

**East Granby Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes for
Monday, March 25, 2019**

Board Members Present:

Mr. Bob Paskiewicz
Mr. John Welsh (7:05 pm)
Mr. Bob Ravens-Seeger
Mr. James Feeney
Mrs. Sharon Shepherd (7:09 pm)
Mr. John Ziobro
Mrs. Lucia Ziobro

Board Members Absent:

Mr. Rob Crocker
Mrs. Karey Pond

Others Present:

Dr. Patricia Charles, Interim Superintendent
Mrs. Sherry Holmes, Business Manager
Ms. Lisa Kline, Board Clerk
Melissa Bavaro, EGMS Principal
Antonio DeMelo, EGHS Principal
William Pitney, Visitor
Steve Mosher, Visitor
Michael Pasqua, Visitor
Joe Doering, BOS
Ken Kovaleski, Visitor

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

With a quorum present, Bob Paskiewicz, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

a. Additions to the Agenda

MOTION: a motion was made by John Ziobro, seconded by Lucia Ziobro, to move item IVc to item VIII. *Motion approved unanimously.*

b. Comments from Visitors Regarding Agenda Items

Steve Mosher questioned the intent of item IVc. Approve for CAFE to Lead a Public Forum on Regionalization and if there was a fee involved. Bob Paskiewicz replied that, if approved, CAFE would be compensated to moderate a public forum so the board can get the ‘pulse’ of the community regarding regionalization. Mr. Mosher recalls that a 2015 efficiency study revealed that East Granby Public Schools is doing a great job. Jim Feeney pointed out that the study also concluded that East Granby High School was not able to create a regional high school with a neighboring district. John Welsh added that an efficiency study report was produced and endorsed by the Board of Education (BOE). Bob Paskiewicz shared that a formal study involving individuals from area districts was performed approximately 25 years ago and it took roughly two years to complete.

Mr. Pitney revealed that he was on the formal regionalization commission 25 years ago and that the East Granby community approved it, but Suffield changed their mind at the last minute.

Ken Kovaleski recited a letter from his wife who was unable to attend the meeting. The letter was in regards to her public comment being incompletely documented in the March 18, 2019 special meeting minutes and should read as follows: “I feel Ms. Bavaro-Grande will do an excellent job in the role of acting superintendent”. Bob Paskiewicz asked for the letter so that the special minutes could be officially amended at the April 22, 2019 meeting.

Joe Doering commended the BOE for appointing Melissa Bavaro Acting Superintendent and for hiring Dr. Charles who is doing an admirable job. He also thanked the board members for all the hard work that they do.

II. Chairperson’s Report

a. 2019-2020 Budget Update

The Board of Finance (BOF) submitted a list of questions to Dr. Charles and some of the board members. Dr. Charles will respond to the questions next week. It is expected that the BOF will provide the BOE with a percent to work with for their final budget next week. Jim Feeney requested that a copy of the responses to the BOF questions be provided to the board members.

A budget workshop was scheduled for April 9, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the BOE conference room.

b. Community Engagement and Communication to Support 19/20 Budget

Bob Paskiewicz asked if everyone received a copy of policy 3152 that explains what is allowed and not allowed as far as communication to support the budget. The policy was requested at the last meeting and is for informational purposes only.

c. Regionalization Update

Governor Lamont amended his regionalization bill. Instead of a plan to consolidate school districts, he is calling for a plan for shared services in schools. East Granby already promotes shared services. Informal meetings were held with surrounding districts to find ways to share services and offer more opportunities for students.

III. Superintendent's Report

a. Policy 3152 – Spending Public Funds for Advocacy

Once the referendum date is set, the BOE can no longer advocate for the budget. Sharon Shepherd asked if the First Selectman is allowed to use the town-wide notification system to share the date and time of the referendum. Dr. Charles clarified that the BOE can share with the community the date and time of the referendum, but they are not allowed to advise community members how to vote.

Dr. Charles will be submitting information for the budget edition of Let's Talk Turkey.

b. Policy 6146 – Graduation Requirements

This item was tabled at a previous BOE meeting. Board members continued to review and discuss proposed amendments to policy 6146 and Principal DeMelo was present to answer questions. Discussion included whether to list Personal Finance under STEM or Life Skills, the omission of World Language credits, and community service requirements. John Ziobro was glad to hear that students are given a waiver if they have unusual circumstances preventing them from completing the community service graduation requirement; however, he would like to see it put in writing. Principal DeMelo elaborated that they also provide students the opportunity to earn community service hours during the school day and explore other opportunities to complete the requirement.

The required number of credits for World Language and one-half credit in Personal Finance will be added to the policy. Principal DeMelo will make the changes and present a 'clean' copy of the policy at the next BOE meeting.

c. Minority Recruitment Fair

Dr. Charles shared that Principal DeMelo will be attending a Minority Recruitment Fair. He will share literature about East Granby Public Schools as well as information from the other school principals concerning available teaching positions for the 2019-2020 school year. Some of the positions are hard to fill and can be competitive.

IV. Recommended Actions

a. Approve Policy 6146 – Graduation Requirements - This item was tabled to the April 22, 2019 BOE meeting.

b. Approve Extended Leave Request - This item was moved to item VIII.

c. Approve for CABE to Lead Public Forum on Regionalization

Bob Paskiewicz would like to give the community an opportunity to comment and ask questions about regionalization.

MOTION: a motion was made by John Ziobro, seconded by Lucia Ziobro to approve for CABE to lead a public forum on regionalization.

John Ziobro asked if CABE was already contacted and the specifics of the program. Dr. Charles contacted Mary Broderick at CABE and she would be happy to work with the BOE regarding the format of the program. John Welsh is uncertain about what the board is being asked to approve. He would prefer having CABE present something to the board before moving forward with a public forum. Jim Feeney would like to know the objective and the cost before proceeding. Lucia Ziobro thought the goal was to give the community an opportunity to weigh in on the decision making process and what they are looking for in a new superintendent. Sharon Shepherd clarified that engaging stakeholders in the search for a new superintendent is separate from the proposal to have CABE moderate a constructive conversation regarding regionalization. Without knowing what CABE's presentation will consist of, Jim Feeney is uncomfortable approving the motion. Bob Paskiewicz suggested having the communications sub-committee gather additional information.

MOTION: a motion was made by John Ziobro, seconded by Lucia Ziobro to amend the motion by adding 'the subject of' before 'regionalization'.

Jim Feeney suggested tabling the motion to the April 22, 2019 BOE meeting to allow time for the communications sub-committee to gather additional information. John Ziobro withdrew his motions.

- V. Agenda Items for Future Meetings**
a. Approve for CABE to Lead Public Forum on Regionalization

VI. Comments from Visitors – None

- VII. Executive Session – Personnel Matter – Request for Extended Leave of Absence**
(Executive Session, if required, is held in accordance with P.A. 75-342)

The Executive Session was called to order at 8:19 p.m.

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Jim Feeney to move into Executive Session for the purpose of a Personal Matter - Request for Extended Leave of Absence. The board invited Dr. Charles to attend. *Motion approved unanimously.*

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Paskiewicz, seconded by John Welsh to return to regular session.
Motion approved unanimously.

The board returned to regular session at 8:30 p.m.

VIII. Approve Extended Leave Request

MOTION: a motion was made by John Welsh, seconded by Bob Ravens-Seger to approve the Request for Extended Leave of Absence. *Motion approved unanimously.*

Adjournment

MOTION: a motion was made by Sharon Shepherd, seconded by Bob Ravens-Seger, to adjourn the meeting.
Motion approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Kline
Board Clerk

These minutes are issued pending Board of Education approval.