

**East Granby Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes for
Monday, January 23, 2017**

Board Members Present:

Mr. Joe Doering
Mr. Bob Ravens-Seger
Mr. Robert Crocker
Mr. James Feeney
Mr. John Welsh
Ms. Jennifer Cook

Others Present:

Dr. Christine Mahoney, Superintendent
Mrs. Susan Greco, Business Manager
Ms. Lisa Kline, Board Clerk
Sharon Shepherd, Visitor
Joy Giuliano, Visitor
John Kim, DMC (conference call)
Kevin McCarthy, DMC (conference call)

Board Members Absent:

Mrs. Michele Holt
Mr. Brandon Freeman

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

With a quorum present, Joe Doering, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting began with item IIIa.

III. Superintendent's Report

a. District Management Council (via conference call)

Dr. Mahoney called John Kim from DMC so he could speak with board members and answer any questions or concerns they had about participating in the District Management Council request that Dr. Mahoney presented to the board on December 12, 2016. Mr. Kevin McCarthy also joined the conversation. Mr. Kim explained the structural changes coming to Connecticut and the challenges related to education funding. The objective is to assist the school district by having a long term proactive plan in place to address the challenges. Mr. McCarthy explained that even though it is a group project involving other districts, DMC provides a district specific diagnosis and assist in development appropriate plans. At a previous meeting, board members agreed to allocate \$20,000 to participate in the project. The remaining balance can be paid over the next fiscal years or 2 calendar years. Mr. Kim informed the board that DMC does not require a contract, just a signature.

I. a. Comments from Visitors Regarding Agenda Items – None

b. Additions to Agenda

Dr. Mahoney requested to add Update on Attorney Support to item IIb. Schedule Budget Workshops and item IVc. Approve Field Trip to the agenda.

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Jim Feeney to approve adding Update on Attorney Support to item IIb. Schedule Budget Workshops and item IVc. Approve Field Trip to the agenda. *Motion approved unanimously.*

II. Chairperson's Report

a. Request the BOF to add the 2015-2016 BOE Returned Funds to the BOE Non-lapsing Account

Joe Doering would like to formally request that the BOF add the 2015-2016 BOE returned funds, in the amount allowable by state statute, to the BOE non-lapsing account. A motion to approve the request will take place later in the meeting.

b. Schedule Budget Workshops

Dr. Mahoney and Susan Greco would like to schedule budget workshops on January 30, 2017 and February 2, 2017, both at 6 p.m. prior to receiving guidance from the BOF on February 7, 2017.

Susan Greco asked Attorney Nick Grello for a written proposal regarding legal fees. Attorney Grello has committed to keeping the same hourly rates we are currently paying for legal services.

c. Update on Efficiency Study

Joe Doering shared that he will be meeting with Joe Townsley, Dr. Mahoney and Susan Greco on January 25, 2017.

d. Number of BOE Members and Number of Meetings per Month

Discussion took place about reducing the number of board members from 9 to 7 and reducing the number of monthly meetings from 2 to 1. Some members feel that reducing the number of members on the board will keep continuity, reduce the number of resignations, and increase the chances of having a quorum present, especially if there is a need to convene a special meeting. Some members believe in holding only 1 meeting per month and scheduling special meetings as needed. Some members would like to continue holding 2 meetings per month, with the exception of summer months. A decision on this matter will be made at the next board meeting.

III. Superintendent's Report

b. Community Forum

Dr. Mahoney shared that Frank Zarrillo and his team from the Office Depot Education Division will participate in the Intellectually and Technologically Agile Learner discussion at the Community Forum on January 26, 2017. There will be digital presentations, group discussion, and a question and answer session. The information gathered will inform the process of revising our Strategic Plan, BOE Goals, Areas of Focus, and updating our Vision Statement. Dr. Mahoney also shared that the elementary art teacher, Carol Goff, received an invitation from Bradley Airport to display student artwork in their remaining two showcases for the remainder of the year.

c. Class Size Guidance and Policy

Dr. Mahoney distributed copies of policy 6151 and class projections for 2017-2018 to board members. Mr. Doering also shared a list compiled by Ms. Cook regarding class sizes in surrounding districts. Joe Doering asked Dr. Mahoney to review the guidelines and language in our policy and present suggested changes to the policy sub-committee for review before sharing them at the next board meeting.

d. Revised 2017-2018 School Calendar

Dr. Mahoney explained that March 30th, Good Friday, was not observed on the 2017-2018 school calendar that was approved on November 14, 2016. The revised 2017-2018 school calendar now reflects that there will be no school on March 30, 2018 - Good Friday.

IV. Recommended Actions

a. Approve Request for the BOF to add the 2015-2016 BOE Returned Funds to the BOE Non-lapsing Account

MOTION: a motion was made by Mr. Feeney, seconded by Bob Ravens-Seger to request the BOF to add the 2015-2016 BOE Returned Funds, in the amount allowable by state statute, to the BOE Non-lapsing Account. *Motion approved unanimously.*

b. Approve Revised 2017-2018 School Calendar

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Jen Cook to approve the revised 2017-2018 school calendar as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

c. Approve Field Trip

Dr. Mahoney presented a field trip for high school students to travel to Hyde Park, New York on March 17, 2017. They will depart at 7:45 a.m. and return approximately at 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$30.00 per student, paid by the student.

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Rob Crocker to approve the field trip to Hyde Park, New York on March 17, 2017 as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

V. Comments from Visitors

Joy Juliano asked the board if they were exploring regionalizing the high school with neighboring districts as suggested in the efficiency study. Joe Doering replied that the board is currently pursuing collection of information only from Granby and Simsbury who agreed to provide us with information.

Sharon Shepherd asked that the board use caution when considering class size guidelines.

VI. Superintendent's Mid-Year Evaluation

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

Executive session was not called to order.

VII. Adjournment

MOTION: a motion was made by Jim Feeney, seconded by Jen Cook to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Kline
Board Clerk

These minutes are issued pending Board of Education approval.

DRAFT