

**East Granby Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes for
Monday, June 26, 2017**

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Others Present:

Dr. Christine Mahoney, Superintendent
Mrs. Susan Greco, Business Manager
Ms. Lisa Kline, Board Clerk
Joel Ziff, Athletic Director
Sharon Shepherd, Visitor
Monique Gerken, Visitor
Karey Pond, Visitor
Amanda Thompson, Visitor
Maria Grabowski, Visitor
Kristin Lowman, Visitor
Chenoa Anderson, Visitor

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

With a quorum present, Chairperson Joe Doering called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

a. Approve May 22, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Jim Feeney to approve the May 22, 2017 regular meeting minutes as presented. Joe Doering would like the minutes to reflect what the board agreed upon in executive session. Bob Ravens-Seger clarified that the board made a motion to extend the superintendent's contract, approve a 2.5% salary increase, and grant an increase of \$1,000 toward medical expenses. The vote was unanimous.

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Jim Feeney, to approve the May 22, 2017 amended minutes as presented. (FOR: Joe Doering, John Welsh, Jim Feeney, Bob Ravens-Seger, Jen Cook. ABSTAINED: Michele Holt and Rob Crocker).

b. Additions to the Agenda

Bob Ravens-Seger would like to switch item IV with item V so that comments from visitors can be made prior to executive session.

Jim Feeney recommended approving Joe Doering's stepping down as board chair before electing the next board chairperson.

MOTION: a motion was made by Jim Feeney, seconded by Bob Ravens-Seger to add item Id. Approve Change of Board Chairperson to Board Member. *Motion approved unanimously.*

c. Comments from Visitors Regarding Agenda Items

Sharon Shepherd would like to know the class sizes and number of sections for grades K-5 for the 2017-2018 school year. Mrs. Shepherd would also like the district to consider distributing teacher assignments before leaving for the summer so that students and parents know who their teacher will be for the coming year. This will help alleviate some of the stress that some students experience. Amanda Thompson questioned if the library teacher from the middle school that will now also be working in the elementary school library is qualified to teach at the elementary level.

d. Approve Change of Board Chairperson to Board Member

Joe Doering announced that he would be stepping down as Board Chairperson effective immediately, but would continue serving on the board as a member until the end of his term.

MOTION: a motion was made by Rob Crocker, seconded by Jen Cook to approve Joe Doering's resignation as Board Chairperson, but continue serving on the board as a member until the end of his term. (FOR: Mrs. Holt, Mr. Welsh, Mr. Feeney, Mr. Bob-Ravens-Seger, Ms. Cook, Mr. Crocker. ABSTAINED: Mr. Doering). *Motion approved.*

II. Chairperson's Report

a. Summer Board of Education Meeting Schedule

The decision whether or not to cancel selected board of education meetings during the summer was proposed and discussed.

MOTION: a motion was made by John Welsh, seconded by Jim Feeney to hold a board of education meeting on July 10, 2017 and August 28, 2017 and cancel the July 24, 2017 and the August 14, 2017 BOE meetings. (FOR: Mr. Doering, Mr. Welsh, Mr. Feeney, Mr. Ravens-Seger, Ms. Cook, and Mr. Crocker. ABSTAINED: Mrs. Holt). *Motion approved.*

b. Elect Next Board Chairperson

MOTION: a motion was made by John Welsh, seconded by Michele Holt nominating Bob Ravens-Seger to serve as the next Board of Education Chairperson effective immediately. *Motion approved unanimously.*

Joe Doering shared that he was honored to serve as Chairperson and that it was an incredible experience. Attending graduation was especially gratifying.

Mr. Ravens-Seger proceeded to conduct the meeting.

III. Superintendent's Report

a. Student Enrollment Projections

Dr. Mahoney reported that the enrollment numbers for all grades is approximately where they were at the end of the school year and currently there are 57 kindergarten students enrolled. Dr. Mahoney is committed to following the class size guidelines that the BOE voted on back in the Spring and ensure that the lower grades have smaller class sizes than the upper grade levels. Dr. Mahoney will have more information come late summer.

b. Smarter Balanced Assessment Update

Dr. Mahoney reported that the Connecticut State Department of Education indicated that the effects of the administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessment at the middle school will reflect that the student report will look depressed this year, and next year it will look like the results doubled.

c. Athletic Co-op

Dr. Mahoney introduced Athletic Director Joel Ziff who shared that currently there are no fees for students playing on a co-op athletic team associated with Windsor Locks, but he was recently approached by Windsor Locks requesting that East Granby incorporate fees for participating students. The fee would be paid by the student and help cover related costs such as coaching fees and transportation. Mrs. Holt would like co-op sports to be considered towards the Pay to Participate fee that is required by East Granby Public Schools. John Welsh would like to review the Pay to Participate program. Dr. Mahoney recalled a time when the Board of Finance gave us capital money to pay for expenses like uniforms, but eventually it stopped. The Board of Education covered expenses by incorporating parking fees, musical instrument fees, and Pay to Participate fees to address related expenses.

V. Comments from Visitors

Amanda Thompson inquired about the number of teachers and class sizes at R. D. Seymour School for the upcoming school year. Dr. Mahoney replied that we have the same number of teachers as last year and she is monitoring the class sizes to stay within the policy guidelines. Mrs. Thompson also thanked Michele Holt for her years of service on the Board of Education. Chenoa Anderson would like to know why the budget for special education nearly doubled in the last two years and asked if it is due to outplaced students. Dr. Mahoney explained that the increase is due to several factors including the number of families moving into town with special needs students. We are required to provide services for them and for all special needs students until the age of 21. By law, we are also required to provide services for eligible pre-k students. Michele Holt added that our Family Resource Center is often modeled by other districts and is very successful in identifying students and keeping them in-district. Maria Grabowski commented that 504 students could be a contributing factor to the increase. Mrs. Grabowski would like us to investigate how other districts are able to distribute teacher assignments before the end of the school year and we can't. Distributing teacher assignments early would make for a smoother transition, especially for students with special needs. Dr. Mahoney explained that there is a process and some of the many contributing factors are the number of students and the number of staff. The structure of East Granby is different than surrounding districts.

IV. Executive Session – Superintendent's Evaluation, Personnel Matter

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kline, Board Clerk

These minutes are issued pending Board of Education approval.

**East Granby Board of Education
Executive Session Meeting Minutes for
Monday, June 26, 2017**

Board Members Present:

Mr. Joe Doering
Mr. Rob Crocker
Ms. Jennifer Cook
Mr. John Welsh
Mr. James Feeney
Mr. Bob Ravens-Seeger

Others Present:

Dr. Christine Mahoney, Superintendent
Susan Greco, Business Manager

Board Members Absent:

Mrs. Michele Holt

The Executive Session was called to order at 8:00 p.m.

MOTION: a motion was made by Joe Doering, seconded by Jen Cook to move into Executive Session for the purpose of a Personnel Matter and the Superintendent's Evaluation inviting Dr. Mahoney and Susan Greco to attend. *Motion approved unanimously.*

The Board returned to regular session at 8:30 p.m.

MOTION: a motion was made by Joe Doering, seconded by John Welsh, to adjourn the meeting. *Motion approved unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Crocker
Acting Board Secretary