

**East Granby Board of Education  
Regular Meeting Minutes for  
Monday, January 11, 2016**

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**Board Members Present:**

Mr. Joe Doering  
Mrs. Michele Holt  
Mrs. Kim Brassard  
Mr. Bob Ravens-Seger  
Mr. Tom Short (7:05)  
Mr. Robert Crocker  
Mr. James Feeney  
Mr. John Welsh  
Mr. Brandon Freeman

**Others Present:**

Dr. Christine Mahoney, Superintendent  
Mrs. Susan Greco, Business Manager  
Ms. Lisa Kline, Board Clerk  
David Peling, Principal EGHS  
Stella Ross, Director of Curriculum  
Missy Bavaro-Grande, Principal EGMS  
Karen Gogel, Director of Student Support Services  
Christopher Roche, Seymour Principal  
Sarah Martin, Student Representative  
William Pitney, Visitor  
Scott Shepherd, Visitor  
Jill DeVane, Visitor  
Mr. Jim Grenon-Francoline, Guest  
Dr. and Mrs. Adames, Guests  
Ms. Susan Rosenstein, Guest

**Board Members Absent:**

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**I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

With a quorum present, Joe Doering Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, Mr. Doering welcomed Kim Brassard back as a member of the Board of Education and new board member Brandon Freeman. Mr. Freeman provided a brief autobiography including his education, occupation, and family.

**a. Approve Minutes from the December 7, 2015 regular meeting**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Ravens-Seger, seconded by Mr. Welsh to approve the December 7, 2015 minutes as presented. Michele Holt asked for clarification on item Vd. Update on Advance Placement Course Weighting. It is unclear whether we are beginning the new AP course weighting system this year or next year. Dr. Mahoney explained that we need to wait to see how it will impact the current senior class to determine the best time to implement it. (FOR: Mr. Doering, Mr. Short, Mr. Ravens-Seger, Mr. Welsh, Mrs. Holt, Mr. Freeman, and Mrs. Brassard. ABSTAINED: Mr. Feeney and Mr. Crocker). *Motion approved.*

**b. Approve Minutes from the December 21, 2015 special meeting**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Feeney, seconded by Mr. Ravens-Seger to approve the December 21, 2015 special meeting minutes as presented. (FOR: Mr. Doering, Mr. Short, Mr. Ravens-Seger, Mr. Welsh, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Feeney, Mr. Crocker and Mrs. Brassard. ABSTAINED: Mrs. Holt). *Motion approved.*

**c. Additions to Agenda**

Joe Doering requested to discuss item IVe. Administrators Contract in Executive Session and add item VIIc. Approve Administrators Contract to the agenda.

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Feeney, seconded by Mr. Crocker to discuss item IVe. in Executive Session and add item VIIc. Approve Administrators Contract to the agenda. *Motion approved unanimously.*

**c. Comments from visitors regarding agenda items - None**

**II. Board Elections**

**a. Board of Education Elections for Officers and Committee Assignments**

Dr. Mahoney stated that at the first meeting in January, the Board of Education members elect a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary. Dr. Mahoney asked for a nomination for Board Chairperson.

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Feeney, seconded by Mr. Short nominating Mr. Joseph Doering as Board Chairperson. No other nominations were presented. Voting slips were distributed and the results indicated 9-0 in favor of Mr. Doering becoming the next Board Chairperson. *Motion approve unanimously.*

Dr. Mahoney turned the meeting over to Mr. Doering who asked if there were any nominations for Board Vice Chairperson.

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Short, seconded by Mr. Ravens-Seger nominating Mr. James Feeney as Board Vice Chairperson. Mr. Feeney respectfully declined the nomination.

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Doering, seconded by Mrs. Brassard nominating Mrs. Michele Holt as Board Vice Chairperson. No other nominations were presented. Voting slips were distributed and the results indicated 8 in favor of Mrs. Michele Holt becoming the next Board Vice Chairperson and 1 abstention. *Motion approved.*

Mr. Doering presented the next position up for nomination, Board Secretary, and asked if there were any nominations.

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Bob Ravens-Seeger, seconded by Mrs. Holt nominating Mrs. Kim Brassard as Board Secretary. No other nominations were presented. Voting slips were distributed and the results indicated 9-0 in favor of Mrs. Brassard becoming the next Board Secretary. *Motion approved unanimously.*

Dr. Mahoney distributed voting slips for the Board Committee assignments and reviewed what commitments are involved with the different committees. Board members interested in serving on a committee were asked to write their name on the slip for the specific committee. The board clerk will prepare the assignment sheet and email the results along with the draft meeting minutes. Committee assignments will be discussed at the January 25, 2016 board meeting.

### **III. Student Representatives Report**

Sarah Martin reported that mid-term exams are next week, the 10<sup>th</sup> grade CAPT testing is coming up soon, and the re-designed SAT will be in March. Miss Martin also provided an update on the girls and boys basketball teams and reported that Career Day for freshman, sophomores, and juniors will be held on April 5, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.

### **IV. Chairperson's Report**

**a. Welcome New Board Members** – Previously done.

**b. Schedule Budget Workshops**

Joe Doering received a schedule from the Board of Finance (BOF). The Board of Education (BOE) will discuss budget drivers at the January 19, 2016 BOF meeting. On February 11, 2016, the BOF will provide guidelines to the BOE and respond to the non-educational budget that will be sent to them prior to their meeting. On March 15, 2016, the BOF will review budget proposal from the BOE, and on March 24, 2016, the BOF will provide direction for the Public Hearing scheduled for April 5, 2016.

**c. 2016-2017 Budget Discussion**

Mr. Doering feels that one of the significant budget drivers for 2016-2017 is the personnel contracts. Susan Greco distributed information on three budget drivers; contractual obligations, special education, and class size. Joe Doering would like to have a budget workshop before January 19, 2016. Michele Holt suggested meeting prior to the BOF meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed to meet in the BOE conference room at 6:30 p.m. prior to the BOF meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Feeney asked to discuss the number of high school personnel. Joe Doering suggested articulating why expenditure per pupil is higher at the high school level. Dr. Mahoney explained that the structure for instruction at the middle/high school is more involved. Teachers need to be certified in a specific subject that they teach unlike the elementary grade teachers. There are also different levels to a subject that we have to offer based on student needs and abilities. Michele Holt asked if there were any budget drivers from a facilities standpoint. Susan Greco replied that they are listed under the non-educational budget. Joe Doering reported that non-educational items must be voted on before February 11, 2016.

**d. Efficiency Study Discussion**

Joe Doering requested that an electronic copy of the efficiency study be sent to the BOE members. Mr. Doering proceeded to read some of the recommendations that were made in the study and suggested keeping the efficiency study on future agendas to address the recommendations. Dr. Mahoney reminded board members about the idea to have a consultant review the recommendations and create a strategic plan to design and implement the recommendations so it is uniform rather than addressing them individually. Dr. Mahoney reported that she contacted four agencies. Joe Doering feels that there are less complicated recommendations that the board can start working on now and get a consultant to do the rest. Dr. Mahoney commented that the board needs to be careful, mindful, and methodical about what they do at the high school. Joe Doering asked the board members to review the efficiency study, especially the recommendations, and they will discuss how to move forward at the next meeting.

**e. Administrators Contract** – Will be discussed in Executive Session.

## V. Superintendent's Report

### a. Board Members Recognized

Dr. Mahoney and Joe Doering presented a plaque to former BOE members Jim Grenon-Francoline and Dr. Rafael Adames in recognition for their commitment and service to the East Granby community. Although Brian Logie was unable to attend, he too was honorably mentioned and will receive a plaque.

### b. Recipient of the Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution Outstanding Teacher of American History Award Recipient

Dr. Mahoney and Joe Doering presented East Granby Middle School social studies teacher Susan Rosenstein with a plaque in recognition of her selection as the recipient of the Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution Outstanding Teacher of American History Award.

### c. BOE 2016-2017 Budget Discussion – Previously discussed.

### d. Student Enrollment Update

Dr. Mahoney reported that we currently have 896 students enrolled in grades Pre-K-12 and we are expecting four more students. Thirty-seven are Pre-K students and we are anticipating two more. Dr. Mahoney reviewed the enrollment projections which reflect that we are where thought we would be. Dr. Mahoney also reported that the effort to increase student enrollment is being addressed.

### e. Community Forum

Dr. Mahoney reported that the Community Forum is scheduled for January 26, 2016 at the senior/community center beginning at 7 p.m. There will be a speaker and the opportunity for group discussion and feedback on questions presented.

### f. Curriculum

Dr. Mahoney presented curriculum for Integrated Mathematics III. Copies of the curriculum will be available in the board office for board members to review. A motion to approve the curriculum will take place at a future board meeting.

## VI. Committee Reports

### a. Policy - Dr. Mahoney will send out dates to schedule a meeting.

### b. Budget – Previously discussed.

### c. Curriculum – Previously discussed.

### d. Facilities - Nothing

### e. Negotiations – Will be discussed in Executive Session.

### f. Communications – Michele Holt finds it hard to spend the money at this time to hire Baldwin Media to help pass the budget. Joe Doering recommended including the proposal from Baldwin Media on the next agenda so the board members can make a decision on how to proceed. Dr. Mahoney also recommended using GCTV as a way of communicating budget information to the community.

### g. Shared Efficiency – Bob Ravens-Seger attended a meeting last Thursday. A discussion took place on what the town budget can share beyond what they are already doing.

## VII. Recommended Actions

### a. Approve December 2015 Financials

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Feeney, seconded by Mr. Ravens-Seger, to approve the December 2015 Financials as presented. Susan Greco highlighted some of the line items. Reflected in item #435 Repairs to Buildings is the insurance reimbursement for the broken transformer at the high school. Mrs. Greco is still waiting on invoices for line item #510 Pupil Transportation and she received some but not all of the invoices for item #561 Public School Tuition and #563 Private School Tuition. Mrs. Greco also reported that item #612 Custodial Supplies is severely depleted and she will be looking to transfer funds. *Motion approved unanimously.*

### b. Approve Field Trips

Dr. Mahoney presented a field trip request for the high school band to travel to the University of Massachusetts (UMASS) in Amherst Massachusetts on February 6, 2016 for the annual Honor Band Festival. Parents are responsible for student transportation to and from UMASS. The cost is \$40 per student, paid by the student.

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Welsh, seconded by Mr. Ravens-Seger to approve the field trip for the high school band students to travel to the University of Massachusetts in Amherst Massachusetts on February 7, 2016 as presented. *Motion approve unanimously.*

Dr. Mahoney presented a field trip request for the middle school band and chorus to travel to Six Flags New England in Agawam Massachusetts on May 20, 2016 to participate in the Fantastic Festival. The cost is \$60 per student, paid by the student.

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Ravens-Seger, seconded by Mr. Crocker to approve the field trip for the middle school band and chorus students to travel to Six Flags New England in Agawam Massachusetts on May 20, 2016 as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

**c. Approve Administrators Contract**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Tom Short, seconded by Bob Ravens-Seger to approve the Administrators Contract. *Motion approved unanimously.*

**VIII. Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

- a. **Budget 2016-2017**
- b. **Curriculum Presentation**
- c. **Board Member Orientation**
- d. **Organizations for Efficiency Study**
- e. **Baldwin Media Proposal**
- f. **Student Enrollment**
- g. **Committee Assignment Results**

**IX. Comments from Visitors**

Scott Shepherd presented a third party's perspective on the efficiency study report. Mr. Shepherd recommended posting a copy of the report on the Board of Education website to share with the community. Mr. Shepherd feels that some parts of the report were lacking and that we need to ask more questions regarding Table 7.

**X. Executive Session – Administrators Contract**

**IX. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Rob Crocker, seconded by Bob Ravens-Seger to adjourn the meeting. *Motion approved unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Kline  
Board Clerk

*These minutes are issued pending Board of Education approval.*

**East Granby Board of Education  
Executive Session Meeting Minutes for  
Monday, January 11, 2016**

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**Board Members Present:**

Mr. Joe Doering  
Mrs. Michele Holt  
Mr. Tom Short  
Mr. Bob Ravens-Seeger  
Mr. John Welsh  
Mr. Rob Crocker  
Mr. James Feeney  
Mrs. Kim Brassard  
Mr. Brandon Freeman

**Others Present:**

Dr. Christine Mahoney, Superintendent  
Mrs. Susan Greco, Business Manager

**Absent:**

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The Executive Session was called to order at 9:16 p.m.

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seeger, seconded by Jim Feeney, to move into Executive Session for the purpose of the Administrators Contract. The board invited Dr. Mahoney and Susan Greco to attend. **Motion approved unanimously.** The Executive Session was called to order at 9:16 p.m.

The Board returned to regular session at 9:26 p.m.

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Rob Crocker, seconded by Bob Ravens-Seeger, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion approved unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Brassard  
Board Secretary