

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

Board Members Present:

Mr. Bob Ravens-Seger
Mr. John Welsh
Mr. Jim Feeney
Mrs. Sharon Shepherd (left 8:37)
Mr. John Ziobro
Mrs. Lucia Ziobro
Mr. Bob Paskiewicz

Others Present:

Dr. Patricia Charles, Interim Superintendent
Mrs. Sherry Holmes, Business Manager
Ms. Lisa Kline, Board Clerk
Marjorie Light, Curriculum Director
Melissa Bavaro, Principal, EGMS

Board Members Absent:

Mr. Robert Crocker
Mrs. Karey Pond

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

With a quorum present, Bob Ravens-Seger, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

a. Additions to Agenda

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Paskiewicz, seconded by John Ziobro to add item IIIb. Meeting Consensus to the agenda. *Motion approved unanimously.*

b. Comments from visitors regarding agenda items - None

II. Correspondence

Bob Ravens-Seger read a letter from Robin O'Brien, a Reading teacher at Carl Allgrove School, announcing her retirement at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. The board regretfully accepted her letter.

III. Chairperson's Report

a. Bonding Update

Bob Ravens-Seger anticipates there will be a bonding committee meeting this coming Thursday to put the finishing touches on the report. A vote to accept the report is mandatory. On December 6, 2018, there will be an informational town meeting to present the findings to the community. The meeting will be recorded by GCTV. John Ziobro believes there will be a referendum.

b. Meeting Consensus

Board members discussed the possibility of scheduling a special meeting on December 3, 2018. Sharon Shepherd plans on holding a communications sub-committee meeting on December 4, 2018 at the East Granby library at 6:00 p.m.

IV. Superintendent's Report

a. School Year Calendar 2019-2020

Dr. Charles presented a copy of the proposed 2019-2020 school year calendar and pointed out changes suggested by the Professional Development Evaluation Curriculum (PDEC) committee as follows: start the school year one day earlier, include two Jewish Holidays, make December 23, 2019 a vacation day, and reduce the number of professional development days. Board members discussed the pros and cons of the recommended calendar taking into consideration union contracts, aligning with surrounding districts, project graduation, heating fuel savings, holiday travel, and the importance of having as much quality constructive time as possible. It was suggested to place an asterisk next to the dates in June that may need to be added due to anticipated 'snow days'. The board will re-visit the calendar at the next board meeting.

b. Math Curriculum – Marjorie Light

As a result of the concerns board members shared at a previous board meeting regarding the math assessment results, Marjorie Light shared math curriculum areas of focus the district is working on. The age of the curriculum K-5 students are using, exploring Teachers College “Math” and Creative Mindset workshops, providing Illustrative Math training for grade 6-8 teachers and allowing access to the same program for grade 3-5 students were discussed. The return on the investment for additional training would be cost effective. Additional focus areas include, SAT preparation, peer observation time, summer math curriculum writing, professional development days for math, additional textbooks to share/borrow, and having high school and middle school math teachers collaborate on Algebra I curriculum for grades 8 and 9. Marjorie Light would like the board to consider adopting Accounting I as a math credit. John Tedesco is a math teacher at East Granby High School and also taught at the University of Connecticut. Marjorie Light would like to offer a college level (ECE course) math class and recommended a three year plan for math acquisition of resources.

Jim Feeney questioned if the math scope and sequence are in sync with the exams. John Welsh asked if students participate in the Math Olympics. Melissa Bavaro replied that there is not enough student interest to participate. Sharon Shepherd asked if we look at other districts to see what they are using for curriculum. Marjorie Light replied that John Tedesco is a Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) trained teacher and was Teacher of the Year in another district; he knows what happens in surrounding districts. Melissa Bavaro contacts colleagues to see what they use. Some build their own program using their own committee but it is time consuming and they are larger districts. Jim Feeney asked what is being done to get more girls interested in math. Marjorie Light explained that there are STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programs to help gain girls’ interest in those fields.

In conclusion, Marjorie Light shared that you need to track a cohort in order to get a good comparison of math results and you need to look at other things, not just the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) scores. Bob Paskiewicz suggested creating a one page summary comparing East Granby to area districts such as Granby, Simsbury, Suffield, and Windsor Locks. Melissa Bavaro shared that the District Initiatives to Improve Student Learning, Assessment Results/Curriculum Focus Areas from the October 22, 2018 presentation compares us to other districts in our DRG and throughout the state. The presentation is posted on the district website.

V. Recommended Actions

a. Approve Board of Education Meeting Calendar 2019

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Paskiewicz, seconded by John Welsh to approve the Board of Education Meeting Calendar for 2019 as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

VI. Comments from Visitors - None

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 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Kline
Board Clerk

These minutes are issued pending Board of Education approval.