

**East Granby Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes for
Monday, August 28, 2017**

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Mr. Rob Crocker

Others Present:

Dr. Christine Mahoney, Superintendent
Mrs. Susan Greco, Business Manager
Ms. Lisa Kline, Board Clerk
Joel Ziff, Athletic Director
Jim Francoline, Visitor
Amanda Thompson, Visitor
Alisa Ruggiero, Visitor
Michele Holt, Visitor
Ryan Holt, Visitor
Karey Pond, Board Member Nominee
Sharon Shepherd, Board Member Nominee
Deborah Paskiewicz, Visitor
Bob Paskiewicz, Visitor
Elliot A., Visitor
Eric Ouellette, Visitor
Alicia Newton, Visitor
Bryana Newton, Visitor
Glen Gosselin, Visitor
Colleen Gosselin, Visitor
Leny B., Visitor
Maria Grabowski, Visitor
Chloe Gosselin, Visitor
A. Bourgault, Visitor
Caitlin Strzegowski, Visitor
Kristen Strzegowski, Visitor
M. Brose, Visitor
Cristina Brose, Visitor
Becky Hayes, Visitor
Amanda Cormier, Visitor
Oliver Davis, Visitor
Laura Fetridge, Visitor
Emma Fetridge, Visitor
Spencer Kimble, Visitor
Donna Mattera, Secretary - Carl Allgrove School

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

With a quorum present, Bob Ravens-Seger, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m., and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Ravens-Seger announced that agenda items would not be followed in order of appearance.

c. Additions to the Agenda

Mr. Ravens-Seger moved item Ib. to Item IIb. Mr. Ravens-Seger proposed adding item IIc. BOE Vacancies to the agenda.

MOTION: a motion was made by Jim Feeney, seconded by John Welsh to add item IIc. BOE Vacancies to the agenda. *Motion approved unanimously.*

Mr. Ravens-Seger proposed adding item IIc. Grade 5 Class Sizes to the agenda.

MOTION: a motion was made by Jennifer Cook, seconded by Jim Feeney to add item IIc. Grade 5 Class Sizes to the agenda. *Motion approved unanimously.*

Mr. Ravens-Seger proposed adding item IIc. Pay to Participate to the agenda.

MOTION: a motion was made by Joe Doering, seconded by John Welsh to add item IIc. Pay to Participate to the agenda. *Motion approved unanimously.*

II. Chairperson's Report

c. BOE Vacancies

Bob Ravens-Seger presented the nominations of Sharon Shepherd and Karey Pond by the East Granby DTC to serve as board members to fill board vacancies.

MOTON: a motion was made by Jim Feeney, seconded by Jennifer Cook to accept the nomination of Karey Pond to serve as a member of the Board of Education. *Motion approved unanimously.*

MOTON: a motion was made by Jim Feeney, seconded by Joe Doering to accept the nomination of Sharon Shepherd to serve as a member of the Board of Education. *Motion approved unanimously.*

Karey Pond and Sharon Shepherd were invited to take a seat at the board table and join the meeting.

a. Update on School Lunch Program

Dr. Mahoney and Susan Greco shared information regarding the student presentation at a previous Board of Education meeting about the high school lunch and the desire for healthier food choices. Susan Greco reported that the matter is complicated and in order for East Granby to participate in the National School Lunch Program, we would have to complete a Request for Proposal (RFP) that would necessitate a kitchen that would meet the requirements necessary to participate. Mrs. Greco explained that a RFP is a lengthy formal process mandated by the government for individuals wanting to participate in a program. Mrs. Greco also spoke with a representative from Granby Public Schools and they were not aware of the scenario. The students who initiated the idea expressed that they put in a lot of time and work and would like to have healthier food choices. They shared that they raised funds to purchase a new refrigerator, met with Farmington Valley Health Department and made sure that it would not affect the school milk program. Mr. Gosselin asked what the difference is between ordering food from a restaurant versus Granby Public Schools. Mrs. Greco explained that restaurants are vendors and are not sponsored by the National School Lunch Program; Granby Public Schools' food service is under a contracted program. When we order food from a vendor, it is a fundraising event. If you order food from a school district that participates in the National School Lunch Program, it is a more complex arrangement and would require us to be part of Granby's National School Lunch Program.

Dr. Mahoney suggested that the students meet with her, Mr. DeMelo, Mr. Phelan, and Mrs. Greco about the process and procedures. Farmington Valley Health Department cannot speak for East Granby Public Schools. John Welsh would like clarification on the lunch fundraising process. Dr. Mahoney explained that students sponsor and organize to serve lunch on a given day in the school where they sell food to raise money for their class; example, selling pizza. The students were discouraged because they met with Mr. Peling, Mr. DeMelo and the class advisor last year and they had their full support but no response. A visitor commented that they were surprised that there was no school lunch program when they moved to East Granby and fully support the new initiative and suggested using allocated class funds to get it going. Dr. Mahoney explained that we cannot spend the class funds; it belongs to the classes that raised it. Mrs. Brose recommended finding a vendor that can provide healthy lunches and having the students meet with administrators. Amanda Thompson would like updates on how we move forward. Donna Mattera suggested that the students network with the other class advisors and work with administration. John Welsh asked the students if they were working with other classes. The students replied that they are and they are all on board. Joe Doering pointed out that this is the administrators' responsibility, not the Board of Education's and that it is extremely important that the other classes are on board. Karey Pond agreed that the Board of Education meeting is not the place to hear this and the students should meet with the administration to discuss their options and the process. Sharon Shepherd commended their youth leadership. A visitor asked what good is the high school kitchen if we can't cook in it and suggested a salad bar as a healthy option. Another visitor was disappointed that the students never got the opportunity to formally present their idea to board members at an earlier board meeting even though they asked to be on the agenda. Oliver Davis would like to set the students up for success. Dr. Mahoney commented that the students took the matter outside of district when they should have met with her and the business manager first. The RFP makes it a very involved process. Dr. Mahoney would be happy to meet with the students to get this done and move on. Alicea Newton is concerned because the students met with the school administrators but they still keep hitting brick walls.

d. Grade 5 Class Sizes

Bob Ravens-Seger reported that Dr. Mahoney sent out a message to grade 5 parents and staff announcing that she would be engaging an East Granby Public School highly qualified and certified employee to co-teach with the three teachers already assigned to the Fifth grade. A visitor would like to know how

decisions are processed. When the budget passed, she heard that a fourth section would be added and now she is hearing that there will only be three sections. Bob Ravens-Seger explained that we lost state and town money. The decision was made by the administration based on limited resources and classroom space. John Welsh reminded visitors that Comments from Visitors is item VII on the agenda.

III. Superintendent's Report

a. Facilities Update

Dr. Mahoney reported that when the carpet was replaced at the middle school, they discovered mold in one of the areas. The matter was taken care of. At Carl Allgrove School, there was an issue with the plumbing and the pipes that run under the kindergarten playground so the area needed to be excavated to access the pipes. Repairs were then needed to the playground to bring it back to code. Mold was discovered in the cafeteria at Carl Allgrove School so they hired a vendor to remediate the problem and another vendor to restore the area for occupancy. These items were not in the budget. Sharon Shepherd asked if there was an alternative plan for recess. Dr. Mahoney replied that Mrs. Uhlinger and her staff will work that out.

b. Smarter Balanced Assessment

Dr. Mahoney announced that she addressed the Smarter Balanced Assessment matter in her newsletter that will be sent out soon. She also explained there is a protocol that is in place to ensure the incident does not recur.

c. Financials June and July 2017

Susan Greco reported that \$100,000 from the 2017 fiscal year end will be returned to the town. Mrs. Greco is hoping to send a letter from the Board of Education to the Board of Finance (BOF) requesting additional funds to pay for the unexpected expenses and repairs needed in the 2016-2017 year. Mr. Feeney suggested that someone meet with the BOF Chairperson before sending the request so they are not blind-sided. Mr. Doering believes that a request this early in the year may not be acted upon by the BOF and they probably will not approve it. Mr. Doering thinks the expenses should be managed in-house and then we have the money from the non-recurring account to use if needed. Dr. Mahoney prefers having a record of a formal request for funds versus having an informal meeting. Mrs. Greco continued to report that the July 2017 is very basic.

d. State Requirements Regarding Fingerprinting of District Personnel

Dr. Mahoney would like to schedule a policy subcommittee meeting to include additional language in the existing fingerprinting policy.

e. Pay to Participate

Dr. Mahoney recommends amending the Pay to Participate Program Policy to include paying the co-op fee. The co-op is asking us to pay a fee to help offset the cost of athletic supplies and expenses. We have a few students that participate on different teams and we would be jeopardizing our co-op if we did not participate. Paying the fee makes sense; otherwise, students could leave town and then we would have to pay school tuition elsewhere. Sharon Shepherd clarified that the families would be responsible for the Pay to Play fee in East Granby and East Granby would be responsible for paying the co-op fee.

IV. Committee Reports

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

b. Budget – Nothing to report. Joe Doering suggested reading the recent article in the Hartford Courant. East Granby was wise in passing their budget before having one from Hartford.

c. Curriculum – Dr. Mahoney implied that a meeting will be scheduled in September.

d. Negotiations - Mr. Doering reported that negotiations for the Administrators' Contract are coming up.

e. Facilities – Mrs. Greco reported that the LED lights and new carpet at Carl Allgrove School were installed.

f. Communications – Nothing to report.

V. Recommended Actions

a. Approve June and July 2017 Financials

Approving the June and July 2017 Financials was tabled.

VI. Agenda items for Future Meetings

a. School Lunch Program Update

- b. Communications Chairperson**
- c. Executive Session – Personnel Matter**

VII. Comments from Visitors

For the record, Joe Doering commented that the Superintendent runs the school district and the Board of Education creates policies and enforces policies. Sometimes comments and concerns are engaged and discussed at board meetings before the administration has been able to meet. Jim Francoline agrees, but feels there should be an appeals process if the concern is not addressed by the administration. Amanda Thompson asked how the new grade 5 teacher will be utilized. Dr. Mahoney explained that the teacher will not act as a tutor, paraprofessional, intervention specialist, or do clerical work. She will implement the curriculum with lesson plans and assess students. Mr. McGrath is working with the grade 5 teachers to develop the model for teaching. A visitor understands the roles of the Superintendent and the BOE but she is concerned by the lack of transparency with regards to class size. Dr. Mahoney reflected that she talked about the class size numbers at several board meetings and repeatedly stated that the numbers change during the summer which they did so she asked the board for a special meeting. Due to the increased enrollment in kindergarten and the needs of the grade 3 students, a decision was made to have three grade 5 sections. We continually monitored the numbers, and the town and state budgets. Space is also an issue at R.D. Seymour School. Joe Doering pointed out that the board wanted to make sure that the class size policy was modified based upon analysis from Dr. Mahoney and the administration. The policy that the board created was enforced. The board would become concerned if it becomes a budgetary issue. John Welsh asserted that the Superintendent's decision of having four grade 5 teachers fits in our policy.

I. a. Approve minutes from the July 10, 2017 regular meeting

MOTION: A motion was made by Jennifer Cook, seconded by Jim Feeney to approve the July 10, 2017 regular meeting minutes as presented. Joe Doering recommends amending the July 10, 2017 minutes and would like to table approving them. Jennifer Cook withdrew her motion.

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION: a motion was made by Jim Feeney, seconded by John Welsh, to adjourn the meeting. ***Motion approved unanimously.*** The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kline, Board Clerk

These minutes are issued pending Board of Education approval.