

**East Granby Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes for
Tuesday, October 13, 2020**

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Melissa F. Bavaro-Grande, Superintendent
Raymond Engle, Business Manager
Lisa Kline, Board Clerk
Matthew Fortier, Student Representative
Erin Russell, Student Representative
13 Visitors

Board Members Absent:

Mr. John Corcoran

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

With a quorum present, Bob Paskiewicz Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

a. Approve minutes from the September 14, 2020 regular meeting and the September 29, 2020 special meeting

MOTION: a motion was made Bob Ravens-Seeger, seconded by Karey Pond to approve the September 14, 2020 regular meeting minutes as presented. (FOR: Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seeger, Michele Holt, John Welsh, and Karey Pond. ABSTAINED: John Ziobro, Lucia, and Lynn Landolina. *Motion approved.*

John Ziobro proposed adding “Capital items are placeholders only. Ray Carlson was not available to confirm the requests” to item IVb of the September 29, 2020 special meeting minutes.

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seeger, seconded by John Ziobro to approve the September 29, 2020 special meeting minutes as amended. *Motion approved unanimously.*

b. Additions to the Agenda

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seeger, seconded by Lynn Landolina to add item IVb Budget Process and item VIIb Approve Capital Plan to the agenda. *Motion approved unanimously.*

c. Comments from visitors regarding agenda items

Bob Paskiewicz shared a letter board members and the superintendent received from Bonnie Jones regarding her concern over grade 4 class sizes. Amanda Cormier hopes that item IVa on tonight’s agenda will address grade 4 class sizes. Sara Payette would also like the board to address grade 4 class sizes.

II. Student Representatives Report

Student representatives, Matthew Fortier and Erin Russell, introduced themselves to board members. Erin reported how well the first day back to school full time in person went at the high school. Erin is confident that everyone will stay safe and follow the rules. Mask breaks were provided and overall classes went well. Matthew reported on cross country and soccer and he too felt it was a good first day back to school. Michele Holt asked the student representatives how students are doing with social emotional learning and “spirit”.

III. Chairperson’s Report

a. Capital Plan

Melissa recommended revisions to the capital plan that the board approved on September 29, 2020. She spoke with the IT department regarding technology equipment and the Chromebook Refresh Program. It was agreed to begin moving funds for technology equipment from the capital plan to the operational budget and transferring \$20,000 from technology equipment to facilities priorities and upgrades for the district for fiscal year (FY) 20-21 and reducing the amount from \$33,000 to \$13,000 for facilities priorities and upgrades for the district for FY 22-23. It was suggested to split the \$49,000 for camera upgrades for the district in FY 21-22 to \$24,000 for FY 21-22 and \$25,000 for FY 22-23. Air duct cleaning at R.D. Seymour School for \$10,000 was eliminated for FY 22-23 because air duct cleaning is already scheduled for FY 21-22. It was suggested to ask F+F how often air ducts should be cleaned. John Welsh commented that the board needs to specifically state what technology equipment will be purchased with the money because the Board of Finance will ask. The board debated the baseball/softball fields irrigation system that has been on the plan since 2006.

IV. Superintendent's Report

a. School Status and Updates

Melissa shared the number of students working remotely full time. The high school has 48 out of 264 students, the middle school has 41 out of 209 students, R.D. Seymour has 26 out of 186 students, and Carl Allgrove has 20 out of 169 students. Social distancing of at least 3 feet is being practiced. The high school has proven to be the most challenging in maintaining that distance. Lunch monitors preserve social distancing while students eat. Grade 4 currently has 63 students with three sections of 17, 18, and 19 students each. Classrooms were emptied to make more room and the section with 19 students was moved to a larger space in order to keep a 3 foot distance. Should all grade 4 students return to in person learning, the class sizes for grade 4 would be 20, 21, and 22 and we would be at our maximum of 3 feet. If need be, we can use the art room. John Welsh asked Melissa is adding a fourth section to grade 4 in January 2021 would be detrimental to the students or would they adapt. Melissa replied that it would not be an ideal plan but that it could be done. The board discussed possible scenarios. Melissa will report back at the next board meeting or the board will hold a special meeting if need be to address grade 4 class sizes.

b. Budget Process

Melissa will put together a calendar of important dates related to the budget process. She would like a member from the Board of Finance to participate in budget workshops again this year and Karen Gogel to share information concerning special education. Michele Holt suggested inviting the Board of Selectman to attend workshops as well.

V. Committee Reports

a. Policy – Nothing to report at this time.

b. Budget – Nothing to report at this time.

c. Curriculum – The Curriculum Council will be meeting on October 26, 2020.

d. Facilities – Nothing to report at this time.

e. Negotiations – Administrators' negotiations is upcoming.

f. Communications – Lynn Landolina will contact the members to schedule monthly meetings.

VI. Recommended Actions

a. Approve September 2020 Financial Report

Raymond Engle reported that fiscal year 2020 is in full audit stages and we are estimating approximately a \$400,000 to \$430,000 balance. COVID related expenses continue in certain areas more than others. Raymond provided copies of journal entries for COVID related expenses. We are awaiting approval and the means to submit our claims for COVID related funds reimbursement in the amount of \$116,492.

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Michele Holt to approve the September 2020 Financials as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

b. Approve Capital Plan

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Michele Holt, to approve the capital plan as amended. (FOR: Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, Michele Holt, John Welsh, Lynn Landolina, and Karey Pond. OPPOSED: John Ziobro and Lucia Ziobro). *Motion approved.*

VII. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

a. Grade 4 Class Sizes

VIII. Comments from Visitors

Bonnie Jones thanked the board for considering grade 4 class sizes and she is concerned about the amount of time students spend sitting at their desk. She asked the board to visit the space in the classrooms. Amanda Cormier also shared her concern regarding sedentary students, especially on rainy days, and thanked the board for taking a look at grade 4 class sizes; she would like the board to hold a special meeting. Becky Hayes has a grade 4 student working remotely. She and her husband were considering sending her back to school in January but with the current class sizes, they will not send her.

IX. Adjournment

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Lucia Ziobro to adjourn the meeting. *Motion approved unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kline, Board Clerk

These minutes are issued pending Board of Education approval.