

**East Granby Board of Education**  
**East Granby, Connecticut**  
**Special Meeting Minutes for**  
**Monday, August 14, 2017**

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**Board Members Present:**

Mr. Bob Ravens-Seeger  
Mr. John Welsh  
Mr. Jim Feeney  
Mr. Joe Doering  
Ms. Jennifer Cook

**Board Members Absent:**

Mr. Rob Crocker

**Others Present:**

Dr. Christine Mahoney, Superintendent  
Mrs. Susan Greco, Business Manager  
Jennifer Russell, Visitor  
Amanda Thompson, Visitor  
Sharon Shepherd, Visitor  
Amanda Cormier, Visitor  
Bob Paskiewicz, Visitor  
Carolyn Blake, Visitor  
Sara Payette, Visitor  
Cheri Burke, Visitor  
Carol Beauregard, Visitor

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

With a quorum present, Chairperson Bob Ravens-Seeger called the special meeting to order at 6:04 p.m., and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Before turning the meeting over to Dr. Mahoney, Bob Ravens-Seeger explained that additions could not be made to the agenda for special meetings. Therefore, there will be no public comment.

**II. Carl Allgrove School Enrollment 2017-2018**

Dr. Mahoney shared that she is continuously monitoring the enrollment numbers in the elementary schools. The kindergarten enrollment has increased from the low 50's to 60 students. Kindergarten currently has 3 sections, but due to the increase in enrollment, Dr. Mahoney will be adding a fourth section. Dr. Mahoney also shared the enrollment numbers and number of sections we currently have for grades 1-5. Grade 1 has 65 students (3 sections), grade 2 has 54 students (3 sections), grade 3 has 62 students (4 sections), grade 4 has 71 students (4 sections), and grade 5 has 72 students (3 sections). Joe Doering asked what the policy states regarding class size guidelines. Dr. Mahoney shared that as of February 2017 the class size guidelines are as follows; kindergarten (18), grade 1 (20), grades 2 and 3 (21), grades 4 and 5 (22) and grades 6-21 (25). Dr. Mahoney commented that an additional teacher also impacts the schedules for the art, music, library media specialist, and physical education/health teachers. Mr. Feeney asked how we are going to pay for an additional teacher. Dr. Mahoney and Susan Greco are carefully reviewing purchase orders and any cost savings of newly hired teachers' salaries versus retired teachers. They are also reviewing newly hired personnel benefits to determine cost savings. Joe Doering reminded board members that non-recurring funds are also available. Joe Doering is concerned that the class size for grade 5 does not meet policy guidelines. Dr. Mahoney is closely monitoring grade 5. At this time, there is no room at R.D. Seymour School for an additional grade 5 section. John Welsh commented that the agenda is specifically to discuss the enrollment at Carl Allgrove School and Dr. Mahoney's decision on how to handle the issue. Mr. Paskiewicz asked the board chair if he would be adding comments from visitors to the agenda. Mr. Ravens-Seeger explained that additions could not be made to the agenda for special meetings. Dr. Mahoney read the rule from the Connecticut Education Law book. Mr. Doering is still concerned about the class sizes for students entering grade 5. Dr. Mahoney shared that by grade 5, we have a greater understanding of student needs when placing them. There is also a Title I Tutor, an Intervention Specialist, and co-teachers providing additional services to students in need. After thoroughly considering additional space at R.D. Seymour School last year, we discovered that the shortage of space is a problem. Bob

Ravens-Seger would like to take a look at R.D. Seymour and explore the space. Mr. Feeney suggested adding a temporary classroom. John Welsh would also like to find space at R.D. Seymour School to keep class sizes within guidelines. Joe Doering believes there is a solution to creating space and if tonight's board meeting cannot address it, he suggested scheduling a meeting as soon as possible allowing for comments. A meeting was scheduled for Thursday, August 17, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. to be held at R.D. Seymour School.

### **III. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Jim Feeney, seconded by Joe Doering, to adjourn the meeting. ***Motion approved unanimously.*** The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Kline, Board Clerk

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