

**East Granby Board of Education  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, April 27, 2020**

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**Board Members Present (via Zoom):**

Mr. Bob Paskiewicz  
Mr. Bob Ravens-Seger  
Mrs. Michele Holt  
Mr. John Corcoran  
Mr. John Ziobro  
Mrs. Lucia Ziobro  
Mr. John Welsh  
Mrs. Karey Pond  
Mrs. Lynn Landolina

**Others Present (via Zoom):**

Melissa Bavaro-Grande, Acting Superintendent  
Raymond Engle, Business Manager  
Lisa Kline, Board Clerk  
Karen Gogel, Director of Student Support Services  
Marjorie Light, Director of Curriculum  
Antonio DeMelo, EGHS Principal  
Marsie Luckenbach, EGHS Dean of Students  
Timothy Phelan, EGMS Principal  
Robert McGrath, R.D. Seymour School Principal  
Maylah Uhlinger, Carl Allgrove School Principal  
39 Community Members

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**Board Members Absent:**

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

With a quorum present, Bob Paskiewicz, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m

**a. Approve minutes from the March 2, 2020 budget workshop, the March 9, 2020 regular meeting, the March 13, 2020 emergency meeting, and the March 23, 2020 regular meeting**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Michele Holt, seconded by Karey Pond, to approve the March 2, 2020 budget workshop minutes as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Lynn Landolina, to approve the March 9, 2020 regular meeting minutes as presented. Lucia Ziobro recommended changing “what is” in item IVa line 5 to “what it”, changing “3.775” to “3.75” in item IVa line 8 and removing “Michele Holt announced that the hockey team just won their game against Newtown” at the end of item VIa. After consideration, it was decided to move “Michele Holt announced that the hockey team just won their game against Newtown” to item VIII Comments from Visitors.

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Michele Holt, to approve the March 9, 2020 regular meeting minutes as amended. *Motion approved unanimously.*

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Michele Holt, to approve the March 13, 2020 emergency meeting minutes as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Karey Pond, to approve the March 23, 2020 regular meeting minutes as presented. Lucia Ziobro recommended removing the paragraph under item VI Comments from Visitors. After consideration, it was decided instead to move the paragraph under item VII Adjournment.

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Karey Pond to approve the March 23, 2020 regular meeting minutes as amended. *Motion approved unanimously.*

**b. Additions to the Agenda - None**

**c. Comments from Visitors Regarding Agenda Items - None**

**II. Chairperson’s Report**

**a. Superintendent Announcement**

A vote will take place later tonight under recommended actions.

**b. Public Hearing & BOF Special Meeting May 12, 2020**

The Board of Education (BOE) will present a 1.5% Board of Finance (BOF) directed budget at the public hearing on May 12, 2020. The BOF will adopt a FY2020-21 budget and set the mill rate at their special meeting on May 12, 2020 following the public hearing.

**III. Superintendent’s Report**

**a. Teacher Non-Renewal Notifications**

Melissa Bavaro-Grande, in her capacity as Acting Superintendent of Schools, recommended that the Board of Education non-renew the teaching contracts of Michelle Leifert, Mahria Maulucci, Valerie Seaha, and Mary Yale at the end of the 2019-2020 school year in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151. Melissa Bavaro-Grande made the recommendations due to 2020-2021 budget restrictions and grant-funded positions. She is optimistic that the teachers will be recalled.

**b. Last Day of School**

With a total of four snow days, Melissa Bavaro-Grande recommended that the last day of school for students be extended from June 11, 2020 to June 17, 2020. This date coincides with this year's previously approved graduation date.

**c. Distance Learning Update**

Melissa Bavaro-Grande and Marjorie Light shared information and feedback regarding distance learning and what staff is doing to ensure implementation of special education services.

**d. COVID-19 Response: Distance Learning Grading and Graduation Requirements Waiver**

In accordance to Governor Lamont's Executive Order No. 7C, the acting superintendent and administrators are requesting the board's approval on grading recommendations. For grades K-5, which is on trimesters, they are recommending that distance learning be indicated on the report card and include teacher comments for parents. For middle school report cards, distance learning will be indicated and they are recommending noting a pass/fail for the final grade but PlusPortals will reflect the actual grades. For high school, they are proposing that grading remain the same and the grades will be calculated into the student's grade point average for the fourth quarter; however, they will offer a pass/fail for students and families for those students that it makes sense for during this time. In addition, they are asking the board to waive policy for high school final exams for this spring semester 2020. In terms of graduation requirements, they are asking the board to waive the community service requirement for seniors that did not have the opportunity to complete the requirement and reflecting the completion and credit on the report card and transcript for those seniors that did. Some board members commented that graduating seniors had four years to complete the community service requirement and suggested modifying the requirement instead of waiving it.

**e. Gym/Auditorium Upgrade/Stage Curtains for Carl Allgrove School**

Raymond Engle shared quotes he received for audio/video equipment and new stage curtains for the gym/auditorium at Carl Allgrove School. The upgrade is part of the capital plan.

**IV. Committee Reports**

**a. Policy** – Nothing to report at this time.

**b. Budget** – Karey Pond will schedule a budget meeting for later this week.

**c. Curriculum** – Nothing to report at this time.

**d. Facilities** – John Ziobro is looking to schedule a meeting for May 20, 2020.

**e. Negotiations** – The certified contract is settled. The non-certified contract is in mediation. With permission from Bob Paskiewicz, John Welsh will contact the board attorney and send an update to Bob Paskiewicz and the Acting Superintendent.

**f. Communications** – Lynn Landolina will contact the sub-committee members to set up a meeting.

**V. Recommended Actions**

**a. Approve Superintendent**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Michele Holt, nominating Acting Superintendent Melissa Bavaro-Grande as the new Superintendent beginning July 1, 2020.

Because the terms of the contract are unknown, Bob Ravens-Seger withdrew his motion.

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Bob-Ravens-Seger, seconded by Michele Holt, provisionally awarding Acting Superintendent, Melissa Bavaro-Grande, the position of Superintendent beginning July 1, 2020 pending the completion of the Superintendent's contract. (FOR: Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, Michele Holt, John Welsh, Karey Pond, Lynn Landolina, and John Corcoran. ABSTAINED: John Ziobro and Lucia Ziobro. **Motion approved.**

**b. Approve Teacher Non-Renewal Notifications**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Karey Pond to approve the teacher non-renewal notifications for Michele Leifert, Mary Yale, Valerie Seaha, and Mahria Maulucci. **Motion approved unanimously.**

**c. Approve Last Day of School**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Michele Holt, to approve June 17, 2020 as the last day of school for students. **Motion approved unanimously.**

**d. Approve Grading High School Exams and Graduation Requirements Waiver**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger to approve the waiving for grading and graduation requirements.

It was suggested to make two separate motions; one for distance learning grading for K-12 students and waiving high school final exams, and one for waiving the community service requirement for this year's graduating seniors. Bob Ravens-Seger withdrew his motion.

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by John Corcoran to approve to waive the graduation grading requirements. Rather than waiving the community service requirement, John Corcoran, John Welsh, John Ziobro and Lucia Ziobro would prefer to modify it. Board members deliberated the idea of waiving the community service requirement for this year's graduating seniors. John Ziobro clarified that, at this time, the board is only voting on the first portion and not the community service part. Bob Paskiewicz called the question to approve waiving the grading of high school exams and grades for high school for graduation. Michele Holt added that it is grading for the whole school system (grades K-12) due to distance learning and waiving high school final exams. The motion needs to reflect the distance learning grading that was discussed under item IIIId. **Motion approved unanimously.**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Michele Holt, seconded by Lynn Landolina to waive the graduation requirement of community service for the those seniors that are graduating this year but allowing those that have concluded their community service to get the .25 credit entitled to them. Those students that have not completed the community service will not get the additional credit; the requirement will be waived and they can graduate. (FOR: Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Raven-Seger, Michele Holt, Lynn Landolina, Karey Pond, John Welsh. OPPOSED: John Corcoran, John Ziobro and Lucia Ziobro). **Motion approved.**

**e. Approve Gym/Auditorium Upgrade/Stage Curtains for Carl Allgrove School**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by John Ziobro to table this item. (FOR: Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, Michele Holt, Karey Pond, Lynn Landolina, John Corcoran, John Ziobro, Lucia Ziobro. OPPOSED: John Welsh). **Motion approved.**

**f. Approve March 2020 Financial Report**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Michele to accept the March 2020 Financial Report as presented.

John Ziobro asked Raymond Engle why reductions were not reflected in utilities seeing as the buildings are closed and if stipends are being paid. Lucia Ziobro asked why line #582 Field Trips was overrun. Raymond reported that the music/drama stipend was paid because the teachers earned it prior to the show being canceled. Raymond is scheduled to meet with the town clerk on April 28, 2020 to reconcile and explained why there will not be a huge savings due to COVID-19. There are executive orders that need to be followed as well as added expenses. The business office is keeping track of all COVID-19 related expenses. We may have to wait a long time for Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursement and the money goes to the general fund, not the Board of Education. **Motion approved unanimously.**

**VI. Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

- a. Policy 1330 – FIRST READ**
- b. Close Out Old Capital Accounts**
- c. Alternative Class of 2020 Graduation Celebration**

**VII. Comments from Visitors**

Ashley Alexander thanked the board members for waiving the community service requirement for this year's graduating seniors. Amanda Cormier also thanked the board members that voted to waive the requirement.

**VIII. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Lynn Landolina, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion approved unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Kline  
Board Clerk