

**Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes
November 4, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
High School Auditorium**

Present Board Members: Mark Fiorentino, 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)

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

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Chairman's Corner

Melissa Migliaccio, Board Chair, shared opening remarks stating she did not have not much to share except to give continued thanks and gratitude to all employees for running our school district. It is nice to be back in school for some sense of normalcy.

I.B. Superintendent's Announcements

- Dr. Grossman stated we are in our 7th full week of school and everything is going extremely well. The attendance average is consistently in the mid-90% range for both in-person and remote learning.
- Professional development went very well yesterday and focused on online learning, remote teaching strategies, social/emotional learning, and report cards and essential learnings.
- The Granby Equity Team met last week to discuss goal areas and implementation of the Anti-Bias/Anti-Racism Plan.
- Next Monday, the Part One discussion of the book, Waking Up White will be held on Monday, November 9th, 5:00 p.m. at Central Services. Board members Mark Fiorentino and Brandon Webster will be part of the discussion.
- Veterans' day celebrations will look a little different this year but schools will find ways to continue the tradition of honoring our veterans.
- Continue to meet with the Farmington Valley Health District and medical team advisor to discuss the current rates within the Hartford County, Farmington Valley and local Granby area. Positivity rates are still in the range for full in-person learning.
- Guidance was received from the Commissioner of Education's office regarding closings for inclement weather. Dr. Grossman stated this does not mean every snow day will be a remote learning day. It is a superintendent's judgement call to cancel or have a late arrival, early dismissal or remote learning day and will do his best to let the community know as soon as he can.
- Still waiting for information from the CIAC and DPH regarding winter athletics and will let the Board and community know as soon as possible.
- FY22 budgets are underway. Meetings with administrators will conclude by the Thanksgiving break.
- The Building Committee continues to meet on the high school commons and media center projects. The next meeting is November 19th at 5:30 p.m.
- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is on November 18th. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom because Wells Road will be sharing remote learning for Schools in the Spotlight and this meeting will be better served with remote teachers giving examples and showing how they are doing things with students remotely.

Sarah Thrall inquired if the Building Committee is solely focusing on the commons project. Dr. Grossman stated the Committee is focused on the commons and media center; however, meetings are being conducted with music staff and tech staff because that is area. Ms. Thrall inquired if there is an overall timeline. Dr. Grossman stated this is just in the discussion phase right now and the Building Committee is looking for an exact timeline from the architects. They presented a rough draft of the timeline at the last meeting. Melissa Migliaccio inquired if there is a timeline to expend the funds since this was a bonded project. Dr. Grossman stated there is no timeline regarding this.

I.C. Student Representative Report

- Jacob Scotto stated for Veterans' Day, in lieu of an assembly, high school students will be doing interviews with WWII veterans as well as faculty members. Interviews will be played on Wednesday, November 11th, during Advisory which will be a nice way to spread information about veterans in our town and in our community.
- Northern Regional auditions for choir and band will occur on November 21st Students are preparing for those by working with faculty to practice their audition pieces.

Melissa Migliaccio stated she would be remiss not to thank Board Member Rosemarie Weber for her service.

I.D. Elementary School Improvement Plans

Ms. Pauline Greer, Wells Road Intermediate School Principal, and Ms. Colleen Bava, Kelly Lane Primary School Principal, presented their respective School Improvement Plans to the Board. Ms. Greer presented highlights of her plan and reviewed the three specific goal areas: *Vision, Mission, District Achievement Goal*: Wells Road will 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. This year data is being tracked for students who are "flagging" in areas such as academics, social behavior, etc. and determining next steps. *Student Achievement Goal*: Through the STAR assessment, at least 80% of students will make an average growth 40-60 percentile in reading and math. This year data will be looked at for students actually making the growth marker in reading and math. Rosemarie Weber inquired if it is known where students are currently regarding what percent of students is meeting the growth marker goal. Ms. Greer stated she does know but does not have that information with her. *Instruction Goal*: Ensure students apply their learning to real-world and authentic projects. Melissa Migliaccio inquired what would be Wells Road's biggest remediation need when we are back to normal. Ms. Greer stated the district really did a good job last spring. Students are spending a lot of time with books and literature and are very excited to be back and doing the work. As students are getting tested there is some slide; however, there is definitely a solid foundation for next steps.

Ms. Colleen presented highlights of her School Improvement Plan and also reviewed the three specific goal areas: *Vision, Mission and District Achievement Goal*: To support a positive, safe and collaborative environment by focusing on building and maintaining positive relationships with staff, students and families. Ms. Bava stated every month they have community kindness to see the acts in motion (i.e., acts of kindness, food drive for the food bank, PJ day, etc.). *Student Achievement Goal*: By June all students will increase achievement in literacy and numeracy standards across all disciplines. Kelly Lane is taking a look at what is currently place, what needs to be adjusted and what can move forward so all students achieve. There needs to be a collective understanding as to where the data is but are still awaiting a few more data points. *Instruction Goal*: Teachers will increase opportunities for students to take ownership of their learning in order to foster an environment of independence and engagement. Kelly Lane is working with teachers in professional development as well as working with coaches on goal-setting for students. Mark Fiorentino inquired how the first goal, culture, is measured. Ms. Bava stated it is getting a pulse of the building to see how students and staff feel; feedback from teachers; and, feedback from the families. Melissa Migliaccio inquired how K-2 students take ownership of their learning. Ms. Bava stated teachers have developed goal-setting folders, teachers model strategies and students pick a strategy.

I.E. AP/SAT Testing Report

Mr. Michael Dunn, High School Principal, and Ms. Julie Groene, Assistant High School Principal and Director of Guidance, presented the AP/SAT Testing Report for the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Dunn stated this is the time of year that SBAC scores would also be presented; however, tonight only AP/SAT scores are being presented. He stated this year was very different as there would have been a spring SAT day but that was cancelled. 76% (114/150) of the current senior class tested in the fall which was an optional test for students. He stated most post-secondary schools have moved to testing as optional for this year. With regard to AP testing, the spring testing was truncated and offered online. Mr. Dunn

presented the mean SAT scores for GMHS, State, National, as well as benchmark scores. Granby's mean score of 576 in Reading & Writing and 558 in Math both scored above all of the other mean scores listed. He then presented Granby's SAT "Best Score"/Superscore for combined reading and math. Regionally, Granby scored a little above last year. For the SAT CT Test Day in the spring for Grade 11 which was taken this past September, the scores were very strong. With regard to AP, Mr. Dunn stated there are 22 AP classes offered at the high school combined with ECE and college and career pathways, there are upwards of 30 classes at the high school. The total number of AP students who scored a 3 or higher for the Class of 2020 was 156 or 81.3%. AP Computer Science Principles and AP Computer Science A were added this year. Mr. Dunn reviewed AP awards for 2020 and two Granby scholars earned national AP scholar recognition. Moving forward, PSATs will be taken Grades 8-11; curriculum alignment will be examined; and, and linked individualized practice through Khan Academy will be promoted. With regard to AP moving forward, there will be a deep data dive at class levels; Pre-AP implementation will be monitored; fall enrollment for testing will be reviewed; and, an AP boot-camp proposed. Melissa Migliaccio inquired when the SDE will revisit District Reference Groups (DRGs). Dr. Grossman stated the SDE may say the DRG is out of date. He has not seen anything recently from the SDE so that is why he asked Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, to look at Granby compared to schools in the Farmington Valley. Dr. Grossman stated he will have Ms. Parsons speak to the Curriculum Subcommittee to see how the Board would like the data reported. Sarah Thrall inquired if there was any data on how many students apply AP credit for college. Julie Groene stated she does not have a percentage but there is much dialogue around AP credit. The high school informs parents and students to ask colleges what they are looking for with regard to AP credit. Ms. Groene stated approximately 80-85% of students use their AP credits in college. Mark Fiorentino inquired if specific goals have been set for AP participation so they can be measured to what that goal is. Mr. Dunn stated AP participation, the way that College Board sees it, looks specifically at test participation. The high school is looking to expand those numbers.

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 Sarah Thrall to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed unanimously at 8:10 p.m.

IV. Old Business

IV.A. Second Reading and Approval of Revised Policy 6159, Individualized Education Program

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 6159, Individualized Education Program, to the Board for a second reading and approval. A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by Sarah Thrall that the Granby Board of Education adopt revised Policy 6159, Individualized Education Program, as recommended by the Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee. Ms. Thrall stated there was a very simple change to this policy and she did not receive any comments. This motion passed unanimously at 8:11 p.m.

V. New Business

V.A. Draft 2021-2022 School Calendar

The Board reviewed and discussed the draft 2021-2022 school calendar. The calendar will be presented for approval at the next Board Meeting on November 18th. Dr. Grossman stated this calendar mirrors this year's calendar. School would end on June 7th with a possible graduation. He will come to the Board at the next meeting to set the graduation date. He noted that a change was made to conferences in November for elementary and secondary conferences. They will not be on the same day due to trimesters vs. semesters. The first day of school is Thursday, August 26th and school would end on June 7th; however, this will not necessarily be the date of graduation. This calendar will be brought to the Board at the next meeting with graduation not proposed for June 7th as the Board can set that date sometime next year.

V.B. Granby Education Association Contract Ratification

The Board discussed ratification of the Granby Education Association Contract effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024. A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by David Peling that the Granby Board of Education ratify the Granby Education Association Contract effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024. Mark Fiorentino thanked the negotiating team, especially the teachers, stating there were some difficult challenges, continued state mandates and some uncertain economic times. The negotiation teams worked on some components to set foundations and structures in place to educate our children but also to achieve some long-range goals. He stated is proud to support and approve this contract. Ms. Migliaccio stated service on the Negotiations Committee does not go unnoticed. This motion passed unanimously at 8:17 p.m.

V.C. Superintendent's Goals

Dr. Jordan Grossman presented his goals for the 2020-2021 school year. Melissa Migliaccio stated Dr. Grossman is new to Granby and has experienced many issues since being hired last January from budgeting, to hiring a new administrative staff, to handing out state championship jackets, to COVID, to remote learning, and to being one of the few districts in session full time. She stated she views written goals with two components: as-written and in operation. She stated she has taken time to read the goals and appreciates that the first goal is student achievement and has every confidence the goals will be supported by the Board and also achieved by Dr. Grossman and his team. Dr. Grossman presented a few highlights to the Board and stated teachers, staff and administration are doing a tremendous job. He stated there are things that need to be worked on, such as, achievement gaps; schedule at the middle school; sequencing of world language; strategic plan; vision of the graduate; continue to develop relationships with the community; social/emotional well-being implementation in the Stronger Together Plan; emergency operations plan; and, IBAC. Dr. Grossman stated one area he is very excited about is embracing diversity and going one step further to focus on students, particularly, minority students who may want to be teachers. Students would come back to the Granby Public Schools for potential employment. Ms. Migliaccio stated the Board looks forward to supporting him on these goals.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

Sarah Thrall reported the Subcommittee meeting scheduled for this evening was cancelled.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Mark Fiorentino reported that CREC has not met since last meeting.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Dr. Grossman stated the GEF has not met since the last meeting.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

The calendar of events is as presented.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

Sarah Thrall inquired what World Kindness Day at Kelly Lane is about. Dr. Grossman stated he will put this in his weekly update to the Board.

VI.E. Action Items

There were no action items this evening.

VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by Rosemarie Weber to adjourn the regular meeting and enter into an Executive Session to discuss a collective bargaining matter. This motion passed unanimously at 8:24 p.m. The Executive Session adjourned at approximately 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Weber
Board Secretary