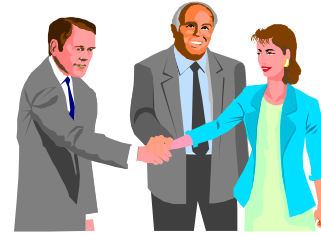


# BOARD ROOM BRIEFS

Deborah Buckley, Chairperson  
Dr. Arthur Krulewitz, Secretary  
Michael Quesnel  
Dawn Cooke  
Kevin Boisselle



At their regularly scheduled meeting on February 8, 2010 the Granby School Committee took the following action:

- I. Congratulated Thaddeus Trybus, who was the recipient of the Walter E. Quigley Jr. Student of the Month for December at Lower Pioneer Collaborative Vocational Program. Thaddeus is a student in the Automotive Technology Program. The award is given to a student in each department who has demonstrated the following: the ability to apply effectively the skill taught; demonstrates exemplary behavior toward other students and staff; demonstrates above average willingness to work and accept new work; demonstrates outstanding cooperation has continued good attendance in the program; and demonstrates a strong desire to contribute to the program and Career TEC.
- II. Heard a statement read by Deborah Buckley which was sent to her from Dr. Nicholas Young, withdrawing as a candidate for the position of Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Young cited the strong support that he had received from the Hadley community and the School Committee contract offer, as the reason for remaining on as the Superintendent in Hadley. He thanked the Committee, the staff, and the community for the warm welcome that he had received, and wished the Committee the best as they continue the search for the next Superintendent of Schools.
- III. Reviewed correspondence from Kathy Kelly-Regan regarding the new Open Meeting Law as it pertains to the posting of meetings. Saturdays will no longer count as part of the forty eight (48) hour notice, as it had under the old regulations. The new regulation takes effect on July 1, 2010.
- IV. Read an email from Sandra Harrington regarding electronic grade books. She spoke highly of the grade book which allows parents and students to view grades on line and to check on assignments. The School Committee has been exploring such a tool. The cost of the contract for the electronic grade book will have to be reviewed as the Committee moves forward with the budget process.
- V. Reviewed a report submitted by Mr. Lynch, the Jr./Sr. High School Principal, outlining the work of the Ad Hoc Athletic Fields Committee. The Committee has done an outstanding job raising money and volunteering their time to improve the condition of the athletic fields behind the Jr./Sr. High School. The School Committee asked Mr. Lynch to invite members of the committee to the April School Committee meeting.
- VI. Read a letter from Chloe LaDuke requesting that there be more recycling at the West Street School. The Superintendent informed the Committee that the students at West Street will begin participating in the composting program that has been active at the other two schools. The Committee joins the Superintendent in thanking Chloe for her very well written letter, and, for her concern for the environment.
- VII. Reviewed a letter from the Superintendent and the Chief of Police that was sent home to the parents and guardians of students in the Jr./Sr. High School regarding bullying and the steps that the schools are taking to combat such behavior. The Superintendent gave a

report on the programs that have been offered throughout the year and the programs for students and parents that are being scheduled for March. The School Committee discussed the need to encourage parents to participate in the programs so that they can support the schools in the efforts to stop bullying in society.

- VIII.** Voted to continue to participate in the School Choice Program. Granby will accept students for the 2010-11 school year. Openings will be set in March and advertised in local newspapers.
- IX.** Reviewed the calendar for the 2010-11 school year. The proposed calendar would have staff returning on August 30, 2010. Due to the current collective bargaining agreement, in order for staff to return before September 1, on any year, the teachers must approve the start date. The calendar will be published on the school's website as soon as the teachers have made their decision whether to return on August 30 or September 1.
- X.** Voted to approve overnight trips for the wrestling team. Members of the team will be attending the State Tournament at Cohasset Regional High School and the All-State Tournaments at Salem High School. The Committee wishes them well.
- XI.** Heard about a meeting that John Robert, Dan Lynch and the Superintendent had with Wayne Brewer, the founder of the Discoveries Private High School Program. This program is exploring the possibilities of purchasing the buildings and land at the Seminary and opening an international high school. In Massachusetts a private school such as this must obtain approval from the local School Committee. Representatives of the school will be invited to attend the March School Committee meeting to present an overview of the program. They have already given the administration a copy of the curriculum and it is being reviewed prior to the March meeting.
- XII.** Reviewed a new permission slip for students who would be participating in community based vocational exploration.
- XIII.** Reviewed the Governor's FY'11 budget. The budget level funds Chapter 70 and sets the Foundation Budget for schools at the same level as FY10. The Committee reviewed the first draft of the school districts FY'11 budget. The proposed budget is a level service budget with no increases in programs. The only proposed programmatic changes are in the area of Special Education, and those are designed to meet the needs of students with disabilities. This allows Granby to offer programs to our students in their home schools rather than paying tuition for them to attend other programs. The budget will require the School Committee to commit all of the funds received from school choice in order to balance the budget. This is just the first draft of the budget. During the next several months the Administrators and the Committee will continue to work on the budget. The very earliest that final State budget figures will be available will be some time in April or May.
- XIV.** Reviewed the meeting minutes of the nurses meeting.
- XV.** Read a letter form the Mary Lyons Foundation thanking TMSolutions for the \$250 donation to their annual conference. Many of our teachers attend this conference at little cost to the district. The Committee joined the Mary Lyons Foundation in thanking Andy Paquette.
- XVI.** Heard the following reports:

*Mr. Robert, Associate Superintendent; reported that:*

- ⇒ Starting March 1, 2010, Tina Agustin, Special Education Teacher and Michele Fleury, COTA, will be establishing a program at the East Meadow School which affords students with intellectual disabilities and/or developmental delays the opportunity to be included in social activities within and outside of the school. The program is designed to facilitate authentic relationships by matching students in 1:1 pairs and providing mentor training along with a supportive environment. The program is planned for Thursday, afterschool from 2:30-3:30. Students will be transported home by their parents or they are able to utilize the late bus if need be. Initially, students will be working on "get to know each other" activities, and then moving toward paired activities. Teachers will be asked to refer peer mentors. The candidates will be interviewed before being selected. Equivalent programs have proven to have a positive impact on how the student population views and interacts with children who have disabilities. It is our hope this program will have the same impact on the students of Granby. The plan is to create a similar program in both the middle school and high school next year.
- ⇒ The Granby Parent Advisory Council for Special Education will be hosting a workshop for parents entitled "Rights and Responsibilities in Special Education". The Workshop will be held on February 25, 2010 at 6:30 PM in the Granby Jr. Sr. High School Media Center.

*Jim Pietras, Principal; reported that:*

- ⇒ The East Meadow School students completed their annual mid-year writing prompt the week of January 11, and the staff scored the writing samples according to our writing rubric the ½ day afternoon of January 19.
- ⇒ A successful school-wide event, Hats for Haiti, was held on Friday, January 22. As you can see on the February News and Notes, a check in the amount of \$567.00 was sent to the American Red Cross – Haiti Relief.
- ⇒ The East Meadow School Council met on Wednesday, January 27 and finalized the parent survey that will be sent home to parents the week of February 22. The results of this survey will be used to help create the 2010-2011 East Meadow School Improvement Plan.
- ⇒ There are presently six ASAP activities taking place after school at East Meadow attended by approximately 102 students. The programs are Comedy Comics, Introduction to Wrestling, Beginner Gymnastics, Volleyball, Speedball, and ASAP Jazz Band.
- ⇒ The After School Math Enrichment Club began on Tuesday, February 2 in the East Meadow Library with 35 students in grades 4, 5, and 6. This activity, for our second year, is led by teachers Ellen Petray and Kristen Naglieri. The club will be held for 8 Tuesdays.
- ⇒ The three session Saturday ski and snowboard program completed its final day on Saturday, January 30. We had 42 participants this year. Help for bus transportation costs were provided this year by the Florence Savings Bank, the Granby Booster's Club, and the Granby Recreation Commission. The program included students in grades 4 – 12 and parents.

*Pam McCauley, Principal; reported that:*

- ⇒ Our students began a recycling project last week. We discussed composting and the materials at lunch that can be separated into compostable and non-

compostable trash cans. With the help of the lunch monitors, the students are creating a routine of disposal of their lunch materials. Lorenzo Macaluso, Waste Management Specialist, and high school students will visit our school on Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> to meet with our students to discuss the importance of recycling/composting.

- ⇒ On Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, teachers who “graduated” from the Orton-Gillingham training last year had a refresher workshop. All of these teachers are tutoring students after school and/or using the OG skills in their classrooms with their students.
- ⇒ Today our staff had a lockdown practice. It was a great opportunity to ask/answer any questions and practice the steps we need to follow for consistency throughout the lockdown. In addition to practicing using the PA system, we also practiced with 2-way radios. Over time, we have used Big Y points to purchase 2-way radios for every teacher so that, if we are unable to use the PA system, we will still have a reliable form of communication.
- ⇒ We are raising funds for the Red Cross to help Haiti’s earthquake victims until Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. The students have been bringing in coins from their piggy banks to help this cause.
- ⇒ Our next School Council meeting is on Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:15 in room 18.
- ⇒ During the week of February 22<sup>nd</sup>, the “Hoops for Heart” program will occur during PE classes. The students will be raising money for the American Heart Association by shooting basketballs.

**XVII.** Reviewed articles from local newspaper

**XVIII.** Scheduled the next School Committee meeting for Monday, March 1, at 5:30 P.M. in the Media Center at the Jr./Sr. High School.