and requested that more coordination with the middle school dances and Friday night home football games be considered going forward.

Kim Becker, 149 Loomis Street, North Granby, stated she appreciates all of the work put into the community and the schools and that the superintendent search is the most important thing that the BOE will do for the community. She stated selecting a new superintendent who is curriculum-focused, all about program evaluation and developing the "kids can" culture in Granby. She stated the BOE's work in finding the right superintendent is going to be the turning point. Ms. Becker closed by stating again her appreciation for the work put forth into finding the right person who has our academic interests at heart.

## **III. Consent Agenda**

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

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Sarah Thrall to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed unanimously at 7:26 p.m.

## **IV. Old Business**

There was no Old Business to report.

## **V. New Business**

### **V.A. First Reading of Policy 6111 - Calendar**

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended Policy 6111, Calendar, to the Board for a first reading. The changes in this policy reflect a change in the state statute and gives districts more latitude with the date for graduation. This policy will go to the Board for a second reading at the next meeting.

## **V.B. Annual District Testing Report**

Mr. Christopher Tranberg, Assistant Superintendent, presented the Annual District Testing Report to the Board and informed the Board this is a more in-depth report compared to what the equity report showed at the last meeting. The first category presented was the smarter balanced testing for ELA. Mr. Tranberg stated there was cohort growth across all grades and average performance grew from 73.5 to 76. In Math, there is a disparity between the Math and ELA scores as they are the same group of students. Mr. Tranberg stated there is a lot of work to do with the curriculum and the average performance year-to-year is consistent where other districts within our DRG have made some improvements. AP participation rates were presented and there is consistent performance with graduating students taking at least one AP exam. Lynn Guelzow inquired if there are courses notable for their pass rate. Mr. Tranberg stated there are not high pass rates in the social studies area; however, there are high pass rates for AP Calculus BC. Mr. Tranberg stated he can send a breakdown of the pass rates to Lynn Guelzow. SAT CT Test Day for the class of 2019 was presented and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students scored consistently over 1100 and 84.8% of students were at goal in ELA. Mr. Tranberg reviewed some strategic actions for ELA and Math as follows: 1) Implementation of new and revised curriculum for ELA and begin curriculum revisions for math; 2) Align school improvement plans with strategic actions; 3) implement SRBI and PLC recommendations from collaborative action teams; 4) improve vertical articulation of curriculum with a math focus and connection to standards; 5) Refine practices with student-centered coaching model; 6) Incorporate Granby Equity Team recommendations; 7) Revisit universal screening tools; and, 8) Continue to develop enrichment programming in Grades 3-8. Sarah Thrall commented that many parents may not understand the math students are doing and Mr. Tranberg stated this was discussed today that perhaps some instructional videos could be made for parents. Mr. Fiorentino inquired if the fact that middle school students are taking Algebra and this content is not on the test could be investigated. Melissa Migliaccio inquired if Mr. Tranberg could make two recommendations about math, what would he advise the Board that he would like to see. Mr. Tranberg stated that he would like to see priorities for the general education portion of the budget but his two recommendations would be as follows: 1) To hire an interventionist at Wells Road for math; and, 2) Provide resources to support teachers in the classroom for all students. The Board inquired how long would it be before results are seen from the revisions in curriculum. Mr. Tranberg stated the next math revision is this coming June through next June. He stated the Board should expect to see an improvement in next year's scores due to working with resources already in place and Tier I interventions. Mark Winzler stated unless you have interventionists who can work with students who need help in math, you will not see improvements. Mr. Tranberg stated that looking at the great spots is a great way to work on what needs to be worked on and not to work from a deficit model. Lynn Guelzow inquired if the district is giving enough PLC time to teachers to share what is working for them. Mr. Tranberg stated teachers have approximately 7 hours per week of collaboration time. Mark Fiorentino stated he would like to see a goal next year and have the report speak to how that goal was or was not achieved. Melissa Migliaccio thanked Mr. Tranberg for delivering the results in a way that is understandable and that he is always prepared.

## **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**

Mark Fiorentino reported this subcommittee met this evening to discuss the statement of accounts and had a brief conversation of where the district is with large capital projects.

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

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

Mark Fiorentino reported CREC met today and reminded the Board that the legislative breakfast is scheduled for February 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation**

Jenny Emery was not present to report on GEF; however, Melissa Migliaccio stated the Board is still actively looking for a BOE liaison to serve on the GEF Board.

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

Melissa Migliaccio stated the calendar of events is self-explanatory and to go to events if you can. Mark Fiorentino will be attending the NHS induction ceremony on behalf of the Board. There is no school on November 5<sup>th</sup> for professional development. Dwaritha reiterated that the fall coffeehouse has been moved to Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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

There were no Board member announcements this evening.

### **VI.E. Action Items**

1) AP test score breakdown by course

### **VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting**

There was no need for an Executive Session/Non-Meeting this evening. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Lynn Guelzow to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Weber  
Board Secretary