

East Granby Board of Education
Meeting Will Air on gctv16.org
Regular Meeting Minutes for
Monday, August 22, 2016

Board Members Present:

Mr. Joe Doering
Mrs. Kim Brassard
Mr. Brandon Freeman
Mr. James Feeney
Mr. Bob Ravens-Seger

Board Members Absent:

Mrs. Michele Holt
Mr. John Welsh
Ms. Jennifer Cook
Mr. Rob Crocker

Others Present:

Dr. Christine Mahoney, Superintendent
Mrs. Susan Greco, Business Manager
Ms. Lisa Kline, Board Clerk
Dave Peling, EGHS Principal
Bob McGrath, R.D. Seymour Principal
Maylah Uhlinger, Carl Allgrove Principal
Sharon Shepherd, Visitor

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

With a quorum present, Joe Doering, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

a. Approve Minutes from the July 11, 2016 regular meeting

Dr. Mahoney recommended that the last sentence under item IIIc. be rephrased as follows: It was suggested that the Board of Education combine both phases of the security initiatives and both phases of the carpet replacement initiatives in the Capital Infrastructure request to the Board of Finance.

MOTION: a motion was made by Mr. Ravens-Seger, seconded by Mr. Feeney, to approve the July 11, 2016 regular meeting minutes with the recommended change. *Motion approved unanimously.*

b. Additions to Agenda - None

c. Comments from visitors regarding agenda items - None

II. Chairperson's Report

a. Efficiency Study

Joe Doering asked if anyone had any updates on the recommended actions regarding the efficiency study. Susan Greco replied that no updates were available at this time. Joe Doering continued by reading a letter he received from First Selectman Jim Hayden. The Board of Selectman was asked to contact the Board of Education (BOE) about their action plans regarding expenditures, including cost per pupil and ways to generate revenue. Our cost per pupil might be misleading due to the shared cost of the middle and high school. The BOE is continuing to review the recommendations in the efficiency study. Mr. Ravens-Seger hopes that Mr. Townsley will recalculate the cost per pupil that was reflected in the initial efficiency study. Susan Greco clarified that Mr. Townsley did not calculate the cost per pupil and that the number comes from the ED001 State Report. Mrs. Greco has been working with the state to figure out what is and is not allowed in reworking the process of separating the data to reflect each school separately in the ED001 to get a more specific cost per pupil.

b. Air Conditioning – Allgrove School

Joe Doering shared that ideas for cooling the classroom temperatures at Allgrove School have been discussed but nothing further has been planned for a solution. Dr. Mahoney added that whatever we do will be short term until we can figure out how to get additional electricity in the building. We have options that will not affect the school calendar.

III. Superintendent's Report

a. Student Enrollment

Dr. Mahoney recently sent an electronic notice to parents regarding the current enrollment. As of today, we have 904 students. That number includes pre-school students, but does not reflect the specific programs for 2 and 3 year olds. This is an increase from last year. We are currently within classroom size guidelines. A Meet and Greet was recently held for the new principal of R.D. Seymour School, Bob McGrath, and the new high school assistant principal, Tony DeMelo. Two positions still need to be filled, but they are non-classroom teaching positions.

b. Facilities Update

Dr. Mahoney reported that work on upgrading technology took place over the summer. We also made adjustments to create a workspace for the social worker to meet privately with students. Additional security was installed, carpet replacement, and repairs to parking lots were also addressed. Work in the technology education area continues as they re-work the space and relocate equipment to make room for new equipment. Dr. Mahoney publicly thanked the custodians for the phenomenal work they did and expressed gratitude to Jim Hayden and the DPW for clearing out the brush at the middle/high school. Lastly, Dr. Mahoney announced that she scheduled a meeting to address the concern about scoreboards at the middle/high school.

IV. Committee Reports

a. Policy - Dr. Mahoney reported that meetings will be scheduled after the start of school.

b. Budget – Nothing to report.

c. Curriculum - Dr. Mahoney reported that she recently received the student performance report. We will do a data analysis and make recommendations for curriculum. The Smarter Balance exam was different in Spring 2016 so we cannot compare this year's results to last year's; the same with SAT's, the writing portion is no longer included in the exam. Congratulations to faculty, students and staff for doing a great job in English Language Arts and Math. Overall, we were above state average. Out of 120 Advanced Placement exams that were taken, 96 received a score of 3 or higher to earn college credit.

d. Negotiations - Mr. Doering reported that negotiations for non-certified staff are ongoing and another meeting is scheduled for September.

e. Facilities – Previously discussed.

f. Communications - Dr. Mahoney shared that East Granby Public Schools has an article in the recent edition of Let's Talk Turkey and that the first edition of the Superintendent's Newsletter for the 2016-2017 school year will be published soon. The name of the newsletter is now "The Insider" and the teacher/parent information system will now be Plus Portals.

V. Recommended Actions

a. Approve Data Collection Related to Efficiency Study

Joe Doering communicated that the Board of Education's job is to provide students a quality education in a fiscally responsible way. It makes sense to collect information that will assist us in keeping with our high performing district. Mr. Doering suggested using money from the non-lapsing fund to collect the data. Dr. Mahoney added that, according to state law, the Board of Education can ask the Board of Finance to utilize the non-lapsing fund at the end of the school year.

MOTION: a motion was made by Mr. Feeney, seconded by Mr. Ravens-Seger, to approve data collection related to the efficiency study using money from the Board of Education's non-lapsing fund pending a formal written agreement between the Board of Education and Joe Townsley. *Motion approved unanimously.*

VI. Agenda items for Future Meetings

a. Efficiency Study

b. Enrollment

c. Air Conditioning

VII. Comments from Visitors

Sharon Shepherd is glad to hear that the cost per pupil will be re-calculated to reflect a more accurate figure than the one in the initial efficiency study. Mrs. Shepherd would also like to see the updated list of the Board of Education's recommended actions regarding the efficiency study posted on the district website. Lastly, Mrs. Shepherd would like the board to include addressing the parking lot issues at Carl Allgrove School in their 5-year plan.

X. Adjournment

MOTION: a motion was made by Mr. Ravens-Seger, seconded by Mrs. Brassard, to adjourn the meeting. *Motion approved unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kline, Board Clerk

These minutes are issued pending Board of Education approval.