

**East Granby Board of Education**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, April 23, 2018**  
**Meeting will air on GCTV16.ORG**

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**Board Members Present:**

Mr. Bob Ravens-Seger  
Mr. Bob Paskiewicz  
Mrs. Sharon Shepherd  
Mr. Jim Feeney  
Mr. Ziobro  
Mrs. Ziobro  
Mr. John Welsh

**Others Present:**

Dr. Christine Mahoney, Superintendent  
Mrs. Susan Greco, Business Manager  
Ms. Lisa Kline, Board Clerk  
Ivana Prats, Student Representative  
Ryan Trombly, Student Representative

**Board Members Absent:**

Mr. Robert Crocker  
Mrs. Karey Pond

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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 7:01 p.m., and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**a. Approve minutes from the March 1, 2018, the March 5, 2018, March 8, 2018, and March 12, 2018 budget workshops, and the March 12, 2018 and the March 26, 2018 regular meetings**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Feeney, seconded by Mr. Welsh, to approve the March 1, 2018 budget workshop minutes as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Feeney, seconded by Mr. Welsh, to approve the March 5, 2018 budget workshop minutes as presented. (FOR: Mr. Ravens-Seger, Mr. Paskiewicz, Mr. Feeney, Mr. Ziobro, Mrs. Ziobro, and Mr. Welsh. ABSTAINED: Mrs. Shepherd) *Motion approved.*

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Ziobro, seconded by Mr. Feeney, to approve the March 12, 2018 budget workshop minutes as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Ziobro, seconded by Mr. Welsh, to approve the March 12, 2018 regular meeting minutes as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Ziobro, seconded by Mr. Welsh, to approve the March 26, 2018 regular meeting minutes as presented. (FOR: Mr. Ravens-Seger, Mr. Paskiewicz, Mr. Feeney, Mrs. Ziobro, Mrs. Shepherd, and Mr. Welsh. ABSTAINED: Mr. Ziobro). *Motion approved.*

Items Ib. and Ic. were reversed.

**c. Additions to the Agenda**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Ziobro, seconded by Mr. Feeney to add item VIb. Vote on Transportation Contract to the agenda. *Motion approved unanimously.*

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

**II. Student Representatives Report**

Ryan Trombly reported on the high school field trip to New Zealand, Australia, and Fiji where they visited area schools and native villages during April vacation. Ryan also reported on the recent Poetry Night at the high school, the Senior Citizens Day held April 20, 2018, and the field trip to Iceland during April vacation. Future events include Prom and Advanced Placement testing in May.

Ivana Prats reported on the new student newspaper and the ‘National Walkout’ last month. In lieu of a walkout, high school students held an assembly honoring the victims of the Florida high school shooting. Mr. Paskiewicz asked if the school newspaper would be posted on the school website. Ivana will look into it.

**III. Chairperson’s Report**

**a. Town Meeting April 24, 2018**

Bob Ravens-Seger would like to enter the letter dated April 13, 2018 addressed to the BOE from State Representative, Tami Zawistowki, into the BOE correspondence file. The letter is regarding the new state mandated, (Medicaid) School Based Health Program, and requesting relief for East Granby and possibly other small districts from participating in this costly state mandated program.

Bob Ravens-Seger reported that the BOE presentation at the Town Meeting will reflect the new Board of Finance (BOF) directed budget of 1.74% instead of the previous 2.0% BOF directed budget.

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

##### **a. Five Year Capital Infrastructure Plan**

Dr. Mahoney would like to discuss the Five Year Capital Infrastructure Plan that the BOF asked the BOE to prepare after last year's referendum so that the new BOE members are brought up to date and are aware of what is moving forward. Susan Greco reported that items from 2016-2017 that were not able to be addressed were the Carl Allgrove and middle/high school phone system; the high school baseball/softball field irrigation; the high school parking lot repairs; and the Carl Allgrove School air conditioning/engineering assessment. Those items have been redistributed into the five year capital plan. Items for 2017-2018 include replacement of AP120 Aerohive access points and replacement of Chromebooks (used for daily instruction and state testing); the Carl Allgrove School and middle/high school telephone system (the current one was purchased in 2000 and finding vendors to maintain the system and obtaining replacement parts is difficult); HVAC controls at the middle/high school; replacement of the high school auditorium access door to the roof; and the Carl Allgrove School parking lot drainage issue and air conditioning engineering assessment. Sharon Shepherd asked if adequate parking would be made available to the Carl Allgrove parking lot when addressing the drainage issue. Susan Greco believes it may be considered but not necessarily achieved. Mr. Welsh asked if the engineering study was done or if it would be completed in stages. Mrs. Greco responded that it was not done and would most likely be done in stages. Mr. Welsh asked if the Carl Allgrove parking lot drainage problem is more than just a parking lot issue. Mrs. Greco replied that the water table is a huge part of the problem. Dr. Mahoney added that the drainage system that is in place failed and needs to be re-designed. Mrs. Ziobro asked if it was possible to extend the east side parking lot. Dr. Mahoney explained the issue of an underground stream and leach field. Mr. Feeney recalls that the water table caused the floor tiles in the school to pop and that there may not be a solution. Mrs. Greco continued reviewing the five year capital plan to include getting a follow up quote to provide consulting services to do the electrical and mechanical design to add ductless air conditioners in Carl Allgrove School. Mr. Ziobro asked if getting new Voice Over IP phones in Carl Allgrove School and the middle/high school would save the district money. Mrs. Greco replied that there are no additional savings that she is aware of but that does not mean there will not be any. Mr. Ziobro commented that the town is considering a roofing/paving project so why did the BOE include the parking lot but not the roofs in the five year capital plan other than in a footnote. Mrs. Greco replied that the roofing project is too big for the capital budget and that it is noted at the bottom of the five year capital needs project inventory spreadsheet so the BOF is aware of the need for new roofs. Dr. Mahoney suggested holding off on further discussion until after the next Shared Services Committee meeting. As we get closer to the due date, we can talk to First Selectman, Jim Hayden, update our quotes, and get a better idea of any parking lot repairs that can be addressed. John Welsh asked if the parking lot project was mentioned at the Shared Services Committee meeting. Mr. Ziobro said that it did not; they go by priority. Mr. Welsh suggested the possibility of having the DPW perform the engineering study for the parking lot and reviewed how the BOE prioritized capital projects last year for new BOE members. Last year's priority was technology. This year will be more difficult to prioritize because the projects are another year older. Mrs. Ziobro would like to know the status of the Shared Services Committee meeting and thought that there was going to be a report; it would be nice if the roofs and parking lot were handled at the same time

##### **b. Transportation Contract**

Susan Greco explained the proposal process for the student transportation contract and the individuals that participated in the process included herself, Dr. Mahoney, two former transportation coordinators, the current transportation coordinator, and the owner of the current transportation contract. The criteria considered were cost, safety, and company liabilities and stability. The district received a total of three proposals. The recommendation was to contract with Dattco Bus Company.

## V. Committee Reports

- a. **Policy** – Bob Ravens-Seger reported that the policy sub-committee was cancelled; a new one will be scheduled.
- b. **Budget** – Bob Ravens-Seger reported that the BOF directed budget of 1.74% will be presented at the Town Meeting on April 24, 2018. This is a \$42,500 reduction from the previous BOF directed budget of 2.0%. Transportation cost will be reduced and we are anticipating a \$39,000 Medicaid relief, although it has not yet been officially removed/relieved yet by the state. If the state does not remove the mandate, the BOF said the BOE could use money from the non-lapsing recurring funds to cover the cost. Mr. Ziobro commented that there is no penalty if we do not adhere to the mandate and the BOE voted not to comply even though the vote was not unanimous. For the record, John Welsh objected to the action taken and voted against the motion and commented that ignoring a state mandate is more of a moral issue than a budget issue. Mr. Welsh took exception to the action by the BOF on several grounds; 1) the BOF never accepted the letter into communications therefore, it was not part of their meeting and he believes, according Robert's Rules, should not have been discussed; 2) the BOF obtained a letter that was directed to the BOE but the letter was not received by all BOE members; therefore, some members were not aware of the letter until the conclusion of the BOF meeting; 3) the letter was transmitted to BOF members with the exception of two and a trail of emails and correspondence between certain BOF members probably constitutes a quorum under their bylaws; therefore, it was improper and probably an illegal meeting between the members. For those reasons Mr. Welsh feels it was wholly improper for the action to take place. Additionally, the BOF does not have authority to individually look at individual line items of the BOE budget. For those reasons, Mr. Welsh objected cutting the \$39,000. Mr. Ravens-Seger agrees with Mr. Welsh although his vote was not the same; he could not see voting on something that would directly impact the students. Mrs. Ziobro objected to the characterization regarding the terms of Mr. Welsh's statement. There must have been some oversight to the emails and does not believe it was intentional. What is important is keeping the faculty and staff levels the same. Mrs. Ziobro does not see the risk of relying on the state to exempt East Granby and other small towns from paying the \$39,000 especially if the BOE has the non-lapsing recurring fund to rely on. Sharon Shepherd did not appreciate how the BOF meeting was held in regards to this item and she does not agree with ignoring a state mandate; the BOE should follow the law. The budget is tight and if the state does not exempt us from paying the state mandate, Mrs. Shepherd hopes that the BOF will keep their word and allow the BOE to use the non-lapsing recurring account to pay the \$39,000. Mr. Welsh supported and endorsed Mrs. Shepherd's position. Mr. Ziobro would like to have the letter made available to the general public. Several BOE members commented that they did not receive a copy of the letter. Mr. Welsh commented that the BOE chair should have distributed copies to BOE members prior to tonight's meeting and then entered them into communications. The BOE should first accept the letter and then read it out loud during a BOE meeting. We cannot allow information to enter the record without it first going through the proper channels. [We are dealing with individual applications and if they are denied, they could seek recourse from superior court.] Mr. Ziobro would like to make correspondence a regular item on all future agendas. Mr. Welsh feels we can add the item as needed. For tonight's meeting, Dr. Mahoney suggested reading the letter under item Vf. Communications. Bob Paskiewicz does not want to take money away from the students and supports not complying with the state mandate.
- c. **Curriculum** - Dr. Mahoney reported that a Professional Development and Curriculum Council meeting will be scheduled for May and a curriculum document will be coming soon.
- d. **Facilities** – Nothing further.
- e. **Negotiations** – None
- f. **Communications** – Bob Ravens-Seger read the letter from state representative, Tami Zawistowski, requesting an exemption for East Granby and possibly other small districts from participating in the new state mandated (Medicaid) School Based Health Program.

## VI. Recommended Actions

### a. Approve March 2018 Financial Report

Susan Greco reported that the financials are trending as usual for this time of year and explained why line item #435, Repairs to Buildings, exceeded its budget allocation due to additional costly repairs at the middle/high school and Carl Allgrove School. Mrs. Greco continued by reviewing recommended transfer of funds and that the Business Insurance Lines came in lower than projected so the remaining

funds were repurposed. Mr. Ziobro asked why the electricity expenditure at R.D. Seymour School has begun to exceed its budget. Mrs. Greco presumes that is it due to the increase in generation fees.

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Feeney, seconded by Mr. Welsh, to approve the March 2018 Financials as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

**b. Vote on Transportation Contract**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Paskiewicz, seconded by Mrs. Shepherd, to accept Dattco Bus Company's student transportation proposal as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

Mrs. Shepherd asked what the next step in the process is. Mrs. Greco replied that she will contact Dattco Bus Company and have the proposal converted to contract form. Mr. Ziobro was under the impression that a BOE member would be part of the transportation selection committee. Mr. Welsh suggested having a BOE member participate in the selection process if the amount of a contract exceeds a designated threshold. Dr. Mahoney explained that, according to the board's attorney, if a BOE member participated in the selection process, the BOE member would not be able to vote if something went awry. It is important that the BOE be neutral in the event of corrective action. Dr. Mahoney referred to policies 3324.1 and 3320 created with guidance from the board's attorney. Mr. Welsh withdrew his suggestion to have a BOE member observe the proposal process based on board policies.

Mr. Ziobro would like a copy of the Dattco Bus contract. Mr. Paskiewicz would also like a copy of the contract as well as a copy of the current contract. Mrs. Greco informed the board members that a copy of the request for proposal was emailed to all BOE members earlier and she will email a copy of the current contract to them as well.

**VII. Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

**a. Spring Recognition Ceremony**

Dr. Mahoney reported that the spring student recognition ceremony will be held prior to the May 29, 2018 BOE meeting at 6 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

**b. Superintendent's Evaluation**

As part of her evaluation, Dr. Mahoney will report to the BOE as to what transpired in the second half of the school year at the next BOE meeting in May. Mr. Ziobro requested that all board members receive a copy of the superintendent's current contract and total cost of benefits. Dr. Mahoney will consult with counsel.

**VIII. Comments from Visitors**

Dattco Bus Company representative, Cliff Gibson, thanked the board members for awarding Dattco the student transportation contract.

**IX. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Mr. Ziobro, seconded by Mr. Welsh, to adjourn the meeting. *Motion approved unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Kline  
Board Clerk

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