

**East Granby Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes for
Monday, March 11, 2019**

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Mr. John Welsh
Mr. Robert Crocker

Others Present:

Dr. Patricia Charles, Interim Superintendent
Mrs. Sherry Holmes, Business Manager
Ms. Lisa Kline, Board Clerk
Jordan Kott, Student Representative
Taylor Whitehouse, Student Representative
Karen Gogel, Director Student Support Services
Melissa Bavaro-Grande, EGMS Principal
Kerri Cavanaugh, Visitor
Dave LeBlanc, Visitor

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

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

- a. Approve Minutes from the February 7, 2019 policy sub-committee meeting, the February 11, 2019 budget workshop, the February 11, 2019 regular meeting, the February 21, 2019 curriculum sub-committee meeting, the February 21, 2019 policy sub-committee meeting, the February 22, 2019 facilities sub-committee meeting, the February 25, 2019 budget workshop, the February 25, 2019 regular meeting, and the February 28, 2019 policy sub-committee meeting**

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Lucia Ziobro to approve the February 7, 2019 policy sub-committee meeting minutes as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

MOTION: a motion was made by Jim Feeney, seconded by Bob Ravens-Seger to approve the February 11, 2019 budget workshop minutes as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

Bob Paskiewicz requested to amend the February 11, 2019 regular meeting minutes to reflect that Taylor Whitehouse not Jordan Kott presented item II. Student Representatives Report.

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Sharon Shepherd to approve the February 11, 2019 regular meeting minutes as amended. (FOR: John Ziobro, Lucia Ziobro, Sharon Shepherd, Karey Pond, Jim Feeney, and Bob Paskiewicz. ABSTAINED: Bob Ravens-Seger). *Motion approved.*

MOTION: a motion was made by Sharon Shepherd, seconded by Bob Ravens-Seger to approve the February 21, 2019 curriculum sub-committee meeting minutes as presented. (FOR: Sharon Shepherd, Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, Jim Feeney, Karey Pond. ABSTAINED: John Ziobro and Lucia Ziobro). *Motion approved.*

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by John Ziobro to approve the February 21, 2019 policy sub-committee meeting minutes as presented. (FOR: Sharon Shepherd, Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, Jim Feeney, Karey Pond. ABSTAINED: John Ziobro and Lucia Ziobro). *Motion approved.*

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Jim Feeney to approve the February 22, 2019 facilities sub-committee meeting minutes as presented. (FOR: Sharon Shepherd, Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, Jim Feeney, Karey Pond, and John Ziobro). ABSTAINED: Lucia Ziobro). *Motion approved.*

MOTION: a motion was made by Sharon Shepherd, seconded by Jim Feeney to approve the February 25, 2019 budget workshop minutes as presented. (FOR: Sharon Shepherd, Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, and Jim Feeney). ABSTAINED: John Ziobro, Lucia Ziobro, and Karey Pond). *Motion approved.*

MOTION: a motion was made by Sharon Shepherd, seconded by Bob Ravens-Seger to approve the February 25, 2019 regular meeting minutes as presented. (FOR: Sharon Shepherd, Bob Ravens-Seger, and Jim Feeney). ABSTAINED: John Ziobro, Lucia Ziobro, Bob Paskiewicz, and Karey Pond). *Motion approved.*

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by John Ziobro to approve the February 28, 2019 policy sub-committee meeting minutes as presented. (FOR: Sharon Shepherd, Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, Jim Feeney, Karey Pond, and John Ziobro). ABSTAINED: Lucia Ziobro). *Motion approved.*

b. Additions to the Agenda

MOTION: a motion was made by Jim Feeney, seconded by Bob Ravens-Seger to add item VIb. Unexpended Education Funds Account to the agenda.

Dr. Charles requested to add item VIc. Approve Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements to the agenda.

c. Comments from Visitors Regarding Agenda Items

John Ziobro pointed out that board policy allows visitors to ask questions. Bob Paskiewicz looked it up after the last meeting and agreed that the policy allows the board chairperson the prerogative to answer questions. The board members requested a copy of Dr. Charles's responses to the questions Paul Calebaugh presented at the February 25, 2019 regular board meeting.

II. Student Representatives Report

Jordan Kott reported that the boys' basketball team made it to the state tournament for the first time since 2006. Secondly, the high school held a well participated blood drive with the help of the Red Cross. Thirdly, a fundraiser called Cancer for Patients collected money for leukemia and lymphoma patients. Taylor Whitehouse described the Thrilla on the Hilla basketball event that helped raise money for the trip to Europe this April. Taylor also shared that the recent Pops Concert was well attended and a practice lockdown drill took place at the middle/high school.

III. Chairperson's Report

a. Superintendent Search Discussion

The Board of Education (BOE) has been proactive and acquired a part-time interim superintendent in September 2018. The BOE plans to continue in May with another interim superintendent until the permanent position is filled. Bob Paskiewicz stated "We have had conversations with stakeholders in our community, elected local and state officials, and local educators and educators from other districts about the impact of forced regionalization and position of the superintendent and other possible shared services." The BOE is exploring with CABE the impact of shared or part-time superintendents and will consider hiring a search firm to help fill the superintendent position. A determination will be made after studying CABE data, budget impact, and future discussion with stake holders and guidance from the state and East Granby Public Schools' staff.

A Day on the Hill is a CABE workshop for board members. It will be held on March 20, 2019. Board members were asked to contact the board clerk by March 15, 2019 if they are interested in attending.

There will be a non-meeting after this meeting to discuss the search for superintendent.

b. 2019-2020 Budget Update

The BOE is required to review their operating budget proposal for 2019-2020 at the March 14, 2019 Board of Finance (BOF) meeting. Dr. Charles and the administration are proposing a 4.41% budget. The BOF has asked the BOE to prepare a 1% budget. The board members need to decide whether they want to meet again prior to March 14, 2019 to make adjustments to the budget(s) or allow Dr. Charles and Sharon Shepherd to present the budgets to the BOF as is. John Ziobro would like the BOE to meet again. The board members will decide tonight under item Vb.

IV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Charles attended the Pops Concert and was impressed with the talent that the music, band and chorus students displayed.

V. Committee Reports

a. Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements – SECOND READ

Board members asked the following questions regarding policy 6146: to confirm the graduating class year these requirements would begin to take effect; if personal finance and economic classes should be required for graduation because they are life skills; if 20 hours of community service is state mandated; and if we have an "opt out" clause for students who do not have time to complete 20 hours of community service due to employment commitments. The board members agreed that further discussion needs to take place regarding the policy and asked Dr. Charles to invite Principal DeMelo to the next board meeting.

- b. **Budget** – Bob Paskiewicz asked Dr. Charles to review some of the consensus to get to a 1% budget increase. The list consists of budgeting of actual transportation cost, insurance that was not included, outsourcing payroll, reordering the budget reduction list, and potentially eliminating four teachers with K-6 certification to better align with BOE student class policy guidelines. Not all of the board members agreed with the cuts but the BOE is expected to present an operating budget proposal at the March 14, 2019 BOF meeting. John Ziobro disagrees with some of the numbers and would like the record to reflect that this is not the BOE’s recommended budget. Dr. Charles will be happy to state at the BOF meeting that the 4.41% budget is the superintendent’s recommended budget. Technically, it is not the BOE’s budget until the board members vote on it. Bob Paskiewicz and Dr. Charles pointed out that this is a preliminary budget and it will change. The BOF is expected to provide the BOE with a new percentage after hearing both the 4.41% and 1% budget presentations.

MOTION: a motion was made by Jim Feeney, seconded by Karey Pond for the BOE to present a 1% budget as recommended by the BOF using updated numbers whenever possible. The BOE will also present a 4.41% as proposed by Dr. Charles and of those members of the BOE.

Sharon Shepherd agrees with Dr. Charles about presenting the 4.41% budget to maintain services and the 1% budget as being the most reasonable reductions given the facts and recommended changes. Bob Paskiewicz agreed with Sharon. John Ziobro feels that the 1% budget should be the initial presentation not the 4.41% budget because the 1% budget includes the downsizing of teachers according to BOE class size policy. Bob Ravens-Seger commented that the BOE is mandated to also present a budget to maximize student outcome. Rather than presenting the 4.41% budget, Lucia Ziobro suggested that the board adjust the budget tonight to reflect a 3.1% budget increase; the board previously discussed where adjustments could be made during the budget workshop. Jim Feeney asked to move the motion. Karey Pond feels that it would be in the BOE’s best interest to present what we have and what the BOF is asking for and explain why the 1% budget is not going to work. (FOR: Sharon Shepherd, Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, Jim Feeney, Karey Pond. OPPOSED: John Ziobro and Lucia Ziobro).

Motion approved.

- c. **Curriculum** – A curriculum sub-committee meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2019. Marjorie Light recently attended a NEASC site visit to Easthampton High School in Massachusetts to learn the process because East Granby High School will be having one soon.
- d. **Facilities** – A facilities sub-committee meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2019 to look at HVAC contracts and Carl Allgrove electrical upgrades.
- e. **Negotiations** – The board attorney contacted the non-certified union representative but he has not heard back from him yet.
- f. **Communications** – On behalf of the BOE, Sharon Shepherd submitted an article for Let’s Talk Turkey stating that our meetings are open to the public and comments and questions are welcomed. Questions can also be submitted in writing to the superintendent and/or board members. The article also provides contact information, upcoming important dates, and updated information on the search for a superintendent.

VI. Recommended Actions

a. Approve February 2019 Financials

Sherry Holmes reviewed line items that continue to be impacted significantly; reported that electricity is over; the impact upcoming negotiations will have on legal fees; and significant line items that will be encumbered as information becomes available. Sherry recommended transferring \$26,990 from Instructional Supplies to Repairs to Buildings to cover the deficit in that line item.

MOTION: a motion was made by Jim Feeney, seconded by Bob Ravens-Seger to approve the transfer of \$26,990 from line item #610 to line item #435 as presented by Sherry Holmes. *Motion approved.*

Jim Feeney inquired about the status of the boilers. Sherry Holmes replied that they are working with Joe from Tradesman to see where we are at and what needs to be done. John Ziobro asked that the BOE notify the Board of Selectman (BOS) about the transferring of funds as required by Connecticut General Statute. Bob Paskiewicz commented that notifying the BOS about the transferring of funds only applies when it is an emergency. John Ziobro disagreed and recommended asking the board attorney for his interpretation of the statute.

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Jim Feeney to approve the February 2019 Financials as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

b. Unexpended Education Funds Account

MOTION: a motion was made by Jim Feeney, seconded by Bob Ravens-Seger to submit a request to the Board of Finance allowing the Board of Education to deposit into a nonlapsing account any unexpended funds from the prior fiscal year from the budgeted appropriation for education from the town, provided such amount does not exceed one percent of the total budgeted appropriation for education for such prior fiscal year. **Motion approved unanimously.**

c. Approve Policy 6146 Graduation Requirement

MOTION: a motion was made by Jim Feeney, seconded by John Ziobro to table this item until the next board meeting. *Motion approved unanimously.*

VII. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

a. Campaigning for the Budget

Jim Feeney asked Dr. Charles to clarify the timeline that the BOE can campaign for the budget. Dr. Charles replied that the BOE can no longer advocate the budget once the date of the referendum is set.

b. School Regionalization by State

Karey Pond has several people asking her about school regionalization recommended by the state. Dr. Charles will invite our State Representative to a future board meeting. Sharon Shepherd suggested facilitating a forum to give the public an opportunity to discuss this matter at length as well as other topics.

VIII. Comments from Visitors - None

IX. Adjournment

Dr. Charles recognized Board of Education appreciation month by thanking the board members for their hard work and dedication to the district and announced that a reception for Dr. Mahoney will be held on Monday, April 1, 2019 at the senior/community center. The public is invited to attend.

MOTION: a motion was made by John Ziobro, seconded by Sharon Shepherd to adjourn the meeting. *Motion approved unanimously.* Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kline
Board Clerk

These minutes are issued pending Board of Education approval.