

**East Granby Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes for
Monday, January 25, 2016**

Board Members Present:

Mr. Joe Doering
Mrs. Michele Holt
Mrs. Kim Brassard
Mr. Bob Ravens-Seger
Mr. Robert Crocker
Mr. James Feeney
Mr. John Welsh (7:05)
Mr. Brandon Freeman
Mr. Tom Short

Others Present:

Dr. Christine Mahoney, Superintendent
Mrs. Susan Greco, Business Manager
Ms. Lisa Kline, Board Clerk
Mrs. Stella Ross, Director of Curriculum
Annmarie Sirotnak, Visitor
Ann Baldwin, Baldwin Media
Sharon Shepherd, Visitor
William Pitney, Visitor

Board Members Absent:

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

With a quorum present, Joe Doering, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

a. Comments from Visitors Regarding Agenda Items

Sharon Shepherd asked if anyone took a serious look at responding to the efficiency study regarding capacity in the schools. Joe Doering replied that the efficiency study will be discussed this evening.

b. Additions to Agenda

Dr. Mahoney requested to have item IVa. Approve Field Trip to the agenda. Michele Holt requested to add item IVb. Approve Expenditure for Strategic Communications Proposal from Baldwin Media to the agenda. Joe Doering requested to add item IIe. Superintendent's Semi-Annual Review to the agenda.

MOTION: a motion was made by Mr. Feeney, seconded by Bob Ravens-Seger to approve the following items to the agenda: IVa. Approve Field Trip, IVb. Approve Expenditure for Strategic Communication Proposal from Baldwin Media, and IIe. Superintendent's Semi-Annual Review. *Motion approved unanimously.*

II. Chairperson's Report

a. 2016-2017 Budget

Joe Doering attended a meeting with the Board of Selectmen regarding the administrators' contract. The results to approve it were 1:1 so it will now sit in town hall. After 30 days, it will be approved. Next, Mr. Doering mentioned that Susan Greco compiled a list of budget drivers that were discussed at the last meeting. The list is available to anyone that would like to review it. Tom Short asked if a rough budget amount was suggested by the Board of Finance (BOF). Michele Holt suggested scheduling a budget workshop to review the needs of the schools and relate budget information to the community earlier. Mr. Doering discussed putting together a budget based on what the board thinks the Board of Finance's guidance will be. Susan Greco asked what the board would like to accomplish at the first workshop. Mr. Doering would like to discuss the budget drivers and what the administrators feel we need. Mrs. Greco will schedule budget workshops and email dates to the board members.

b. Efficiency Study

Joe Doering mentioned two approaches to responding to the efficiency study: 1) organizing a group to move forward with what we can; and 2) getting a facilitator. Dr. Mahoney contacted several facilitators. Two are very expensive, another handles messaging and public relations but not strategic planning, and NESDEC can provide both services but they need a better idea of the scope of the project and intended outcome. Mr. Doering would like the board members to meet with the leadership team to address the recommendations. Mr. Feeney

recommended having an action plan. Dr. Mahoney cautioned about dealing with recommendations separately and suggested taking a broader look at all of them and recommended a BOE retreat or special meeting. Michele Holt suggested creating a table to track how the recommendations are being addressed and a timeline to complete them. Dr. Mahoney announced that she and Susan Greco have already been working on the transportation recommendation. They have a meeting scheduled later this week with the transportation company. John Welsh recommended holding a separate workshop or sub-committee meeting to discuss just the efficiency study. Rob Crocker, Bob Ravens-Seger, and Tom Short volunteered to be on the sub-committee and Mr. Crocker volunteered to create a table. A meeting was scheduled for February 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Doering would like an update at the next board meeting.

c. Baldwin Media Proposal

Michele Holt introduced Ann Baldwin of Baldwin Media and distributed copies of a Strategic Communications Proposal. Ann Baldwin reviewed the proposal and shared suggestions and ideas about the efficiency study, communicating with the public, and promoting the entire school district, not just the budget. Rob Crocker feels that relating a consistent message is very important, but it will require a re-occurring cost to maintain it. John Welsh asked if we would be looking to retain Ms. Baldwin's services on a monthly basis or can we pick a la carte from her proposal. Ann Baldwin replied that a la carte is off the table and she would have to decline.

d. PA-13-60 Non-Education Budget Line Items

Susan Greco reviewed the PA-13-60 Non-Education document she created. The document includes non-educational items and includes a break out of the salaries of non-certified staff. This document is not a reflection of what we will need for budget purposes. It will be presented to the BOF who will then respond to us.

e. Superintendent's Semi-Annual Review

Joe Doering scheduled the Superintendent's Semi-Annual Review for 6:00 p.m. on February 8, 2016 prior to the next BOE meeting and invited the four sub-committee members to attend. Dr. Mahoney announced that the BOE Orientation has been re-scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on February 4, 2016.

III. Superintendent's Report

a. Community Forum

Dr. Mahoney shared that Janet Garagliano from the Connecticut Association of School Superintendents will present Mastery-Based Learning at the Community Forum. There will also be a digital presentation showcasing all of the schools, group discussion, and a question and answer session. Responses will be shared and the feedback will assist the leadership team.

b. Student Enrollment

Dr. Mahoney will be disseminating an Enrollment Survey for the Elementary Grades to gather information about the number of elementary grade students planning to return to East Granby Public Schools for the 2016-2017 school year. The survey will be handed out to parents at the Community Forum, distributed at the two elementary schools, and will be available on-line using Survey Monkey. Dr. Mahoney also announced that we currently have two retirees so far this year and the current district enrollment number is 898 students.

c. Integrated Math III, Library Media, and Economics Curriculum

Dr. Mahoney announced that the Integrated Math III is still available for board members to review. It will be presented for approval at the next board meeting. Stella Ross, Director of Curriculum introduced Information and Literacy Technology (Library Media) Curriculum and how the role of a Library Media Specialist has changed substantially. Mrs. Ross also introduced the Economics Curriculum. Economics is now offered as a one semester course at the high school. Dr. Mahoney is continuing discussions with the Dean of Students from Assuntnuck Community College (ACC). Kim Brassard inquired if ACC would like to participate in the upcoming Career Day at the high school. Dr. Mahoney replied that they have been participating in that activity.

d. Communication from AFSCME, Council 4

Dr. Mahoney received a correspondence from AFSCME indicating that we need to begin bargaining.

Dr. Mahoney shared an invitation she received to Suffield Vocational Agricultural High School's Open House on January 28, 2016. Michele Holt shared an article regarding Magnet Schools.

IV. Recommended Actions

a. Approve Field Trip

Dr. Mahoney presented a field trip for middle and high school students and parents to travel to Okemo Mountain in Ludlow Vermont for a ski trip on Saturday, March 12, 2016. They will depart at 6:00 a.m. and return approximately at 6:30 p.m. Each person is responsible for their own cost of \$78.00.

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Michele Holt to approve the field trip to Okemo Mountain in Ludlow Vermont on March 12, 2016 as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

c. Approve Expenditure for Strategic Communications Proposal from Baldwin Media

MOTION: a motion was made by Michele Holt, seconded by Rob Crocker to approve expenditure for the purpose of a Strategic Communications Plan for an amount not to exceed \$5,700.00.

Rob Crocker would like to review the plan at the end of a month to see if it was worth it and if we can afford to continue. Joe Doering feels that the more effort we put into Ann Baldwin's guidance, the more we will get out of it. If we invest our efforts appropriately; the money comes back to us exponentially.

MOTION TO MOVE QUESTION FORWARD: a motion to move the question forward was made by Jim Feeney, seconded by John Welsh. (FOR: Joe Doering, Michele Holt, Kim Brassard, Brandon Freeman, Jim Feeney, Bob Ravens-Seger, Rob Crocker, and John Welsh. OPPOSED: Tom Short). *Motion approved.*

V. Comments from Visitors

Annmarie Sirotnak announced that she is please with her child's progress at school and thanked the board members and superintendent for addressing the class size issue at the beginning of the school year. Mrs. Sirotnak also mentioned that she is a graphic designer and her fees are responsible should the district need any work done.

Sharon Shepherd would like to hear a response to the efficiency study recommendations soon and asked if the educational budget drivers are going to be communicated to the public.

VI. Adjournment

MOTION: a motion was made by Tom Short, seconded by Bob Ravens-Seger to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Kline
Board Clerk

These minutes are issued pending Board of Education approval.