

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes
June 5, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present Board Members: Jenny Emery, Mark Fiorentino; Melissa Migliaccio, Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber, Brandon Webster and Maddy Wilson (Student Representative).

Absent Board Members: Lynn Guelzow and Dwaritha Ramesh (Student Representative)

Melissa Migliaccio called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Superintendent's Announcements

- Thank you to parents, community members, town officials and experts who came together for the good of the community in passing the referendum for the two school projects and town project.
- Met with the Department of Administrative Services this week. We were asked to come back with a revision of the high school layout for Buildings 4 and 5 within the next couple of weeks with hopefully an advanced reimbursement.
- Congratulations to Sean Dowd who qualified for the Golf Open on June 8th.
- Next meeting for the custodians will be held on June 25th for mediation.
- Great candidates have been hired thus far- there are a few more left to hire for next year.
- Thank you to parents for attending picnics, field days, concerts, etc. at this busy time of year.
- Professional development went well last week and focused on Social/Emotional Well-Being; Building a Culture of Empathy; Equity; Google Classroom and Summer Curriculum.
- Ms. Pauline Greer, the next Principal of Wells Road will be in district on June 10th to visit teachers and classrooms and meet with teachers after school.
- Mr. Mark Winzler, Interim Superintendent, will meet with me for transition.
- Fill-a-public-works-truck event was well supported - thank you to those who donated.
- The 8th grade moving up ceremony will be held at 5:00 p.m. on June 13th and high school graduation held on Friday, June 14th at 5:30 p.m.
- The Washington, DC trip went well and Nature's Classroom returned today from Camp Jewell.
- The annual Boardwalk held today focused on capstone projects as well as the arts this year.
- Recognized 8 retirees this afternoon – each offering at least 20 years of service.
- The middle school band concert was held last night and the chorus concert will be held on Thursday night.
- A recognition ceremony was held for graduates of Teacher Leadership Academy I and II yesterday.
- With regard to Kindergarten class sizes, an extra section for Kindergarten will be added and will come from the 2nd grade. We are at a point where we are comfortable to create an extra Kindergarten section which will make class sizes 17 in Kindergarten and 21 in 2nd Grade. In order to have a full-time Teaching Assistant, an 0.8 FTE is needed. It was Dr. Addley recommendation to do this as savings are realized during the year in salaries which will be approximately \$12K.
- Thank you to parents for your interest and participation in the Start Time Study. This item will be discussed this evening.

I.I.B. Student Representative Reports

- Spring sports have come to a close with softball, girls' lacrosse, boys' lacrosse, and baseball losing in semi-finals. Track state title. Lauren won class M long jump.
- Physics classes went to Lake Compounce for their annual field trip last week.
- Last Friday Seniors went to Boulder Ridge for their senior outing.
- Senior awards were held last week and underclassmen awards held on Monday.

II. Old Business

II.A. Start Time Study Recommendations

The Board discussed the recommendations of the Start Time Study Taskforce made to the Board on May 15, 2019. Melissa Migliaccio stated the Board has heard from parents in favor and not in favor of the change in start times and stated there are huge changes occurring in the district, i.e., Superintendent Search, new principal and large capital projects which are things that were not planned. She went on to state that although positive and negative comments were received from the community, she is not sure if this is the time for a drastic change. Brandon Webster stated he had received an overwhelming amount of feedback and thanked everyone for their participation and comments. He stated he is a person of science and feels there is some benefit for high school students but also has concerns for elementary students regarding before- and after-school child care; therefore, he stated he is leaning toward making no change at this time. Rosemarie Weber stated the science is clear that it would be beneficial to her family but she would need to see a benefit for the community as a whole and, at this point, she has a lot of unanswered questions and some details need to be clarified in order for her to make a decision. She stated she would still like to explore the option but is not comfortable moving forward in the near future. Additionally, she would like a new principal and superintendent on board prior to making this change. Mark Fiorentino echoed what other Board members said and he felt the idea was a good one but it would impact so many different things. He stated the Taskforce has done a tremendous job identifying the issues but work needs to be done on the solutions. He also stated this should perhaps be done on a state-wide basis. Jenny Emery stated also that the Taskforce has done tremendous work; however, she is concerned that because the public got engaged the Board changed their mind. She stated the voice of the parents has been helpful and respectful and she would like to keep a handle on this. Sarah Thrall also echoed much of what has been said stating she came into this with an open-minded approach and hopes momentum is not lost on the research that has been done. Melissa Migliaccio stated the pulse of the Board is it is not the time to make a change; therefore, the Board will take no action on this item. This item will be removed on the agenda; however, the research will be kept and reviewed when appropriate.

II.B. Board Approval of School Projects

The Board formally approved the school projects as follows:

Motion #1: A motion was made by Jenny Emery and seconded by Sarah Thrall that the Granby Board of Education approve the school capital improvement projects including the planning, design, construction, reconstruction, and repair of the following: science, career and technology education spaces; performing arts facilities; library-media center; kitchen facilities; athletic fields; and infrastructure and systems. Mark Fiorentino stated a tremendous of work had to be done in a short amount of time from the time the Board was notified to present the questions and educate the public. He also recognized Jenny Emery and Mike Guarco who spent a lot of time putting information packages together to educate the voters. Alan Addley stated this is a procedural item for the Department of Administrative Services and this motion was necessary for the Board to take action tonight. This motion passed unanimously at 7:29 p.m.

Motion #2: A motion was made by Jenny Emery and seconded by Brandon Webster that the Granby Board of Education approve the Solar Project which includes the installation of a ground mounted virtual net metering solar photovoltaic system located adjacent to the Wells Road Intermediate School. Jenny Emery stated she has received a lot of good input from the public and a lot of detail still needs to be worked out. It will be nice to receive money from Eversource as opposed to paying Eversource. This motion passed unanimously at 7:31 p.m.

III. New Business

III.A. Approval of Sodexo Food Services Contract

The Board discussed the approval of the Sodexo Food Services Contract for the 2019-2020 school year. A motion was made by Mark Fiorentino and seconded by Melissa Migliaccio that the Granby Board of Education approve the Sodexo Food Services Contract for the 2019-2020 school year. Anna Robbins, Business Manager, stated the district is currently in a 5-year contract with Sodexo and renews each year with an increase according to the Consumer Price Index. For next year, there is a 1.9% increase in management and administrative fees only which is not correlated to school lunches; however, lunches will go up 10¢ next year. This motion passed unanimously at 7:32 p.m.

III.B. Annual Curriculum Report

Mr. Christopher Tranberg, Assistant Superintendent, presented the 2019 Curriculum Report. He publicly thanked Dr. Addley and is looking forward to new adventures together with the Board. Mr. Tranberg reviewed one of the Board Goals: Rigorous and diverse 21st century curriculum. He stated all curriculum in the District will be revised within the next 4 years. The new EduPlanet21 Software has an audit process where teachers receive feedback on curriculum prior to writing curriculum over the summer. Eduplanet21 also has embedded learning software for teachers which will be a powerful tool. For the District's Achievement Goal which is writing, 92% of students in Grades 2 and 3 students are ending the year at or above grade level; 95% of all middle school students made at least one year's growth on writing assessments; and, 86% of graduating seniors met grade level benchmarks on their Capstone essays. Jenny Emery inquired if these numbers better or worse than last year and Mr. Tranberg stated they are higher. Another Board goal, professional capital of staff, was discussed, in particular, the professional development survey results for teachers and 66% of teachers feel they can provide input related to their professional development. Mr. Tranberg stated the strategy going forward will be on equity, personalized professional learning, tiered intervention, and PLC. PLC will be the biggest focus for next year as the District will be re-booting on this subject since it has been over 10 years since its implementation. Dr. Addley recognized Mr. Tranberg on a lot of heavy lifting topics he handled this year such as Start Times and Equity and stated he has assumed these positions as well as anyone.

IV. Public Comment

Charlene Bordonaro, North Granby. Ms. Bordonaro echoed the work the Taskforce did and stated she is not opposed to change itself – it is more the change that will have unintended consequences which would be misunderstood. She would like the Board to consider any alternatives as many schools have run into the same issues so she feels there may be some creative alternatives as well as an opportunity to learn and collaborate. She stated she looks forward to being engaged in the process in the future.

KC Petruzzi, High School Teacher and President of the GEA. Ms. Petruzzi spoke on behalf of the teachers' union noting some considerations which should be taken in the future. Certain items have been addressed and she wanted to make sure they are on the agenda moving forward, such as, students who struggle with social/emotional issues, a longer day would not be in their favor. Time collapsed after school for jobs or sports could make students have to make choice. One FAQ question which was not asked was around inter-district programming, i.e., the Asnuntuck Welding Program. Being able to fit these types of programs in could be difficult. There are concerns about the impact on staff before and after school as well as effects felt on family time, elder care, or secondary jobs.

Pat McGee, Strong Road, Granby. Mr. McGee stated his son graduated in 2016, he has a current graduate and a sophomore in the high school. His concern is for Title IX sports and girls' basketball. He stated there is no information on the girls' basketball program, tweet requests have been declined for girls' basketball and the Granby sports page does not have information. He stated there is clearly a bias in gender on social media. Website links do not go anywhere and all of this took place during the college selection process.

Todd Klein, 27 Strawberry Fields Road. Mr. Klein stated he has a Sophomore and a 7th Grader in the district. He attended the Superintendent's Forum about a month ago and many parents mentioned they were surveyed prior to when the information and research came out on the Start Time Study. He stated if parents were surveyed again, they would be better prepared to answer the questions. Students were not surveyed so he would also recommend they are included going forward. Mr. Klein stated he feels the start times are more a matter of time management.

Nick Dethlefsen, Round Hill Road, Granby. Mr. Dethlefsen commented to the Board the work that has been done is not wasted work and the Board is making a good decision tonight but would love to see the Board vote it down tonight.

Deneika Janski , Zimmer Road. Ms. Janski thanked the Board for their decision/indecision and stated she has a middle school and high school student who are very happy with things the way they are.

Melissa Migliaccio thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and for their comments.

V. Consent Agenda

V.A. Minutes

The Board discussed the approval of the May 15, 2019 Board of Education meeting minutes. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Jenny Emery to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed at 8:01 p.m. with one abstention (Sarah Thrall).

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

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

Rosemarie Weber stated this subcommittee met this evening. The Curriculum Report was reviewed and a brief overview of EduPlanet21 (a warehouse of curriculum) was presented. Enrollment for summer programs is increasing. Discussed hiring in the district and the May 28th professional development. Reviewed Policy 6159, Individualized Education Program, which was originally presented at our last meeting. Aimee Martin, Director of Special Services, consulted with the District's attorney and has captured the appropriate language. This policy will move forward to the Board with one minor revision. Dr. Addley stated the subcommittee was also informed that a new district website will be released on July 1st which also has a mobile app.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

This subcommittee has not met; however, Jenny noted the approval of the special appropriations by the Board of Finance.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

CREC has not met.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

The last meeting for the year is this coming Monday, June 10th.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Melissa Migliaccio stated this is such a busy time of year but to events if you can. Positive thoughts for good weather on graduation. 8th grade moving up ceremony will be held on June 13th at 5 p.m.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

Lynn Guelzow is currently working in Sri Lanka but will be back in time for the June 19th Board Meeting. Jenny Emery thanked everyone involved in the Boardwalk today and also thanked the community for their support during the bond referendum process.

VI.E. Action Items

There were no action items to report this evening.

VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

A motion was made by Jenny Emery and seconded by Melissa Migliaccio to adjourn the regular meeting and enter into an Executive Session to discuss an employment contractual issue. This motion passed unanimously at 8:09 p.m. The Executive Session adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Weber
Board Secretary