

**East Granby Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes for
Monday, September 9, 2024**

Board Members Present:

Mr. Bob Paskiewicz
Mrs. Amanda Cormier
Mr. Ricky Bortz
Mr. John Welsh
Mrs. Lisa Griffin (7:35pm)
Mrs. Whitney Burns

Board Members Absent:

Mrs. Lynn Landolina
Mr. Mark Andrews

Others Present:

Melissa F. Bavaro-Grande, Superintendent
Mary Hiney, Business Manager
Lisa Kline, Board Clerk
Tim Phelan, EGMS Principal
Marsie Luckenbach, Seymour School Principal

Visitors:

Dreux, Namnoun

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

With a quorum present, Bob Paskiewicz, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

a. Approve minutes from the August 26, 2024 regular meeting

MOTION: a motion was made by John Welsh, seconded by Amanda Cormier, to change Republic to Republican in item IIa and approve the August 26, 2024 regular meeting minutes as amended. (FOR: Bob Paskiewicz, John Welsh, Amanda Cormier, Whitney Burns, and Lisa Griffin. ABSTAINED: Ricky Bortz). **Motion approved.**

b. Additions to the Agenda

MOTION: a motion was made by John Welsh, seconded by Amanda Cormier, to add item IIIf. BOF Request for Overview of Year End Financials to the agenda. **Motion approved unanimously.**

c. Comments from visitors regarding agenda items - None

II. Chairperson's Report

Bob Paskiewicz thanked the staff for a smooth opening of the new school year, provided an update on the board vacancy, and commended Alison Chaloux and the band parents for the band's performance at the UCONN football game.

III. Superintendent's Report

a. Student Representatives on the Board of Education

Melissa asked board members if they had any comments or suggestions for choosing this year's student representatives. She referred to past practices, Bylaws of the Board, and shared what other districts do. Discussion took place and ultimately, the board would like to follow the bylaws and have the student representatives be the voice of the student body and bring matters and issues to the board.

b. School Bus Update

Melissa provided an overview of the bus rosters now that we have six instead of seven busses. Some board members shared their concerns and ways to optimize bus routes and times. Tim Phelan, co-transportation coordinator, commented that the first couple of weeks of school is a work in progress.

c. Middle School Lunch Arrangement

Tim Phelan read a prepared statement providing context related to the space utilized for lunch and the number of lunch waves at the middle school. In order to accommodate the new law stating that teachers get 30 minutes for lunch (EGMS previously got 24), the number of lunch waves was reduced from three to two. Tim shared five options he came up with before implementing the current lunch schedule. Board members shared their comments, ideas, and suggestions. Bob Paskiewicz shared his concern on the importance of social emotional learning and the students lack of activity. Mr. Phelan invited board members as well as parents to contact him directly to discuss their concerns and view the space.

d. Policy 3453 – THIRD READ

Additional edits recommended by board members will be made to the policy and a fourth read will be presented at the next board meeting.

e. Capital Plan

Melissa reviewed a draft of the capital plan highlighting additions and changes. Edits were made to planning year 2025-2026. Lisa Griffin would like a digital marquee at the entrance of the middle/high

school installed using capital or non-lapsing funds to purchase it. Bob Paskiewicz commented that the board may want to consider being proactive and start the conversation and/or get an assessment for building a new elementary school in the future.

f. BOF Request for Overview of Year End Financials

Mary Hiney shared a preliminary amount of \$240,000 for the 2023-2024 year end. The auditors are expected next week. The BoF will be asking for a review of the 2024 fiscal year end financials at their meeting on September 17, 2024.

IV. Recommended Actions

a. Approve Capital Plan

MOTION: a motion was made by John Welsh, seconded by Whitney Burns to approve the Capital Plan as amended by comments from board members and the superintendent. *Motion approved unanimously.*

b. Approve Green Machine for irrigation of the baseball, softball, and upper soccer field not to exceed \$125,000 (approved capital funding)

MOTION: a motion was made by Whitney Burns, seconded by Ricky Bortz to approve using Green Machine for irrigation of the baseball, softball, and upper soccer field not to exceed \$125,000 of capital funding. *Motion approved unanimously.*

c. Approve repairing the damaged and homerun fence area of the baseball and softball fields, not to exceed \$25,000 (approved capital funding)

MOTION: a motion was made by Ricky Bortz, seconded by Whitney to approve replacing, repairing, and relocating the damaged and homerun fence area of the baseball and softball fields, not to exceed \$25,000 of capital funding. *Motion approved unanimously.*

d. Approve non-lapsing funds, not to exceed \$16,000, for exhaust fans at Allgrove School and boiler repairs at the middle/high school.

MOTION: a motion was made by John Welsh, seconded by Amanda Cormier to approve using non-lapsing funds, not to exceed \$16,000, for exhaust fans at Allgrove School and boiler repairs at the middle/high school. *Motion approved unanimously.*

e. Approve Graduation Date 2025

MOTION: a motion was made by Amanda Cormier, seconded by Whitney Burns to approve June 11, 2025 as the graduation date for the Class of 2025. *Motion approved unanimously.*

V. Agenda Items for Future Meeting

- a. Approve Extension of Superintendent's Contract
- b. Solar Options
- c. Student Activities
- d. Board of Education Goals

VI. Comments from Visitors – Dreux Namnoun came tonight to observe a meeting and shared that he attended the high school open house and applauded the teachers for their candid responses and doing the best with what they have due to budget cuts.

VII. Adjournment

MOTION: a motion was made by Amanda Cormier, seconded by John Welsh, to adjourn the meeting. *Motion approved unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kline
Board Clerk

These minutes are issued pending Board of Education approval.