

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

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Dr. Christine Mahoney, Superintendent
Mrs. Susan Greco, Business Manager
Ms. Lisa Kline, Board Clerk
Ryan Trombly, Student Representative
Ivana Prats, Student Representative
Mrs. Praty, Visitor
Bill Pitney, Visitor
Cathy Dallesander, Visitor
Cliff Gibson, Visitor

Board Members Absent:

Mr. Rob Crocker

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

With a quorum present, Bob Ravens-Seger, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

a. Approve Minutes from the February 8, 2018 and the February 12, 2018 budget workshops, the February 12, 2018 regular meeting, the February 21, 2018 and February 26, 2018 budget workshops, and the February 26, 2018 regular meeting.

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

MOTION: a motion was made by Mrs. Shepherd, seconded by Mrs. Pond, to approve the February 12, 2018 budget workshop minutes as presented. **Motion approved unanimously.**

MOTION: a motion was made by Mr. Feeney, seconded by Mr. Paskiewicz, to approve the February 12, 2018 regular meeting minutes as presented. **MOTION:** a motion was made by Mrs. Ziobro to amend item IVc. to include the type and amount of the grant the district receives in addition to the \$8,000 it collects per CHOICE student and elaborate on the after school activities the grant supports. *The CHOICE Academic and Social Support Grant (CASS) is approximately \$900 affording the district to offer a variety of after school activities available to all students.* The motion was seconded by Mr. Ziobro. **Motion approved unanimously.**

MOTION: a motion was made by Mrs. Shepherd, seconded by Mrs. Pond, to approve the February 21, 2018 budget workshop minutes as presented. **Motion approved unanimously.** Mr. Ziobro commented that he would like to see more reference to what is discussed reflected in the minutes.

MOTION: a motion was made by Mr. Ziobro, seconded by Mrs. Pond, to approve the February 26, 2018 budget workshop minutes as presented. **Motion approved unanimously.**

MOTION: a motion was made by Mr. Feeney, seconded by Mrs. Pond, to approve the February 26, 2018 regular meeting minutes as presented. **MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Paskiewicz to amend the second to the last sentence in item IIIb. as follows: *Mr. Paskiewicz agrees to have the Superintendent declare and place the CHOICE students without having to hire additional teachers.* The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ziobro. **Motion approved unanimously.**

b. Additions to Agenda

MOTION: a motion was made by Mr. Ziobro, seconded by Mrs. Ziobro, to add item IIIb. Discuss Recording BOE Meetings at Town Hall. **Motion approved unanimously.**

c. Comments from Visitors Regarding Agenda Items – None.

II. Student Representatives Report

Ivana Prats reported that the recent 17th Annual POPS Concert “All That Jazz” was enjoyable and offered a relaxed atmosphere, and the Dodgeball Tournament organized by Project Graduation was held last Friday. The drama club will be performing the play “Nine to Five” March 23rd and 24th, 2018.

Ryan Trombly elaborated that the Dodgeball Tournament was a fundraiser for the Class of 2018 and the field trip to Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji is coming up in April. Today, at Central Connecticut State University, the high school ensembles participated in the Lydian Music Festival allowing the students to receive constructive criticism on their performance.

III. Chairperson's Report

a. 2018-2019 Budget

Mr. Ravens-Seger reported that a couple of last minutes changes need to be made to the budget prior to the next Board of Finance meeting and asked that a motion be made for the BOE to present a 2.38% budget in addition to the .75% BOF directed budget.

MOTION: a motion was made by Mr. Feeney, seconded by Mr. Paskiewicz, for the Board of Education to present a 2.38% budget in addition to the .75% BOF directed budget. (FOR: Mr. Ravens-Seger, Mr. Paskiewicz, Mrs. Shepherd, Mr. Feeney, Mrs. Pond, Mr. Welsh. OPPOSED: Mr. Ziobro and Mrs. Ziobro). **Motion approved.** Mr. Ziobro is concerned about potential class size issues and has reservations regarding some of the line items. The BOE was shown the 2.38% budget; it is not necessarily what the BOE came up with. Mr. Welsh commented that the 2.38% reflects what the board has been working towards.

b. Discuss Recording BOE Meetings at Town Hall

Bob Ravens-Seger reported that once the board is done holding budget workshops, it will start holding their BOE regular meetings at town hall or the community center in the event town hall is not available. Mr. Ziobro would like to determine now where the regular schedule BOE meeting on March 26, 2018 will be held. Mr. Ravens-Seger replied that he and Dr. Mahoney will discuss it when the date gets closer. Mrs. Ziobro commented that the original motion lost its purpose as to why it was made in the first place when it was amended. Mr. Welsh recalls that Mr. Ziobro made the motions and the BOE members, Susan Greco, and the Superintendent discussed holding meetings at Carl Allgrove School during the budget process because the venue was deemed more appropriate and holding regular scheduled meetings at town hall going forward. Mrs. Ziobro agreed that the physical space at Carl Allgrove School was best for tonight's meetings; however, it should not be a blanket determination because it's "budget season". Mr. Ziobro suggested seeing what happens in the future and, if necessary, changing the protocol so that the entire board has to vote to switch the location from town hall instead of just the Board Chair and the Superintendent deciding. Mr. Paskiewicz would like to hold the March 26, 2018 regular schedule BOE meeting at town hall.

IV. Superintendent's Report

a. School Safety and Security Update

Dr. Mahoney reported that the administrators prepared a letter regarding school safety and security. Copies of the letter were sent to First Selectman Jim Hayden and the BOE Chair and Vice Chair. Dr. Mahoney met with First Selectman Jim Hayden to discuss school safety and security. Dr. Mahoney emailed a letter to the school community and Let's Talk Turkey detailing what school safety and security initiatives have been done. A series of information sessions covering topics such as developing resiliency in children, dealing with trauma, what parents can do at home, self-empowerment, social and emotional learning, and social networking sites will be discussed. Dr. Mahoney hopes to begin the sessions at the end of the month. Notifications will be posted and emailed to the community. Dr. Mahoney reported that as an alternative to the nationwide walkout planned on March 14, 2018 to commemorate the victims of Parkland Florida; students at East Granby Middle/High School, along with administrators, planned a seventeen minute special program to remember and memorialize the individuals whose lives were taken away. Dr. Mahoney will say a few words, the names of the victims will be recited, and there will be a moment of silence. The students will sign a banner that will be sent to Florida. A notice will be sent to parents.

Mr. Feeney asked if the policy for police presence in schools would be amended. Dr. Mahoney reported that she and First Selectman Jim Hayden discussed increasing police presence. We will know more of what we need in addition to what we already have after we get the assessment. Mrs. Shepherd asked if the elementary schools were participating in a program for the victims of Parkland Florida. Dr. Mahoney replied that they will be participating in an age appropriate program at their school and she will get more information. John Welsh was under the impression that the walk out on March 14, 2018 was for high schools nationwide and that there is a march planned for everyone on March 24, 2018. Mrs. Shepherd asked about police presence at the beginning of the school day. Dr. Mahoney replied that there are police officers who are present when the buses arrive and depart, and participate in school programs. Mr. Paskiewicz asked what will happen if students decide to walk out rather than participate in the special program. Dr. Mahoney will be sending out a message explaining the plan. Mr. Paskiewicz also asked for an update on the two hour delay and school cancellation for the middle/high school on March 8, 2018. Dr. Mahoney shared that she had sent a message to all BOE members and recapped that when the custodians

arrived at the middle/high school there was both heat and electricity. Approximately one hour later, when the middle school teachers entered the building they noticed the cold temperature and that the power was out in some rooms. Mrs. Greco called the vendors and it was determined that the issue was related to Eversource. An issue in the line from the street to the building tripped a number of circuits. Ed Hubbard, First Selectman Jim Hayden and the Fire Marshal responded. Eversource did not know when the power would be back on. A message was sent notifying parents to keep middle and high school students home and the buses were cancelled. High School faculty and staff reported to Carl Allgrove School and Middle School faculty and staff reported to R.D. Seymour School. They participated in team meetings, observations, professional development, or taught lessons. Paraprofessionals were dispatched to classrooms.

V. Committee Reports

- a. Policy** – Dr. Mahoney reported that there will be a couple of policies forthcoming.
- b. Budget** – Previously discussed.
- c. Curriculum** - Dr. Mahoney reported that two are being prepared.
- d. Facilities** - Susan Greco reported that the middle school roof continues to leak during inclement weather and the power surge at the middle/high school last week damaged some motors and blew the controller on one of the boilers. The repair will cost approximately \$3,000. Other residual effects from the power surge were the pump house and clock repair.
- e. Negotiations** – Nothing to report.
- f. Communications** – Mrs. Shepherd would like to schedule a communications meeting to draft responses to frequently asked budget questions and post them on the website.

VI. Recommended Actions

a. Approve February 2018 Financials

MOTION: a motion was made by Mr. Welsh, seconded by Mrs. Pond, to approve the February 2018 Financials as presented. Susan Greco highlighted updates to the Certified and Non-Certified personnel lines and the Business Insurance and Contracted Maintenance lines. Repairs to Buildings exceeded its budget allocation due to costly repairs at the middle/high school and Carl Allgrove School. The Equipment line reflects unanticipated replacement costs due to playground and mold remediation at Carl Allgrove School, the replacement of three classroom projectors, and a snow blower replacement at the high school. *Motion approved unanimously.*

VII. Agenda items for Future Meetings

a. Tuition Students to East Granby Public Schools

Mr. Paskiewicz suggested recruiting students from surround areas by publicizing our yearly tuition fee.

b. School Safety and Security Update

c. Last Day of School and Date of Graduation

VIII. Comments from Visitors

Cathy Dallesander asked if the police department is familiar with the layout of each school building and how many social workers are currently working at R.D. Seymour and Carl Allgrove School. Dr. Mahoney responded that the police department is very familiar with the layout of all school buildings and there is currently one shared guidance counselor for the elementary schools and one shared social worker for the district. They work with students in small groups, referrals, attend PPT meetings, and deal with behavior interventions. The amount of time spent counseling students depends on the issue. The director of Student Support Services would have that information. Due to the change in the 504 law, Mrs. Dallesander would like the board to take into account physical and occupational therapy services when planning the 2018-2019 budget. Dr. Mahoney replied that services are provided if they are prescribed by a doctor.

IX. Adjournment

MOTION: a motion was made by Mr. Welsh, seconded by Mr. Ziobro, to adjourn the meeting. *Motion approved unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kline
Board Clerk