

**East Granby Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes for
Monday, March 28, 2016**

Board Members Present:

Mr. Joe Doering
Mrs. Michele Holt (7:03)
Mr. Brandon Freeman
Mr. Bob Ravens-Seger
Mr. James Feeney
Mr. Tom Short
Mr. Rob Crocker (7:03)
Mr. John Welsh

Board Members Absent:

Mrs. Kim Brassard

Others Present:

Dr. Christine Mahoney, Superintendent
Mrs. Susan Greco, Business Manager
Ms. Lisa Kline, Board Clerk
Karen Gogel, Director Student Support Services
Maylah Uhlinger, Principal Allgrove School
Bob McGrath, Assistant Principal EGHS
Dave Peling, Principal EGHS
Christopher Roche, Principal Seymour School
Stella Ross, Director of Curriculum
Missy Bavaro-Grande, Principal EGMS
Cathi Dallesander, Visitor
Melissa Matlach, 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. Additions to the Agenda

Mr. Feeney requested to add item IId. Condition of Playing Fields to the agenda.

MOTION: a motion was made by Mr. Ravens-Seger, seconded by Mr. Feeney to add item IId. Condition of Playing Fields to the agenda. *Motion approved unanimously.*

b. Comments from Visitors Regarding Agenda Items - None

c. Student Recognition

Dr. Mahoney reminded board members that a student recognition ceremony will be planned for some time in May. The CABE Student Leadership Award will also be presented then.

II. Chairperson's Report

a. Preparation for Public Hearing

Joe Doering announced that the Board of Finance settled on a 2.98% directed budget at their last meeting. Dr. Mahoney distributed copies of East Granby Public Schools' submission for the next edition of Let's Talk Turkey, and explained that a similar version of the document will be mailed to all residential homes in East Granby and another version with supplemental information will be posted on the district website. Mr. Doering reminded board members and visitors that the Public Hearing provides the opportunity to rally for a 3.22% budget to restore funding. Dr. Mahoney is concerned about the Repairs to Building line. Susan Greco reported that a lot of line items had to be flat lined. Not getting the 3.22% will keep us flat lined. Mrs. Greco suggested scheduling a budget workshop to prepare the slides as a committee and proposed March 30, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Feeney asked if the Board of Finance shared any idea about what the tax increase would be with a 2.98% budget. Mrs. Greco explained that the excess cost reimbursement was increased so it would not impact taxes.

b. Efficiency Study

Mr. Feeney suggested having the Superintendent update the list of recommendations for the next board meeting because a promise was made to the Board of Finance to provide them with an update. Mr. Welsh reminded board members that they told the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectman that they would provide a report or narrative with recommendations, implementations, and those items that we are continually addressing. Mr. Doering's understanding is that the Board of Selectman is appointing a committee to study the efficiency report and study regionalization. The way it was explained to Mr. Doering was that the committee would look at the pros and cons of regionalization to initiate conversation. Mr. Welsh pointed out that the topic is already being discussed in the community due to the efficiency study, and it is the Board of Education's responsibility to be in charge of the schools. Mr. Doering commented that the Board of Education's position is to focus on increasing enrollment at the high school. Questions have been directed to Jim

Hayden and the administration regarding the topic. The Board of Selectman decided to form a committee to address questions. Mr. Doering feels that the board needs to compile answers to questions regarding this matter and the sooner it is done, the better. Mr. Feeney recapped what the recommendation on the efficiency report stated. Under section 2.3 Explore the Options, it suggested that the board explore the following options: attract tuition paying students, utilize excess space and regionalize. Mr. Doering recalls meeting with the Granby School District to discuss the possibility of combining high schools. We did not explore it further because Granby is unable to absorb the entire high school population, and we inquired about having East Granby representatives on their Board of Education. Dr. Mahoney repeated her suggestion about developing a well-organized, well thought out strategic plan to address the efficiency study. We cannot have two opposing conversations at the same time. If there is conversation taking place about closing the high school, we will not be able to recruit students and increase enrollment. We should be involved in any discussion regarding the schools. Mr. Crocker asked if we had an update on the status of recruiting international students. Dr. Mahoney reported that she is currently awaiting final approval from immigration. Mr. Welsh suggested meeting as a board to discuss working on an action plan and inviting the Board of Selectman to attend; this way, they would not have to create their own committee. Mr. Doering feels that not saying anything will make the matter worse, and we should consider responding with a proactive message. Mr. Ravens-Seger proposed how we should get the word out. Mr. Doering has a transcribed recording with information that he gathered that could be shared on GCTV, and at the Public Hearing and Town Meeting. Our topic of discussion is not limited to only the budget. Everyone agreed that the matter needs to be put to rest as soon as possible. Dr. Mahoney offered to review the document written by Mr. Doering so the board can get the message out.

c. Community Engagement and Communication to Support 16/17 Budget

Dr. Mahoney explained that the Elections Commission has a ruling that states we cannot advocate for said budget once the date for the referendum has been publicly announced. As a board, we cannot use public resources to advocate for the budget. We can only post when and where the vote will take place. Joe Doering suggested holding a communications sub-committee meeting soon and inviting Ann Baldwin to attend.

d. Condition of Playing Fields

Mr. Feeney was informed by the individuals that line the fields that the soccer field is in poor condition due to moles. Dr. Mahoney replied that she and Dave Wing are aware of the situation, and Dave Wing is working on it.

III. 2015-2016 Calendar

a. Graduation Date for 2016 and Last Day of School

Dr. Mahoney reported that we only had one full snow day so far this year. June 14, 2016 was the original anticipated last day of school. If you add the one snow day, the last day of school would now be June 15, 2016 for students. Connecticut state statute dictates that students attend no fewer than 180 days of school in a given year. If we decide that the last day of school is June 15, 2016 that would give the students 182 instructional school days as originally built into the 2015-2016 school calendar. Dr. Mahoney reminded board members that teachers are contractually required to teach 182 days. Joe Doering stated that we have a contract that says 182 instructional days and we should honor it.

MOTION: a motion was made by Mr. Ravens-Seger and Mr. Feeney to add item Vb. Approve Graduation Date for 2016 and Last Day of School to the agenda. *Motion approved unanimously.*

IV. Superintendent's Report

a. Student Enrollment

Dr. Mahoney reported that enrollment is the same, but we are anticipating more. 2016-2017 Kindergarten enrollment is currently at 53. Hartford students have until April 2016 to decide where they will be attending school.

b. Budget Edition - Edlines

Dr. Mahoney reported that budget information will be published in the next edition of Let's Talk, Turkey, mailed to all residents in East Granby, and posted on the district website.

c. Policy 5131.911 SECOND READ

Dr. Mahoney asked board members if they had any questions regarding Policy 5131.911, and reminded them that it will be voted on at the next board meeting.

d. Collaboration with District Leadership Team

Joe Doering attended a School District Leadership meeting and was very impressed by the ideas and conversations that took place and asked the administrators present at the meeting if they would like to speak. Dave Peling agreed that the sooner the board addresses regionalization to the community, the better. Also, teachers and students were asked what activities they would be interested in participating in during the summer if they were made available. There is potential to start a summer program and see it grow. Stella Ross shared that she goes to the New England School Development website for updated information. Karen Gogel attended the Farmington Valley Directors Meeting where special education summer programs were discussed. Ms. Gogel also shared that the preschool doubled and includes tuition paying students. The administrators also looked into establishing an Alternative Education Program to bring students back to the district. It would be cost effective, and save on transportation cost. Maylah Uhlinger shared that Allgrove School has a self-funding program that provides needs to elementary students during the summer.

V. Recommended Actions

a. Vote on Superintendent's Contract – See Executive Session Minutes.

b. Approve Graduation Date for 2016 and Last Day of School

MOTION: a motion was made by Michele Holt, seconded by Bob Ravens-Seger to approve the date of Wednesday, June 15, 2016 as the last day of school for students and the date of Graduation 2016. *Motion approved unanimously.*

VI. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

a. Efficiency Study

b. Student Enrollment

c. Approve Policy 5131.911

VII. Comments from Visitors

Melissa Matlach is a business owner in town and does not want to see a tax increase. Mrs. Matlach asked the board if the need for another social worker is included in next year's budget as it would be beneficial. Mr. Doering replied that we are struggling to maintain what we had last year, but it would be a great topic to bring up at the Public Hearing on April 5th.

VIII. Executive Session – Superintendent's Evaluation – See Executive Session Minutes

(Executive Session, if required, is held in accordance with P.A. 75-342)

IX. Adjournment

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Tom Short, to adjourn the meeting. *Motion approved unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Kline
Board Clerk

These minutes are issued pending Board of Education approval.

**East Granby Board of Education
Executive Session Minutes for
Monday, March 28, 2016**

Board Members Present:

Mr. Joe Doering
Mr. Brandon Freeman
Mr. John Welsh
Mr. Bob Ravens-Seger
Mr. Jim Feeney
Mrs. Michele Holt
Mr. Robert Crocker
Mr. Tom Short

Others Present:

Board Members Absent:

Mrs. Kim Brassard

The Executive Session was called to order at 8:46 p.m.

MOTION: a motion was made by Rob Crocker, seconded by Bob Ravens-Seger, to move into Executive Session for the purpose of the Superintendent's Evaluation. **Motion approved unanimously.** The Executive Session was called to order at 8:46 p.m.

The Board returned to regular session at 9:53 p.m.

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Rob Crocker, to extend the Superintendent's contract one year. **Motion approved unanimously.**

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Tom Short, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion approved unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Holt
Acting Board Secretary