

**East Granby Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes for
Monday, November 13, 2017**

Board Members Present:

Mr. Bob Ravens-Seeger
Mr. John Welsh
Mrs. Sharon Shepherd
Mr. Jim Feeney
Mrs. Karey Pond
Mrs. Lucia Ziobro
Mr. John Ziobro
Mr. Bob Paskiewicz

Others Present:

Dr. Christine Mahoney, Superintendent
Mrs. Susan Greco, Business Manager
Ms. Lisa Kline, Board Clerk
Ivana Prats, Student Council Representative
Ryan Trombly, Student Council Representative
Carolyn Blake, Visitor
William Pitney, Visitor

Board Members Absent:

Mr. Rob Crocker

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

With a quorum present, Bob Ravens-Seeger Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m., and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

a. Approve Minutes from the October 10, 2017 and the October 23, 2017 regular meetings

MOTION: a motion was made by Mr. Feeney, seconded by Mrs. Pond, to approve the October 10, 2017 regular meeting minutes as presented. (FOR: Mr. Welsh, Mrs. Pond, Mr. Feeney, Mr. Ravens-Seeger. ABSTAINED: Mrs. Ziobro, Mr. Ziobro, Mr. Paskiewicz, Mrs. Shepherd). *Motion approved.*

MOTION: a motion was made by Mrs. Pond, seconded by Mr. Feeney, to approve the October 23, 2017 regular meeting minutes as presented. (FOR: Mr. Welsh, Mrs. Pond, Mr. Feeney, Mr. Ravens-Seeger, Mrs. Shepherd ABSTAINED: Mrs. Ziobro, Mr. Ziobro, Mr. Paskiewicz,). *Motion approved.*

b. Additions to Agenda

Dr. Mahoney informed the board that the Title IV Grant will be included in her discussion of item IVc. Grant Funding Opportunities.

MOTION: a motion was made by Mr. Paskiewicz, seconded by Mrs. Pond to add item VIc. Approve Board of Education Calendar 2018 to the agenda. *Motion approved unanimously.*

c. Comments from visitors regarding agenda items - None

II. Student Representatives Report

Ivana Prats reported that the student council and National Honor Society are busy with the food drive and setting up for the coat and mitten drive. Students are auditioning for the upcoming play and preparing for winter sports. Ryan Trombly reported on the success of the Veterans' Day assembly.

III. Chairperson's Report

a. Policy 4112.5/4212.5 [FIRST READ](#)

Dr. Mahoney explained that the policy sub-committee met and discussed policy 4112.5/4212.5 - security check/fingerprinting and provided background information regarding the process of reviewing and approving new and revised policies for new board members. She continued to explain that we currently have a policy in place; however, the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education Policy Services has provided us with a revised policy to consider based on one developed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The policy describes the handling of fingerprinting materials and information. A second read of the policy will take place at the next board meeting. John Welsh asked who is subject to fingerprinting. Dr. Mahoney replied that student teachers, certified and non-certified staff, and volunteers who provide services on a regular basis are subjectable. Volunteers who visit for special programs under the supervision of faculty and administration do not need to be fingerprinted. Mr. Ravens-Seeger commented that the policy allows people to work on a 30 day probation period while waiting for the results.

b. Board of Education Calendar 2018

Dr. Mahoney reviewed the proposed 2018 Board of Education calendar and explained that meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. If there is a Monday holiday, the meeting will be held on the following Tuesday. Due to the April vacation, only one meeting is scheduled for that month. Additional meetings and/or workshops can be scheduled if needed. The calendar must be

submitted to the state prior to January 1, 2018. The board reviewed the calendar and suggested adding an item to approve it to tonight's meeting agenda.

IV. Superintendent's Report

a. School Year Calendar 2018-2019

Dr. Mahoney reviewed the dates on the proposed 2018-2019 school year calendar including the first and last day of school, school vacations, the three full professional development days, and the seven partial professional development days. Dr. Mahoney asked board members to consider restoring the February vacation explaining that the longer break would address a number of concerns. Many students and adults were ill last year and students need a longer break before testing begins in March. A longer break also allows custodians to clean the buildings and 12 month employees to use vacation time.

Dr. Mahoney explained that we no longer have to follow the regional calendar. Sharon Shepherd would like to get input from the community; restoring a long break might be a problem. Mrs. Pond asked if there was a study that determined an increase in student illness due to a shorten February break. Dr. Mahoney replied that the school records would have the information about student illness. John Welsh asked when graduation would be. Mr. & Mrs. Ziobro asked if a partial school day counted towards the 180 student days required by law. Dr. Mahoney replied that they do and that our calendar has 182 student days built into it. Sharon Shepherd asked if we knew when other districts were taking their April break. Mr. Feeney added that the YMCA follows Granby's calendar. Further discussion will take place at the next board meeting.

b. High School Partnership Program ACC and Other Districts

Dr. Mahoney reported that eligible high school students can earn a Connecticut State Department of Education Certificate of Achievement by completing fifty hours of community service. Students need to follow procedures and complete the appropriate form with the high school assistant principal. Dr. Mahoney also reported that Asnuntuck Community College has a high school partnership program that eleventh and twelfth grade students can participate in if the class is not filled by college students. Students can earn one credit per class from us and three from the college. John Ziobro asked how the students would be transported. Dr. Mahoney explained that we currently have a bus that goes to the college, parents can transport them, or students can drive themselves. Mr. Ziobro asked if this was part of the Fifth Year Program. Dr. Mahoney explained that it could be; students can earn a certificate or Associates Degree. Lucia Ziobro asked if other colleges will accept the credits earned. Dr. Mahoney replied that they will.

c. Grant Funding Opportunity

Dr. Mahoney provided information regarding grant funding opportunities. About 14 years ago, we had the Title IV Grant but it went away. The grant opportunity is back. The grant must be submitted by November 22, 2017. The money can be used for opportunities/programs that are not supported by the budget. It must be used for programs that are new and innovative and provide opportunities for students to improve their academic performance. The grant is federally funded and the awarded amount varies by district; East Granby could receive \$10,000. Mr. Ziobro asked what happens if we establish a program and the funds go away. Dr. Mahoney replied that if the funds go away, the teachers and students will have gained the knowledge and tools necessary to continue on their own. Mrs. Shepherd asked if it addressed the entire student population. Dr. Mahoney replied that they ask that we focus on students that are in need but it can include everyone. Dr. Mahoney is working on another grant opportunity from the National Education Foundation and State University of New York (SUNY). Funding would help grow STEM programs in the district. Dr. Mahoney will speak with our business partners about supporting the program and sponsoring students. Dr. Mahoney held a video conference with the grant sponsors. The deadline to apply is December 2017.

d. Report from Professional Development Evaluation Curriculum (PDEC) Committee

Dr. Mahoney reported that the PDEC Committee meets twice a year to discuss curriculum for every subject at every grade level. Smaller groups meet once a month. Dr. Mahoney distributed a sample of meeting minutes discussing what is going on in different areas at different levels in the district. Dr. Mahoney concluded by announcing that grade 12 student, McKayla Langmeire, accepted a full scholarship to Auburn University in Alabama.

V. Committee Reports

- a. **Policy** – Previously discussed.
- b. **Budget** – Dr. Mahoney reported that the administrators will be submitting their budget plans for next year and she and Susan Greco will meet with them individually to discuss their request.
- c. **Curriculum** – Previously discussed.
- d. **Facilities** – Susan Greco reported that the LED project at the middle/high school as submitted is not going to work due to the cost of the job versus the savings. Unfortunately, the LED plan we had at Carl Allgrove is no longer available. We will continue to find a project that has a cost savings.
- e. **Negotiations** – Bob Ravens-Seger reported that they just finished negotiating the administrators' contract. Dr. Mahoney added that the next group will be the teachers in 2018.
- f. **Communications** – Sharon Shepherd would like to hold a sub-committee meeting to discuss ways of encouraging the community to attend board meetings. Karey Pond announced that board members contact information is in the works and will be posted on the website. Bob Paskiewicz inquired about the status of allowing ice skating on the pond at the high school this year. The pond was cleaned last year, but it was not approved to allow skating. Dr. Mahoney reported that the work on the pond was a town project. Last year she met with First Selectman, Jim Hayden, to discuss the use of the pond and other concerns that need to be addressed.

VI. Recommended Actions

a. Approve October 2017 Financials

MOTION: a motion was made by Jim Feeney, seconded by Karey Pond, to approve the October 2017 Financials as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

Susan Greco explained that lines #112 and #563 are in the negative because she is waiting for reimbursements from other districts for services provided; business insurance lines came in lower than projected; we continually work with our vendors to reduce our contracted maintenance line; repairs to buildings has already been impacted significantly due to repairs done over the summer and earlier this school year; and lines #510, #561 and #563 will be encumbered as information becomes available. *Motion approved unanimously.*

b. Approve Field Trip

Dr. Mahoney presented a field trip for grade 8 students to travel to Symphony Hall in Springfield Massachusetts on December 14, 2017 to see the Chamber Theatre Production of Encore! Students will depart at approximately 9:00 a.m. and return at approximately 1:00 p.m. Cost to the student is \$28.00.

MOTION: a motion was made by Karey Pond, seconded by Sharon Shepherd, to approve the field trip to Symphony Hall in Springfield Massachusetts on December 14, 2017 as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

c. Approve Board of Education Calendar 2018

MOTION: a motion was made by Jim Feeney, seconded by Sharon Shepherd, to approve the Board of Education Calendar 2018 as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

VII. Board Representative Reports

- a. **CREC** - Board members will elect a representative in January. Dr. Mahoney commented that CREC is working hard to keep up with the fiscal situation.
- b. **CABE** – Board members will elect a representative in January. Dr. Mahoney commented that the policy service from CABE is valuable. Sharon Shepherd added that CABE will have a conference for new board members in December.

VIII. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- a. **Communication**
- b. **Approve School Year Calendar 2018-2019**

IX. Comments from Visitors

Mr. Pitney congratulated the new board members and thanked the high school community for a well-done Veterans' Day Celebration. Carolyn Blake asked if any student can have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Dr. Mahoney explained that it is for students with specific needs and specific disabilities. Mrs. Blake also asked who ensures that the district is in line and complying with policies. Dr. Mahoney

explained that the legal team at CAFE creates or revises policies, the sub-committee reviews them and the board approves them. Policies drive our regulations on how we implement our laws and rules, and are reflected in our handbooks and contracts. State reports would indicate whether or not we are in compliance. The state monitors the implementation of education law and auditors review financial aspects on a yearly basis.

X. Adjournment

John Welsh congratulated the girls' varsity soccer team for a job well done even though they were defeated 2-1 in double overtime against St. Paul Catholic at the state tournament.

MOTION: a motion was made by John Welsh, seconded by Jim Feeney, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion approved unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Kline
Board Clerk

These minutes are issued pending Board of Education approval.