

East Granby Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 24, 2017
Meeting will air on GCTV16.ORG

Board Members Present:

Mr. Joe Doering
Mrs. Michele Holt
Mr. Bob Ravens-Seger
Mr. Jim Feeney
Ms. Jennifer Cook
Mr. John Welsh (7:10)

Board Members Absent:

Mr. Robert Crocker

Others Present:

Dr. Christine Mahoney, Superintendent
Mrs. Susan Greco, Business Manager
Ms. Lisa Kline, Board Clerk
Emily Farmer, Student Representative
Brady Williams, Student Representative
Stella Ross, Director of Curriculum
Karen Gogel, Director of Student Support Services
Dave Peling, EGHS Principal
Bob McGrath, R.D. Seymour Principal
Donna Mattera, Carl D. Allgrove Secretary
Jim Hayden, First Selectman
Joy Giuliano, Visitor
Bill Pitney, Visitor
Jim Grenon-Francoline, Visitor
Karey Pond, Visitor

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

With a quorum present, Joe Doering, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m., and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

a. Approve minutes from the March 6, 2017 budget workshop, and the March 13, 2017 and the March 27, 2017 regular meeting.

MOTION: a motion was made by Mr. Feeney, seconded by Ms. Cook, to approve the March 6, 2017 budget workshop minutes as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

MOTION: a motion was made by Mrs. Holt, seconded by Mr. Feeney, to approve the March 13, 2017 regular meeting minutes as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

MOTION: a motion was made by Mr. Ravens-Seger, seconded by Mr. Feeney, to approve the March 27, 2017 regular meeting minutes as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

b. Comments from Visitors Regarding Agenda Items – None

c. Additions to Agenda - None

II. Student Representatives Report

Emily Farmer reported that the Dodgeball Tournament and the middle/high school play “Once on This Island” were successful, and they presented a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together. Emily also shared that the National Honor Society students are tutoring students at R.D. Seymour School and Looking in Theatre performed for the middle/high school on April 19, 2017. They performed scenes on tough issues such as coping with bullying and drugs. Brady Williams talked about upcoming events; MISS Representation, a FVHD and Youth Action Council led discussion on April 26, 2017 and Prom on May 19, 2017. Brandon also shared that the softball team is undefeated, the baseball team is 4-1 and the track and golf teams are doing very well.

III. Chairperson’s Report

a. Town Meeting April 25, 2017

Joe Doering and Susan Greco reported that the BOE presentation at the Town Meeting would be the same presentation that was shared at the Public Hearing except the information will reflect a 1.5% directed budget increase instead of a 1.24%.

b. Update on Efficiency Study – Recommendation #2.3 RE: Regionalization

The BOE featured a PowerPoint presentation highlighted by Joe Doering, Susan Greco, and Dr. Mahoney regarding the efficiency study recommendation to explore options of a host high school in

surrounding districts. It was determined that East Granby does not have the capacity at the high school to host. Area districts explored were Granby, Simsbury, and Suffield, but Suffield does not have enough capacity either. East Granby would require that the host district have enough capacity to accommodate all of our students and we would want representation on their Board of Education. According to Joe Doering, Mr. Townsley, who performed the study, suggested calculating the direct cost for our high school, determine what cost would no longer be incurred, determine what cost would continue, and determine what the new costs would be when exploring the idea of a host high school. The presentation comprised of a discussion of Net Current Expenditures (NCE), the Net Current Expenditures per Pupil (NCEP), cost of tuition, shared middle school staff, transportation and building operation cost as well as additional impacts to the district including student programs, distribution of staff responsibilities, grant revenue, teacher bumping ramifications, transition cost, and unemployment and legal fees. Other risks to consider are loss of control, especially with special education services, the host school no longer accepting our students, what our district will look like, how problems would be handled, the type of transition that would be needed, families reconsidering moving to East Granby, and students deciding to attend magnet schools. Mr. Feeney commented that it would be costly if a decision to move Carl Allgrove School to R.D. Seymour School, R.D. Seymour School to the middle school and the middle school to the high school was made. Mr. Ravens-Seger is concerned about losing the in-kind services we now get from Asnuntuck Community College and declining property value. Our high school also receives many of the accolades. Dr. Mahoney shared that the middle school would have significant changes in curricular areas. John Welsh pointed out that there would be additional drive time to transport these students to another district. Michele Holt feels that our school system is the crown jewel of East Granby. All of our students give back to the community and moving the high school would have a tremendous negative impact on it. John Welsh asked Mr. Doering if Joe Townsley endorsed tonight's presentation. Mr. Doering replied that Mr. Townsley did not compile the figures, but he felt very comfortable with the presentation. Joe Doering asked the board members if they were comfortable with the information that was shared or would they prefer to investigate further. Michele Holt feels that a further investigation is not necessary and that it would benefit the board to release a statement sooner rather than later. Mr. Feeney suggested taking time to absorb the information.

c. Request for Special Use of School Facilities

Joe Doering reported that the state of Connecticut would like to use the high school auditorium for an event for Veterans. Dr. Mahoney explained that state statute reflects that the state of Connecticut, for official state business, cannot be held liable; therefore, they cannot sign the existing Use of School Facilities form that reflects liability language. Instead of changing the policy, Dr. Mahoney shared a modified version of the Use of School Facilities form to accommodate the state. Mr. Doering suggested asking the board's counsel to take a look at the form.

IV. Superintendent's Report

a. Schedule BOE Vision and Goals Retreat

Dr. Mahoney would like to schedule a follow up session to the Vision and Goals Session held on March 27, 2017 to discuss a vision statement and board goals. A date will be determined in the near future.

b. PDEC – May 15, 2017

Dr. Mahoney reported that a Professional Development Educator Committee meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2017 to discuss a change in the Educator Evaluation document.

V. Committee Reports

a. Policy – Dr. Mahoney would like to schedule a subcommittee meeting prior to June to prepare for Fall.

b. Budget – A directed budget of 1.5% will be presented at the Town Meeting on April 25, 2017.

c. Curriculum - Dr. Mahoney reported that they have added new articulated courses, and are completing additional curriculum work for the Fifth Year Certificate and Associate Degree Program in Business.

d. Facilities – None

e. **Negotiations** – None

f. **Communications** – Michele Holt is grateful that tonight's board meeting is being videotaped.

VI. Recommended Actions

a. Approve March 2017 Financial Report

Susan Greco reported that the certified personnel line remains in a deficit due to the hiring of an elementary teacher for an additional section earlier in the year due to enrollment and employee changes. The certified and contracted substitute lines are being heavily utilized due to teacher long term absences and the costs for the water main break at the middle/high school is reflected in repairs to building. Lastly, tuition invoices for Magnet Schools have been received, tuition invoices for out-of-district students is current, and accounts will be made whole when payment is received from the bill backs to other districts.

MOTION: a motion was made by Mr. Ravens-Seger, seconded by Mr. Feeney, to approve the March 2017 Financials as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

b. Approve Field Trips

Dr. Mahoney presented a field trip for grades 8, 9, 10 and possibly 11 to travel to Costa Rica during the April 2018 school vacation so they can extend their science and social studies curriculum by exploring another country. The estimated cost of the trip is \$2,955 per student, paid by the student. Mr. Feeney suggested informing parents of the medical risks involved. Dr. Mahoney shared that a parent information night will be held and information packets will be distributed.

MOTION: a motion was made by Michele Holt, seconded by Mr. Ravens-Seger, to approve the field trip to Costa Rica during the April 2018 school vacation as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

Dr. Mahoney presented a field trip for the high school business and FBLA students to travel to Quincy Market and Fenway Park in Boston Massachusetts on May 25, 2017. Students will depart at 7:30 a.m. and return at approximately 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$50 per student, paid by the student. Students will tour, investigate, and speak with business owners about careers related to sports marketing, food concession, and retail sales.

MOTION: a motion was made by Mr. Ravens-Seger, seconded by Jen Cook, to approve the field trip to Boston Massachusetts on May 25, 2017 as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

VII. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- a. Spring Recognition Ceremony
- b. District Management Council
- c. Update on Efficiency Study

VIII. Comments from Visitors

Mr. Grenon-Francoline thanked the board for the presentation regarding regionalization and commented that it did not mention the potential benefits students would receive. He asked that the presentation be posted on the district website.

IX. Adjournment

MOTION: a motion was made by Mr. Ravens-Seger, seconded by Mrs. Holt, to adjourn the meeting. *Motion approved unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Kline
Board Clerk

These minutes are issued pending Board of Education approval.