

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

Present Board Members: Kristina Gilton (via Zoom), Monica Logan, Donna Nolan, David Peling, Whitney Sanzo, Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber, and Tess Bajek and Jacob Scotto (Student Reps).

Absent Board Members: None

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

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Chairman's Corner

Sarah Thrall, Board Chair, thanked Board members for attending the Three-Board Meeting last evening to discuss the FY23 Plus One Budget.

I.B. Superintendent's Announcements

- Dr. Grossman welcomed those in attendance and virtually this evening and extended a special welcome to Brian Maltese, Athletic Director, who will give an athletic update to the Board.
- Thank you to Chairman Thrall for presenting the FY23 Plus One Budget at the Three-Board Meeting.
- Tonight the Plus One Budget is on the agenda to answer a few questions asked by the Board as well as a motion to approve the Plus One Budget.
- Building Committee met last week and on tonight's agenda is an approval to go out to bid.
- Met with YMCA Director Brian Liss there is a shortage for life guards. Please reach out to the YMCA for assistance in enrollment for a course.
- Last week the GMMS Chorus did a great job and tomorrow night the band performs.
- The middle school play, *Murder at the Art Show*, will be held on Thursday, January 26th with performances at 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.
- Online Kindergarten registration begins February 1st.
- A Superintendent Community Forum will be held on Thursday, February 24th.
- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 2nd.

I.C. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, provided an update on mid-year assessments and stated it is part of assessment plan to do universal screenings for Grades K-8 and assess where they are compared to national percentiles to make sure we are not missing any students in monitoring progress. Kelly Lane DIBELS assessment is well underway which is required for dyslexia screenings in literacy areas as well as in math for Grades 1-2. Grades K-3 are working through DIBELS and Grades 2-8 are taking the mid-year STAR. We continue to prepare for SBAC by taking shorter assessments (3-5 questions) seen on the SBAC assessment test. In mid-April through mid-May 3rd, Grades 3-8 will take the SBAC; Grades 5, 8 and 11 will take the NGSS in May; and, all Grade 11 students will take the SAT in March. Additionally, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is given to select students across the nation and Granby was selected for 4th and 8th grade (50 students each). Ms. Parsons also shared that summer school is well underway with planning and is slated to run July 5-29 this year. In addition to the extended school year programming; intervention programming for Grades 1-6; the credit recovery program at the high school; and, there will be enrichment offerings with a theme for each week and the district is also bringing back choices for the enrichment piece. Open Choice student participants who attend summer school may also attend activities at the Granby Parks & Recreation and YMCA with Granby community members.

I.D. Student Representative Reports

- Tess Bajek gave a sports report as follows: boys' basketball is 7-1; girls' basketball is 5-3; boys' hockey is very popular lately with many Granby students attending last Friday as well as planning to attend this Friday. There is an upcoming swim meet and upcoming track meet.
- DECA members are committed to the states - competitions will be held in the spring.
- NHS is hosting the Empty Bowls Fundraiser on Friday, March 18th in the Commons. Proceeds will go to the Granby and Hartland Food Banks.

Sarah Thrall recommended that people should volunteer to be a judge for the DECA competition. She has done it in the past and it is a worthwhile endeavor

I.E. Business Manager's Report

Ms. Anna Robbins, Business Manager, presented the December statement of accounts and stated there is a positive forecast of \$153K which is \$8K higher than last month. Overall, special education expenditures are projected to be in the black \$29K and although there is a significant over-budget condition in out-of-district tuition, it is being offset by out-of-district transportation and salaries. Regular education expenditures are expected to be favorable \$124K and the driving factor is regular education salaries due to the turnover in personnel this year. Q&D continues to be projected favorable and varies slightly from last month. With regard to revenue to the town, we are better than budgeted by \$123K but there is a decrease in our positive forecast due to our Per Pupil Expenditure (PPE). Our PPE went up from \$17,068 to \$18,869 so that PPE affects us positively as well as negatively for the excess cost grant because that number determines our reimbursement from the state. Ms. Robbins informed the Board that budgets start winding down after January in order that the end of the year can be accurately forecasted. Donna Nolan stated the statement of accounts was reviewed this evening in the Finance Subcommittee Meeting.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments this evening.

III. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and Rosemarie Weber to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed unanimously at 7:15 p.m.

IV. Old Business

A. Athletic Update: Fall Re-Cap/Winter Preview

Mr. Brian Maltese, Athletic Director, provided an update on the fall season and a preview of the winter sports season. Dr. Grossman stated he has worked with many Athletic Directors in the state and Brian Maltese is one of the best as it has been a very trying time the past couple of years to be an Athletic Director and Granby has one of the best athletic programs in the State of Connecticut. Mr. Maltese thanked everyone for their support of the athletic program and stated the fall teams had a 104-35-1 record and of the 221 fall athletes, 72% made the honor roll in the first quarter. He also shared that field hockey and volleyball were NCCC champions; field hockey, girls' soccer and girls' volleyball reached the CIAC state semi-finals; and, the Granby/Canton football Pequot team were division champions. He stated 20 athletes were selected for All Conference and 8 athletes selected for All State. The winter season started on time and has full regular season schedules. Boys' and girls' basketball are currently in 1st place in the NCCC; 25 of our of 45 indoor track athletes have qualified for the league indoor meet; and, 2 students have qualified for CIAC state meet for swimming. Unified basketball is also underway practicing on Wednesdays after school; however, still ironing out a schedule with other schools. Winter participation numbers were reviewed and there are currently 270 athletes. Mr. Maltese informed the Board there is a new camera installed in the main gym which can be programmed and track the speed of play of athletes and also allows the flexibility of scheduling which eases the burden for the Broadcast Team. Mr. Maltese shared that the CIAC Michael's Cup Award was just received by the high school and was received last year as well. Sarah Thrall inquired about winter sports at the middle school. Mr. Maltese stated there were 100 students for fall cross country and 30 for field hockey. Winter boys' and girls' basketball have 10-11 students on each team and there are 5 students in cheer. Rosemarie Weber inquired if there were any dips in Open Choice student participation. Mr. Maltese stated he did not have those numbers in front of him but would get them to her but he stated that buses run at 4:30 p.m. for students and he was fairly confident that the numbers are close to previous years. Sarah Thrall inquired what the percentage is of Granby/ Canton students participating in the Granby/Canton Coop for football. Mr. Maltese stated there were 29 Granby students and 17 Canton students.

B. FY23 Plus One Budget

The Board continued to discuss and considered the approval of the FY23 Plus One Budget. Dr. Grossman thanked Board members for their questions. He stated the Plus One Budget is at a 4.26% increase which includes a 20% health insurance premium. He also pointed out the health insurance premium increase was initially projected to be 7.5% which would have meant a 3.7% budget. He informed the Board that a standing still number (just rolling over the year) is a 2.15% increase and when special education is added in it becomes 2.98%. The budget guideline is at 2.5% but, as stated at the meeting last night, Chairman Guarco

stated this is a moving number. Dr. Grossman reviewed questions received from the Board regarding the purchase of a plow truck; enrollment increases; the increase of 6.4 FTEs (personnel); and, various other personnel questions. Sarah Thrall asked the Board if they had any other questions and the Board stated all of their questions were answered. She stated the next step in the process after this budget is approved, is the Administrative Budget is presented to the Board on March 2nd. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by David Peling that the Granby Board of Education approves the Plus One Budget to be forwarded to the Board of Finance. This motion passed unanimously at 7:50 p.m.

V. New Business

A. Approval of Final Plans for High School Building Project as Prepared for Bidding

The Board considered approval of the final plans for the High School Building Project as prepared for bidding. A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Rosemarie Weber that the Granby Board of Education certifies that the final plans and project manual(s) as prepared for bidding and dated January 7, 2022, and the professional cost estimate, completed in accordance with Level 3 of ASTM International Standard E1557, Standard Classification of Building Elements and Related Sitework-UNIFORMAT II for this project, dated January 7, 2022, have been reviewed and approved for this project. Donna Nolan stated the Building Committee supports going out to bid on this project. The Committee met last week and the project involves a renovation of the high school commons to add a kitchen, band space and choral space. This is a project that the town and school district wants and the Building Committee supported going out to bid for this project. Whitney Sanzo inquired if Granby was going to continue providing lunches with East Granby. Dr. Grossman stated this collaboration began due to the pandemic and we piloted the program with East Granby but the district needs to evaluate if this is still worth doing if we are not receiving federal funds next year. The pandemic helped that collaboration but if we are not going to make money, it will not be worth it. This motion passed unanimously at 7:55 p.m.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

VI.A.1. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

Rosemarie Weber reported the December Statement of Accounts was reviewed; the bus contract was discussed as well as the instability of bus drivers - looking to extend the current contract; IBAC Committee is up and running and some things to be discussed are Rescue Plan funds and how those will be spent; and received a Building Committee update.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

There was nothing to report this evening.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Whitney Sanzo reported the GEF met last Monday. There is a lot of funding available for education purposes. Dr. Grossman informed GEF that he would allot time to teachers to write grants as it is difficult for them to find the time to do so. Additionally, discussed the GranBee which will be held on April 22nd at 6:30 p.m.

V.C. Calendar of Events

Sarah Thrall stated there is a lot going on with drama, concerts, and job shadow day. The next BOE meeting is on February 2nd.

V.D. Board Member Announcements

There were no Board member announcements this evening.

V.E. Action Items

1) Brian Maltese to provide Open Choice athletic participation numbers.

VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

A motion was made by Monica Logan and seconded by Donna Nolan to enter into an Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter. This motion passed unanimously at 8:00 p.m.

The Executive Session adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Nolan, Board Secretary