

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes
November 6, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present Board Members: Jenny Emery, Mark Fiorentino, Lynn Guelzow, Melissa Migliaccio, Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber, Brandon Webster and Jack DeGray (Student Representative).

Absent Board Members: Dwaritha Ramesh (Student Representative)

Melissa Migliaccio called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Superintendent's Announcements

- Congratulations to the Board on receiving the CABA Leadership award this year. The award will be presented at the CABA/CAPSS Convention on November 15th.
- Professional development was held in the district yesterday and focused on district improvement needs both in and out of PLC.
- A district-wide wellness day was held today for students with celebrations at all of the schools.
- Superintendent-Elect Dr. Jordan Grossman is present this evening and although he does not begin until January 1, 2020, Dr. Grossman was in district on Monday to meet with administrators at Central Services about next year's budget, attended part of yesterday's professional development activities and greeted teachers and attended the Curriculum Subcommittee earlier tonight.
- Veterans Day celebrations are being held in all of the schools beginning today through Monday. Kelly Lane will have their celebration on Friday at 9:00 a.m. and Wells Road and the middle school will have their celebrations on Monday at 9:00 a.m. and 1:15 p.m., respectively.
- Last Friday Kelly Lane students missed school due to a power outage. Dr. Grossman and Mr. Winzler will discuss how this day will be made up.
- A new media specialist at the middle school, Ms. Leigh Ann Ryan, has been hired. Also currently interviewing for a PE elementary teacher at Kelly Lane.
- Budget meetings continued this week with the high school athletic budget and Kelly Lane.
- The high school security vestibule project is going well and the middle school roof project is almost complete. The trim work has begun
- Sixth grade students are going to the Boston Science Museum tomorrow (this is a rescheduled date from October 17th) and fifth graders are headed to Old Sturbridge Village on Friday.
- The PTO Jog-a-Thon has raised over \$15K to-date.
- Congratulations to Caroline Hall (8th grader) and Lizzy Cappelli (12th grader) who will receive the Farmington Valley Superintendents' Award this Friday.
- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting on November 6, 2019
- There will be an early release on November 27th no school on November 28th and 29th for the Thanksgiving recess.

I.B. Board Member Announcements

Melissa Migliaccio stated Granby held elections yesterday and citizens voted for change in the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education. Congratulations to Jenny Emery, Mark Fiorentino and Rosemarie Weber and welcome to David Peling as a new member. Ms. Migliaccio said farewell to Lynn Guelzow who covered the Board for 10 years as a reporter for *The Granby Drummer* and has spent 2 full terms on the BOE involved with many positive changes over the last 8 years including full-day Kindergarten, integrated pre-school, closing the Kearns school, serving under three different Board chairs, searching for new administrators and, lastly, the superintendent search. She rarely missed a meeting and was a founding member of our Equity Taskforce. Ms. Migliaccio stated Lynn Guelzow asked the tough questions that made our Board and our schools better.

Jenny Emery acknowledged Rosemarie's service as a veteran and Ms. Migliaccio stated she loves the fact that Granby holds school on Veterans Day as it is very important to recognize this holiday.

Mark Fiorentino stated he attended the high school PAC Meeting on Monday evening. The cell phone policy was discussed and high school is looking to see if any adjustments need to be made to this policy.

I.C. Student Representative Reports

- Sports report: The field hockey team produced a total of \$1,100 at their last fundraising event. Additionally, over \$3,500 was raised during homecoming weekend.
- Two cross country runners, Charlie Attianese and David Hitchiner, made all conference.
- The girls field hockey and soccer teams remain undefeated and are in the top of their respective class with the state tournaments beginning in a week and a half.
- Field hockey and girls' soccer won their NCCC regular season.
- Tessa McMillan won Connecticut Varsity Athlete of the Week after scoring 3 goals in a win over Coventry and 1 against SMSA, Windsor Lock and Somers.
- Maria Nolan is up for Hartford Courant's Athlete of the Week this week.
- The boys' soccer team finished their season ranking in the top 6 of Class M.

Melissa Migliaccio asked Jack about the cell phone policy at the high school and Jack stated he feels teachers are on top of cell phone use and the policy is working. Students are currently allowed to use their phones during passing time and at lunch.

I.D. Teaching & Learning

Mr. Christopher Tranberg, Assistant Superintendent, presented on the process of Instructional Rounds. This vertical collaboration brings together administrators and teachers across the schools to support instructional improvement. Learning Walks have been renamed to Instructional Rounds which is what they are called in the research base of education and is a practice the district has used for several years. A problem of practice is looked at and administration, teachers and coaches attend an instructional round at a school where everyone looks at and digs into this problem. The principal identifies the problem and the team goes into classrooms collecting data from their observations which they analyze. An analysis is formed by the groups and all the groups ensure a recommendation is made to the principal.

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 at 7:20 p.m. with two abstentions (Jenny Emery and Brandon Webster abstained from the October 16, 2019 minutes).

IV. Old Business

IV.A. Second Reading of Policy 6111 - Calendar

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended Policy 6111, Calendar, to the Board for a second reading. Rosemarie Weber stated she has not received any feedback. Melissa Migliaccio stated this is the policy that allows the Board to set the graduation date. This policy will go forward to the Board for a third reading and approval at the next meeting.

V. New Business

V.A. Elementary School Improvement Plans

Ms. Pauline Greer, Principal of Wells Road Intermediate School, and Ms. Kimberly Dessert, Principal of Kelly Lane Primary School, present their respective School Improvement Plans to the Board.

Ms. Greer presented her plan and informed the Board she has focused on relationships and it has been fun getting to learn about one another. She stated it has been wonderful to see how things run at Wells Road. The Vision, Mission and District Achievement Goal for Wells Road is to enhance the school culture by focusing on building positive relationships between staff, students and families by enhancing and using collaborate problem solving practice; increasing supervision on the playground; and reviewing and revising the school-wide positive behavior system. Rosemarie Weber inquired if she has seen a difference in office referrals so far this year. Ms. Greer stated she has seen a decrease and feels it is due to the fact that students enter into the building first thing in the morning as opposed to going on the playground first. The next goal, Student Achievement, is for all 3rd grade students to increase literacy and numeracy as measured by STAR reading and math. Ms. Greer stated she has looked at growth target data and she wants to know for students who do not hit that target, how much of the target do students hit and celebrate students who have made growth as well as pay attention to the targets that are not getting met. For the Instruction Goal for Wells Road, teachers will increase opportunities for students to take ownership of their learning to enhance engagement and independence by using feedback from instructional rounds to strengthen instructional strategies; provide students with specific and actionable feedback; and, anchor math instruction with a standards focus.

Kim Dessert presented her plan stating she hopes the Board can see the connections between Kelly and Wells. The first goal, Vision, Mission and District Achievement Goal, is to create conditions to support a safe, supportive and collaborative culture by utilizing collaborative proactive problem solving which started last year and having conversations with students. With regard to chronic absenteeism, Ms. Dessert stated she is looking at this data a little differently by asking who are those children and comparing this year to last year. Kelly Lane's Student Achievement Goal is to increase achievement in literacy and numeracy standards across disciplines by June of 2020 by having teachers use timely data to identify students for targeted interventions; monitoring the achievement of under-performing subgroups and implanting action plans; and increasing teacher participation in student centered coaching cycles. The Instructional Goal for Kelly Lane is to increase opportunities for students to take ownership of their learning to foster an environment of independence and engagement by communicating to students what they are learning and why they are learning it; sharing success criteria with students so they know when they have met their goals; and, to facilitate student led conferences during the March conferences this year. Melissa Migliaccio inquired outside of absenteeism, how does Kelly Lane measure success. Ms. Dessert stated benchmarks from performance assessments and performance tasks are used. Sarah Thrall inquired about the reference to Seesaw and what that is. Ms. Dessert stated Seesaw is an app teachers and families can use to connect families to school and what is happening. Kids can take a picture of the work they are doing and it will go directly to parents. It's a great way for students to show their learning and it can also show student growth in a portfolio. Amber Wyzik, Media Specialist, works closely with teachers and there are certain settings that are set and for privacy matters so that student work goes only to the parents.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

Rosemarie Weber reported this Subcommittee met this evening to discuss the Assistant Superintendent's monthly report including exam pathways of electives offered at the high school to

more clearly define and leverage opportunities in STEM fields as well as October and November professional development. Reviewed revised Policy 4212.42, Drug & Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers, and changed language to subcontractor and language for training for Epi-pens. May also change the number of the policy or a different title as it does not encompass what the policy is designed to address. This policy moved to the full Board with amendments. Sarah Thrall will review a new text for French and Rosemarie Weber will review an on-line vocabulary program. Additionally, discussed school counseling planning and looking at the next curriculum subcommittee will have a document to review of what guidance looks like and if it needs to be enhanced and implemented with fidelity. The next subcommittee meeting was moved to December 18th at 6:00 p.m. Jenny Emery inquired on the connection for college support to parents via the teaching assistant position at the high school and is wondering if this organizationally connected as well as if it would be elevated to a full-time position through the budget process.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

This Subcommittee has not met.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Mark Fiorentino reported CREC has not met.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Jenny Emery reported the GEF had several people have resigned from the Board: Karen McNey, Janice Stingle and Kathy Ungerleider and three new members were welcomed: Ann Prokop, Marcy Green and John O'Connor. GEF is looking at some new fundraising events, i.e., a strings event and perhaps brining in some of our young strings students either before or after the event.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Melissa Migliaccio stated the calendar of events is as reported.

VI.D. Action Items

There were no action items this evening.

VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

Melissa Migliaccio stated there was no need for an Executive Session/Non-Meeting this evening. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Sarah Thrall to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Weber
Board Secretary