

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes
October 21, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
High School Auditorium

Present Board Members: Jenny Emery, Mark Fiorentino, Melissa Migliaccio, David Peling, Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber, Brandon Webster, Jack DeGray, and Jacob Scotto (Student Representatives)

Absent Board Members: There were no absent Board members.

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

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Chairman's Corner

Melissa Migliaccio, Board Chair, shared opening remarks and thanked the technology team, Jon Lambert and John Kroninger, for their efforts in broadcasting these meetings. She also thanked all staff members for their work in reopening schools. Granby is about to finish the fifth full week of in-person learning.

I.B. Superintendent's Announcements

- Dr. Grossman welcomed everyone and extended a special welcome to middle school staff and students who attended to present for Schools in the Spotlight tonight.
- Bus drivers were celebrated this week for Bus Driver Appreciation Week.
- October is National Principals' Month and all of our principals were honored last week.
- Granby is in fifth full week of school and all is well. Attendance average is consistently in the mid-90% range for both in-person and remote learning.
- A reminder was sent out last week regarding protocols in place. When making decisions regarding full in-person, remote or hybrid, Granby is looking at the Farmington Valley, Hartford, and Hartford County.
- The food service program is doing very well due to a grant through the U.S. Department of Agriculture children under the age of 18 free breakfast and lunch. The district is working on free breakfast at the high school.
- Weekly meetings are held with the Farmington Valley Health District (FVHD) and the medical advisor team to monitor metrics going on across the state of Connecticut.
- Awaiting word from the Commissioner of Education regarding inclement weather days and giving local decisions to superintendents to have remote learning on these days.
- Attendance at athletic events has been increased from 100 to 150 outside. Students are also able to attend games if they have a pass from a player.
- There is a tentative schedule for winter sports to begin in late November. Awaiting guidelines. The CIAC will meet with the Department of Public Health on Thursday.
- Congratulations to Luke McFarland, Senior, who is a semi-finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program as well as a 2020-2021 Hispanic Scholar for excellence in academic achievement. Additionally, Aidan Goodrow, Chase McGee and Colby Milbrandt, Seniors, were recognized with a Letter of Commendation for outstanding performance on the PSAT National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test in 2019.
- The FY22 Budget is well underway. Site budgets are due on October 30th and meetings with administrators will begin in November.
- The Building Committee continues to meet on the high school commons and media center projects. The next meeting will be held tomorrow night at 5:30 p.m.
- There is no school on November 3rd. Professional development will focus on technology.
- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 4th.

Jenny Emery inquired about police coverage for the Route 189 section of the high school entrance. Dr. Grossman stated the Town Engineer looked at the situation and we are awaiting his recommendations. The Police Department has been directing traffic in the morning and afternoon as a tentative solution. David Peling inquired about the predetermined COVID cases rate for the Farmington Valley. Dr. Grossman stated we are now looking at a 14-day average as well as the threshold of over 10 cases per 100,000. Last week the average was a little bit higher than 2.6%. The Farmington Valley will make the recommendation to us if we need to pivot into a different learning model. Brandon Webster inquired if there are plans to send out another letter to the public with an overview of what learning model would be enacted and when. Dr. Grossman stated the district will give as much notification as we can give to families. Sarah Thrall inquired with almost 5 weeks in is there any movement in numbers of students requesting to come back. Dr. Grossman stated Jennifer Parsons will give these statistics in her upcoming report.

I.C. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, provided updates from the Assistant Superintendent's office and stated to-date there are zero cases in Granby Public Schools. The community was reminded in a letter last week that Granby is looking at the Farmington Valley, Granby, Hartford County, and the State. Ms. Parsons stated as Dr. Grossman mentioned, he has no less than three meetings every week with the FVHD and that she is on the phone with them multiple times a day. The FVHD has a multitude of information and know-how and why people test positive or contract the virus. She informed the Board if they start to see more community spread, they will let us know. She stated the rise in cases in the Hartford County is related to specific towns. Ms. Parsons provided an update on remote learners and stated 16% of students are learning remotely. Elementary is coming up to the end of the first trimester and 12 students are coming back. A minimum of two-weeks' notice is required to re-enter. Jenny Emery inquired how the district is managing space if everyone comes back. Ms. Parsons stated the district can handle it if everyone comes back as that is what was planned for; however, if this cannot happen, classes will be moved to larger spaces. David Peling inquired if the 2.7% rate is based on people getting tested or the population. Ms. Parsons stated it is the percentage on positive cases. Ms. Parsons informed the Board the Farmington Valley is in a good place at this time.

I.D. Student Representative Report

- Jacob Scotto reported the success of the free lunch program and that lunches are getting exponentially better every day. The lunch staff is doing great keeping up with the demand.
- Coffeehouse auditions will be held next week.
- Drama auditions for the fall play, *It's a Wonderful Life*, were on Monday with the first rehearsal this evening.
- Applications for the National Honors Society opened this week for all qualified Juniors and Seniors are due tomorrow and will be reviewed in November.
- Seniors have finished their intake meetings for the first two college deadlines and met with Guidance Counselors for recommendations, essays, resumes, etc.
- All seniors who took the SAT received their scores this past Friday. Granby had 5 students receive a perfect score in Math.
- Juniors and Sophomores took the PSAT two weeks ago and should get their scores back in the next week. Freshmen will take the PSAT on Wednesday, October 28th.
- Sports: Field Hockey vs. Canton tonight (senior night)–they have 9 seniors with a record is 4-2; boys' soccer lost to Suffield and celebrated senior night last night with 12 seniors and a record of 4-2-1; girls' soccer has an away game at Suffield entering with an undefeated 5-0 record; volleyball team played SFSA today with a record of 6-0; and, the cross country team is 5-1.

Melissa Migliaccio inquired about the play and how that is going to work. Jacob Scotto stated the Drama Club is going to try to offer a radio show where the characters will be conversing with a talk show host on stage and instead of a stage set will work on sound effects. Ms. Migliaccio inquired if this will be available via Zoom. Jacob Scotto stated, yes, for the play as well as Coffeehouse.

I.E. Business Manager's Report

Ms. Anna Robbins, Business Manager, presented the September statement of accounts stating it reflects a comprehensive forecast of the cost of reopening schools. The forecast projects the cost of the reopening including two grants. Before the application of the grant funds the forecast was negative \$723K. Regular education is over-budget \$640K and special education is over-budget \$83K. The major line items that cause the over-budget conditions are Custodial & Maintenance Salaries, Bus Monitors and General Supplies for Maintenance. The CRF grant allows expenditures up to December 30, 2020 but due to this date constraint, the general fund continues with a negative forecast of \$124K. In Q&D, forecast expenses are lower than budgeted due to the summer school program; however, the fund is projected to be favorable \$10K. The projection for revenue to the town continues to reflect additional revenue from regular education tuition from other towns and the excess cost funding from the state is projected to be lower than budgeted. Rental and pay-for-participation fees are uncertain at this time; however, fall pay-for-participation fees are anticipated to be \$20K. Overall projection of revenue to the town continues to be unfavorable. Jenny Emery stated the Finance Subcommittee reviewed the statement of accounts this evening in detail and administration is being prudently conservative in forecasting what it could cost to keep the schools open all year which we hope we can do. Because of the great work done in securing the large grant, even if we are over budget, it is much less due to the this grant.

I.F. Schools in the Spotlight

Ms. Leanne Sullivan, 8th Grade Science Teacher, and 8th Grade students, Jasmine Burnham, Ava Gallinelli, Hailey Mills, and Isabella Therion presented how the garden grant is used during academic enrichment and science. Ms. Sullivan stated she is very proud of the students and their efforts in the classroom. She stated academic enrichment focused on creating a native habitat and that there is much potential for future cluster endeavors. Bella spoke about composting and weeding and stated students enjoy working with their hands. Hailey informed the Board that she never had a class like this before and hopes the Granby 4H group can get involved in the garden. Ava stated this is a weird year and being able to go outside is refreshing and an escape. It helps students in science and all classes including art. Lastly, Jasmine spoke what she has learned about monarch butterflies.

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 David Peling that the Granby Board of Education adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed with one abstention (Rosemarie Weber) at 7:59 p.m.

IV. Old Business

There is no Old Business to report.

V. New Business

V.A. Draft Revised Board of Education Goals

The Board discussed the draft revised Board of Education goals. A motion was made by Jenny Emery and was seconded by David Peling that the Granby Board of Education adopt the revised Board of Education goals as presented. Dr. Grossman reviewed the categories of the goals: Student Learning and Achievement; Community Engagement; Safety and Social Emotional Well-Being; Budget Development and Fiscal Management; Embracing Diversity; and Professional Learning. Melissa Migliaccio stated she is pleased with these goals but inquired if there could be clarification to innovative investments which will be changed to "innovative educational investments". This motion passed unanimously at 8:06 p.m.

V.B. First Reading of Policy Revised Policy 6159 - Individualized Education Program

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended Revised Policy 6159, Individualized Education Program, to the Board for a first reading. The only change in this policy is an age change from 21 years of age to 22 years of age due to a change in statute. This policy will go for a second reading and approval at the next Board Meeting.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

VI.A.1. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

Jenny Emery reported this Subcommittee met this evening and discussed the finances; food service program – the numbers are very good but need to see what the dollars are compared to reimbursement from the federal government; Nursing services through Farmington Valley VNA contract will be coming up for renewal; earlier planning at the end of each year to put a schedule together to be above to work with professional resources.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Mark Fiorentino reported CREC met today. Very brief legislative report – CABE is starting to message the next legislative session to basically leave us alone.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Jenny Emery reported the GEF met this week but she did not attend. JG attended said he attended and they are trying to put a program together to benefit the schools.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

The calendar of events is as presented. Jack DeGray clarified that each student gets 4 passes for parents, siblings, or students. It was originally two passes but it just got bumped up to 4. Brandon Webster inquired about the sports being live streamed. Jack DeGray stated, yes, soccer games are livestreamed on the GMHS Boosters channel on YouTube. The link is available under the athletics section on the website.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

Melissa Migliaccio thanked all Board members for their service in these extraordinary times and to Jenny Emery, Sarah Thrall and Mark Fiorentino for their work on the GEA negotiations meetings.

VI.E. Action Items

There were no action items this evening.

VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by Jenny Emery to adjourn the meeting and enter into an Executive Session to discuss a collective bargaining agreement. This motion passed unanimously at 8:13 p.m. The Executive Session adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Weber
Board Secretary