

**Regular Board of Education Meeting – Draft Minutes**  
**September 2, 2020, 7:00 p.m.**  
**High School Auditorium\***

Present Board Members: Jenny Emery, Mark Fiorentino, David Peling, Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber and Jack DeGray (Student Representative)

Absent Board Members: Melissa Migliaccio and Brandon Webster

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

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

Mr. Mark Fiorentino, Board Vice Chairman, shared opening remarks. He thanked the entire team for what they have accomplished in the last couple of months and also for what the district has seen in the last couple of days. He stated the Board toured the schools and were able to speak to some teachers. Overall there is universal excitement about getting students back to school.

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

- Dr. Grossman welcomed Katie Busbey and Jennifer Miller who were in attendance to present to the Board this evening.
- It has been an emotional week to see the students and staff in buildings again. There is a sense of happiness, joy, pride, and sadness that we have not seen students in 6 months. Dr. Grossman thanked KC Petruzzi, the Union President for all of her work this summer.
- Granby had two first days of school. Students ran into the buildings with staff cheering them on. A reminder the first 12-13 days are a transitional model with the hope of full return for K-5 on September 16<sup>th</sup> and 6-12 on September 21<sup>st</sup>.
- The GMHS Football Club gave masks to Board members.
- Hired bus monitors for am/pm runs and additional custodians for cleaning assistance.
- Enrollment is at 1,730 (projection was 1,800). There are currently 112 Kindergarteners (projection was 120). There are 28 students being homeschooled; 84% of students are in school-house learning and 16% (or 280) are in a remote environment.
- Dr. Grossman thanked the Board for touring the facilities this week stating it was very important for teachers and the administrative team to them in the buildings.
- On Tuesday, September 8, the Reopening Task Force will hold their last meeting.
- Granby Public Schools partnered with the YMCA and to provide day care options during this transitional period for our Granby residents as well as our staff members. To-date, 5 parents are using this service. Thank you to Brian Liss, Farmington Valley YMCA Executive Director.
- The middle school roof is complete and did not affect the opening of school.
- CIAC published guidelines and athletes are participating right now in athletics; however, we are waiting for more CIAC guidelines. Both football and volleyball have been questioned. The FVHD is supportive at this time with the CIAC guidelines.
- A reminder that a date has been chosen for the Board Retreat on September 30<sup>th</sup> 4:00-7:30. In preparation for the retreat, Linda will be sending out a survey regarding a BOE self-evaluation survey and BOE Goals.
- Jennifer Parsons will give an update this evening on equity and professional development.
- It has been a tremendous reopening to the Granby Public Schools both to school-house and remote learning. Thank you to the entire community.

Jenny Emery stated she hopes all the work that has been done carries the district through the inevitable bumps along the way.

### **I.C. Student Representative Report**

- Jack DeGray stated his in-school learning began on Tuesday. Students did a great job complying with the rules with regard to traffic patterns and wearing their masks.
- 260 out of 568 students are participating in a fall sport this year. This is 46% of the student population and 4% more than last year.
- There is a 3-phase system for soccer, field hockey, cross country and volleyball and a different 3-phase system for football.

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

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, updated the Board on the work of the Granby Equity Team (GET) and back-to-school professional development activities. With regard to professional development, all of it ran virtually with the exception of some in-person small groups. On Monday convocation took on a different look this year with a video from herself and Dr. Grossman as well as health and safety training; Learning Models for Stronger Together and Team Planning were covered on Tuesday as well as pre-work for equity conversations; Wednesday was a teacher work day; Thursday KC Petruzzi gave GEA keynote speech and then launched into equity conversations with the CT Center for School Change (CCSC); Friday was Safe Schools Training and Joanne Freiberg did presentations on social/emotional learning; on the following Monday teachers worked in their classrooms; and, on Tuesday and today (early release days), faculty reflected on the two opening days.

With regard to the Granby Equity Team, they will be reviewing all of the components of the team that have been published the past couple of years and will also be crafting a new mission. The mission will lead the group to their goals for the year. A draft mission will be brought forward at the first Equity Team Meeting. The three key terms used in the goals are: Consciousness (Learn); Responsiveness (Act); Advocacy (Change) which will be at the core of the plan brought forward to the Board next month. The CCSC is truly a partner in this work and will help lead four learning sessions with teachers directly; help facilitate professional learning sessions at each school; facilitate administrative community of practice quarterly; and, plan and facilitate GET meetings. GET has operated as a self-sustained group and the goal is for the work of that committee to permeate through all of the levels in the district. Mark Fiorentino and Brandon Webster had come forward with some ideas for additional work around equity and racism/bias issues. Ms. Parsons stated she has been working with them and Dr. Grossman to develop a plan which is turning out to be a year-long plan starting with a small group book study around the book *Waking up White* by Debbie Irving followed by a community conversation with the author. Hopefully there will also be a book club during the winter that the community will be able to be involved with and, in the spring, Granby will be looking for a partner to do a 21-day challenge around equity which will be embedded into our anti-bias/anti-racism plan. Jenny Emery stated she is pleased to hear about the reengagement and realignment of the group's work. She stated there is a social equity group that formed in town who is looking for a GEF grant unrelated to the schools but related to social equity issues and they are looking to screen a movie and get community conversations going. She also stated that the GEF is interested in things like this for grant funding and they could be a good resource. Mark Fiorentino inquired how this interplays with the draft diversity plan discussed earlier in the spring. Ms. Parsons stated that the cultural proficiency plan introduced this summer is very much in play and she will be looking for a way to apply all of the actions/events and make them meaningful. At the first GET Meeting, the group will look at those actions/categories and fit them together and put them into a plan. Mr. Fiorentino inquired when the Board will see this. Ms. Parsons stated it is slated to be on the October 7<sup>th</sup> Board agenda. Mr. Fiorentino also inquired if the professional learning virtual sessions at each school can be attended by anyone and Ms. Parsons stated, yes, of course.

## **I.E. Teaching & Learning: Summer Programming**

Ms. Katie Busbey, Summer Enrichment Academy Director, and Jennifer Miller, Director of Camp Kelly, presented an overview of the programs held this past summer. Katie Busbey stated she is in her 8<sup>th</sup> year running the program along with Jennifer Miller, Assistant Director. This was a very different summer. All plans were in place and a brochure was ready then March 13<sup>th</sup> happened. There were many meetings held during the spring to see if the program could run and it did run as a virtual program and featured everything from reading and math labs; tutoring; academic classes in ELA and math; social skills, speech and language therapy; occupational and physical therapy; and, Camp Kelly. An additional component was added for high school credit recovery. Jennifer Miller stated the two programs focused on social skills camp/support which ran for 4 weeks with parent support groups provided on Fridays and Camp Kelly which also ran for 4 weeks with synchronous and asynchronous opportunities for all students. New this summer was remote learning and proactive offerings for all students to minimize loss of skill or loss of credits (high school). Ms. Busbey discussed enrollment in the program breaking out special education students and intervention students. Feedback was sought from parents and many preferred the remote learning as it was easy to accommodate their vacation planning. Families were also impressed by the way teachers remotely engaged the students in creative ways. With regard to future planning, consideration will be given to including students receiving intervention services. There will also be consideration of possibly offering a remote option for the summer if that is more conducive to family schedules. Jenny Emery inquired how many students participated who were recommended. Ms. Miller stated 80% of students recommended participated.

## **II. Public Comment**

Taylor Wrye, Principal at Granby Memorial Middle School thanked Ms. Busbey and Ms. Miller for their work in the summer stating he had a student who attended.

## **III. Consent Agenda**

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

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Sarah Thrall that the Granby Board of Education adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed unanimously at 7:48 p.m.

## **IV. Old Business**

### **IV.A. Reopening Task Force Update**

Dr. Jordan Grossman updated the Board on the work of the Reopening Task Force Committee and stated they will meet on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-5:00. An agenda went out today. He informed the Board he will thank the Task Force members for their work and it will be the last meeting of the Reopening Task Force Committee.

## **V. New Business**

There is no New Business to report.

## **VI. Miscellaneous**

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

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

Sarah Thrall stated this Subcommittee met this evening. She thanked Jennifer Parsons for her efforts over the summer in leading the district to a reopening. Assistant Superintendent's Report as follows: 89 units (1,000 hours) of curriculum development occurred over the summer; professional development focused on health & safety, equity and technology; curriculum updated and reviewed over the summer were math, ELA, music, wellness, art and counseling. Discussed making a strategy for the year to discuss the review of curriculum and the cycle that would be done for the year. Reviewed a list of policies to be updated for the year and will move a few forward to the next

meeting. Ms. Thrall stated current practice is for the Board to have three (3) readings and the Subcommittee is recommending two (2) readings instead for greater efficiency. Policies moved forward to the Board at the next meeting are a mask policy and home schooling. A comprehensive policy on nondiscrimination (Title IX) was also reviewed tonight; however, there will be a Special Curriculum Subcommittee on September 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss and review this policy. Jenny Emery stated she is fine with two readings. She inquired if there is a current home schooling policy. Ms. Thrall stated, no, there is only a procedure, not a policy. Ms. Emery inquired about the interest of 9<sup>th</sup> grade parents for the Pre-AP Program and when is the right time to evaluate this program. Ms. Thrall stated this was discussed tonight and the Subcommittee is interested in reviewing the Pre-AP Program this year to see how the second year is going.

#### **VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities**

Jenny Emery stated the Finance Subcommittee had a special meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss non-budgetary items related to the reopening of schools.

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

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

Mark Fiorentino stated CREC has not officially met yet this year.

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

Jenny Emery stated the GEF is currently looking at grants and that no meetings were held in the summer.

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

Mark Fiorentino stated the calendar of events is as presented. Jenny Emery inquired about open houses. Dr. Grossman stated he is taking pressure off of administrators for open houses which were scheduled to be held when school started. Administrators will meet on Tuesday next week to set new dates.

#### **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**

A motion was made by Jenny Emery and seconded by Rosemarie Weber to enter into an Executive Session to discuss a collective bargaining agreement and to invite Dr. Jordan Grossman, Superintendent, to join the Executive Session. This motion passed unanimously at 8:01 p.m. The Executive Session adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Weber  
Board Secretary