

**East Granby Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes for
Monday, February 22, 2016**

Board Members Present:

Mr. Joe Doering
Mrs. Michele Holt
Mrs. Kim Brassard
Mr. Jim Feeney
Mr. Bob Ravens-Seger
Mr. John Welsh
Mr. Rob Crocker

Board Members Absent:

Mr. Brandon Freeman
Mr. Tom Short

Others Present:

Dr. Christine Mahoney, Superintendent
Mrs. Susan Greco, Business Manager
Ms. Lisa Kline, Board Clerk
Missy Bavaro, Principal EGMS
Maylah Uhlinger, Principal Carl D. Allgrove School
Karen Gogel, Director of Student Support Services
Stella Ross, Curriculum Director
Susan Cavanagh, Curriculum Consultant
Kristi Smith, Teacher
Joel Ziff, Teacher
William Pitney, Visitor
Matt Borsari, Student Representative
Sarah Martin, Student Representative
Samantha Borsari, Student
Denise MacKinnon, Visitor
Heather MacKinnon, Visitor
Lauren MacKinnon, Visitor

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 - None

b. Additions to the Agenda

Dr. Mahoney requested the addition of item Ic. Student Representatives Report, moving item IIIa. to Id., and adding item IVd. Approve Field Trips to the agenda.

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by John Welsh to approve the addition of item Ic. Student Representatives Report, moving item IIIa. to Id., and adding item IVd. Approve Field Trips to the agenda. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Kim Brassard took a moment to recognize Joel Ziff for his dedication to the baseball team and school spirit.

c. Student Representatives Report

Sarah Martin reported that the venue for prom was secured so now they can begin working on the details, and senior night for basketball is February 23, 2016. Matt Borsari reported that the high school is sponsoring a blood drive on February 26th and the winter sports captains are sponsoring a food drive.

d. Nearpod and Middle School Student Leadership Presentations

Missy Bavaro introduced middle school student Samantha Borsari who reported on after school activities and clubs available at the middle school. With \$2,000 in state grants and fundraising by the student council, there is now a wide array of activities. A student school culture survey indicated that students wanted more afterschool clubs which required a late bus. Additional clubs created a better school environment and increased school spirit. Students were able to raise money by holding dances, pizza days, and bake sales. Eight-two percent of the middle school student population participate in a club or activity. Michele Holt asked if an additional late bus would be helpful. Samantha Borsari responded that it would help to increase participation and the student council welcomes any and all support. Dr. Mahoney thanked Samantha for her presentation and the ability to apply what she learned in the classroom. This program succeeded thanks to the hard work of Mrs. Bavaro and a group of dedicated faculty, staff, and students.

Next, Maylah Uhlinger introduced second grade teacher Krisi Smith. Mrs. Smith presented an overview of the lessons and features Nearpod offers. Using a Smart Board and Chromebooks,

teachers are able to engage students in different interactive lessons and subject areas. Teachers can review the students' responses to different types of saved questions such as open ended and multiple choice. Kim Brassard asked if students are able to access it from home. Mrs. Smith replied that they can if she provides the pin number to the parent. Mrs. Smith further explained that the length of the sessions varies, some have a fee for the app, others are free, and you can also create your own. Currently, she is the only teacher using Nearpod in Carl Allgrove School, but she is encouraging her colleagues to participate. Dr. Mahoney reported that the technology was grant funded and thanked Mrs. Smith for her presentation.

II. Chairperson's Report

a. Efficiency Study Actionable Items

Joe Doering reported that the sub-committee will continue updating the chart that was created at the last meeting. Dr. Mahoney and Susan Greco distributed copies of an Efficiency Study Follow Up list. Dr. Mahoney reviewed the list which indicated the item, section, recommendation, comments, and whether or not action is required. John Welsh asked if we received an appropriate revised number for the capacity analysis that was originally presented. Joe Doering reminded board members that we will be addressing the community soon regarding The East Granby Public Schools Capacity Analysis section and we need answers. Mr. Doering suggested reducing the cost per pupil by increasing the number of tuition paying students so we can be comparable to other districts in our DRG. Michele Holt asked if the board was looking to give a written response to the efficiency study. Mr. Doering suggested letting Michele Holt and Ann Baldwin guide the board with their suggestion on how to respond. Rob Crocker suggested posting an electronic copy of efficiency study updates on the district website and to help increase enrollment, have Ann Baldwin design a flyer and the board provide the information. Mrs. Holt reported that Ann Baldwin is already working on one. Joe Doering concluded by reviewing the items that were completed and those that are incomplete and still require undertaking. It was suggested that the sub-committee hold another meeting.

b. Communications Report

Michele Holt and Ann Baldwin have been working on a plan to engage the community and gain support for the school budget. Ann Baldwin has also contracted with a graphic designer. The objective is to highlight our schools and target points of the efficiency study. Ann Baldwin commended Dr. Mahoney for the information she provided. Ms. Baldwin is working on a video project and would be happy to meet with the communications sub-committee and assist in releasing key messages to the public. Ms. Baldwin would like to schedule tapings with Dr. Mahoney and Joe Doering. John Welsh commented that we also need to address the individuals that do not use electronics and send the message to everyone on how East Granby Schools have progressed over the past several years. Joe Doering explained that the stakes are higher than they have ever been and we need to find ways to reduce the cost per pupil at the high school. Ann Baldwin will focus on credibility and would like to work on the next edition of Let's Talk Turkey. The communications sub-committee scheduled a meeting for March 1, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

c. Board Questions – None

d. Board of Finance Guidance Update

Joe Doering instructed the Board of Education to create a budget based on 2.5%.

III. Superintendent's Report

a. Nearpod and Middle School Student Leadership Presentations – This item was moved to Id.

b. 2016-2017 Budget Workshop Schedule

Budget Workshops were scheduled for February 24, February 29, March 3, and March 7, 2016.

c. Student Enrollment

Dr. Mahoney reported that nothing changed since the last meeting and that kindergarten registration is this week. Dr. Mahoney also reported that we need to submit a report to the state indicating the number of CHOICE students we will accept for 2016-2017. Dr. Mahoney indicated there are about an additional nine applicants. Joe Doering asked if we had the room for additional CHOICE students without having to hire additional staff. Dr. Mahoney replied yes and that the revenue benefits are a tremendous resource that supports the educational program. There are many things that are funded

with CHOICE money at all grade levels. Dr. Mahoney will discuss the enrollment further at the budget workshop.

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by John Welsh to accept nine additional CHOICE students for the reasons previously mentioned. *Motion approved unanimously.*

d. Literacy Technology (Library Media), Economics, and Middle School Robotics Curriculum

Dr. Mahoney asked board members if they had any questions regarding the curriculum that was presented at previous meetings. Bob Ravens-Seger's opinion is that the curriculum is exceedingly rigorous and is presented in a way that engages the students. He recommends that the Board adopt them.

IV. Recommended Actions

a. Approve Literacy Technology (Library Media) Curriculum

MOTION: a motion was made by Kim Brassard, seconded by Jim Feeney to approve the Literacy Technology (Library Media) Curriculum as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

b. Approve Economics Curriculum

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Jim Feeney to approve the Economics Curriculum as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

c. Approve Board Questions – Not applicable.

d. Approve Field Trips

Dr. Mahoney presented a field trip for the high school band to travel to Boston, Massachusetts on April 22, 2016 for a historical and musical day. Students will depart at 8:00 a.m. and return approximately at 9:00 p.m. Cost is \$186.00 per student, paid by the student.

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Kim Brassard to approve the high school band field trip to Boston, Massachusetts on April 22, 2016 as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

Dr. Mahoney presented a field trip for the baseball team to travel to historic Dodger Town in Vero Beach Florida from April 7-14, 2016. Students will depart at 1:30 p.m. and return at 5:00 p.m. Cost per pupil is \$1,100.

MOTION: a motion was made by Jim Feeney, seconded by Bob Ravens-Seger to approve the baseball team's field trip to Vero Beach Florida from April 7-14, 2016 as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

V. Comments from Visitors

Mr. Pitney expressed his concerns about the Boards' activities and the need to get more yes votes to pass the budget. His opinion is that the board needs to concentrate on getting those votes.

VI. Agenda Items for Future Meetings - None

VII. Adjournment

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Jim Feeney, to adjourn the meeting. *Motion approved unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kline
Board Clerk

These minutes are issued pending Board of Education approval.