

**East Granby Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 26, 2021**

Board Members Present (via Zoom):

Mr. Bob Paskiewicz
Mr. Bob Ravens-Seger
Mrs. Michele Holt
Mrs. Lynn Landolina
Mr. John Ziobro
Mrs. Lucia Ziobro
Mr. John Welsh
Mrs. Karey Pond (7:40 pm)

Board Members Absent:

Mr. John Corcoran

Others Present (via Zoom):

Melissa Bavaro-Grande, Superintendent
Raymond Engle, Business Manager
Lisa Kline, Board Clerk
Karen Gogel, Director of Student Support Services
Marjorie Light, Curriculum Director
Marsie Luckenbach, Principal R.D. Seymour School
Amanda Cormier, Visitor
Jessica Aniskoff, Visitor
Sara Payette, Visitor
Joanna Taczanowsky, Visitor
Patrick Mckenney, Visitor
Hillery, Visitor
Bonnie Jones, Visitor
Kristy Preli, Visitor

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

a. Approve minutes from the March 2, 2021 budget workshop, the March 8, 2021 and March 22, 2021 regular meetings, and the March 31, 2021 budget workshop

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Lynn Landolina, to approve the March 2, 2021 budget workshop minutes as presented. (FOR: Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, Michele Holt, Lynn Landolina, John Ziobro, John Welsh. ABSTAINED: Lucia Ziobro) *Motion approved.*

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Michele Holt, to approve the March 8, 2021 regular meeting minutes as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Lynn Landolina, to approve the March 22, 2021 regular meeting minutes as amended. *Motion approved unanimously.*

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Michele Holt, to approve the March 31, 2021 budget workshop minutes as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

b. Additions to the Agenda - None

c. Comments from Visitors Regarding Agenda Items

The public was invited to email questions to board members. Questions and responses will be posted on the school district website. Michele Holt commented that the public hearing format did not allow community members the opportunity to ask the questions they wanted to ask. She hopes future formats will be considered.

II. Chairperson's Report

a. Board of Finance 3.5% Budget Discussion

At the request of the Board of Finance (BOF), the Board of Education (BOE) presented a 3.5% budget at the Public Hearing. The BOF voted to have the BOE present a 3.5% budget at the Town Meeting. BOE members discussed what the 3.5% budget reflects. John Welsh commended the BOF for putting forth to the town meeting a 3.5% budget for the community and objects to comments made at the meeting by fellow BOE members.

III. Superintendent's Report

a. School Update

Melissa Bavaro-Grande provided an update on in-person learners, distance learners, the free meal program, and end of the year activities.

b. New Graduation Date

The venue for graduation, Mark's Auto Parts, is not available on June 14, 2021 so Melissa suggested moving the date of graduation to June 15, 2021.

c. K-5 Student Enrollment

Student enrollment projections for FY 21-22 reflects 71 students in grade 5. Currently, grade 5 has 3 sections. Melissa recommended adding a fourth teacher to accommodate class size guidelines. A 3.5% budget supports adding a teacher. Grades 1 and 3 are currently on the cusp of the guideline numbers.

d. Student Vaccine Update

A message was sent to parents regarding vaccination clinics for students in the Farmington Valley who are 16 and older.

e. Resignations

Melissa announced the resignations of English teacher, Thomas Brandien, special education teacher, Kathleen Goodrow, and paraprofessional, Janice Sayles effective the end of his school year.

IV. Committee Reports

a. Policy – Melissa has information from CAFE and Shipman & Goodwin she will forward to Lucia Ziobro.

b. Budget – Previously discussed.

c. Curriculum – The sub-committee met on April 16, 2021 to discuss curriculum across the district, in general, and various ways to meet student needs including the new summer school program.

d. Facilities – The sub-committee toured the boiler room. The burners need replacing. John Ziobro commented that he is disappointed with the communication between facilities, the BOE, and board members.

e. Negotiations – A non-meeting will take place to discuss the superintendent’s contract.

f. Communications – The sub-committee will schedule a time to meet after graduation.

V. Recommended Actions

a. Approve BOE Budget 21-22

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Michele Holt, to endorse and recommend a 3.5% budget increase as proposed by the BOF. (FOR: Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, Michele Holt, John Welsh, Karey Pond, Lynn Landolina. OPPOSED: John Ziobro and Lucia Ziobro. *Motion approved.*

b. Approve New Graduation Date

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Lynn Landolina to approve June 15, 2021 as the new graduation date. *Motion approved unanimously.*

c. Approve Additional Grade 5 Teacher

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Michele Holt, to hire an additional grade 5 teacher. (FOR: Bob Paskiewicz, Bob Ravens-Seger, Michele Holt, John Welsh, Karey Pond, Lynn Landolina. ABSTAINED: John Ziobro and Lucia Ziobro) *Motion approved.*

d. Accept Resignations

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by John Ziobro to accept, with regret, the resignations of Thomas Brandien, Kathleen Goodrow, and Janice Sayles. *Motion approved unanimously.* Michele Holt thanked them for their service to the community.

e. Approve March 2021 Financial Report

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by Michele Holt, to approve the March 2021 Financial Report as presented. *Motion approved unanimously.*

VI. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

a. Ratify the Superintendent’s Contract

b. Elementary School Space

VII. Comments from Visitors

Patrick Mckenney agrees that the space of the elementary schools needs to be examined and thanked everyone for their efforts.

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION: a motion was made by Bob Ravens-Seger, seconded by John Ziobro, to adjourn the meeting. *Motion approved unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Kline
Board Clerk

These minutes are issued pending Board of Education approval.