

**East Granby Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes for
Monday, March 9, 2020**

Board Members Present:

Mr. Bob Paskiewicz
Mr. Bob Ravens-Seger
Mr. John Welsh
Mrs. Lynn Landolina
Mrs. Karey Pond
Mrs. Lucia Ziobro
Mr. John Ziobro
Mr. John Corcoran
Mrs. Michele Holt (7:12)

Board Members Absent:

Others Present:

Melissa F. Bavaro-Grande, Acting Superintendent
Raymond Engle, Business Manager
Lisa Kline, Board Clerk
Gordon Hartman, Student Representative
Sariah Colon, Student Representative
Karen Gogel, Director Student Support Services
Tony DeMelo, EGHS Principal
Marsie Luckenbach, Dean of Students
Marjorie Light, Curriculum Director
Maylah Uhlinger, Allgrove Principal
Steve Mosher, Technology Coordinator

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

With a quorum present, Bob Paskiewicz, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m., and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

- a. Approve minutes from the February 10, 2020 regular committee meeting, the February 20, 2020 budget workshop, the February 24, 2020 regular meeting, and the February 25, 2020 budget workshop**

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by John Welsh to approve the February 10, 2020 regular meeting minutes as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

MOTION: a motion was made by Karey Pond, seconded by Lynn Landolina to approve the February 20, 2020 budget workshop minutes as presented. Lucia Ziobro requested to correct the spelling of Ziobro to Ziobro in item III. (FOR: Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, Michele Holt, Lynn Landolina, Karey Pond, John Ziobro, Lucia Ziobro. ABSTAINED: John Welsh and John Corcoran). *Motion approved.*

Lynn Landolina requested to change the word ‘Competition’ to ‘Compensation’ in item IVc. of the February 24, 2020 regular minutes.

MOTION: a motion was made by John Welsh, seconded by Bob Ravens-Seger to approve the February 24, 2020 regular meeting minutes as amended. *Motion approved unanimously.*

MOTION: a motion was made by John Ziobro, seconded by Bob Ravens-Seger to approve the February 25, 2020 budget workshop minutes as presented. (FOR: Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, Karey Pond, Michele Holt, Karey Pond, John Ziobro, Lucia Ziobro. ABSTAINED: John Welsh and John Corcoran). *Motion approved.*

- b. Additions to the Agenda**

Item IVe. Arizona Field Trip – April 2020 was added to the agenda.

- c. Comments from Visitors Regarding Agenda Items - None**

II. Student Representatives Report

Sariah Colon reported on tonight’s big hockey game against Newtown, the Pops Concert on March 6, 2020, and the upcoming Dodge Ball Competition. The Future Business Leaders of America students will be attending a conference on March 17, 2020. The high school will be performing ‘Matilda’ the weekend of March 27th and 28th. Outdoor track will be starting the week of 3/23/20 and juniors are preparing for SAT’s.

III. Chairperson’s Report

- a. Superintendent Search Update**

Bob Paskiewicz thanked the board members for participating in budget workshops, contract negotiations, and the superintendent interviewing process. The second round of interviews were completed. An announcement will be made by the end of March 2020.

- b. Request the BOF to add the 2018-2019 BOE Returned Funds to the BOE Non-lapsing Account**

A vote to ask the BOF to add the 2018-2019 BOE returned funds in the amount of \$49,238.26 to the BOE non-lapsing account will take place later tonight. This has been done twice before and the BOE was able to use the funds to study the roofing project and for maintenance and repairs to the tennis courts.

IV. Superintendent's Report

a. Superintendent's Recommended Budget

In recognition of Board of Education appreciation month, Melissa thanked the board members for their continued (voluntary) service to the schools. Melissa presented the superintendent's 2020-2021 recommended budget increase of 2.33%. She reviewed projected enrollment (enrollment is expected to remain leveled in East Granby), 2020-2021 budget drivers, the budget process, revenue, 2.33% budget summary details and what it reflects, and potential risks. To attain the BOF directed budget increase of 2% would require an additional modification of \$56,000. Michele Holt asked what percentage of the budget is for contracted salaries for special education staff. Melissa did not have that information with her but shared that special education expenses are 3.5 to 3.775 million and includes everything (salaries, transportation, and assessments). The board will vote to adopt and present the superintendent's recommended 2.33% budget increase to the BOF. In order to comply with the directed budget increase of 2% by the BOF, the board suggested presenting a 2.33% and 2% budget increase to the BOF.

b. Correspondence from High School Principal

Melissa read a letter written by Principal DeMelo thanking Joel Ziff for serving as Athletic Director. Joel will be stepping down from this position at the end of June 2020. Michele Holt added that Joel attended many games, was very visible, and embraced social media as a way of promoting sports.

c. Curriculum Consortium Visit

Curriculum Consultant, Susan Cavanagh, and Curriculum Director, Marjorie Light, hosted neighboring schools to share our solid Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) aligned coursework. Other districts had a presentation on alignment and were able to see NGSS in action in a kindergarten class and two first and second classrooms.

d. Retirement/20+ Dinner – April 30, 2020

The district will be honoring ten employees at this year's dinner on April 30, 2020.

e. Arizona Field Trip – April 2020

Due to the coronavirus and advice from health professionals, Melissa recommended postponing the previously approved field trip to Arizona this April until April 2021. The students (all underclassmen) will receive vouchers to use next year. Melissa recently sent a letter to the families in the district providing an update on the coronavirus and cleaning procedures and steps we are taking to stop the spread of any illness in our schools. We are developing a plan for continuous learning should schools be closed for a length of time and asking families to inform the school principal if they will be visiting a high risk area and to please keep their child at home should any family member have symptoms of illness upon return.

V. Committee Reports

a. Policy – 5144.4 – SECOND, 5145.511 SECOND READ, AND 6159 SECOND READ

Melissa Bavaro asked the board members if they had any questions regarding the policies.

b. Budget – Previously discussed.

c. Curriculum – Marjorie Light shared the following information in an email to Bob Ravens-Seger highlighting recent curriculum activities. Working with the high school counselors and Principal DeMelo, Marjorie Light helped rewrite and edit the entire Program of Studies for 2020-2021, including the development of some exciting new electives for high school students. She participated in meetings on the digital divide and equity of access for all student. Susan Cavanagh has continued to work on writing and aligning Social Studies Curriculum for future board presentation. Both Marjorie and Susan have gone into classrooms as either observers or model teachers for a variety of grade levels and disciplines. They have also helped faculty plan new learning units. Marjorie has worked diligently, including nights and weekends, in preparing a timely Plan of Continued Learning for the district, K-12, in the event of an extended closure. The draft is thorough, nuanced, and comprehensive.

d. Facilities – John Ziobro will schedule a sub-committee meeting soon to discuss the air quality report and other items. He reported that the air conditioning project at Carl Allgrove School is moving along.

e. Negotiations – Nothing to report at this time.

f. Communications – Lynn Landolina will be emailing the sub-committee members to schedule a meeting.

VI. Recommended Actions

a. Adopt Superintendent's Recommended Budget to Present to the BOF

MOTION: a motion was made by Karey Pond, seconded by Michele Holt to adopt the Acting Superintendent's 2.33% recommended budget and present it to the BOF along with what a 2% budget increase would look as directed by the BOF. John Welsh asked Melissa if she is comfortable with a 2.33% budget increase. She originally presented a 2.99% budget increase at a budget workshop and the BOE helped reduce it to 2.33%. Melissa commented that a 2.33% budget increase does not allow for variables but it is strong and provides an education. (FOR: Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, Michele Holt, Karey Pond, Lynn Landolina, John Corcoran, Lucia Ziobro, John Ziobro. ABSTAINED: John Welsh). **Motion approved.**

Michele Holt announced that the hockey team just won their game against Newtown.

b. Approve February 2020 Financials

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Karey Pond to approve the February 2020 Financials as presented. Raymond reviewed the February 2020 financial summary that included healthcare cost, corrective action due to our internal audit findings, and that 2019 year end numbers were sent to the auditors. Due to limited stage curtain vendors in the area, Raymond was able to get only one quote for new stage curtains at Carl Allgrove School and the company is not on the state approved vendor list. The BOF requires three quotes if they are not on the state list. Raymond asked the board how he should proceed. Michele Holt suggested reaching out to organizations in the area that like to support schools by contributing funds or items. Another suggestion was to see if the vendor that provided the quote could get put on the state vendor list. Raymond will make some phone calls and put it out to bid again. (FOR: Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, Michele Holt, John Welsh, Lynn Landolina, John Corcoran, Karey Pond, and Lucia Ziobro. ABSTAINED: John Ziobro). **Motion approved.**

c. Approve Request for the BOF to add the 2018-2019 BOE Returned Funds to the BOE Non-lapsing Account

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Karey Pond to submit a request to the BOF allowing the BOE to deposit the 2018-2019 BOE returned funds in the amount of \$49,238.26 into a non-lapsing account. **Motion approved unanimously.**

d. Approve Certified Personnel Contract

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Karey Pond to approve the certified personnel contract for July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023. John Ziobro commented that the contract is too rich, we cannot afford it, and it is not in our best interest. Lucia Ziobro made the following statement: "For the record, I want to commend Attorney Kyle McClain for his diligent, comprehensive representation of the Board of Ed during the teacher contract negotiations, and his strong advocacy of the interests of the Board for the student children of our district, for their parents and for the community of East Granby at large. I also thank my colleague board members who thoughtfully and responsibly participated in the negotiation process.

I am very disappointed and discouraged by the demonstrated lack of cooperation, concern and reasonable concessions by the teacher union representatives in the negotiations, which could have particularly put student children needs first, and the needs of the parents and the public interest ahead of their own. Because those needs are not met by this contract, I therefore vote against approval of the proposed agreement with East Granby Education Association for the term July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023." (FOR: Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, Michele Holt, Karey Pond, Lynn Landolina. OPPOSED: John Ziobro and Lucia Ziobro. ABSTAINED: John Welsh and John Corcoran). **Motion approved.**

e. Approve Graduation Date

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Karey Pond to approve a graduation date of June 17, 2020. Lynn Landolina would like to delay the vote until the next meeting in the event of additional school closings. Michele Holt reminded the board of the clause on the back of the school calendar allowing the BOE to modify the calendar as necessary and reschedule lost days. **Motion passed unanimously.**

f. Approve Policy 5144.4

MOTION: a motion was made by Karey Pond, seconded by Lynn Landolina to approve policy 5144.4 as presented. **Motion approved unanimously.**

g. Approve Policy 5145.511

MOTION: a motion was made by Karey Pond, seconded by Lynn Landolina to approve policy 5144.511 as presented. John Ziobro would like the acronym SDE spelled out and for (section 3) on page 5145.511(b) made clear that it is section 3 of the SDE guidelines. Karey Pond withdrew her motion.

MOTION: a motion was made by Karey Pond, seconded by Lynn Landolina to approve policy 5144.511 as amended. *Motion approved unanimously.*

h. Approve Policy 6159

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Karey Pond to approve Policy 6159 as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

i. Approve Field Trip – Italy

MOTION: a motion was made by John Ziobro, seconded by Bob Ravens-Seger to approve the trip to Italy in April 2021 as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.* This field trip was presented at the last meeting but was tabled until the insurance information was available.

VII. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

a. Policy 1330 – FIRST READ

b. Close Out Old Capital Accounts

VIII. Comments from Visitors - None

IX. Adjournment

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Michele Holt to adjourn the meeting. *Motion approved unanimously.* Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kline
Board Clerk

These minutes are issued pending Board of Education approval.