

**East Granby Board of Education**  
**East Granby, Connecticut**  
**Special Meeting Minutes for**  
**Thursday, August 17, 2017**

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**Board Members Present:**

Mr. Bob Ravens-Seger  
Mr. John Welsh  
Mr. Jim Feeney  
Mr. Joe Doering  
Ms. Jennifer Cook

**Board Members Absent:**

Mr. Rob Crocker

**Others Present:**

Dr. Christine Mahoney, Superintendent  
Mrs. Susan Greco, Business Manager  
Jennifer Russell, Visitor  
Amanda Thompson, Visitor  
Sharon Shepherd, Visitor  
Amanda Cormier, Visitor  
Bob Paskiewicz, Visitor  
Carolyn Blake, Visitor  
Sara Payette, Visitor  
Carol Beauregard, Visitor  
Oliver Davis, Visitor  
Tina Lengyel, Visitor  
Kelly McPherson, Visitor  
Christine Bouchard, Visitor  
Lindsay Smith, Visitor  
Jennifer Kovalski, Visitor  
John Burda, Visitor  
Kim Caterino, Visitor  
Keith McKinney, Visitor  
Heather Lloyd, Visitor

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

With a quorum present, Chairperson Bob Ravens-Seger called the special meeting to order at 6:15 p.m., and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. R.D. Seymour School Enrollment 2017-2018**

As requested by Jim Feeney, Dr. Mahoney reviewed the class size numbers and discussion regarding the capacity of R.D. Seymour School took place. Tonight's agenda is to take a tour of R.D. Seymour School and hear feedback. No decisions or votes will take place at tonight's meeting. Bob Ravens-Seger reviewed that the configuration is as it was discussed at last Monday's special board meeting. Joe Doering questioned the need for 4 sections in grade 3 because the class size numbers would be appropriate with only 3 sections. Dr. Mahoney shared the guidelines of the class size policy. Dr. Mahoney and board members took a look at students entering grade 3, their academic needs, and the resources needed to help them achieve. They also discussed student performance, benchmarks, and the need to make sure they achieve them at each grade level, especially in grade 3 when they take the state test for the first time. This is one of the components considered when making class size decisions. If we had the space and funding, Dr. Mahoney would implement a fourth section to grade 5, but we don't. An additional section impacts teachers' schedules for physical education, health, library media, art, and other resources. In lieu of reducing prep time and class room time, we would need to find additional funding for faculty to teach additional classes so we are not in violation of the certified contract.

**III. Tour**

At this time, Dr. Mahoney, board members, and visitors toured R.D. Seymour School.

#### **IV. Comments on Agenda Items**

After the tour, visitors were asked to share their comments as long as it did not involve financial constraints. Carol Beauregard suggested using the science room and having the health teacher use various classrooms. Keith McKinney has a daughter in grade 5 and is concerned about the resources available in the rooms. Another visitor suggested using substitute teachers as an additional resource. Sharon Shepherd has a 5<sup>th</sup> grader and wants what is best for her child. She shared her concerns about going from a class size of 18 to a class size of 24. Bob Paskiewicz commented that the community will have a hard time going to the Board of Finance and town for additional money. Carol Beauregard advocated for an additional section for grade 3 and grade 5. Bob Ravens-Seger and Dr. Mahoney explained that students are being assessed in grade 2. Another visitor inquired if there was a teaching assistant for grade 5. Dr. Mahoney clarified that we have a support system in place. Joe Doering still recommends implementing a fourth section for grade 5 and does not think we should move ahead with only 3 sections. There has to be a solution to address the matter. John Welsh supports 4 sections for grade 3. He also supports Dr. Mahoney and her team for doing what is best for students. Jim Feeney asked for someone to explain FTE need and budgetary consideration. One of the visitors favors having a dedicated grade 5 assistant. Jim Feeney commented that ultimately, the superintendent makes the final decision. Bob Ravens-Seger would like to make a good faith effort to adhere to guidelines unless constrained by finances.

#### **V. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Jim Feeney, seconded by Jen Cook, to adjourn the meeting. *Motion approved unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Kline, Board Clerk

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