

**East Granby Board of Education  
Regular Meeting Minutes for  
Monday, February 26, 2018**

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**Board Members Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

Dr. Christine Mahoney, Superintendent (via telephone)  
Mrs. Susan Greco, Business Manager  
Ms. Lisa Kline, Board Clerk  
Attorney Kyle McClain, Board of Education Attorney

**Board Members Absent:**

Mr. Rob Crocker

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

With a quorum present, Bob Ravens-Seger, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m., and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**a. Additions to the Agenda**

Sharon would like commentary from Dr. Mahoney and Mrs. Greco regarding the heating system at Carl Allgrove School. On two separate occasions, the temperature in the building ran lower than typical. Dr. Mahoney will address the matter under Superintendent's Report. A motion to add the discussion was not required.

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

**II. Chairperson's Report**

**a. 2018-2019 Budget**

Bob Ravens-Seger reported that Mrs. Greco shared information regarding the .75% directed budget from the Board of Finance (BOF) at the budget workshop held prior to this meeting. The board members also discussed prioritizing a list that exceeds .75% in the event the BOF grants them a higher percent.

**III. Superintendent's Report**

Susan Greco explained that the boiler at Carl Allgrove School tripped off over the weekend causing a lower than usual temperature in the building. The custodian tried resetting the boiler when he noticed the issue. Service was called but they could not find a mechanical issue. They believe it may have been caused by a power surge.

**a. School Safety and Security**

Dr. Mahoney reported that she recently emailed a statement related to safety and security in the East Granby Public Schools to all parents and faculty. The statement recapped the appropriate steps East Granby took many years ago to convene meetings of town-wide safety and emergency response committee to prepare for school emergencies and protocols to follow in various situations. Dr. Mahoney reviewed major security updates made to the buildings and drills and evacuations that are routinely practiced. The key is to stay vigilant. Implementing gun restrictions is not the only remedy; there are a number of children with social and emotional issues. School districts and the Department of Children and Families need assistance from mental health advisors. A letter requesting discussion of what we feel the district needs will be presented to BOE members and First Selectman, Jim Hayden.

Sharon Shepherd would like Dr. Mahoney's earlier message to reach the entire community not just the school community. Dr. Mahoney shared that she will be publishing a statement in the next edition of Let's Talk Turkey. Mrs. Shepherd asked if the public can view documents of the drills and evacuations that are practiced. Dr. Mahoney replied that the reports are submitted to the Fire Marshal and she believes they are public documents. Mrs. Shepherd would like to know what parent resources are available to reinforce school safety with their children and inquired about the number of counselors in the district. Dr. Mahoney reported that there is one counselor for grades Prek-5, one for grades 6-8 and two counselors for grades 9-12. Dr. Mahoney will research additional resources for parents. John Welsh suggested having a board member attend the town-wide safety and emergency response committee meetings so they can report back to the BOE. Dr. Mahoney will speak with Jim Hayden about inviting a board member. Bob Ravens-Seger recalls attending a school safety meeting at the high school and he would be happy to attend it again. Dr. Mahoney shared that one of the administrators also attends a regional meeting and reports back to the district. Karey Pond would like to know what the administration feels the district needs before reaching out to state legislature. Dr. Mahoney shared that the administration is working on that. Mrs. Pond would like requests regarding social, emotional or safety issues to come to the BOE so action can be taken now rather than later. Dr. Mahoney explained that there are things in place to identify students in need and suggested inviting the Director of Student Support Service, Karen Gogel, to explain what we do and how to connect with external resources. Dr. Mahoney will talk with Ms. Gogel about possibly having a presentation separate from a BOE meeting. Mrs. Shepherd commented that Youth Services Bureau is an external resource. John Welsh suggested having Karen Gogel, Youth Services, and Jim Hayden get together and co-sponsor a mental and physical health forum consisting of two presentations; one for students and one for parents.

**b. CHOICE Seat Declaration**

Dr. Mahoney reported that she will be declaring seats for kindergarten and grade 3. Mr. Ziobro is concerned about grade 3. This is just a declaration; they may choose not to attend East Granby even though we declared a number of seats. Mrs. Shepherd asked Dr. Mahoney to clarify how many seats she was declaring and the grade levels. Dr. Mahoney will be declaring five kindergartners and three grade 3 students – one for each section. In the past, the CHOICE program provides literacy support when five or more kindergartners are enrolled and adding one student per grade 3 section will not impact instruction, use of equipment, or format. Mrs. Ziobro is concerned of what will happen if additional 'in district' students enroll in grade 3. Mr. Welsh feels that 3 additional students would not be a risk to the class size policy. Sharon Shepherd asked when the district will know how many students will choose to attend East Granby. Dr. Mahoney responded that we will not know until the end of Summer. Mrs. Shepherd asked Dr. Mahoney how many seats we declared last year and how many students actually attended. Dr. Mahoney reported that we declared a total of 6 seats but only 4 students attended. Bob Ravens-Seger asked Dr. Mahoney if action was required by the BOE to approve the number of seats. Dr. Mahoney replied that action was not required by the BOE. Mr. Ziobro would like Attorney McClain's legal opinion. Attorney Kyle McClain briefly stated that this is a decision for the administration to make because they are the educational experts. The BOE's position is related to board policy and if East Granby should participate in the OPEN CHOICE Program. Mr. Ziobro asked for a consensus from the BOE members if we should declare seats for grade 3 students. Mr. Welsh agrees with Dr. Mahoney's recommendation. Mr. Feeney commented that the superintendent has the right to run the district. Karey Pond agrees with Mr. Welsh and Mr. Feeney. Mr. Paskiewicz agrees but does not want to have to hire a new teacher. Mr. Ravens-Seger commented that Dr. Mahoney is taking a holistic approach to this decision.

**c. Feedback on Community Forum**

Dr. Mahoney asked the board members who attended the community forum for their feedback. Karey Pond thought that the presentation in the auditorium was a little long but enjoyed the Asnuntuck Community College (ACC) presentation and found that the school exhibits in the gymnasium were engaging. Bob Ravens-Seeger was excited to learn more about the programs available at ACC and educating Connecticut residents to fill future jobs. Lucia Ziobro agreed with Bob and Karey but is concerned that the general public missed out on the exhibits in the gymnasium because it was not recorded. Mrs. Ziobro suggested skipping the auditorium portion and having the administration and faculty give a brief explanation regarding their exhibits in the gymnasium. Mr. Welsh agreed with Mrs. Ziobro; he would like to see a quick 3 minute highlight of each exhibit before the gallery walk. Mrs. Shepherd enjoyed the forum but was concerned that most of the focus was on the upper grade levels. Dr. Mahoney shared that the auditorium segment of the forum and footage from the gymnasium will be posted on gctv16.org. In the near future, Dr. Mahoney will be recording discussions with administrators about what is happening in the schools. The recordings will also be available on the district website and gctv16.org.

**IV. Recommended Actions**

Dr. Mahoney presented a field trip for the baseball team to travel to Dodgertown in Vero Beach, Florida April 6, 2018 to April 12, 2018. The cost of the trip is \$1,482 per student and will be paid by the student. There is no cost to district.

**a. Approve Field Trip**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Bob Paskiewicz, seconded Jim Feeney to approve the field trip to Dodgertown in Vero Beach Florida from April 6, 2018 to April 12, 2018 as presented. **Motion approved unanimously.**

**V. Comments from Visitors - None**

**VI. Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

**a. School Safety and Security**

**VII. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by John Welsh, seconded by Sharon Shepherd, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion approved unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kline  
Board Clerk

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