

**East Granby Board of Education  
Regular Meeting Minutes for  
Monday, March 27, 2017**

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**Board Members Present:**

Mrs. Michele Holt  
Mr. John Welsh  
Mr. Bob Ravens-Seger  
Mr. James Feeney  
Mr. Rob Crocker (7:05)

**Board Members Absent:**

Mr. Joe Doering

**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, Principal Seymour School  
Dave Peling, Principal EGHS  
Tony DeMelo, Assistant Principal EGHS  
Stella Ross, Director of Curriculum  
Missy Bavaro-Grande, Principal EGMS  
Cathi Dallesander, Visitor  
Joy Giuliano, Visitor  
Annmarie Sirotnak, Visitor  
Paula Berger, Visitor  
April Geer, Visitor  
Sharon Shepherd, Visitor

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**I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

With a quorum present, Michele Holt, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m., and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**a. Additions to the Agenda - None**

**b. Comments from Visitors Regarding Agenda Items**

Paula Berger, Project Graduation Coordinator, explained that she would greatly appreciate it if graduation was not held on Friday because the preferred venue is not available on Friday.

**II. Chairperson's Report**

**a. Preparation for Public Hearing**

Michele Holt reminded everyone that the Public Hearing is scheduled for April 18, 2017. This is a great opportunity for community members to voice their concerns regarding the budget. The Board of Finance meeting to review the recommendation for the Town Meeting on April 25, 2017 will immediately follow.

**b. Community Engagement and Communication to Support 17/18 Budget**

Dr. Mahoney reported that documents containing budget information will be made available to the community. The documents will be posted on the district website, printed in the next edition of Let's Talk Turkey, and mailed to the homes of East Granby residents. Dr. Mahoney would also like to tape a budget video for GCTV after the Board of Finance meeting on April 4, 2017. Board members suggested using social media as an additional means of sharing budget information with the community.

**c. Update on Efficiency Study**

On behalf of Joe Doering, Michele Holt reported that Joe Townsley will complete the work by the end of March. Jim Feeney would like Mr. Townsley to present his data to the board and submit a printed document. John Welsh's understanding is that Joe Townsley will present to the board, but not submit formal documentation.

**d. Number of BOE Members**

Michele Holt reported that Joe Doering contacted the town attorney to verify if the vote taken at the February 27, 2017 board meeting to approve the number of BOE members from 9 to 7 is valid. The town attorney stands by the ordinance he drafted unlike CABA who requires a 9 member vote. It was decided to table this item for a future meeting.

**III. 2016-2017 Calendar**

**a. Graduation Date for 2016 and Last Day of School**

Dr. Mahoney distributed updated versions of the 2016-2017 school calendar that reflects 4 snow days as well as snow delays /early releases. Dr. Mahoney also distributed copies of a document from the Connecticut State Department of Education that has specific language about school closures and the

school calendar. If you add the 4 snow days to the original anticipated last day of school, the last day of school would now be June 19, 2017 for students and June 20, 2017 for teachers. These dates include the make-up day for the middle/high school due to the water problem on February 8, 2017. Connecticut state statute dictates that students attend no fewer than 180 days of school in a given year and teachers are contractually required to teach 182 days. Graduation would be scheduled for June 19, 2017.

#### **IV. Superintendent's Report**

##### **a. Student Recognition Ceremony**

Dr. Mahoney announced that a student recognition ceremony is planned for May 22, 2017. This event gives us the opportunity to recognize students for their exceptional work in school and in the community. Dr. Mahoney publicly thanked Jason Marin, Jake Ouellette, and Elijah Williams. The three 11<sup>th</sup> grade students submitted letters to Dr. Mahoney that conveyed their thoughts about sports and extra-curricular activities. The letters clearly explained what a motivation these programs are and how they appreciate the opportunity to participate.

##### **b. Budget Edition – The Insider**

Dr. Mahoney reported that the budget edition of the district newsletter will be mailed in April to all residents in East Granby, and asked board members to send her any information they would like to include.

##### **c. LED Lighting Project**

Susan Greco reported that it was recommended at the last board meeting to contact Jim Hayden to obtain proper wording for the LED Lighting Project loan at Carl Allgrove School. It is an interest free loan and the terms for this contract must be accepted before the end of April. After further review by the town attorney and officials, we will take it to the Board of Finance and the Town Meeting.

#### **V. Recommended Actions**

##### **a. Approve Graduation Date for 2017 and Last Day of School**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Rob Crocker, seconded by Bob Ravens-Seger to set June 19, 2017 as the last day of school and hold Graduation 2017 that evening. *Motion approved unanimously.*

#### **VI. Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

##### **a. District Management Council**

##### **b. Number of BOE Members**

##### **c. Update on Efficiency Study**

If the budget guidance from the Board of Finance changes at the April 4, 2017 meeting, Dr. Mahoney would like to call a special BOE meeting on April 5, 2017 to discuss the changes and prepare documents to meet the deadline for the next edition of Let's Talk Turkey. John Welsh thanked Joe Doering, Dr. Mahoney, and Susan Greco for their efforts and well delivered budget presentation.

#### **VII. Comments from Visitors**

Sharon Shepherd thanked the board members for their budget presentation to the Board of Finance. Mrs. Shepherd shared that another town group submitted information to Let's Talk Turkey about school enrollment, regionalization, teacher salaries, and the number of administrators, and the BOE needs to correct the erroneous statements. Cathi Dallesander asked board members if it was possible to wait to settle the budget until we see what happens with the state budget. Michele Holt responded that, unfortunately, the state has a different timeframe. East Granby has to set the tax rate by the end of the fiscal year in order to send out the tax bills.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Jim Feeney, to adjourn the meeting. Before adjourning, John Welsh congratulated the 5 students from the middle school choir that auditioned for the Northern Regional Middle School Festival and were selected to be part of the Treble Choir. *Motion approved unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa A. Kline, Board Clerk

*These minutes are issued pending Board of Education approval.*