

**East Granby Board of Education
East Granby, Connecticut
Meeting Minutes for
Monday, June 11, 2018**

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Mr. Rob Crocker
Mrs. Karey Pond

Others Present:

Dr. Christine Mahoney, Superintendent
Mr. Richard Mahoney, Interim Business Manager
Ms. Lisa Kline, Board Clerk
Ivana Prats, Student Representative
Bill Pitney, Visitor
Dave Wing, Maintenance Supervisor
Jim Grenon-Francoline
John Walker, Visitor
Yvon Lemieux, Visitor

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

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

a. Approve minutes from the May 14, 2018 special meeting and the May 14, 2018 and May 29, 2018 regular meetings

MOTION: a motion was made by Jim Feeney, seconded by John Welsh, to approve the May 14, 2018 special meeting minutes as presented. (FOR: John Ziobro, Lucia Ziobro, Jim Feeney, John Welsh, Bob Ravens-Seger, Bob Paskiewicz. ABSTAINED: Sharon Shepherd). **Motion approved.**

MOTION: a motion was made by John Welsh, seconded by Bob Ravens-Seger, to approve the May 14, 2018 regular meeting minutes as presented. John Ziobro asked to strike the words 'if requested' at the end of item VIIb from the minutes. Lucia Ziobro commented that the Connecticut General Statute (CGS) Section 10-287c-1 noted in the first motion made in item IVd. does not exist or it is a typing error.

MOTION: a motion was made by John Welsh to withdraw his motion to approve the May 14, 2018 and move to hold off approving them. Motion was seconded by Jim Feeney. Dr. Mahoney will confirm what the correct CGS should be recorded on the document from the source that provided it. Lucia Ziobro continued by sharing that she abstained from the motion made in item VIa. Approve April 2018 Financials. Additionally, if we keep the wording in item Vf. John Welsh commented that "*the East Granby real estate market is hot. There is an incredible desire and houses are selling fast. Families are attracted to East Granby because we are recognized as having one of the best school districts*"; Lucia does not know how relevant that is but if we keep it in the minutes we should indicate that families are attracted to East Granby because there is a perception that we are recognized as one of the best school districts. That changed this year; the district was not been recognized this year. Lucia Ziobro would like to indicate that in the minutes because that was her comment, however, it was not reflected in the minutes, or; she suggested removing John Welsh's comment altogether. Dr. Mahoney pointed out that we need to be clear on what we mean by the district has not been recognized. This district has been recognized for a number of things. We need to clarify what specific recognition we are talking about.

MOTION: a motion was made by John Welsh, seconded by Bob Paskiewicz to approve the May 14, 2018 regular meeting minutes as revised and amended by Lucia Ziobro. John Welsh asked Lucia Ziobro to submit her revisions in writing to the clerk after the meeting because that would suffice. Those would be acceptable corrections and revisions which was the basis of John Welsh's motion. (FOR: Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, Jim Feeney, John Welsh, John Ziobro, Lucia Ziobro; ABSTAINED: Sharon Shepherd). **Motion approved.**

MOTION: a motion was made by Jim Feeney, seconded by Sharon Shepherd to approve the May 29, 2018 regular meeting minutes as presented. Lucia Ziobro requested to add "We are not obligated to extend the superintendent's contract one year" to the end of the first motion made in item Vb. Approve Extending Superintendent's Contract One Year. Dr. Mahoney mentioned that there is language in her contract that speaks to the extension and would like to table the addition to the motion until the language in the contract is reviewed and sorted out.

Sharon Shepherd requested to add “At this time, Grades 4 and 5 remain the same (4 sections per grade) for the 2018-2019 school year” after the third sentence in item IVb. Projected K-5 Student Enrollment 2018-2019.

MOTION: a motion was made by Jim Feeney, seconded by John Welsh to table approving the May 29, 2018 regular meeting minutes. (FOR: Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, Sharon Shepherd, John Welsh, Jim Feeney, John Ziobro; OPPOSED: Lucia Ziobro. *Motion approved.*

John Ziobro asked if the Chromebooks could be repurposed instead of receiving \$12.00 cash back per Chromebook at the end of the school year; \$12.00 does not seem like much money. Richard Mahoney explained that it is a licensing agreement that expires and the old Chromebooks are locked and unusable. Receiving \$12.00 cash back per Chromebook is better than \$0.

b. Additions to the Agenda

MOTION: a motion was made by Sharon Shepherd, seconded by John Welsh to add item Vb. Update on Transportation Contract to the agenda. *Motion approved unanimously.*

c. Comments from Visitors

Jim Grenon-Francoline was pleased that the motion to extend the Superintendent’s Contract was held in open session as required by state statute; however, he was disappointed that it was added to the agenda during the meeting and not posted earlier as an agenda item so the public at-large was not informed in advance. Additionally, the superintendent’s evaluation is shrouded in secrecy. The public does not know the criteria in which the superintendent is evaluated. In the interest of transparency, the public needs to know the results of the superintendent’s evaluation.

Bob Ravens-Seger commented that the majority of the board members were pleased with the superintendent’s performance.

II. Correspondence – None

III. Student Representatives Report

Ivan Prats reported that students were busy with Advanced Placement testing and both the academic and sports awards banquets were held. One hundred and twenty students attended prom and the spring concert was held last week. Senior events will be taking place and finals are coming up followed by graduation.

IV. Chairperson’s Report

a. School Safety and Security

Bob Paskiewicz would like to continue being proactive in school safety and security. Dr. Mahoney reported that they continue to examine daily practices. There was an ongoing issue with the double entry doors at the high school gymnasium and Dave Wing was notified. Dr. Mahoney asked Dave Wing to describe the problem. Mr. Wing explained that he reached out to our vendor to evaluate the issue. The vendor reported that they had some alignment issues with those doors in the past, primarily due to structural shifting that occurs during the winter months. The locksmith was asked to check the lobby entry doors to the high school for a misalignment issue. On June 6, 2018, Dave Wing prepared a work order to address this safety concern that the doors were not closing and locking properly. The locksmith fixed the door so that it latched and locked on its own. The replacement of both thresholds and door closers on the lobby entry double doors is scheduled for June 2018.

Sharon Shepherd asked Dr. Mahoney if the district practices emergency drills in the fall like they do in the spring. Dr. Mahoney replied that they practice various major drills but do not have an evacuation drill in the fall. Sharon Shepherd is concerned that incoming students or students changing schools will not know the protocol in the event of an emergency if it is not practiced until the spring. Dr. Mahoney assured her that administrators continually review important emergency practices with their faculty and staff who then share it with their students. Mrs. Shepherd asked if a record of the drills that take place is available. Dr. Mahoney replied that the school secretaries as well as the fire marshal can provide that information.

V. Superintendent's Report

a. Policies

Dr. Mahoney met with Bob Paskiewicz to review new and revised policies recommended by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE). Dr. Mahoney distributed copies to non-members of the policy sub-committee and reviewed the cover sheet summarizing the policy topics. There will be a second read before a motion to approve the policies is made.

b. Update on Transportation Contract

Dr. Mahoney reported that after awarding the bus company the contract the BOE's attorney worked on a specific binding contract; it will be presented to the BOE members, and the transportation company's attorney. If the attorneys are in agreement, the contract will be signed and meetings will be scheduled to organize bus drivers and bus routes for next school year. The current contract ends on June 30, 2018 and the new one will begin on July 1, 2018. Lucia Ziobro asked if the contract is presented to the board members for final approval. Dr. Mahoney responded that the board members do not approve it but rather review it so they can be familiar with it.

VI. Committee Reports

a. **Policy** – Bob Paskiewicz commented that the policies presented by Dr. Mahoney and recommended by CABE are well-done. He does not approve including the 'optional' section in policy 1700(a) addressing possession of a weapon at a school-sponsored activity. John Welsh agreed with Bob Paskiewicz. Lucia Ziobro inquired about the alternate language sections. Dr. Mahoney responded that the alternate language is another way of explaining the same matter.

b. **Budget** – None

c. **Curriculum** – Bob Ravens-Seger reviewed the proposed Advanced Manufacturing Curriculum II and found it is aligned with other branches of learning, is seamless, and well-written.

d. **Negotiations** – As members of the negotiations sub-committee, Lucia Ziobro and John Ziobro shared that they will be attending a class at CABE on June 12, 2018 to review skills useful for contract negotiations. Lucia Ziobro asked Bob Ravens-Seger to contact Rebecca Adams, CABE attorney, to schedule a date and time for Rebecca to instruct the board how to properly conduct the superintendent's evaluation. Bob Paskiewicz recommended holding a special meeting rather than having Rebecca attend a regular meeting.

e. **Facilities** – None

f. **Communications** – Sharon Shepherd has not had time to schedule a sub-committee meeting but her goal is to foster communication between the Superintendent, the board, and the community for clarity purposes.

VII. Recommended Actions

a. Approve Advanced Manufacturing Curriculum II

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Paskiewicz, seconded by Sharon Shepherd, to approve the Advanced Manufacturing Curriculum II as presented. Lucia Ziobro asked Dr. Mahoney for a summary of what the curriculum consists of. Dr. Mahoney described the curriculum as a combination of CAD, Electrolgy, CNC, Additive Manufacturing, and other areas of study. *Motion approved unanimously.*

At this time, Dr. Mahoney asked to add Approve May 2018 Financials to the agenda.

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Sharon Shepherd to add item VIIb. Approve May 2018 Financials to the agenda. *Motion approved unanimously.*

b. Approve May 2018 Financials

Richard Mahoney reported that there is little change since the April 2018 financials and that we are still continuing to add to the deficit for Repairs to Buildings. Mr. Mahoney anticipates a deficit of \$12,000 for electricity at R.D. Seymour School by year end. Mr. Mahoney recently attended a meeting concerning the boilers in which Tradesman of New England expressed significant concerns regarding both boilers. Mr. Mahoney continued to share that Rainbow Bus Company has not sent invoices yet for the month of May. There have been unusual special education placement changes that will create a significant change in June. Bob Ravens-Seger asked if the bill backs will help us to

balance line items. Mr. Mahoney replied that it will but it cannot be reflected in the May financials because it did not happen yet.

MOTION: a motion was made by John Welsh, seconded by Jim Feeney, to approve the May 2018 Financials as presented.

Jim Feeney asked if the May transportation numbers were encumbered. Mr. Mahoney replied that they are. Sharon Shepherd is surprised that R.D. Seymour School is exceeding their electrical budget. Mr. Mahoney explained that the building is utilized more because it is new and the budget was not adjusted to accommodate usage due to increased technology and evening events.

John Ziobro commented that it is difficult to approve financials when they are not distributed to board members in a timely manner allowing them ample time to review them prior to a meeting; this is the second time that it has happened. Dr. Mahoney agreed that the financials were distributed later than usual due to changes in office staff. The financials do not have to be approved tonight; however, Dr. Mahoney felt that it was important to share what went on during the month of May.

MOTION: a motion was made by John Welsh, seconded by Jim Feeney to withdraw the motion to Approve the May 2018 Financials as presented. **Motion approved unanimously.**

John Welsh agrees with John Ziobro and suggested ensuring that certain documents are sent to board members allowing them ample time to review the information prior to a meeting or distributing the information the first meeting of the month discussing it at the second meeting of the month.

VIII. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- a. Approve May 2018 Financials
- b. How to Conduct the Superintendent's Evaluation with Rebecca Adams, CABA Attorney
- c. Superintendent's Contract

John Welsh clarified that there are two phases to the process. The last meeting was public vote to extend the Superintendent's contract. Compensation will be voted on at the next meeting.

IX. Comments from Visitors

Yvon Lemieux thanked the board members for volunteering their service. Yvon shared that his public comment is that parents are concerned about evacuation drills and asked if the drills are audited, monitored, or graded. Dr. Mahoney explained that there are monthly meetings with a large committee consisting of fire, police, state troopers, local National Guard, and First Selectman Jim Hayden. There are debriefing sessions after each drill. Individual schools also have committees consisting of police, parents, and staff that meet regularly. Security audits have been done in the past and will be done again shortly. Bob Ravens-Seger shared that parents received real time messages as to what was transpiring during the shelter in place due to the recent tornado warnings.

Jim Grenon-Francoline suggested sharing the information in a Let's Talk Turkey article. Dr. Mahoney and some board members confirmed that the information was previously published in Let's Talk Turkey.

John Walker asked what science classes are being offered and if Latin was being offered. Dr. Mahoney listed the several types of science classes offered and replied that Latin is not broadly used instruction and Latin has declined in districts over the years.

IX. Executive Session – Superintendent's Evaluation

(Executive Session, if required, is held in accordance with P.A. 75-342)

X. Adjournment

MOTION: a motion was made by John Ziobro, seconded by Bob Paskiewicz, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion approved unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Kline, Board Clerk

These minutes are issued pending Board of Education approval.

**East Granby Board of Education
Executive Session Meeting Minutes for
Monday, June 11, 2018**

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Dr. Christine Mahoney, Superintendent

Board Members Absent:

Mr. Rob Crocker
Mrs. Karey Pond

The Executive Session was called to order at 8:58 p.m.

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Jim Feeney to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's Evaluation. The board invited Dr. Mahoney to attend. *Motion approved unanimously.*

The Board returned to regular session at 9:13 p.m.

MOTION: a motion was made by John Ziobro, seconded by Bob Paskiewicz, to adjourn the meeting. *Motion approved unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Shepherd
Board Secretary