

**Regular Board Meeting Template
Wednesday, December 17, 2008 7:00 PM
Central Services**

I. Public Comment

II. Administrative Reports

A. Superintendent's Announcements

B. Student Representative Reports

Rationale: Ms. Frank and Mr. Haack will report on activities taking place at the high school.

C. Schools in the Spotlight

Attachments:

Response to Intervention 3

D. The Shift from Teachers Teaching to Students Learning

Attachments:

Student-Centered Learning 4

Rationale: Dr. Patricia Law will present on the shift from teachers teaching to students learning.

III. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes

Attachments:

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IV. Old Business

A. Progress Report and Funding Request for the Kearns Playscape

Rationale: Mr. Traver will present a progress report on the Kearns playscape as well as a funding request.

V. New Business

A. First Reading of Bullying Policy

Rationale: The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communication standing committee recommends this policy for a first reading. They also recommend putting this policy into effect prior to the second reading per Board Policy for inclusion in the CAFE Online Policy book: (Enclosure)

- Policy 5131.911(a) Bullying

B. Adoption of BOE Budget Goals

Rationale: Mr. Addley will present the budget goals to the Board.

C. CPPAC Submission

Rationale: The Board will review the Plus One, Small Capital and Large Capital budgets. (Enclosure)

VI. Miscellaneous

A. Board Standing Committee Reports

1. Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communication

2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

B. Other Board-Related Reports

- 1. CPPAC**
- 2. CREC/CABE**
- 3. Granby Education Foundation**
- 4. Energy -Saving Initiatives**
- C. Board Member Announcements**
- VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting**

Response to Intervention (RTI)
or
Scientific Researched-Based Interventions (SRBI)

Federal Legislation:

- Reauthorization of IDEA 2004(Individuals with Disabilities Act) allows districts to use data from a process known as Response to Intervention as part of the identification process for students with disabilities.
- Explicitly encourages schools to implement researched-based interventions that facilitate success in the **general education** setting for a broad range of students.

Alignment with PLC (Professional Learning Communities):

- System of Interventions
- Focus on student learning
- Expanding on good teaching practices
- Collaboration/interdependence

Process:

- Students falling into the bottom 10% in a classroom are targeted with instructional strategies in the general education classroom through class instruction. General education teachers look at their instruction and apply researched based strategies and monitor the impact on targeted students. Strategies are developed through a collaborative team approach.
- 3 tier process where instruction becomes more intensive and individualized.
- Utilizes support personnel- reading specialists, special education teachers, school psychologists, teaching assistants and tutors.
- At level 2 and 3 a plan is developed targeting areas of concern, support personnel identified and data is collected and analyzed.
- Goal is to target areas of concern, apply specific interventions, to the point where student can function without supports.
- May lead to a referral to special education.

Granby

- Process developed in summer of 2007 and implemented at the elementary levels fall of 2007. Focused on building on the supports already in place and defining.
- Summer of 2008, process was revised and implemented K-12.
- Documentation developed to follow student as he/she progresses through grades.
- Requests from other districts to share process and documentation.

Student centered learning

The shift from teachers teaching
to students learning: more than
semantics

Why shift?

- Need to produce students who are good critical thinkers, problem solvers, and creative
- Explosion of information: need to make sense of it, not memorize it
- Improve student engagement and ownership of learning

Focus on Teachers Teaching

- Instructional *methods* include lecture, teacher led discussion, book work
- Instructional *skills* used include presenting, giving directions, demonstration by teacher
- Teacher is the information provider/gatekeeper
- Goal is to cover discrete set of content, knowledge, skills
- Room arrangement likely to be in rows with teacher in front
- Conversation pattern likely to be teacher-student-teacher-student
- Whole group instruction: single form of delivery and assessment
- Single anchor text

Shift to focus on students learning

- Instructional methods include cooperative learning (working in groups), inquiry (hands on), debates and simulations
- Instructional skills used include questioning, facilitating, monitoring
- Teacher is the guide, helping students to make meaning, anticipating and correcting misconceptions
- Goal is student mastery/deep understanding of content, knowledge, skills
- Room arrangement is likely to be flexible, tables, chairs moved to accommodate tasks
- Conversation pattern is teacher-student-student-student-teacher
- Learning takes place in whole group and small, flexible work groups
- Multiple texts at various reading levels provided on the same topic or theme
- Information is presented in multiple ways with options for assessing student mastery

Student-Centered Classrooms

Focus on

- What do we want students to know (deeply and forever) and be able to do?
- How will we know when they know it? (assessment of mastery)
- How will we respond when they don't/can't learn it? (interventions)
- How will we respond when they already know it? (enrichment)

Curriculum

- Written by teachers
- Based on State and National Standards
- Coverage versus depth of concepts
- Facts and trivia versus big ideas
- Isolated command of content versus real world connections
- Balance between content and skills

Shift in Role of Assessment

- Did the students “get it”?
- Test at the end of learning: on to next topic
- Instructional focus on exposure and/or coverage, teacher puts information out there, students responsible for learning it
- Goal to cover everything, test everything

Shift in Role of Assessment

- Did the teacher make good instructional choices?
- Test provides information to adjust teacher's plan to assure learning for all
- Focus on students' mastery, teacher makes adjustments and changes on the fly in response to student strengths and weaknesses, teacher responsibility for learning
- Teacher teaches key concepts deeply, assesses for main ideas

Importance of alignment

- Curriculum aligned to standards
- Teaching aligned to curriculum and student needs
- Assessments accurately reflect student mastery
- Student mastery of curriculum results in school improvement
- Teacher Evaluation Plan and contract reflects district expectations
- Staff development and resource allocation supports the instructional core

December 3, 2008 BOE Meeting

December 3, 2008 7:00PM

Central Services

Attendance Taken at 6:58 PM

Present Board Members:

Brittany Frank (Student Representative)
Raymond Haack (Student Representative)
Cal Heminway
John O'Connor
Edward Ohannessian
Deborah Torgersen
Ronald Walther
Matthew Wutka

Absent Board Members:

Marie Nicholls

Mr. Heminway commenced the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Heminway expressed condolences and sympathy on behalf of the Board to Mrs. Nicholls on the passing of her husband, long-time employee and friend.

I. Public Comment

There was no public comment this evening.

II. Administrative Reports

II.A. Superintendent's Announcements

- ❖ Mr. Addley welcomed Wells Road School staff and students as well as our guest legislators.
- ❖ Mr. Addley attended the *Our Town* play last weekend and congratulated Drama Director and Co-Director Trish Roberts and Janet Spatcher.
- ❖ The test call for the emergency management system went very well.
- ❖ The Youth Services Survey was administered to Grades 7-12 before the break. Results will be posted in *The Drummer*.
- ❖ Parent conferences were very well attended at all schools before the break.
- ❖ At a recent football end-of-year banquet, the Board was presented with an award.
- ❖ The Granby Nutcracker is fast approaching. Performances are December 12th at 7:30 p.m. and December 13th at 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- ❖ The Wells Road Choral Concert will be held on December 16th at 7:00 p.m. and the GMHS Choral Concert will be held on December 18th at 7:00 p.m.

II.B. Business Manager's Report

Mr. Traver presented the October and November Statement of Accounts. Mr. Traver said that there is a very favorable outlook for the year due decreasing fuel costs.

II.C. Student Representative Reports

- Soldier drive ended today at HS - big success
- Movie night fundraiser at 7:00 - free admission
- Nutcracker on Friday, December 12th and Saturday, December 13th
- High honors luncheon today during advisory
- Holly Ball on Saturday, December 20th
- New donation drive for NHS - stocking stuffers - will donate 63 stockings to social services
- 30 new NHS members will be inducted next Tuesday

II.D. Schools in the Spotlight

An integrated technology and math project was presented by Ms. Kathy Waddington and Ms. Carol Sarkozy with students from Wells Road School 6th grade class. Ms. Torgersen wanted to know how much TV the students had to watch. The students told her that you had to either watch from 10:30 to 11:00 on a Saturday morning or from 7:00 to 7:30 on a Tuesday evening. Each student watched 30 minutes. Mr. John Kissel, State Senator, commended the students for their presentations and said that they were very impressive.

II.E. Guest Legislators

Mr. Heminway welcomed the legislators and extended the Board's congratulations to them. He asked if they would each like to make an opening statement.

John Kissel spoke about the Drummer article and acknowledged Mike Guarco. He said that he attended a State Board of Education meeting this morning and said that there is a \$300M deficit and that there is not an awful lot in there that will go from year to year. He said going forward to the next two fiscal years there will be \$2.4 billion deficit and \$2.3 for the following year and that years like this have not been seen in generations. They will be looking for efficiencies - shifting that burden to municipalities - flat funding might be possible. It will be a fight to do that.

Representative-Elect Hornish mentioned that she attended the same meeting and it was pretty much a doom and gloom session. She spoke about turning down the heat in schools and that it was a great idea. She will fight to get as much funding as she can for Granby.

Representative Witkos said that most people are not aware of the impact of a \$4 billion deficit and that it is very important to talk about education. He believes that true structural changes in government will need to occur. He will do his best job to represent Granby and is aware that if municipal aide is cut property taxes will rise.

Mr. Heminway told the legislators that we are looking at way to produce economies within the community - what can be done to reduce our exposure to spend money? Most of our budget is spent on personnel - can we save money on salaries and benefits to be able to keep people?

Senator Kissel spoke about bulk purchasing to secure better pricing - communities can team up to purchase. Senator Kissel agreed with Mr. Heminway about in-school suspension and that communities who do not want to go forward should not have to. He also said that the state will have to make some very tough decisions regarding layoffs, etc.

Mr. Guarco said to not send any mandates to Granby so we would have to spend more money - there is nowhere to go but to increase property taxes. Mr. Heminway then spoke about the high school reform proposal and said that he would hate to see it being proposed to "do it if you want" if it's not funded with some level of support. He also said that there are specific problems with the Sheff settlement and that there is no detail yet as to what the impact will be.

Senator Kissel stated that times of turmoil can sometimes present a challenge and good things can happen. Everything will have to be looked at. He has never seen the state go backwards - it may be the case that you will get what you received last year. Representative Witkos mentioned that Gov. Rell wants to be known as the educational governor and that will probably be good for boards of education.

Senator Kissel said that all three legislators should meet more often and that we should get back together in March and May because there is so much on the line.

Representative-Elect Hornish and Mr. Heminway agreed to meet privately to discuss issues since she is new.

Senator Kissel made a closing comment that our town was extremely well run.

III. Consent Agenda

III.A. Minutes

Primary Motion Passed: A motion was made to remove the minutes from the consent agenda. Passed with a motion by Ronald Walther and a second by John O'Connor.

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| Cal Heminway | Yes |
| Marie Nicholls | Absent |
| John O'Connor | Yes |
| Edward Ohannessian | Yes |
| Deborah Torgersen | Yes |
| Ronald Walther | Yes |
| Matthew Wutka | Yes |

III.B. ED-099 Signer's Agreement

III.C. Budget Transfers

Primary Motion Passed: That the Granby Board of Education approve the consent agenda. Passed with a motion by John O'Connor and a second by Matthew Wutka.

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|--------------------|--------|
| Cal Heminway | Yes |
| Marie Nicholls | Absent |
| John O'Connor | Yes |
| Edward Ohannessian | Yes |
| Deborah Torgersen | Yes |
| Ronald Walther | Yes |
| Matthew Wutka | Yes |

IV. Old Business

IV.A. Long-Range Plan for Athletic Fields and Storage

Mr. O'Connor stated that he thought we were going to schedule a workshop. Mr. Heminway said we would collect education specifications. It was decided that Matt Wutka and John O'Connor will help to develop education specifications.

IV.B. Energy Cost-Saving Initiatives

Mr. Traver reported on energy initiatives and said that there is an 11% on average daily kilowatt decrease. It is an encouraging sign for the start. Mr. Traver stated that he had a meeting with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities tomorrow and that he will report back at the next meeting what they have in mind for energy-saving ideas. Mr. Heminway inquired as the software that was going to be purchased to turn computers off. Mr. Traver stated that the software was very expensive and that the facilities department followed up with an audit. The first audit found 90 computers on so they instructed people to not leave them on. The second audit will occur soon. Mr. Traver also stated that they will proceed with sensor motion detectors.

V. New Business

V.A. FY2010 Budget

Mr. Addley began by saying that we will look at small cap, plus one and large cap at the next Board Meeting. He said that it will be challenging and that it is an interesting time to take over the superintendency. He also stated that the administrators set a nice tone with their contract. Mr. Addley said that with no new programs, it is a 4% increase with nothing else and when we take out special education - we are down to 2.7%. Significant cuts have been made already to get down to 4%. \$200,000 in new positions responds to unfunded mandates and a world language program. Mr. Addley stated that enrollment over the next five years will decrease.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

This committee will meet on December 17th at 5:30.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

This committee met this evening. They discussed the statement of accounts and also had discussions on how we pay for oil and eliminating the exposure of buying many months ahead. The committee also had preliminary discussions with Mr. Addley on the five-year budget plan. Ms. Kim Dessert, Principal of Kearns Primary School, came to discuss the playscape. 2 to 1 matching funds are available to take advantage of. They agreed to firm up numbers and meet again in two weeks.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CPPAC – Nothing to report.

VI.B.2. CREC/CABE – Nothing to report.

VI.B.3. Granby Education Foundation

The Nutcracker is a little over one week away.

VI.C. Board Member Announcements – There were no board member announcements.

Primary Motion Passed: To adjourn the meeting. Passed with a motion by Ed Ohanessian and a second by Matthew Wutka.