

**Special Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes
January 15, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
Central Services**

Present Board Members: Jenny Emery, Mark Fiorentino, Lynn Guelzow, Melissa Migliaccio, Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber, and Brandon Webster.

Absent Board Members: Dwaritha Ramesh and Maddy Wilson (Student Representatives)

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

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Superintendent's Announcements

- Good evening and a special welcome to Wells Road staff, students and parents as well as to Brian Maltese, Athletic Director, who are here to present to the Board this evening.
- The Plus One Budget will be discussed tonight and will move forward to the Three-Board Meeting on January 22nd.
- SEIU (secretarial) negotiations resume tomorrow night and UPSEU (custodial) negotiations will commence shortly.
- Congratulations to Phoebe O'Brien (5th Grade) and Amy Talasco (6th Grade) for placing 3rd in the Daughters of the American Revolution Essay Contest.
- Thank you to the PTO for sponsoring the Hip Hop Dance Night. It was a super night. There will be a Kelly Lane version of this as well in the near future.
- The middle school had a tremendous chorus concert last week and a string quartet played. The arts program is thriving in the district.
- There will be a middle school band concert on Thursday evening.
- Middle school PAC meetings will be moved back to mornings at 8:30 a.m. starting in March due to lack of attendance at evening meetings.
- CPPAC Meeting will be held this Thursday at 7 p.m. Jenny Emery and Mark Fiorentino will attend.
- CREC legislative breakfast will be held on January 24th.
- The Mentor Program is up and running. Thank you to community members who are participating.
- The Start Time Study Survey closed with 721 responses from parents.
- Board members are invited to attend a new teacher mid-year celebration at Abigail's on February 27th at 3:30 p.m.
- Building-based professional development today focused on de-escalation strategies, Collaborative Proactive Solutions, school-wide enrichment model, Google Classroom, and NGSS Curriculum Development.
- There is no school on Monday in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.
- The next Board Meeting will be held on February 6th. We have confirmation from our local legislators that they will attend this meeting to discuss legislative issues with the Board.
- High school exams are underway this week.

I.B. Student Representative Reports

There were no student representative reports this evening.

I.C. Business Manager's Report

Dr. Addley presented the December statement of accounts and stated highlights are that general education realized a savings of \$175K and although the forecast for special education continues to be unfavorable, the change from last month is favorable due to savings in out-of-district transportation and special education teaching assistants. There were additional savings of \$100K in employee benefits on the general education side as well as a realized savings in HSA deposits and retirements. An additional \$839K in revenue for the town is due to unanticipated funding from ECS which is basically a \$400K difference to the good. Jenny Emery stated the statement of accounts was reviewed in the Finance Subcommittee Meeting this evening.

I.D. Schools in the Spotlight

Ms. Kristin LaFlamme and Ms. Caroline Martin, Fifth Grade Teachers, and Ms. Meredith Kamis, Third Grade Teacher, at Wells Road Intermediate School, and some of their students presented celebrations of writing to the Board. Celebrations are different for each grade level with 5th graders writing memoirs, 3rd graders writing short stories and sharing with 5th grade and 4th graders writing narrative stories. Students read their writing pieces to the Board.

I.E. Annual High School Athletic Presentation

Mr. Brian Maltese, High School Athletic Director, presented the Annual High School Athletic Report to the Board. Mr. Maltese stated the 2018-19 year has been very successful thus far and that 73% of athletes have achieved honor roll status. In the fall, 6 out of 7 varsity teams participated in the state finals. He reviewed the 15 different sports offered for girls and 14 sports offered for boys. This year 2 girls participated on the football team and 2 girls on the wrestling team. Participation numbers have remained steady over the past 3 years and 320 students participate in at least one sport. He stated 19 students from the Choice Program are participating in a sport this year out of the 22 students at the high school. Mr. Maltese reviewed the athletic budget over the past 4 years and stated there is about a \$12K increase for next year which consists mostly of coaching salary increases and officials and transportation costs. He recommended continuation of the \$5K contribution toward the football program. Mr. Maltese informed the Board he was recently contacted by the CIAC regarding a coop with Canton High School as their numbers in football have been decreasing over the past few years and they may not be able to put forth a program in the future. He stated he had an initial discussion with Canton administration and the football league voted not to support a coop program. Jenny Emery inquired what % of the student population is on the honor roll. She stated she is also interested in knowing how much would it cost if Granby paid for all athletic volunteers. Sarah Thrall inquired about opportunities for girls to compete on a girls' team or co-op girls team for swimming. Mr. Maltese stated he would like to survey the current girl swimmers to see what they would like to do if offered the option.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments this evening.

III. Consent Agenda

III.A. Minutes

A motion was made by Brandon Webster and seconded by Rosemarie Weber to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed unanimously at 7:54 p.m.

IV. Old Business

IV.A. Second Reading of Revised Policy 6142, Basic Instructional Program

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 6142, Basic Instructional Program, to the Board for a second reading. Rosemarie Weber stated she has not received any comments on this policy. This policy will go to the Board for a third reading and approval at the next meeting.

IV.B. Plus One Budget

The Board continued to discuss the FY20 Plus One Budget. A motion was made by Jenny Emery and seconded by Brandon Webster that the Granby Board of Education will approve the FY20 Plus One Budget and move it forward to the Three-Board Meeting on January 22, 2019. Melissa Migliaccio stated what this budget does right now is identify the needs of the district. After the Three-Board Meeting, the BOE will get a guideline from the BOF and then the Superintendent submits his administrative budget and the Board will also have a couple of budget workshops. The budget needs to be adopted by March 27th. Alan Addley discussed revenue by stating the budget is \$700K above in revenue from ECS. He stated he had received a couple of questions from the Board but nothing significant. Lynn Guelzow questioned if the extra money received is for this year or next year. Dr. Addley stated it is actually for both years. Lynn Guelzow stated she is concerned the district is compromising general education by scrutinizing purchase orders for the sake of the special education deficit. Dr. Addley stated there have been no budget cuts but rather scrutinizing all expenses including special education. Lynn Guelzow inquired how confident is the district that enrollment will decrease 4.9% over the next 5 years. Dr. Addley stated the numbers were adjusted accordingly. This motion passed unanimously at 8:12 p.m.

IV.C. New Course Proposals and Changes

The Board discussed the approval of new courses and course changes. **MOTION #1:** A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Sarah Thrall that the Granby Board of Education adopt the following courses: Pre-AP Algebra I, Pre-AP English and Pre-AP Visual Arts. Rosemarie Weber stated Granby was selected by the College Board to take part in the pilot program for Pre-AP courses. These courses would be opened up to all students and supports a pathway to take AP courses in their high school career. The subcommittee agreed to do this for 3 courses but it is a package deal. Pre-AP Visual Arts – College Board would present the district with a framework that will enhance the current color and design art course. Pre-AP Algebra I – Algebra 1A in 8th and Algebra 1B in 9th – the Pre-AP Algebra I course replaces our Algebra I course currently being offered at GMHS. This is a two-year pilot program offered in 9th grade the first year and will likely expand to middle school students the second year. Christopher Tranberg stated one of the large goals of the program is to better position students to take AP courses. Rosemarie Weber stated as a subcommittee they asked a lot of questions about the program and the benefit to Granby students. She stated the subcommittee felt that having the College Board work with us increases the rigor for all students which is in line with the district's equity goals. Lynn Guelzow stated her biggest concern of the three courses is the Pre-AP English course. Melissa Migliaccio stated this program is attractive to her because 1) College Board AP is the gold standard; 1 of 100 schools selected; benchmarks are provided for the courses throughout the year. She stated it also fits perfectly with the charge given to the Board by the Equity Taskforce. Mark Fiorentino inquired about the budgetary impact going forward. Christopher Tranberg stated it is \$4K per course with an additional \$2K for training and course materials. Dr. Addley stated this amount will be in the base going forward. Jenny Emery expressed her concern regarding English and stated she would not like to see the same thing happen to English that happened to Big History but stated she is comfortable going forward as College Board supplies the curriculum, assessments and benchmarks. Mark Fiorentino stated he would like to see a flowchart in how students progress through courses. This motion passed unanimously at 8:38 p.m. Dr. Addley thanked the Board for taking a courageous step forward for all students.

MOTION #2: A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Lynn Guelzow that the Granby Board of Education approve the elimination of the course English 11 Honors. Rosemarie Weber stated she remembers, as the longest sitting member of the Board, when the English 11H was eliminated from the program of studies and caused considerable angst among parents and students. This course has not run the last 7 years due to the low number of students enrolled in the course. As a result of that, English Honors has not been looked at for a curriculum revision. If it were to run in the future, it would require a complete revision. Concerns in subcommittee are that a lot of students take AP or an Academic course in their senior year if there is no Honors course to choose from. Jenny Emery stated she would like to see the course stay to see what happens with the new model and if students would even be taking Academic English necessarily after taking Pre-AP English. Melissa Migliaccio stated she is generally not in favor of eliminating this course and feels this can be revisited next year. Sarah Thrall stated she is in favor of keeping the course for students who may want to stretch themselves in their junior year and take an Honors course. Lynn Guelzow is in favor of eliminating the course as she does not feel re-creating the course is a good use of the district's resources. Alan Addley stated he feels leaving the course the way it is currently is fine. This motion did not pass with 2 votes (Lynn Guelzow, Melissa Migliaccio) to 5 votes (Jenny Emery, Mark Fiorentino, Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber, Brandon Webster) at 9:07 p.m.

MOTION #3: A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Sarah Thrall that the Granby Board of Education approve the course level change in Calculus from Academic to Honors level. Rosemarie Weber stated the calculus course on the books as an academic course has been a mischaracterization for years; hence, the change from Academic to Honors. Lynn Guelzow stated she is opposed to this change as nothing is being done to improve the rigor of this course. It is important to have senior level academic math and she feels changing the course to honors will decimate the AP calculus course. Jenny Emery inquired if the high school would change the curriculum if this course was left as is. 53% of seniors are taking calculus this year and looking at the rigor in the class it covers the basics. This motion passed 5 votes (Jenny Emery, Mark Fiorentino, Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber, Brandon Webster) to 2 votes (Lynn Guelzow, Melissa Migliaccio) at 9:16 p.m.

V. New Business

V.A. First Reading of Revised Policy 6146, Graduation Requirements

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communication Subcommittee recommended Revised Policy 6146, Graduation Requirements, to the Board for a first reading. Rosemarie Weber stated this is a revised policy because the state has re-categorized the graduation requirements. Any comments should be sent to Rosemarie Weber or Christopher Tranberg. This policy will go to the Board for a second reading.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

Rosemarie Weber reported this subcommittee met last Wednesday to discuss the new course proposals and changes as well as policies discussed in tonight's meeting.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

Jenny Emery reported this subcommittee met this evening to discuss the Indoor Air Quality Report which was revised to reflect how teachers' classrooms are affected. Most of the meeting was spent on discussing the solar project. The timeline has been adjusted and there are many implications which include a \$24K performance bond payment to Eversource due by January 22nd to keep the project alive. It will be very challenging to bring this home but the payoff could be big. There is a CPPAC meeting on Thursday night and, ideally, CPPAC will be deciding what to go to bond for but there is no certainty if the committee will feel this project should be off to the side because it will pay for itself. Jenny Emery and Mark Fiorentino are in agreement that if the solar project is viewed as it pays for itself, then the Board needs to decide if a check should be cut for \$24K. More will be known after the CPPAC Committee meets. If the message from CPPAC is that this project will not affect other items in the large cap and the Board is comfortable in getting it done, Jenny Emery stated she is comfortable in putting in the funds. The Board decided to have Jenny Emery and Mark Fiorentino go to the CPPAC meeting and inform Alan Addley how the meeting went. Alan Addley will decide where to take the project from there.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Melissa Migliaccio thanked Jenny Emery for taking Mark's place while he is traveling the next couple of months. Mark Fiorentino stated will be attending the CREC Council Meeting tomorrow.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Alan Addley reported the GEF met last evening and discussed their new logo, new website, the GranBee, and a donor celebration on February 10th. Kim Becker is the new president as Ben Perron has stepped down. The GEF also made their \$20K donation to the violin program for next year.

VI.B.3. Start Time Study

Lynn Guelzow reported the Start Time Study Taskforce officially has two meetings left. Surveys are closed with 721 parents, 172 staff and 1,109 students in Grades 3-12 completing the survey. Hanover Research will be given our data to help analyze it. The Taskforce will go ahead with conference calls to other districts who have made changes to their start times. A report will come to the Board at the end of March. There are differing opinions on this subject and there is no easy answer at this point.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Alan Addley stated there may be a solar informational session on January 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at Central Services which will basically be a Special Finance Subcommittee Meeting.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

There were no Board member announcements this evening.

VI.E. Action Items

Action Items: 1) Jenny Emery requested an approximate dollar value of volunteers in athletic programs and 2) What percentage of the high school student body is on the honor roll.

VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by Lynn Guelzow to enter into an Executive Session to discuss a collective bargaining issue and a legal matter. This motion passed unanimously at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rosemarie Weber, Board Secretary