

**East Granby Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes for
Monday, October 22, 2018**

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Mr. Rob Crocker
Mrs. Karey Pond
Mr. Jim Feeney

Others Present:

Dr. Patricia Charles, Interim Superintendent
Mrs. Sherry Holmes, Business Manager
Ms. Lisa Kline, Board Clerk
Tony DeMelo, Principal EGHS
Melissa Bavaro, Principal EGMS
Marjorie Light, Director of Curriculum
Maylah Uhlinger, Principal Carl Allgrove School
Bob McGrath, Principal R.D. Seymour School
Tim Phelan, Assistant Principal EGHS
William Pitney, Visitor
Devin Stout, Student

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

With a quorum present, Bob Ravens-Seger, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

a. Additions to the Agenda

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by John Ziobro to add item IIIc. Consolidated Grant Application and item Vb. Approve Consolidated Grant Application to the agenda. *Motion approved unanimously.*

b. Comments from Visitors regarding agenda items - None

II. Correspondence - None

III. Superintendent's Report

a. Student Recognition

Dr. Charles and the Board of Education members recognized East Granby High School 12th grader, Devin Stout, for earning and receiving the rank of Eagle Scout. Devin's project consisted of coordinating a group of individuals to paint the parking lot lines at the East Granby Congregational Church. The project required a lot of manpower; it needed to be mapped out, stencils for the lines to guide the paint roller were made, and cleaning the parking lot before painting the lines needed to be completed. Devin shared that it took him 7 years to earn the 13 badges required to be an Eagle Scout. John Welsh commented that the speech Devin gave at the Eagle Court of Honor & Awards Ceremony was the greatest speech he has ever heard.

b. Student Performance Reports – Presentations by Administrators

The administrators presented the student performance reports for their respective school. Principal Bavaro was the facilitator and began by explaining the district initiatives to improve student learning; Mastery Based Education, Blended Learning, and Growth Mindset. Karen Gogel reviewed the performance indicators in the Annual Performance Report on Connecticut's State Performance Plan and explained that the report is based on data from the 2016-2017 school year; the state is always a year behind. The report is comprised of fifteen indicators. East Granby met all targeted areas and was 100% in compliance in terms of timelines and there were no areas that needed addressing on the compliance report. Ms. Gogel continued to share that focus on early reading and language development is very important and increased professional development for paraprofessionals made a significant improvement in student growth. Special education students are not exempt from assessments and their scores are embedded in the districts with the exception of outplaced students. Thanks to grant funding, parent workshops are offered throughout the year.

Principal Uhlinger continued by sharing information for Carl Allgrove School. The reading benchmark scores for June 2018 are: Gr. K - 84%, Gr. 1 - 82%, and Gr. 2 - 76%. Fountas and Pinnell is used for the primary assessment. The key is to analyze student data throughout the year. The major focus at Carl Allgrove School is not only how to read, but to be able to understand it. Highlights this year include implementation of phonics units of study, mastery based learning, project based learning, and adding elements to the coding program.

Bob McGrath reported on the 2017-2018 Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium results for R. D. Seymour School. This assessment is aligned with the common core required by the state and measures student growth on a yearly basis. The test is scored on a scale of 1 to 4. We are looking for a score of 3

(which is proficient) or above. On the English Language Arts (ELA) test, 3 out of 4 of our students are proficient and that includes special education students. The percent of students in grades 3-5 that met or exceeded the achievement level in (ELA) and where we placed in our DRG (DRG-D) are as follows: Gr. 3 - 73.1% (7th in DRG), Gr. 4 - 66.3% (10th in DRG), and Gr. 5 - 73.0% (9th in DRG). The percent that met or exceeded the achievement level in math and place in our DRG are as follows: Gr. 3 - 73.3% (7th in DRG), Gr. 4 - 74.0% (8th in DRG), and Gr. 5 - 76.0% (7th in DRG).

Principal Bavaro reported that East Granby Middle School students met or exceeded the state percentages in grades 6-8 in both ELA and math. ELA results are as follows: Gr. 6 - 62.0% (16th in DRG), Gr. 7 - 68.5% (6th in DRG), and Gr. 8 - 68.7% (9th in DRG). Math results are as follows: Gr. 6 - 58.0% (7th in DRG), Gr. 7 - 66.2% (3rd in DRG), and Gr. 8 - 59.7% (6th in DRG). Through our intervention program, we know exactly what level each student is at allowing us to provide services so they can reach level 3 or 4. Sharon Shepherd asked how these results compare to past years and how we monitor a specific grades progress moving forward. Principal Bavaro replied that the feedback they get from SBAC is general so they have access to interim assessments which is a parallel assessment to the SBAC.

Lucia Ziobro was surprised that less than 50% of students in grades 6-8 throughout the state are not proficient in math.

Principal DeMelo reviewed the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Results. The 11th grade students averaged a math score of 531 (49.3%), 9.0% over state average and an ELA average score of 550 (86.3%), 23.9% over state average ranking them #5 in Math and #2 in ELA out of 24 districts. There is no limit to how many times students can take the SAT; the state chooses a specific SAT exam day to collect the SAT results. To get a better measure of growth, grade 9 and 10 students are now required to take the Practice Scholastic Aptitude Test. The Connecticut Academic Performance Test was not administered for the last two years; we now have Next Generation Science Standards but we will not have anything to present until next year. John Ziobro asked what is being done to improve math scores. Principal DeMelo replied that we are instituting a data driven decision making process. Teachers are looking at different types of question strands from SATs and embedding them into their math curriculum. We also have SAT courses students can enroll in. Dr. Charles added that students are now taking Algebra I in grade 8 to prepare them for high school math. Next, Principal DeMelo reviewed the Advanced Placement (AP) mean scores from 2016-2018. Last year, over 90 students took AP courses and 75 of them took AP exams. Sharon Shepherd asked why some of the AP students chose not to take the AP exam. Principal DeMelo explained that some students may not pursue the subject matter in college and the exam can be expensive to take; there are vouchers available for students if need be. Sharon Shepherd would like to see results for articulated students. Principal DeMelo shared that the high school also has an Advanced College Consortium (ACC²). Currently, seven 11th and 12th grade students spend half their day at the high school and the other half at Asnuntuck Community College earning college credits.

Principal Bavaro reviewed sources of assessment data performed throughout the year at different levels and skills and discussed implementation of the Scientific Research Based Intervention (SRBI) model used at all schools. SRBI has interventions in place to prevent students from having a large growth gap and consists of three tiers; Tier I emphasizes on differentiated classroom instruction and best practices, and parent communication and conferences; Tier II focuses on small group instruction with intervention specialist; and Tier III is individual and small group instruction delivered by an intervention specialist and focusing on remediating specific skills deficits. Next, Principal Bavaro shared staff learning opportunities linked to district and school initiatives. Learning opportunities include individual, schoolwide, discipline/grade/team, and district.

The presentations were concluded by Marjorie Light who shared the curriculum initiatives for 2018-2019 to include blended and online learning, mastery-based teaching and learning, new classes, and 13 AP classes. Mrs. Light also reviewed disciplines and what is new for 2018-2019. John Welsh commented that the writers' workshop is phenomenal and how it prepared his son with his schooling and enhanced his writing skills. Lucia Ziobro asked about the illustrative math program pilot. Mrs. Light explained that it is a hands-on approach and open way of teaching math. Students discuss problems, lowering the level of frustration. Sharon Shepherd commented that the K-5 curriculum helped give her son a more positive perception of math.

c. Consolidated Grant Application

Dr. Charles explained that the consolidated grant application consist of the Title I, II, III, and IV grants. These are federal grants similar to last year and Dr. Charles is asking for approval to submit the application. Title I is for \$58,218 and is used towards Teachers College Workshops, intervention specialist at the elementary schools, resources and materials, and state mandated parent workshops and services for homeless students. Title II is for \$12,634 and provides professional development and curriculum consulting. Title III is for \$1,433 and is for English Language Learners students. We

combine the money with a consortium to increase buying power. Title IV, totaling \$10,000, was revised this year and is for well-rounded education, safe and healthy students, and technology. The majority of it will go towards teacher training and supplemental courses, CPR dummies for health classes, and purchasing online resources.

IV. Chairperson's Report

a. Capital Plan Update

Bob Ravens-Seger reported that the Board of Finance approved the 5 year Capital Plan for 2018-2019 including \$60,000 for technology, \$77,000 for middle/high school HVAC controls, \$23,000 for the fire panel replacement (reimbursement), \$17,500 for the Carl Allgrove School oil tank removal, and \$7,500 for the Carl Allgrove School gas hot water conversion. The air duct cleaning projects were moved out 1 year and the electrical update at Carl Allgrove School (if the bonding committee does not cover the project). The middle/high school roofs are not included in the capital plan; we are hopeful that it will be included in the bonding project. Sharon Shepherd asked what the status of the bonding project is. Bob Ravens-Seger replied that a report is being prepared and will be presented to the town around November 15, 2018. Sharon Shepherd suggested emailing parents to let them know about the meeting. Dr. Charles will send out a message using the parent notification system.

V. Recommended Actions

a. Approve Field Trips

Dr. Charles presented a field trip for grade 1 students to travel to Symphony Hall in Springfield, Massachusetts on May 7, 2019 to see the performance of *The Magic School Bus: Lost in the Solar System*. Students will depart at 9:00 a.m. and return at 12:00 noon. The Parent Teacher Organization will cover the cost of admission and parents will pay for bus transportation.

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Paskiewicz, seconded by Sharon Shepherd for grade 1 students to travel to Symphony Hall in Springfield, Massachusetts on May 7, 2019 as presented. ***Motion approved unanimously.***

Dr. Charles presented a field trip for grade 4 students to travel to New York, New York in April 2019 (date TBD) to visit the Tenement Museum, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Cost per student, paid by the student is \$21.00.

MOTION: a motion was made by John Welsh, seconded by Sharon Shepherd for grade 4 students to travel to New York, New York in April 2019 (date TBD) as presented. ***Motion approved unanimously.***

b. Approve Consolidated Grant Application

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Sharon Shepherd to move that the filing of the Consolidated Grant application for Title I, II, III, and IV be authorized by the Board of Education, and authorize the interim superintendent to file this application for and on behalf of the East Granby Board of Education, and otherwise to act as the authorized representative of the applicant in connection with this application. ***Motion approved unanimously.***

VI. Comments from Visitors

Mr. Pitney commented on the student performance reports and that we should concentrate on comparing our scores with our DRG and surrounding towns that have similar social economic status as East Granby and not with the state scores. He would find the scores to be more meaningful.

Sharon Shepherd thanked the administrators for their presentations and hard work. John Ziobro asked to include Payroll Update as an item on the next meeting agenda.

VII. Adjournment

MOTION: a motion was made by John Welsh, seconded by John Ziobro to adjourn the meeting. ***Motion approved unanimously.*** The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Kline
Board Clerk

These minutes are issued pending Board of Education approval.