

**East Granby Board of Education  
Regular Meeting Minutes for  
Monday, February 12, 2018**

---

**Board Members Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

Dr. Christine Mahoney, Superintendent (via telephone)  
Mrs. Susan Greco, Business Manager  
Ms. Lisa Kline, Board Clerk  
Ryan Trombly, Student Representative  
Carolyn Blake, Visitor

**Board Members Absent:**

Mr. Robert Crocker

---

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

With a quorum present, Bob Ravens-Seger, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m., and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**a. Approve Minutes from the January 8, 2018 budget workshop, and the January 8, 2018 and January 22, 2018 regular meetings**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Feeney, seconded by Mr. Ziobro to approve the January 8, 2018 budget workshop minutes as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Paskiewicz, seconded by Mrs. Ziobro to approve the January 8, 2018 regular meeting minutes as presented. (FOR: Mr. Ziobro, Mr. Feeney, Mr. Ravens-Seger, Mrs. Shepherd, Mrs. Pond, Mrs. Ziobro, and Mr. Paskiewicz. ABSTAINED: Mr. Welsh). *Motion approved.*

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Paskiewicz, seconded by Mr. Ziobro to approve the January 22, 2018 regular meeting minutes as presented. Mrs. Ziobro commented that the minutes do not reflect what she recalls was actually discussed regarding the motion made in item IVb. and she does not understand why tonight's meeting was not being held at town hall. (FOR: Mr. Ziobro, Mr. Ravens-Seger, Mrs. Shepherd, Mrs. Pond, and Mr. Paskiewicz. OPPOSED: Mrs. Ziobro. ABSTAINED: Mr. Feeney and Mr. Welsh). *Motion approved.*

**b. Comments from Visitors Regarding Agenda Items - None**

**c. Additions to Agenda**

Bob Paskiewicz suggested rearranging the order of future agendas so item Ic. Additions to the Agenda is listed before item Ib. Comments from Visitors Regarding Agenda Items. This would allow visitors the opportunity to comment on an item that may be added to the agenda. Dr. Mahoney commented that there are two opportunities for visitors to comment during the board meetings, including one at the end of the meeting.

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Paskiewicz, seconded by Mr. Feeney to rearrange the order of future BOE meeting agendas so Additions to the Agenda is listed before Comments from Visitors Regarding Agenda Items.

Mr. Welsh commented that a motion should be made to add Mr. Paskiewicz's request to the agenda under Item VIc. Recommended Action or that Mr. Paskiewicz withdraw/rephrase the motion presented.

Mr. Paskiewicz withdrew his motion.

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Paskiewicz, seconded by Mr. Ziobro to add item VIc. Approve Rearranging the Order of Future BOE Meeting Agendas so Additions to the Agenda is listed before Comments from Visitors Regarding Agenda Items. *Motion approved unanimously.*

**II. Student Representatives Report**

Ryan Trombly reported that the Snowball semi-formal took place in January, a senior recognition ceremony took place at the girls' varsity basketball game, and student council will be selling decorated cans of soda on Valentine's Day for \$2.00. Lastly, a 'shout out' was made to the girls' varsity basketball team for qualifying for the conference and state tournament.

### **III. Chairperson's Report**

#### **a. 2018-2019 Budget Guidance and Workshop Schedule**

Dr. Mahoney, Susan Greco, and BOE members discussed and agreed upon scheduling budget workshops on the following dates; February 21, 2018 at 5 p.m., February 26, 2018 at 6 p.m., March 1, 2018 at 6 p.m., March 5, 2018 at 6 p.m., and March 8, 2018 at 6 p.m. Mr. Welsh asked if a communications sub-committee meeting was scheduled. Dr. Mahoney asked Mrs. Shepherd if she was available on February 27, 2018 for a communications sub-committee meeting. Mrs. Shepherd will email Dr. Mahoney her availability. Mr. Welsh recommended that Mrs. Shepherd assist Mr. Ravens-Seger in presenting the 2018-2019 budget to the Board of Finance with support from Dr. Mahoney and Susan Greco. Mrs. Shepherd has been a great spokesperson and advocate for the BOE and having her assist in presenting the budget would be beneficial.

### **IV. Superintendent's Report**

#### **a. Update on Community Forum**

Dr. Mahoney reported that Community Forum flyers have been posted on the school websites, school entrances, town hall, the public library, and GCTV. Dr. Mahoney's vision is to expand community involvement. There will be presentations from School Counselors, faculty, administrators, invited guests, and representatives from Asnuntuck Community College. Everyone will be able to see what exciting things are going on in all four schools. Dr. Mahoney emailed a 'Save the Date' message to parents and staff and she will email reminders including the flyer as the date of the forum gets closer.

#### **b. Board of Finance Information Request P.A. 13-60**

Susan Greco distributed copies of P.A. 13-60 An Act Concerning the Consolidation of Non-educational Services. Mrs. Greco reviewed the non-educational expenditures information that will be shared with the Board of Finance (BOF). Blended line items will be separated so only the non-educational items will go to the BOF. Mr. Ravens-Seger asked if the BOE is required to make a motion to approve the information. Dr. Mahoney responded that it is just preliminary information and it does not require the BOE's approval but she likes to share the information with board members before submitting it to the BOF. John Ziobro expressed that he does not agree with the numbers and asked if the information was being submitted on behalf of the BOE or the business manager. Dr. Mahoney shared that the BOF asked what the numbers look like at this time for planning purposes.

#### **c. Discussion of Open CHOICE Seat Declaration**

Dr. Mahoney reported that she was asked to declare to the State of Connecticut the number of seats East Granby will make available for Hartford students. In the past, we have declared 5-10 seats and prefer to take students entering kindergarten. Based on the number of seats we declare, we will receive grant funding for Academic and social support and after school activities that benefits all students. We will receive a report on the number of students who requested East Granby. Bob Ravens-Seger asked Dr. Mahoney to explain the financial ramifications. Dr. Mahoney and Susan Greco shared that the district receives \$8,000 per pupil and an additional \$4,500 per kindergartener because we have a full day kindergarten program. Lucia Ziobro commented that the \$8,000 the district receives per pupil is less than the district's cost per pupil. Dr. Mahoney clarified that we receive additional grant money in addition to the \$8,000 and that when we send students out of district, we do not pay the cost per pupil either. Sharon Shepherd commented that the grant is beneficial because it supports after school activities for every student. Mrs. Ziobro asked how many students we currently have attending a Hartford magnet school. Mrs. Greco replied that there are approximately 43 students but not all of them attend full time. Bob Ravens-Seger asked how many CHOICE students we have. Dr. Mahoney reported that we currently have 48-49 CHOICE students. Dr. Mahoney assured the board that class size is not negatively impacted by the number of CHOICE students and she monitors the enrollment numbers very carefully. Bob Ravens-Seger asked when the numbers need to be submitted to the state. Dr. Mahoney responded that we need to submit the number of seats available by the end of next week. Dr. Mahoney would like to continue taking five kindergarteners and see if they have siblings. We have a choice whether or not to accept the siblings. Typically, Dr. Mahoney sends in the numbers informally – no motion required. Mr. Ziobro feels that a major decision like this should be voted on. John Welsh made a general statement about the BOE spending a significant amount of time revising the class size

policy and establishing guidelines. The guidelines allow leeway so as not to over burden grade levels creating the need for new teachers and additional sections. The reality is that bringing in students is a win for the district. Mr. Feeney recommended getting a consensus from the board members regarding John Welsh and Dr. Mahoney's comments. The board members consensus was that Dr. Mahoney use her discretion when declaring the number of seats we have available for CHOICE students.

## V. Committee Reports

- a. **Policy** – Dr. Mahoney reported that corrections were made to the bylaws in the BOE handbook and updated copies will be sent to board members.
- b. **Budget** – Previously discussed.
- c. **Curriculum** – Dr. Mahoney reported that the Manufacturing II curriculum will be available for review soon as well as the online business curriculum for the course being developed with Asnuntuck Community College's (ACC) curriculum. ACC will be offering the online business course that will be offered to East Granby students summer 2018.
- d. **Facilities** – Susan Greco reported that there are frost heaves in the Carl Allgrove School parking lot that, unfortunately, cannot be taken care of until Spring and there are more roof leaks at the middle/high school.
- e. **Negotiations** – Nothing to report at this time.
- f. **Communications** – Sharon Shepherd will schedule a communications subcommittee meeting to address sharing budget information with the community and suggested that board members wear name tags when attending school functions. Mrs. Shepherd will also post the 2018 Community Forum flyer on the East Granby Community Facebook page.

## VI. Recommended Actions

### a. Approve Field Trip

Dr. Mahoney shared a field trip for members of the junior class and all U.S. History students to travel to Hyde Park, New York on April 6, 2018 to visit national historic sites. Students will depart at 6:45 a.m. and return at approximately 6:00 p.m. The cost to student will be paid by the student is \$30.00.

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Karey Pond, seconded by Sharon Shepherd to approve the field trip to Hyde Park New York on April 6, 2018 as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

Mr. Ziobro asked if the district has a strong field trip waiver. Susan Greco replied that the district has insurance in addition to a waiver.

### b. Approve January 2018 Financials

Sue Greco reviewed the January 2018 Financial Report. Line items reviewed included certified and non-certified personnel lines, other professional and technical services, private school tuition, business insurance, contract maintenance, repairs to buildings, and equipment.

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Karey Pond, seconded by Jim Feeney to approve the January 2018 Financials as presented. (FOR: Mr. Ravens-Seger, Mr. Paskiewicz, Mrs. Shepherd, Mr. Feeney, Mrs. Pond, Mr. Welsh. ABSTAINED: Mr. Ziobro and Mrs. Ziobro). *Motion approved.*

Mr. Ziobro asked what caused the large increase in the percentage used reflected in pupil transportation. Mrs. Greco explained that the increase was due to bills received.

### c. Approve Rearranging the Order of Future BOE Meeting Agendas so Additions to the Agenda is listed before Comments from Visitors Regarding Agenda Items

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Paskiewicz, seconded by Mr. Feeney to approve Rearranging the Order of Future BOE Meeting Agendas so Additions to the Agenda is listed before Comments from Visitors Regarding Agenda Items. (FOR: Mr. Ravens-Seger, Mr. Paskiewicz, Mrs. Shepherd, Mr. Feeney, Mrs. Pond, Mr. Ziobro, and Mrs. Ziobro. ABSTAINED: Mr. Welsh). *Motion approved.*

## VII. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

### a. End of Year School Calendar/Last Day of School

### b. Discuss Adding Motions to Approve Agenda Items Such as CHOICE Seats Declared and P.A. 13-60.

### **VIII. Comments from Visitors**

Carolyn Blake is concerned that communication and support is lacking in the district starting with administrators down to the teachers concerning matters she asked the administration to address. Mrs. Ziobro suggested adding Respond to Public Concerns Properly and Appropriately as an agenda item for future meetings. Dr. Mahoney explained that personnel and student matters have to be addressed privately and cannot be discussed in a public forum.

### **IX. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Feeney, seconded by Mrs. Pond to adjourn the meeting. *Motion approved unanimously.* Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kline  
Board Clerk

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