

**East Granby Board of Education
Special Meeting Minutes for
Monday, July 20, 2020**

Board Members Present (via Zoom):

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

Board Members Absent:

Others Present (via Zoom):

Melissa F. Bavaro-Grande, Superintendent
Ray Engle, Business Manager
Lisa Kline, Board Clerk
Antonio DeMelo, EGHS Principal
Robert McGrath, R.D. Seymour Principal
Karen Gogel, Director of Student Support Services
Maylah Uhlinger, Carl Allgrove Principal
Marsie Luckenbach, EGHS Assistant Principal
Timothy Phelan, EGMS Principal
Marjorie Light, Curriculum Director
Ray Carlson, Facilities Manager
Justine Ginsberg, R.N., FVHD
Jennifer Kertanis, Director of Health, FVHD
195 Additional Visitors

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

With a quorum present, Bob Paskiewicz Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m., and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

a. Approve minutes from the June 8, 2020 and June 22, 2020 regular meetings

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by John Welsh to approve the June 8, 2020 regular minutes as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by John Welsh to approve the June 22, 2020 regular minutes as presented. (FOR: Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, John Welsh, John Corcoran, Lynn Landolina. ABSTAINED: Michele Holt, Lucia Ziobro, John Ziobro, and Karey Pond). *Motion passed.*

b. Comments from visitors regarding agenda items – Bob Paskiewicz shared an email from Carl Pitney thanking everyone in the district for their hard work during this trying time.

II. Chairperson's Report

a. Capital Plan

Bob Paskiewicz shared that the town approved \$39,000 to replace the camera server at R.D. Seymour School and \$59,600 for school technology. The Board of Finance (BOF) wants to review our capital plan in September.

b. BOF Encumbrance Policy

The BOF instituted an encumbrance policy to ensure everyone is on the same page and encumbrances are correct and done in a timely manner.

c. Request to the BOF to add the 2019-2020 BOE Returned Funds to the BOE Non-Lapsing Account and Earmark the Funds for COVID19 Related Expenses.

Bob Paskiewicz recommended asking the BOF to allow the BOE to deposit up to 2% of the 2019-20 unexpended education funds into the BOE non-lapsing account and earmark it for COVID19 related expenses (personnel and equipment). The BOE will return any COVID19 reimbursements from FEMA and/or the State to the town's general fund. John Ziobro commented that the funds from FEMA and the State may be earmarked for COVID19 related expenses and may disallow it going towards the town's general fund. Mr. Ziobro also pointed out that the BOF will not be meeting until September. Bob Paskiewicz commented that the BOE checked with FEMA, the State, and our auditors on what is allowable. Bob also spoke with the BOF and they would consider holding a special meeting. Melissa added that if we do not spend the 2% in two years, the BOE would return the money to the general fund.

III. Superintendent's Report

a. Update on School Re-Entry Plan

The superintendent, administrators, and Jennifer Kertanis, presented a school re-entry plan and commented that it is continuously evolving. The plan titled, Adapt, Advance, Achieve, is due to the state by July 24, 2020. The plan will be posted on the district website. Robert McGrath is the COVID19

Health and Safety Compliance Liaison. You can email questions and/or comments to coronavirus@eastgranby.k12.ct.us. Emails will be reviewed and responses will be posted on the website. Highlights of the plan include feedback, input, guidance, isolation and quarantine protocols, transportation, the 20-21 school calendar, health and safety, special education, athletics, learning pathways, and COVID19 expenses.

b. Projected K-5 Student Enrollment 2020-2021

Melissa shared the current number of K-5 students and number of sections.

Kindergarten – 58 students – 3 sections

Grade 1 – 61 students – 4 sections

Grade 2 – 58 students – 3 sections

Grade 3 – 72 students – 4 sections

Grade 4 – 68 students – 3 sections

Grade 5 – 56 students – 3 sections

John Welsh is concerned that the number of students per section for kindergarten and grade 4 are on the cusp of policy guidelines. The board members asked if there was enough space in the elementary schools to accommodate an additional section. Both Principal McGrath and Principal Uhlinger said they have space available to accommodate a fourth section of kindergarten and grade 4. The board will look at the budget, monitor the enrollment numbers, and consider adding a section to kindergarten and grade 4.

c. Accept Letters of Resignation

Melissa shared that Caitlin Maulucci resigned from her second grade teaching position but will remain working in the district as a paraprofessional. Melissa also received a letter of resignation from Math Intervention Specialist, Alexandra Wilmot.

d. Update on Year End Financials

The business office is working on reconciling grants and the month of June. Overall, we should have 2% of the total budget (\$339,600) in unrealized savings to add to the non-lapsing account. The town is looking to close by August 15, 2020.

e. School Calendar 2020-2021

The Connecticut State Department of Education authorized a 177 student instructional day school year for 20-21 instead of 180 days giving districts three days to use for professional development. The three days are to be applied to the beginning of the school year.

Melissa proposed changing the first day of school for students from August 26, 2020 to August 31, 2020, using August 26th thru August 28th for professional development and changing August 31st, September 1st and September 2nd to early release days so students can get acclimated to being in the classroom and new protocols.

IV. Committee Reports

a. Policy – Nothing to report at this time.

b. Budget – Nothing to report at this time.

c. Curriculum – Bob Ravens-Seger recapped what Marjorie Light presented in the school re-entry plan regarding math curriculum in the lower grades. The district currently uses Everyday Mathematics but is proposing to use Cengage Big Ideas Math; Cengage is a division of National Geographic. Marjorie will share the proposed curriculum with board members before voting on it.

d. Negotiations – Nothing to report at this time.

e. Facilities – Nothing to report at this time.

f. Communications – A meeting will be scheduled for August.

V. Recommended Actions

a. Approve Request to the BOF to add the 2019-2020 BOE Returned Funds to the BOE Non-Lapsing Account and Earmark the Funds for COVID19 Related Expenses.

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Karey Pond to request to the BOF to add the 2019-2020 BOE returned funds to the BOE non-lapsing account and earmark the funds for COVID19 related expenses. Ray Engle suggested amending the motion to include BOE returned funds not to exceed 2% of the total budget (\$339,600) and any amount over 2% will be returned to the town's general fund.

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Karey Pond to request to the BOF to allow the BOE to deposit 2019-2020 unexpended funds in the amount of \$339,600 or 2% of the total 2019-2020 budget into the BOE non-lapsing account and earmark the funds for COVID19 related expenses. Returned funds exceeding 2%

of the 19-20 budget will be restored to the town's general fund. (FOR: Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, Michele Holt, John Welsh, Lynn Landolina, Karey Pond, John Corcoran. OPPOSED: John Ziobro and Lucia Ziobro). *Motion passed.*

b. Approve School Re-Entry Plan

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Michele Holt to approve the school re-entry plan as presented by the superintendent, administrators and the Farmington Valley Health District and is subject to change as circumstances dictate.

Suggested amendments were made to include approve submitting it to the state and indicating that it is a three lane program. Melissa clarified that the plan will be submitted in a template format as requested by the state and that board approval is not necessary; however, she wanted to have everyone on board. John Welsh prefers the word endorse instead of approve. Lucia Ziobro agreed.

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Karey Pond to endorse submitting the three lane school re-entry plan as presented by the superintendent, administrators, and the Farmington Valley Health District to the state on July 24, 2020 knowing it will change as circumstances dictate. *Motion approved unanimously.*

c. Approved Revised School Calendar 2020-2021

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by John Welsh to approve the 177 student instructional day revised 2020-2021 school calendar. Other revisions include changing the first day of school for students from August 26, 2020 to August 31, 2020, using August 26th thru August 28th for professional development and changing August 31st, September 1st and September 2nd to early release days. *Motion approved unanimously.*

VI. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

a. Approve Math Curriculum

b. Capital Plan

c. Class Size

VII. Comments from Visitors

As a parent of three children entering kindergarten, Nicole Slomski was glad to hear that the board is considering adding a section to kindergarten and grade 4. Nicole asked if there was a deadline for parents to decide which of the three school re-entry options their student will engage in and if there would be a designated teacher for distance learning. Melissa replied that an additional survey will be sent out and administrators are still working on distance learning; most likely there will not be a designated teacher.

Ashley Alexander suggested including the option to homeschool your child to the survey sent to parents.

Amanda Cormier thanked everyone for their hard work and loves the idea of possibly adding a section to kindergarten and grade 4. She also agrees with Ashley Alexander's suggestion. Amanda asked about the plans to cool down the classrooms at Carl Allgrove School seeing as air conditioning was not installed this summer. Melissa is looking at how to make all the buildings comfortable.

Alison DiFiore inquired on how to enroll her child in the after school program. Principal Uhlinger told her to contact the YMCA in Granby for guidance.

Lisa Darmetkos was curious when she will get answers to the questions she emailed. Melissa explained that the administration is in the process of going through them.

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION: a motion was made by John Welsh, seconded by Karey Pond to adjourn the meeting. *Motion approved unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kline
Board Clerk