

**East Granby Board of Education  
Regular Meeting Minutes for  
Monday, September 23, 2019**

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**Board Members Present:**

Mr. Bob Paskiewicz  
Mr. Bob Ravens-Seger  
Mr. John Welsh  
Mrs. Lynn Landolina  
Mrs. Karey Pond (7:02)  
Mrs. Lucia Ziobro  
Mr. John Ziobro  
Mr. Jim Feeney

**Others Present:**

Melissa F. Bavaro-Grande, Acting Superintendent  
Lisa Kline, Board Clerk  
Karen Gogel, Director of Student Support Services  
Steve Mosher, Technology Coordinator  
William Pitney, Visitor  
Natalie Welsh, Visitor  
Nate Welsh, Visitor

**Board Members Absent:**

Mr. Rob Crocker

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**I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**a. Additions to the Agenda - None**

**b. Comments from Visitors Regarding Agenda Items**

Natalie Welsh shared with the board that her son Nate previously attended East Granby Public Schools but it was agreed by his educators that his level of academic needs were not being met so his parents enrolled him in an out of district online public school. Although Nate is doing very well, he is not able to interact with other students, other than online, or participate in after school activities. Nate's parents are requesting that he be allowed to participate in non-core activities which are an important part of the education process, growth and development of students.

**II. Chairperson's Report**

**a. CABE – Community Conversation**

A special board meeting is scheduled for September 30, 2019. Dr. Mary Broderick from CABE will discuss hiring a full-time, part-time, or shared Superintendent. A Board of Education (BOE) non-meeting will take place afterwards.

**b. Dual Enrollment**

The East Granby BOE does not have a dual enrollment policy or offer dual enrollment. A parent (an East Granby taxpayer) of a private school student inquired about allowing her student to take mathematics at East Granby High School during the school day. That question led Melissa and the policy sub-committee to consider creating a policy. Melissa Bavaro-Grande shared that she presented the following question to CABE. "When a district does not have a policy addressing participation of students in local school district courses or activities, is the district required to allow participation upon request?" Attorney Rebecca Adams responded no. "Home-schooled children and children enrolled in private schools have no legal right to participate in the courses and other activities of the public schools. Children who legally reside in a school district have the right to enroll in school in that district; however, parents or guardians who chose not to enroll their child in school but instead agree to ensure that their child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction in the studies taught in the public school." There is no requirement to allow them to participate even in the absence of having a policy.

Melissa shared samples of school districts with existing policies. In some districts home schooled students are not eligible to participate in school offerings or activities and in other districts, students are eligible to participate. Melissa could not find any school districts with a program that allowed students to participate in activities *during the school day*.

John Ziobro feels more information is needed. John Welsh commented that we encourage our in-district students to reach out to other institutions and enroll in classes that are not available in district so they can receive the best education; yet when we have an opportunity to be the fulfillers of that education experience, we do not allow it. Further discussion included associated cost involved, pay-to-participate fees, enhancing school population, how the teachers association feels on the subject, security/safety, transportation, and keeping track of attendance. Melissa will contact Easthampton Public Schools. They updated their Dual Enrollment policy in March 2019 so they may have great information to share with us. Lynn Landolina asked if the board is considering offering home-schooled students the opportunity to participate in sports as well. Bob Paskiewicz replied that the board would not because it is run by the CIAC; however, they could participate in intramural sports if the board approved it. Lynn Landolina's concern is increase in liability. If a student is not enrolled in the school but participates in activities, are they covered? John Welsh commented that we should not be scared off on the possibility of a potential lawsuit for bringing someone to the building whether they are in or out of district. Lucia Ziobro commented that there is a difference between a lawsuit when somebody is invited onto the premises and the school district adopting a policy and allowing out of district children to attend. The policy sub-committee will schedule a meeting to consider the feedback, possibly consultant with the board attorney, and bring information back to the board.

**c. Capital Plan**

Melissa Bavaro-Grande met with school principals to discuss their capital project needs. Melissa is also applying for a safety and security grant in March 2020 with the U.S. Department of Justice. Carl Allgrove School is in need of functional, fire retardant stage curtains and the black top near the playground area has cracks that are in need of repair. The board already approved a placeholder in the amount of \$5,000 for parking lot repairs. The cracks are due to water run-off and a high water table. Carl Allgrove School is also in need of a projector for the gymnasium and the principals of both R.D. Seymour and Carl Allgrove would like air conditioning in their gymnasiums. The elementary schools use their gymnasiums as auditoriums for parent and student assemblies. Other groups in the community also use them during the evening. John Welsh asked if there is something available that would serve as both a projector and stage curtain for Carl Allgrove School. Lucia Ziobro asked if the fire marshal accessed the curtains to see if they are fire retardant. The wooden landscape ties around the perimeter of the playground at Carl Allgrove School are falling over and there is the possibility of getting splinters. Newgate accessed a way to keep them upright and use a different material. Newgate provided a quote to replace the landscape ties and the DPW will help keep them upright. Safety items such as window blinds and film to cover doors and windows are needed for all schools. Additional radios are needed for emergency situations. Bob Paskiewicz feels that the cost for radios can be taken out of the operating budget. There are still some doors in the schools that are key lock and need to be retro-fitted and the software at R.D. Seymour School needs updating in order to access the cameras. The company previously overseeing the software no longer provides service to that system. Bob Paskiewicz asked if our technology is safe from hackers. There have been recent hackings and request for ransom. Steve Mosher assured the board that

the IT department is aware of what has been happening and they frequently back up the systems and continually research ways to protect our data. Melissa Bavaro-Grande reported that the roots from large trees outside of the middle school commons are causing the floors in the commons to buckle. The DPW would most likely help us remove the trees and resurface the area. Also, the leaves from the trees are hanging over the new roof and that is not helpful. A draft of the capital plan will be presented to the BOE before the BOF meeting in November.

Bob Paskiewicz announced that negotiations for certified staff begin next month and there is no new meeting for the non-certified negotiations.

### **III. Superintendent's Report**

#### **a. Chromebook Loaner Program – High School Guidelines**

Karey Pond asked if there is a place to store Chromebooks if a student does not want to take it home. Steve Mosher replied that it could be stored but students are encouraged to take them home and recharge them. Bob Paskiewicz commented on the amount of instructional time the Chromebooks will save.

John Ziobro would like to know how the program will be financed. The board is not guaranteed to receive the yearly \$60,000 for technology in the capital plan. You cannot start a program unless it is funded by the operating budget and if we do take it out of the operating budget, are we going to remove the \$60,000 for technology from the capital plan. Melissa Bavaro-Grande commented that other items are included in the \$60,000 technology capital plan. John Ziobro is not against the program; however, he would like to know how much money it will cost and how the district is going to pay for it before voting on it. Lucia Ziobro asked what the rush was to approve it tonight. John Welsh commented that we do not have a program in place for students to take home or be assigned a Chromebook and we need to move forward. Karey Pond suggested presenting it for approval tonight and if it does not pass, it can be discussed at a future meeting.

#### **b. Technology & Internet User Agreement for Middle/High School**

##### **c. Policy 5114.1 **SECOND READ** (Revised)**

Karen Gogel shared the edits she made to the policy that the board requested at the last meeting.

### **IV. Recommended Actions**

#### **a. Approve Chromebook Loaner Program – High School Guidelines**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Jim Feeney, seconded by Karey Pond to approve the Chromebook Loaner Program – High School Guidelines as presented. (FOR: Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, John Welsh, Jim Feeney, Karey Pond, and Lynn Landolina. OPPOSED: John Ziobro and Lucia Ziobro). *Motion approved.*

#### **b. Approve Technology & Internet User Agreement for Middle/High School.**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Karey Pond, seconded by Jim Feeney to approve the Technology & Internet User Agreement for Middle/High School as presented. (FOR: Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, John Welsh, Jim Feeney, Karey Pond, and Lynn Landolina. ABSTAINED: John Ziobro and Lucia Ziobro). *Motion approved.*

##### **c. Approve Policy 5114.1 **SECOND READ** (Revised)**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Lucia Ziobro to approve Policy 5114.1 as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

#### **d. Approve Field Trip**

Melissa Bavaro-Grande presented a field trip for the middle/high school band and choir to travel to Six Flags New England in Agawam Massachusetts on May 29, 2020 after the Fantastic Festival Adjudication Music Festival. Students will depart at 8 a.m. and return at 5:30 p.m. The cost of \$63.00 or less is funded by the student and

fundraising. There is no cost to district. Lucia Ziobro asked if parents sign waivers if something happens at the park. Bob Paskiewicz replied that they sign permission slips like anything else.

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Karey Pond, seconded by Bob Ravens-Seger for the middle/high school band and choir to travel to Six Flags New England on May 29, 2020 as presented. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Melissa Bavaro-Grande presented a field trip for grade 7 students to travel to Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts on October 23, 2019. Students will collaborate, focus, and build communication, trust, and empathy and social emotional skills. Students will leave at 8 a.m. and return at approximately 1 p.m. The cost of \$35 is funded by the student. There is no cost to district.

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by John Ziobro to approve grade 7 students to travel to Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts as presented. **Motion approved unanimously.**

#### **V. Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

##### **a. Presentation of Student Performance Data – October 28, 2019**

##### **b. Technology Prevention from Hackers and Ransom**

Bob Ravens-Seger suggested that it be held in executive session.

##### **c. CABA Superintendent Search**

#### **VI. Comments from Visitors - None**

#### **VII. Executive Session – Business Manager Contract**

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

**Board members present:** Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, John Welsh, Jim Feeney, Karey Pond (left at 8:55 p.m.), Lynn Landolina, John Ziobro, and Lucia Ziobro. **Others present:** Melissa Bavaro-Grande.

The Executive Session was called to order at 8:32 p.m.

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by John Ziobro to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing hiring a new business manager. The board invited Melissa Bavaro-Grande to attend. **Motion approved unanimously.**

The board returned to regular session at 9:06 p.m.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Jim Feeney, seconded by John Ziobro to adjourn the meeting. **Motion approved unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Kline  
Board Clerk