

**East Granby Board of Education**  
***(Webex Conference Call)***  
**Regular Meeting Minutes for**  
**Monday, March 23, 2020**

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**Board Members Present:**

Mr. Bob Paskiewicz  
Mr. John Welsh  
Mr. Bob Ravens-Seeger  
Mrs. Lynn Landolina  
Mr. John Corcoran  
Mr. John Ziobro  
Mrs. Lucia Ziobro  
Mrs. Karey Pond  
Mrs. Michele Holt

**Others Present:**

Melissa Bavaro-Grande, Acting Superintendent  
Raymond Engle, Business Manager  
Lisa Kline, Board Clerk  
Antonio DeMelo, EGHS Principal  
Marsie Luckenbach, EGHS Dean of Students  
Steven Mosher, IT  
Bill George, IT  
Kerri Cavanaugh, Visitor  
Jennifer Russell, Visitor  
Unidentified Visitors #4, #5, #6, #9  
Mark Bombard, GCTV

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**Board Members Absent:**

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

Bob Paskiewicz, Chairperson, took roll call and with a quorum present, the meeting convened 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** – None.

**II. Chairperson's Report**

Bob Paskiewicz thanked the school community for working together to provide distant learning opportunities for students during this difficult time.

**a. Superintendent Announcement**

This item was tabled until the next public board meeting.

**b. 2020-2021 Budget Update**

The Board of Finance (BOF) postponed their March 24, 2020 meeting until March 31, 2020 at which time the Board of Education (BOE) will present a 2.33% and a 2% budget increase to the BOF. The public hearing and town meeting may be cancelled or rescheduled. Governor Lamont provided options for boards and he will continue to give updates.

**c. New Policy 6144.81 Emergency Suspension of Policy During Pandemic**

Bob Paskiewicz received a copy of policy 6144.81 from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) that, if adopted, would grant emergency powers to the district's superintendent to address the expanding coronavirus crisis and act quickly to protect and provide for student and staff safety and education, within the guidelines presented by the Connecticut State Department of Education. This is an optional policy. The district has been following the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state guidelines during this pandemic situation. In order to adopt the policy tonight, the board would need two-thirds approval.

**III. Superintendent's Report**

**a. Update on School Closing**

Melissa shared that at 5 p.m. tonight, Governor Lamont ordered schools to remain closed through April 20, 2020. Distance learning started today and the plan will evolve as we get feedback. There is a COVID 19 link on the district website so the community can easily access information. The custodians are disinfecting the buildings. Once a section is disinfected, no one is allowed to enter the area. Bob Paskiewicz reported that CABE was

able to link all the board chairs so they can ask questions and get guidance and ideas of what other towns are doing during this time.

**b. Town Audit Corrective Action**

Raymond shared the corrective action plan for the Town of East Granby for the year ending June 30, 2019. It was approved by the auditor and will be sent over to the Board of Selectman.

**IV. Recommended Actions**

**a. Adopt Policy 6114.81**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by John Welsh, seconded by Michele Holt to accept policy 6114.81 as presented. Lucia Ziobro does not see the need to implement the policy. Melissa is already handling the changes being made on a daily basis. Governor Lamont and the state are dictating what we do during this time. Bob Paskiewicz explained that big districts can have many problems with people doing things and then going after the superintendent because they did not follow board policy. This policy allows the superintendent to follow state guidelines without having to call emergency meetings during this pandemic. Lucia Ziobro understands that larger districts may have problems, but she does not see the need for East Granby to adopt it. Bob Ravens-Seger thinks it makes sense to give the superintendent flexibility without having to call an emergency meeting and to act in real time if that is the wish of the state and of C.A.B.E. Lynn Landolina asked if there was a time limit in respect to the policy. Bob Paskiewicz replied that it is when the pandemic is over. John Ziobro criticized that it gives too broad authority to the superintendent and oversteps the process of considering a policy by having a first read and second read before recommending action. Melissa already has the power she needs to continue moving forward. In the event of something drastic, the board should have the opportunity to make a decision. John Welsh feels that schools will not reconvene and it would be ludicrous to have to hold special meetings. The superintendent should have full authority to run the district during this time. Melissa reminded the board that this policy is recommended and recommended language only and is not mandated to adopt. Bob Paskiewicz called the motion and took roll call. (FOR: Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, Michele Holt, John Welsh, Lynn Landolina, Karey Pond, John Corcoran. OPPOSED: John Ziobro and Lucia Ziobro). **Motion approved.**

**V. Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

- a. Policy 1330 – FIRST READ**
- b. Close Out Old Capital Accounts**
- c. Superintendent Announcement**

**VI. Comments from Visitors**

John Welsh suggested cancelling the next scheduled board meeting. It is inconsequential considering what is going on. We should be thinking about the health and well-being of individuals. Michele Holt feels it is important to hold a meeting at least once a month to give the community a chance to join in and to have an elective body that is present.

**VII. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by John Welsh, seconded by Michele Holt, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion approved unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Kline, Board Clerk