

East Granby Board of Education
East Granby, Connecticut
Special Meeting Minutes for
Monday, September 18, 2017

Board Members Present:

Mr. Bob Ravens-Seger
Mr. John Welsh
Mrs. Karey Pond
Mr. Joe Doering
Ms. Jennifer Cook

Others Present:

Dr. Christine Mahoney, Superintendent
Mrs. Susan Greco, Business Manager

Board Members Absent:

Mr. Rob Crocker
Mrs. Sharon Shepherd
Mr. Jim Feeney

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

With a quorum present, Chairperson Bob Ravens-Seger called the special meeting to order at 7:06 p.m., and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Infrastructure Capital Plan

Susan Greco reviewed the updates to the Five Year Capital Infrastructure Plan spreadsheet dated January 9, 2017. Items in blue were closed out at the end of the 2017 fiscal year and items in green are still open and were approved at a town meeting. In June, the town was unable to address the items in red due to the uncertainty of funding from the state. The 2022-2023 fiscal year was added to the spreadsheet. There is a \$60,000 yearly appropriation for technology in the district. The high school air duct cleaning was moved out one year. All other line items that were approved in January remain the same. Bob Ravens-Seger reported that the engineering assessment for air conditioning at Carl Allgrove School would be considered in the decision making regarding bonding and may need to be done this fiscal year.

With the exception of R.D. Seymour School, the phone systems are approximately 20 years old, outdated, and need to be replaced. Mr. Ravens-Seger feels that this project is a priority because we cannot afford to have a failed phone system.

John Welsh asked if the priority for technology equipment in the district is still Chromebooks. Mrs. Greco replied that they are and that twenty will be purchased for the high school; existing ones are on a cycle for replacement and part of the funding would be used to replace Wi-Fi in the district.

Mrs. Greco also described the mold removal projects at Carl Allgrove and the Middle School as well as the preventative maintenance and repairs to the middle/high school boiler. These unexpected expenses totaled approximately \$38,000. Bob Ravens-Seger suggested having a discussion with the BOF before submitting a letter to them requesting funds for the unexpected expenses. Mrs. Greco can provide monthly financials and a record of what happened and what was done. Joe Doering is opposed to sending a separate letter and feels a monthly summary is the appropriate way to introduce the matter. John Welsh agrees and feels that the BOF might ask us to take care of it with the money we have. Mrs. Greco explained that it is not mandatory to use the funds on capital expenses; it can also be used towards critical items. John Welsh feels it is not prudent to wait on installing a new phone system. Mr. Ravens-Seger asked what would happen if the money is not approved. Mrs. Greco commented that prioritizing items would be the remedy.

Some members suggested using the money in the non-recurring account to help cover expenses. Others feel that the BOE is better off absorbing the expenses or putting them through as capital. If we use the non-recurring funds, it may never get replenished and will put us at risk if we ever have insufficient funds. Mrs. Greco reminded everyone that the snow season will be coming soon. John Welsh remembers prioritizing projects at a prior BOE meeting. Mrs. Greco will locate the document that was prioritized at that meeting. Karey Pond feels that capital may not be a priority for the BOF at this time. Without a state budget, Susan Greco agrees. For now, this is just to inform them of our project requests and expenses.

III. Update on Preparation for Negotiations

Dr. Mahoney spoke with Attorney Nick Grello about beginning the negotiation process for the administrators' contract. The BOE needs to provide meeting dates to the bargaining unit representative and administrators. There will be a meeting for board members on September 25, 2017 at 6 p.m. prior to the regular board meeting to discuss preliminaries and the process. The board also offered to meet on the following dates; October 4th, October 5th, October 11th, October 12th, October 18th, and October 19th. If needed, a meeting will be scheduled the week of October 23rd. Dr. Mahoney will finalize the dates with the board attorney. Bob Ravens-Seger and John Welsh volunteered to be on the negotiations committee. Jen Cook and Karey Pond will also attend meetings. Once negotiations are complete, a contract proposal will be presented to the board.

IV. Adjournment

Before adjourning the meeting, John Welsh asked if the repairs to the Carl Allgrove School playground were coming out of the operating budget. Mrs. Greco will provide that information in the August financials at the next board meeting. John Welsh is worried that if the BOE does not use the \$75,000, they will lose it. Mrs. Greco mentioned that it is statutory and that the funds are designated to be used by the Board of Education.

MOTION: a motion was made by Jen Cook, seconded by Karey Pond, to adjourn the meeting. *Motion approved unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Kline, Board Clerk

These minutes are issued pending Board of Education approval.