

**East Granby Board of Education  
Regular Meeting Minutes for  
Monday, August 24, 2020**

---

**Board Members Present:**

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

**Board Members Absent:**

Mrs. Michele Holt

**Others Present:**

Melissa F. Bavaro-Grande, Superintendent  
Raymond Engle, Business Manager  
Lisa Kline, Board Clerk  
Karen Gogel, Director of Student Support Services  
Marjorie Light, Curriculum Director  
Antonio DeMelo, EGHS Principal  
Timothy Phelan, EGMS Principal  
Marsie Luckenbach, Dean of Students  
Robert McGrath, R.D. Seymour Principal  
Maylah Uhlinger, Carl Allgrove Principal  
36 Visitors

---

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

With a quorum present, Bob Paskiewicz, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:05 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**

**a. Capital Plan**

The board discussed removing items that were completed, moving the middle/high school gas conversion out one year, the Carl Allgrove gym/auditorium upgrade, and irrigation for the baseball/softball fields. Melissa will contact Three-Way Communications regarding the camera systems. Bob Paskiewicz would like to table approving a plan until the next board meeting.

**b. Discuss Virtual Meetings**

The board discussed resuming in-person meetings, holding hybrid meetings, or continuing with virtual meetings.

**III. Superintendent's Report**

**a. Projected K-5 Student Enrollment 2020-2021**

Melissa Bavaro-Grande shared the projected enrollment numbers and proposed adding a fourth section to kindergarten to reduce class sizes and eliminating a section in grade 1. Specials and students returning to school in-person full-time were considered. Class sizes for both kindergarten and grade 1 would still be under the guidelines.

**b. Update on School Re-Entry**

Melissa shared that there are no major changes to the plan design. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be distributed to schools. Hand washing stations and tents are getting ready for distribution. iPads will be distributed to students in grades K-1 and Chromebooks will be distributed to students in grades 2-12. We are hopeful that the air conditioners for Carl Allgrove School will be delivered before the start of the year. The company overextended themselves and therefore, were unable to honor their promised delivery date of August 21, 2020. Ray Carlson is following CDC guidelines to maximize the amount of fresh air in the buildings by using the best filters for airflow.

**c. Staffing Update/Retirement Letters**

Lauren D'Amico was hired as a long-term substitute school counselor at the high school, Mary Drenzek was hired as a long-term substitute speech and language pathologist for the district, and Allison Kilty, Mariah Peck and Ilija Dokmanovic were hired as paraprofessionals. After 34 years,

Carol Goff, the K-5 visual arts teacher, retired on August 21, 2020. After 13 years, Cathryn O’Keefe, grade 5 teacher, announced she would be retiring as of September 30, 2020.

**d. Opening Day Activities**

Opening Day was today. Melissa, along with Bob Paskiewicz and Jim Hayden, welcomed back the staff via Zoom. Jim Hayden presented a proclamation to the 2021 Teacher of the Year, high school math teacher John Tedesco. Staff and faculty will be participating in professional development and trainings the rest of the week.

**IV. Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

- a. Approve Capital Plan**
- b. Roger LaFleur - Close Out Roof Projects**
- c. Sports Programs**

**V. Comments from Visitors**

Amanda Cormier thanked everyone for their hard work and congratulated Carol Goff. Although Amanda agrees with adding a fourth section to kindergarten, she is concerned about reducing the number of sections in grade 1 to three. Sara Payette agrees with Amanda Cormier’s concern and feels grade 1 students will need extra space and support because grade 1 students left kindergarten early due to the pandemic and will essentially be returning to school as kindergarten students for at least one month. Jessica Aniskoff thanked everyone for their hard work and supports four sections of kindergarten. Jessica also expressed her concern regarding reducing the number of sections in grade 1 and shared that she enjoys the convenience of virtual meetings.

**VI. Executive Session – Discuss the Business Manager’s Contract**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by John Corcoran to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing the business manager’s contract. The board invited Melissa Bavaro-Grande and Raymond Engle to attend. **Motion approved unanimously.**

The board entered into executive session at 8:22 PM.

The board returned to regular session at 8:27 PM.

**VII. Recommended Actions**

**a. Approve Capital Plan**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by John Ziobro to table approving the capital plan until the next board meeting. **Motion approved unanimously.**

**b. Accept Retirement Letters**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Karey Pond, seconded by John Corcoran to accept, with regret, the retirement of Carol Goff and Cathryn O’Keefe. **Motion approved unanimously.**

**c. Approve Business Manager’s Contract**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by John Corcoran, to approve the business manager’s contract. **Motion approved unanimously.**

**VIII. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** a motion was made by John Welsh, seconded by John Ziobro, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion approved unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kline,  
Board Clerk

*These minutes are issued pending Board of Education approval.*