

**East Granby Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes for
Monday, August 23, 2021**

Board Members Present:

Mr. Bob Paskiewicz
Mr. Bob Ravens-Seger
Mr. John Welsh
Mr. John Corcoran
Mr. Arthur Reardon
Mrs. Amanda Cormier
Mr. Ricky Bortz

Board Members Absent:

Mrs. Michele Holt
Mrs. Lynn Landolina

Others Present:

Melissa F. Bavaro-Grande, Superintendent
Raymond Engle, Business Manager
Lisa Kline, Board Clerk
Karen Gogel, Director of Student Support Services
Robert McGrath, Carl Allgrove Principal
Marsie Luckenbach, R.D. Seymour Principal
Jessica Aniskoff, Visitor
Robert Loomis, Visitor
Tina Lengyel, Visitor
Patrick McKenney, Visitor
Hillery Lundell, Visitor
Nicole Slomski, Visitor
Marka, Visitor
Joanna Taczanowsky, Visitor
Melissa Dion, Visitor
Eden Wimpfheimer, Visitor
Kristy Preli, Visitor
Kelly McPherson, 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** - None
- b. **Comments from visitors regarding agenda items** - None

II. Chairperson's Report

a. Capital Plan

Bob Paskiewicz shared that Ray Carlson would like the board to add \$30,000 to the capital plan for cement repairs at the middle/high school and R.D. Seymour School. It was decided to hold a special meeting with Ray Carlson to go over the capital plan before the board votes on it.

b. Town Park & Recreation Fields Report

Some board members believe that a study on the fields has not been done since the town acquired the farm land. The park and recreation department is willing to participate in a study that represents all stakeholders.

III. Superintendent's Report

a. Increasing Special Education Program Capacity

The special education department is looking to expand the Early Learning Program. The need to have a full-time special education teacher with ABA training was anticipated during the budget process. Rather than contracting the position, Karen Gogel worked so that we could provide the support in-house with no additional cost to the district.

b. New Hires

Sienna Bober and Sharon Dempsey were hired as paraprofessionals and Rebecca Durfee was hired as a long term substitute teacher for kindergarten.

c. Student Enrollment Update

Melissa Bavaro-Grande shared the student enrollment for grades K-5 and commented that the sections are manageable.

d. Update on School Re-Entry

Schools will reopen similar to the way they closed last year. Information was emailed to parents and guardians regarding masks, vaccination status, infection notification, teaching and learning, and the food program. A tool for daily screening for parents was also shared.

e. Opening Day Activities

Professional development for teachers took place today, Opening Day for all staff is August 24, 2021 and the first day of school for students is August 25, 2021.

IV. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

a. Approve Business Manager's Contract

b. Approve Capital Plan

V. Recommended Actions

a. Approve Capital Plan

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seeger, seconded by Arthur Reardon to table approving the capital plan. *Motion approved unanimously.*

b. Approve Increasing Special Education Program Capacity

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seeger, seconded by John Corcoran to approve increasing special education program capacity. *Motion approved unanimously.*

Bob Paskiewicz commended Karen Gogel for her efforts to improve the Early Learning Program.

VI. Comments from Visitors - None

VII. Executive Session – Discuss the Business Manager's Contract

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seeger, seconded by John Corcoran to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing the business manager's contract. The board invited Melissa Bavaro-Grande to attend. *Motion approved unanimously.*

The board entered into executive session at 7:36 PM.

The board returned to regular session at 8:32 PM.

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION: a motion was made by Amanda Cormier, seconded by Art Reardon, to adjourn the meeting. *Motion approved unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kline,
Board Clerk

These minutes are issued pending Board of Education approval.