

## **Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes**

**March 17, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**

**High School Auditorium/Zoom**

Present Board Members: Mark Fiorentino (via Zoom), Melissa Migliaccio, David Peling, Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber, and Jacob Scotto (Student Representative)

Absent Board Members: Jenny Emery, Brandon Webster, and Jack DeGray (Student Representative)

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

### **I. Administrative Reports**

#### **I.A. Chairman's Corner**

Ms. Sarah Thrall, Board Chair, welcomed in-person and online members of the audience as well as Dr. MacDonald and students from Wells Road Intermediate School. She stated there is no Board Meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup> and that April 21<sup>st</sup> will be the next meeting. She also stated there has recently been some positive cases in schools and she thanked everyone for their due diligence with regard to mitigation strategies.

#### **I.B. Superintendent's Announcements**

- Dr. Grossman welcomed Wells Road students, staff and parents for Schools in the Spotlight.
- After 10 years in the role of Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Mrs. Aimee Martin will retire at the end of this school year. Dr. Grossman stated he is very excited to announce Mrs. Angela Ehrenwerth as the next Director of Pupil Personnel Services. After an extensive search involving administrators, a Board member, teachers, and parents, Mrs. Ehrenwerth displayed exactly what the district was looking for in a Director. She is currently an Elementary Supervisor of Special Education in Windsor Public Schools and brings tremendous experience to this role. He welcomed her family who was present and stated Mrs. Ehrenwerth will resume her role on July 1, 2021. Mrs. Ehrenwerth thanked Dr. Grossman, the interview committee and the BOE for the opportunity and entrusting her to work on behalf of students and families. She stated she has two daughters in the district and is fully invested in the success of Granby schools.
- March is Board of Education Member Appreciation Month. Dr. Grossman once again thanked Board Members for their service to the Granby Public Schools.
- A reminder that all budget information can be found on our website.
- The CIAC approved a spring sports plan with spring sports starting practices on March 29<sup>th</sup> and that state tournaments will be held. Last year our spring athletes could not complete.
- The collaborative effort with East Granby Public Schools for providing breakfast and lunch continues to go very well. So far for the month of March, a daily average of 200 breakfasts and 190 lunches were served. Granby numbers in March thus far are 190 for breakfast and 780 for lunch.
- Next week there will be an early release for all schools on Monday and early release for elementary only on Tuesday and Wednesday. All schools will be holding virtual parent conferences.
- The next Superintendent's Community Conversation will be held on Wednesday next week, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. An email will go out to parents this week.
- Mrs. Thrall and Dr. Grossman attended A Virtual Day on the Hill today and learned about the new legislative proposals.
- A reminder there will be a Board of Finance Meeting on Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. here in the high school auditorium where the BOS and BOE will present their budgets. The town Public Hearing for the budget will be held on Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Thrall, Mrs. Robbins and Dr. Grossman will attend in person and requested for the remainder of the Board to attend via Zoom.
- Currently working on the budget edition of the *Vision* educational supplement for *The Granby Drummer* which will be sent to the community prior to the April 12<sup>th</sup> town meeting.
- There will be no school on Friday April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **I.C. Assistant Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, provided updates from the Assistant Superintendent's office and stated it is hard to believe planning is underway for summer school. This summer will focus on working with students for academic and social/emotional growth. Unfortunately, Granby will not be able to offer the depth of enrichment opportunities offered in the past; however, collaborating with the YMCA and

Granby Parks and Recreation to promote their programming. Summer opportunities will be shared with families next week. Following that, staff will be reaching out to families to share a variety of in-person and virtual offerings. Additionally, at the high school level, there will be credit recovery and an AP Boot Camp for students entering AP classes. Ms. Parsons stated there has been a slight increase in cases this week and she wanted to reassure the community they are all out of school exposures but unfortunately are impacting our schools. We have not seen any spread within our school community. She reiterated the need for continued vigilance in our mitigation strategies. Ms. Parsons stated the last vaccination clinic will be held this weekend and thanked the FVHD for their collaboration. It has been a collaborative effort and a nice opportunity to come together with colleagues across the Farmington Valley. In other news, Ms. Parsons shared the district is gearing up for the half day of professional development next week which will focus around school climate, collaboration on K-12 and world language and preparing for state formative assessments. Also planning the summer curriculum schedule as well as planning for next year already.

#### **I.D. Student Representative Reports**

- Jacob Scotto stated this week at the high school was spirit week.
- Boys and girls had their first and only indoor meet this week.
- Girls' basketball is 4-7 and boys' basketball is 8-2 with a home game against East Granby tonight and senior night is Friday night against Canton.
- Wrestling is practicing after school but were not allowed any matches
- Spring sports conditioning started this week and the first day of practices is March 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Spring coffeehouse will be held virtually on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Sarah Thrall mentioned several members of the DECA Club did very well in their competitions. Melissa Migliaccio inquired if the new audio/visual crew will be using the new equipment for the coffeehouse performance and Jacob stated, yes, they will be.

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

Ms. Pauline Greer stated she is excited about this opportunity to highlight the Brain Talk Program for the Board. The focus of the program is to ensure the social/emotional well-being of students. Ms. Greer introduced Dr. Heidi MacDonald, School Psychologist at Wells Road Intermediate School, and Grade 3 students Raegan Damseaux, Novellino Fiaccone and Max Poirier. Brain Talk is designed to teach students about their brains and how to use executive function capabilities to respond mindfully rather than react impulsively. Dr. MacDonald explained Tier I, II and III supports for students. She stated 57 students are receiving Tier 2 or Tier 3 social/emotional support. Dr. MacDonald spoke about zones of regulation which identifies colors with how you are feeling. She informed the Board the Brain Talk Program was piloted over the summer and it is research-supported and basically helps explain to students how their brains work. Melissa Migliaccio inquired if students practice the breathing technique. Novi stated sometimes he gets very nervous about a task and he uses it; Raegan stated she has not used it yet; and, Max stated he uses it a lot. Rosemarie Weber inquired what the student numbers were just prior to COVID and when the uptick started. She also inquired if colleagues are using this program as well. Dr. MacDonald stated in 2004 her caseload was 10 and stated the increase has been steady. She also stated teachers and staff members are better at diagnosing issues and that responsive classrooms are happening across the district. Rosemarie Weber inquired if Brain Talk is a Tier 2 or Tier 3 intervention. Dr. MacDonald stated it could absolutely be a Tier 1 support and that classroom teachers can absolutely deliver it. In conclusion, Raegan stated she liked learning the parts of the brain; Novi stated he liked learning about the different tools and how to use them easier and better; and, Max stated he liked learning about the characters of the brain.

#### **I.F. School Improvement Plan Update: Wells Road Intermediate School**

Ms. Pauline Greer, Principal of Wells Road Intermediate School, presented an update on her 2020-2021 School Improvement Plan. She reviewed her vision, mission and district achievement goal to enhance the school culture by focusing on building positive relationships for all students, staff and families and develop opportunities to create diverse experiences through literature. She explained some things happening this year: A project called First 50 Books; Teachers' College Readers Workshop; Read Across America; Buddy Classes; and, participation in the Great Kindness Challenge. For the student achievement goal, Ms. Greer stated she took on a big goal this year that by June 2021 at least 80% of students will make average growth on the STAR assessment and stated at the mid-year point, growth is being seen and instruction is making a difference. The math scores are lower than the reading scores;

however, the math curriculum is going through some revisions and the district is doing their best to ensure students show growth. For the instruction goal of having teachers increase opportunities for students to engage and/or co-create real-world authentic projects, some samples are opinion and gratitude letters; 5<sup>th</sup> grade project regarding wearing masks; student-led fundraisers and kindness activities; and, the Wells Road Kindness Challenge. Sarah Thrall inquired about clusters. Ms. Greer stated clusters cannot be done this year, unfortunately. Ms. Thrall also inquired about the level of proficiency for each cohort. Ms. Parsons stated if students are not hitting the proficiency mark but are above average with their growth scores, it shows they are on trajectory to hit proficiency as time goes by. Melissa Migliaccio inquired when was the STAR assessment administered. Ms. Greer stated in the fall and again in January and that is how growth is measured. Ms. Migliaccio stated there is a significant decrease in math and this is front and center and a concern for the Board. Dr. Grossman stated 5<sup>th</sup> grade math standards are much different than 4<sup>th</sup> grade math standards so it is very difficult to compare the two grades. Ms. Migliaccio inquired if the curriculum is significantly different. Ms. Parsons stated there is totally different content in math in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade so we need to make sure each grade level is being addressed adequately. Rosemarie Weber inquired if a student has high growth but low proficiency, can you tell when the student might be able to reach a proficient level. Ms. Parsons stated STAR serves two purposes as an assessment tool as well as predictive ability on how students will do on the SBAC based on STAR assessment. Mark Fiorentino inquired what the baseline is of achieving an 80% growth rate goal. Ms. Greer stated she believes the number was 65 or 66 so there has been a lot of progress.

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

Ms. Anna Robbins, Business Manager, presented the February 2021 Statement of Accounts and stated it reflects the receipt of grant funds since the State Department of Education accepted the Granby's application for reimbursement. After the receipt of grant funds, the general fund is over-budget \$65K. This forecast is better than the previous month by \$7K. Special education is over-budget \$54K which is better than the previous month by \$85K and regular education is negative \$11K and is worse than the previous month by \$79K. The fluctuation in special education is driven by out-of-district tuition and transportation. Changes in the regular education forecast are due to adjustments to projections for custodial salaries and bus monitors. The Q&D Fund is forecasted to be better than budgeted at \$65K. Revenue to the town is unfavorable \$82K which is better than last month by \$8K. The town has received the Excess Cost Grant of \$408K and will be adjusted to reflect changes. Pay-for-participation fees have increased slightly due to enrollment in spring sports. Melissa Migliaccio stated this was reviewed this evening in the Finance Subcommittee meeting.

### **II. Public Comment**

There were no public comments this evening.

### **III. Consent Agenda**

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

A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by Rosemarie Weber to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed unanimously at 8:04 p.m.

### **IV. Old Business**

#### **IV.A. FY22 Board of Education Budget Approval**

The Board discussed the approval of the FY22 Board of Education Budget. A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by Rosemarie Weber to adopt the FY22 Board of Education Budget. Sarah Thrall stated the budget workshop was held last week and the Board is very thankful for the budget the administration put forward. Mark Fiorentino thanked the team for their work on the budget as well as members of the BOS and BOF. This motion passed unanimously at 8:07 p.m.

#### **IV.B. Rain Date(s) for High School Graduation**

The Board discussed setting rain date(s) for high school graduation. Dr. Grossman stated he is confident the Class of 2021 will have a somewhat normal graduation this year; however, it is not possible to hold it indoors. A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by David Peling that the Granby Board of Education approve rain dates for high school graduation as follows: Saturday, June 12, 2021, Sunday, June 13, 2021 and Monday, June 14, 2021. This motion passed unanimously at 8:09 p.m.

## **V. New Business**

### **V.A. Granby/Hartland Designated High School Agreement**

The Board discussed the renewal and approval of a current 5-year Agreement with the Hartland Board of Education for Granby Memorial High School to continue as the designated high school for Hartland students. Dr. Grossman stated the terms of the contract states that two years' prior the current agreement ending, a new contract should be voted on. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by David Peling that the Granby Board of Education approve the Granby/Hartland Agreement to commence on July 1, 2023 and end on June 30, 2028. This motion passed unanimously at 8:11 p.m.

### **V.B. First Reading of Revised Policy 4118.231/4218.231-Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco-Personnel**

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 4118.231/4218.231, Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco for Personnel, to the Board for a first reading. Rosemarie Weber stated this policy is directed toward personnel but is being revised for statutory language. Any questions should be directed to Rosemarie Weber, Jennifer Parsons or Dr. Grossman. This policy will go to the Board for a second reading and approval at the next meeting.

### **VC. First Reading of Revised Policy 5135.5 - Drug and Alcohol Use - Students**

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 5135.5, Drug and Alcohol Use for Students, to the Board for a first reading. Rosemarie Weber stated this policy has also been changed as above and is directed toward students. This policy will go to the Board for a second reading and approval at the next meeting.

## **VI. Miscellaneous**

### **VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports**

#### **VI.A.1. Finance/Personnel/Facilities**

Mark Fiorentino reported that this Subcommittee met this evening and discussed the Statement of Accounts; food service program – providing meals to East Granby is starting to get to deficit but bad news trying work out with previous vendor; and, authorized Superintendent to grant leaves for next year.

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

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

Mark Fiorentino reported CREC Council met briefly today. Legislative report was probably much shorter than Day on the Hill. CABE is keeping a tracking log on legislative bills and Mr. Fiorentino stated he will ask Patrice McCarthy to forward on to him if the Board is interested.

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

Dr. Grossman reported the GEF met on Monday evening and discussed marketing strategies and new members. They also spoke about the video news station at the high school and will go back to the Executive Board to talk more about the proposal. This should be brought to the Board in April or May.

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

Sarah Thrall stated SATs will be held next Wednesday. There will be no Board Meeting on April 7th; however, the Curriculum Subcommittee will meet.

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

There were no Board member announcements.

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

There were no action items this evening.

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

There was no need for an Executive Session this evening. A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by David Peling to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Weber  
Board Secretary