

**East Granby Board of Education  
Regular Meeting Minutes for  
Monday, November 13, 2023**

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**Board Members Present:**

Mr. Bob Paskiewicz  
Mr. John Welsh  
Mr. John Corcoran  
Mrs. Lisa Griffin (Virtual)  
Mrs. Amanda Cormier  
Mr. Ricky Bortz  
Mr. Robert Loomis

**Board Members Absent:**

Mr. Mark Andrews  
Mrs. Lynn Landolina

**Others Present:**

Melissa F. Bavaro-Grande, Superintendent  
Raymond Engle, Business Manager  
Lisa Kline, Board Clerk  
Tanvi Bandikallu, Student Representative  
Karen Gogel, Director of Student Support Services  
Marjorie Light, Director of Curriculum and PD  
Antonio DeMelo, EGHS Principal  
Patrick Gustafson, EGHS Assistant Principal  
Timothy Phelan, EGMS Principal  
Marsie Luckenbach, R.D. Seymour School Principal  
Robert McGrath, Carl Allgrove School Principal  
Sue Wolf-Chester, Visitor  
Hannah Stack, Visitor  
Mary Hiney, Visitor  
Kerry Anthony, Visitor  
Bill George, Visitor

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

With a quorum present, Bob Paskiewicz, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m., and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

- a. Approve Minutes from the October 10, 2023 regular meeting, the October 16, 2023 budget workshop, the October 19, 2023 policy subcommittee meeting, and the October 23, 2023 regular meeting**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by John Welsh, seconded by Ricky Bortz, to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2023 regular meeting, the October 16, 2023 budget workshop, the October 19, 2023 policy subcommittee meeting, and the October 23, 2023 regular meeting as submitted. *Motion approved unanimously.*

- b. Additions to Agenda - None**  
**c. Comments from visitors regarding agenda items – None**

**II. Student Representatives Report**

Tanvi Bandikallu reported on school events including Veterans Day Celebrations, non-perishable food drives, NHS Trunk or Treats, students of the month, Soccer Under the Lights, Thrilla on the Hilla, Literacy Magazine Contest, student presentation at Seymour, and grade 8 teacher, Dr. Faulkner, who was chosen as the 2023 Outstanding Earth Science Teacher for New England.

**III. Chairperson's Report**

Bob Paskiewicz congratulated Amanda Cormier, Lisa Griffin, and Whitney Burns for being elected to serve a six year term on the Board of Education. Bob shared that Lynn Landolina will present the BOE Capital Requests at the Board of Finance meeting tomorrow night and he thanked the East Granby Public Schools, East Granby Youth Services, and SRO Scott Menard for the social media parenting workshop being presented tonight at East Granby High School.

**IV. Superintendent's Report**

- a. Board of Education Consultation with CABE – January 22, 2024**

Nick Caruso from CABE will lead a discussion regarding board roles and operations for new and returning board members and answer any questions members may have.

- b. M & J Bus Transportation APP**

Zonar, a business tracking software firm, is currently being used by M&J to track and locate buses. A packet outlining the program and a sales quote was given to board members for review. Should the BOE move forward with purchasing the program, this APP would allow parents to see where their child's bus is and when it will arrive.

- c. Student Performance Presentation**

Karen Gogel shared programs offered through Student Support Services. Bob McGrath presented mClass Dibels Reading and iReady Mathematics benchmark scores for Carl Allgrove School. Marsie Luckenbach and Timothy Phelan shared ELA and Mathematics Smarter Balanced results, Next

Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for grades 5, 8, and 11, and the next steps for R.D. Seymour School and the East Granby Middle School. Marsie shared that R.D. Seymour School was recognized as the 2022-2023 School of Distinction. Antonio DeMelo reported on the class of 2024 Scholastic Aptitude Test, NGSS test results, Advanced Placement test results for 2023, and the next steps for East Granby High School (EGHS). EGHS received the following accolades: Bronze Recognition 2023 AP School Honor Roll and U.S. News & World Report 23-24 Best High School – Silver Badge. Administrators answered questions from board members.

## V. Committee Reports

- a. **Policy** – The next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2023.
- b. **Budget** – Nothing to report at this time.
- c. **Curriculum** – Looking at rethinking teacher supervision coaching and evaluation.
- d. **Facilities** – An update on the fields was provided. More information to follow.
- e. **Negotiations** – Negotiations for the administrators’ contract is moving along.
- f. **Communications** – Nothing to report at this time.

## VI. Recommended Actions

### a. Approve October 2023 Financial Report

**MOTION:** a motion was made by John Welsh, seconded by Amanda Cormier to approve the October 2023 Financial Report as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

### b. Approve School Calendar 2024-2025

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Amanda Cormier, seconded by John Welsh to discuss the 2024-2025 School Calendar. *Motion approved unanimously.*

Marjorie Light outlined the current challenges of increasing professional development state mandates and current and upcoming training requirements. The Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC), administrators, and the superintendent want to implement early Wednesday dismissals so that Professional Learning Communities (PLC’s) can meet once a week to address the challenges of increasing mandates and advance our students to a higher level.

**MOTION:** a motion was made by John Welsh to table further discussion and that it find its way to the curriculum subcommittee before coming to the board for approval. Robert Loomis seconded the motion. *Motion approved unanimously.*

### c. Approve the Board of Education Meeting Calendar 2024

**MOTION:** a motion was made by John Welsh, seconded by John Corcoran to approve the Board of Education Meeting Calendar 2024 as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

### d. Approve Noncertified Union Hourly Wage Proposal

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Robert Loomis, seconded by John Welsh to approve the Noncertified Union Hourly Wage Proposal. *Motion approved unanimously.*

Melissa Bavaro-Grande summarized the proposal as a result of Governor Lamont announcing that Connecticut’s minimum wage will increase effective January 1, 2024 under its first-ever economic indicator adjustment.

### e. Approve Appointment of Business Manager

**MOTION:** a motion was made by John Welsh, seconded by Ricky Bortz to authorize the superintendent to enter into negotiations to hire a business manager. *Motion approved unanimously.*

Melissa Bavaro-Grande recommended Mary Hiney for the position of Business Manager.

## VII. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- a. SRO - MOU
- b. School Calendar 2024-2025

## VIII. Comments from Visitors

Ricky Bortz thanked everyone for organizing the amazing Veterans Day celebrations.

## IX. Adjournment

**MOTION:** a motion was made by John Corcoran, seconded by Amanda Cormier, to adjourn the meeting. *Motion approved unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa A. Kline, Board Clerk

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