

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes
Wednesday, May 3, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present Board Members: Kristina Gilton, Donna Nolan, David Peling, Whitney Sanzo, Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber and Chase Alexander and Tess Bajek (Student Representatives)

Absent Board Members: Monica Logan

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

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Chairman's Corner

Sarah Thrall, Board Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended a special welcome to middle and high school students receiving the CAFE Student Achievement Award tonight as well as their parents. She also welcomed Principal Mike Dunn who was present to give an update on the continuous improvement plan for the high school. Ms. Thrall also provided an update on the Superintendent Search stating the Search Committee is almost at the finish line and to look for a Special Board Meeting next week to appoint a new Superintendent of Schools.

I.B. Superintendent's Announcements

- Dr. Grossman welcomed middle and high school students and their families as well as everyone else in attendance, online and via GCTV.
- Congratulations to the BOE on the approval of the budget. The administrative team will start planning for next year.
- Congratulations to Sue Alender who was selected last week as the Granby Educator of the Year from the Granby-Simsbury Chamber of Commerce. Sue is being recognized for her exceptional dedication and contributions to Granby Memorial Middle School. This is a great way to send her off into retirement.
- The GranBee was a wonderful event on Friday night. Jim Whitten did a fantastic job as Emcee.
- A contractor for the high school roof was approved by the Board of Selectmen. Dr. Grossman thanked Anna Robbins, Shannon Sullivan and Mike Dunn for their efforts. The project will hopefully be completed this summer.
- Wells Road 5th grade students will have their concert tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium.
- The Retirement/25-Year luncheon will be held on Wednesday, June 7th at Holcomb Farm at 12:30. All Board members are invited. Please let Linda Powell know if you would like to attend.
- Next week is staff and teacher appreciation week.
- Enrollment predictions for Kindergarten are pretty much on the money with 115 students projected and current enrollment at 118.
- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 17th.

I.C. CAFE Student Leadership Awards

The Board recognized CAFE Student Leader Award recipients Selma Knutson and Joshua Davis, Grade 8 students at Granby Memorial Middle School, as well as Chase Alexander, Junior, and Kylie Coxon, Senior, at Granby Memorial High School. Ms. Thrall recited the criteria for the award as follows: willingness to take on challenges; capability to make difficult decisions; concern for others; ability to work with others; willingness to commit to a project; diplomacy; ability to understand issues clearly; and, ability to honor a commitment. Ms. Thrall then read a biography of each student's impressive accomplishments.

I.D. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, shared information regarding the Friends of Granby Wildflower Meadow stating she learned about their mission to create and maintain a native wildflower meadow to be part of the Connecticut Pollinator Pathway and shared it with the schools. They are a non-profit organization established within the last year or so and are making connections with the schools by meeting with elementary teachers, specifically, second grade, regarding a seed unit for next school year; speaking with 6th graders about pollinators and 7th graders on native plants; presenting and preparing lessons for Biology and Environmental Science classes; and, meeting with Science Department Heads. There

is a plan to build uniform platforms for the meadow to bring students out to observe. Ms. Parsons stated the district wanted to highlight this natural connection between wildlife and students. Whitney Sanzo stated she was able to join in one of the classes and it was very exciting to see two worlds evolve and collide.

I.E. Student Representative Reports

- Tess Bajek stated May 12th is Foreign Food Night (which was formerly known as Crepe Night); Senior Prom is May 19th; May 23rd is Science Night; the Senior Outing is May 25th; the Chorus Concert and Arts Expo is on May 25th; and, the Senior Scholarships and Awards Night is May 31st.
- High school culinary arts students hosted a luncheon for senior citizens last week and played bingo.
- Tess stated her Environmental Science class went to Holcomb Farm to do a water unit and took water samples from the Salmon Brook stream to do some testing.
- Tess shared that she committed to attend the University of Massachusetts Amherst in the fall.
- Chase Alexander shared the sports report: Baseball lost on Monday and will travel to Avon on Friday; boys' lacrosse is 4-6 and will play Suffield tomorrow; girls' lacrosse is 9-2 and is hosting Suffield tomorrow at 5 p.m.; softball is 8-4 and playing Ellington today; outdoor track had a meet at home today against East Windsor; boys' tennis is on a 5-game winning streak with a 6-1 record; girls' tennis has a 3-5 record; golf beat Stafford on Monday; ultimate frisbee will play their 3rd game of the season.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments this evening.

III. Consent Agenda

III.A. Minutes

III.B. 2023-2024 International Field Trips

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Donna Nolan that the Granby Board of Education adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed unanimously at 7:24 p.m. Dr. Grossman provided details on the proposed trip which is a Spanish Exchange Trip to A Coruna, Spain, April 3-15. Students will tour important sites and will spend the majority of their time with their host families and attending school there.

IV. Old Business

IV.A. Granby Memorial High School Continuous Improvement Plan Update

Mr. Michael Dunn, Principal at Granby Memorial High School, presented an update to the high school's Continuous Improvement Plan and reviewed the Board Goals beginning with *Goal #1 Student Achievement* for the high school to increase the percentage of 9th, 10th and 11th graders scoring at benchmark on PSAT. This goal is being met by developing departmental plans and benchmarks aligned with PSAT questions; providing small group/individual instruction with benchmark feedback; and focusing instructional goals around revising, solving problems and supporting claims. Mr. Dunn reviewed the achievement data for P/SAT targets stating there has been some significant growth and an increase of 20 points is the target. Freshmen scores increased in Math from 52% to 68% and in ERW from 71% to 75%. For the second part of *Goal #1 Student Learning and Achievement* for every student to enroll in at least one college credit-bearing course is being attained by supporting the College & Career Center, Asnuntuck partnership and AP Boost Boot Camp. He shared the target for 2024 is to get to 95% (2022 was 89% and 2023 was 92%). *Goal #2 Community Engagement* to improve frequency and effectiveness of communication capturing and celebrating the school community is being met by launching an Advanced Communications Course as well as a Broadcast Club and increasing school-to-career collaboration with community businesses. *Goal #3 Safety and Social Emotional Well Being* to create safe, inclusive, equitable and socially-emotionally responsive classroom and school environments is being met by implementing Voice4Change initiatives and increasing student leadership and feedback opportunities through surveys and representation on action teams. *Goal #4 Budget Development and Fiscal Management* to manage the budget process maximizing efficiencies while increasing needed supports for students is being met by monitoring class sizes for learning environments and staffing as well as supporting the co-teaching model in Pre-AP English 9 and Applied Algebra I. *Goal #5 Embracing Diversity* to continue improving systems and practices to maximize equitable opportunities for all students is being accomplished by partnering with student-led groups to celebrate cultural heritage and continuing to partner with the Granby Equity Team embedding consciousness-building Experiences to Explore Equity. *Goal #6 Professional Learning* to continue improving staff capacity to clarify outcomes and use data protocols to inform

instruction is being met by developing the capacity of leadership team to model and use protocols to increase efficiency and effectiveness as well as completing the NEAS&C 5-Year Update Report which helps with work on professional learning. Sarah Thrall thanked Mr. Dunn for his presentation and also recognized him for his work on the high school construction project.

IV.B. Second Reading and Approval of Revised Policy 4118.11/4218.11, Nondiscrimination

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 4118.11/4218.11, Nondiscrimination, to the Board for a second reading and approval. A motion was made by David Peling and seconded by Kristina Gilton that the Granby Board of Education adopt revised Policy 4118.11/4218.11, Nondiscrimination, as recommended by the Curriculum/Policy/Technology/ Communications Subcommittee. This motion passed unanimously at 8:13 p.m.

V. New Business

V.A. Appropriation Request Approval

The Board considered approval of an appropriation request to cover any negative end-of-year balance on June 30, 2023. Dr. Grossman stated the BOE anticipates it will be in the red in special education and is looking at a number not-to-exceed \$823,793. There is a motion on the agenda for the Board to request these funds to cover any negative end-of-year balance on June 30th. If the Board approves this appropriation, it will go to the Board of Selectmen on May 15th for their comment and will then be sent on to the Board of Finance for their consideration on May 22nd. Dr. Grossman shared with the Excess Cost Grant of approximately \$350K, which is relative to what was predicted, the number would actually be less than \$823,793. Rosemarie Weber stated the Finance Subcommittee has been following this number as well. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Donna Nolan that the Granby Board of Education authorize the administration to request an additional appropriation of funds, not-to-exceed \$823,793, to cover any negative end-of-year balance on June 30, 2023. This motion passed unanimously at 8:17 p.m.

V.B. Approval of Healthy Food Certification 2023-2024

The Board discussed and considered the approval of the Healthy Food Certification for the 2023-2024 school year. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Donna Nolan that pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Granby Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources including, but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. This motion passed unanimously at 8:20 p.m.

V.C. Approval of Healthy Food Certification - Exemption of Food and Beverages

The Board discussed and considered the approval of the Healthy Food Certification Exemption of Food and Beverages. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Donna Nolan that the Granby Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and, 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales. This motion passed unanimously at 8:22 p.m.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

David Peling stated this subcommittee met this evening and discussed the Assistant Superintendent's Report as follows: Continuing to monitor student assessment and graduation requirements; Dave Gunning had a couple of successful assemblies funded by the Granby Education Foundation; SEL Committee met; interviews for next year's staffing; Teacher of the Year selection process; and, work begun on a new data platform. One policy was tabled and two others moved to the full Board – one on special education and one on identifying gifted and talented students. Also discussed SEL practices and implementations across the district.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

This subcommittee did not meet. Approved minutes are in the packet.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Kristina Gilton stated CREC is not meeting again until later in May.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Whitney Sanzo stated the GranBee was a huge success. Unfortunately, due to illness, she was unable to attend; however, her husband attended with her children and stated it was a very exciting event. There were 62 auction prizes donated throughout the community. The winners were the Holcomb Tree Bees and best costume went to a high school team the Despicable Bees.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Sarah Thrall stated there is a lot going on in the next few weeks.

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. Adjournment

A motion was made by Sarah Thrall and seconded by Donna Nolan to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Nolan
Board Secretary