



## **GRANBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

### **School Committee Meeting, August 15, 2016, 6:30 P.M.** **Granby Jr./Sr. High School, Donna Gnatek Media Center** **MINUTES**

#### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE:**

Mr. Emre Evren, Chairperson; Mr. James Pietras, Secretary; Ms. Jennifer Curran (absent); Ms. Marie McCourt; Ms. Deanne Payne-Rokowski; Ms. Anabel Evren (Student Representative)

#### **ADMINISTRATION:**

Ms. Sheryl Stanton, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. David Donoghue, School Business Manager; Members of the Senior Leadership Team

**GRANBY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE:** Kristen Naglieri, GEA President

#### I. Call to Order:

Mr. Evren called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M.

#### II. Approval of Minutes:

##### A. July 18, 2016

MOTION: Ms. Payne-Rokowski moved, seconded by Mr. Pietras, to approve the minutes of July 18, 2016, as presented.

VOTE: All in favor (3-0-1)(abstain Ms. McCourt)

##### B. Old Business

##### 1. School Committee Evaluation

Chairperson Evren opened the floor for discussion for the Evaluation of the School Committee. Mr. Evren thanked everyone for being here this evening. He advised that this will be a self-evaluation of the School Committee and we are looking for what went well and what did not from the staff and the community. This will be an informal conversation. Comments from the committee: The committee agreed that there were opportunities that they did not get to explore; the committee found that when they had a disagreement they would work it out between themselves; we need to improve on our communications with the town and the staff; we felt were a young committee but feel that we have grown as a committee and have a new passion for learning and understanding what is presented before us; the budget timeline was not clear we didn't have a schedule to go by or a way to pace ourselves; we need to ask more questions and the information should be up to date; more time needs to be spent on the budget, this item should be on the agenda at each meeting; the public needs to understand that we are not involved in staffing decisions; we find that the specials are always removed first from the budget we need to find a way to save these positions; this past year we tried to have a "need based budget" we found that this was a good first attempt; we found the budget process was very stressful while we worked through it; state funding is changing and costs are increasing; working along with our Strategic Plan we found the first piece to go was technology, we cannot meet our plan when we take items away; Budget, Policy and Strategic Planning take a good amount of our time, are we having the right amount of communication in these areas. We will begin working on our Budget process earlier in the year, Policies are being updated and we are working on our Strategic Planning. We feel that we are going in the right direction

Comments from the staff and audience: It was noted that policy changes are not being communicated to staff and are not reaching the community; if issues are going on in the buildings how can we communicate this to the committee? By the time the committee hears about it, it may have turned into a crisis situation; the committee can always be reached by email; staff feels that we have a gap in our trust with administration; the town needs to come up with ways for funding for our schools, communication needs to be made with the town administration and the finance committee; the schools are not here to generate money they are here to provide a quality education to our students; the committee needs to stay strong we are losing students along with teachers; more parents need to get involved.

### III. Visitor's Comments:

Any citizen wishing to speak before the Committee must sign in with the Administrative Assistant prior to the opening of the Regular Session of the School Committee. The visitor will identify themselves by name and address and shall speak for no longer than three (3) minutes. (See Granby Public School Committee Policy BEDG).

### IV. New Business:

#### A. Introduce William Lataille, Principal West Street/East Meadow

Superintendent Stanton introduced Mr. William Lataille, Principal of the West Street/East Meadow Schools. Mr. Lataille gave a brief background of his experience as an educator. He is excited about joining the Granby School System and is looking forward to the expansion of the East Meadow School which would bring the two schools together.

Superintendent Stanton thanked the search committee who put time and effort into finding the right fit for Granby.

#### B. OWL Curriculum:

First reading of the Owl Curriculum. Questions were raised if this is the best program for our students or are there other programs out there that would serve our students better. Further input from the committee was that this program is found to better serve students than others. Superintendent Stanton brought to the attention of the committee that by having a curriculum already in place it would save time on the teachers' part. In observing the Pre-K it was noted that there was a lack of curriculum in place. The Pre-K program is growing and there is a need to help our younger students. The teachers have been creating their own curriculum. Ms. Hepworth, Director of Pupil Services will be at the meeting in September to answer further questions of the committee.

#### C. Lead Teacher:

Superintendent Stanton advised the committee that they are working to update the job description of the lead teacher. We will have a lead teacher in both East Meadow and the West Street School to cover when Mr. Lataille is not in the building.

### V. Old Business:

#### A. NEASC Report

A complete report will be given at the September 19<sup>th</sup> School Committee Meeting by Mr. Cavallo and his committee.

#### B. Jr./Sr. Hand Book:

The hand book is all set to go and ready to print.

#### C. Strategic Plan review and alignment:

Are we moving forward with our strategic plan review and alignment? As we make changes how does this affect our strategic plan?

### VI. Upcoming Business:

VII. Standing Reports:

- A. Superintendent's Report Superintendent Stanton  
Superintendent Stanton thanked the custodians for preparing our buildings for the opening of school. The administration will be meeting for the next two days to review policies and procedures. A meeting is scheduled with Mr. Martin to review the Softright system.
- B. Collaborative of Educational Services (CES) Ms. Curran
- C. West Street Building Committee Mr. Pietras & Mr. Evren  
There will be a meeting with the West Street Building Committee on Thursday, August 18, 2016.
- D. Policy Subcommittee Ms. McCourt & Mr. Evren  
Ms. McCourt reported that they have started to review Section D along with other policies that needed reviewing.

VIII. Correspondence:

- A. School Committee Evaluation (Agenda item I.A.1.)
- B. Minutes July 18, 2016 (Agenda item II.A)
- C. OWL Curriculum (IV.B.)
- D. NEASC Report (Agenda item V.A.)
- E. Jr./Sr. Hand Book (V.B.)
- F. Strategic Plan review and alignment (Agenda item V.C.)

- IX. Vote to enter into Executive Session under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 30A, Section 21, Part (a)(3) to discuss strategy with regard to collective bargaining as doing so in an Open Session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee. The Committee will not return to Open Session.

VOTE: Ms. Payne-Rokowski, aye; Ms. McCourt, aye; Mr. Pietras, aye; Mr. Evren, aye, to enter Executive Session at 9:02 P.M.

**Granby Public Schools Mission Statement**

Granby Public Schools provide a safe and creative environment that empowers all students to be critical thinkers, socially responsible citizens, and effective communicators.

**Granby Public Schools Vision Statement**

The Granby Public Schools' vision is to provide real-world learning experiences that prepare students for success in a diverse and global society.

**Granby Public Schools Strategic Goals**

- Goal #1: Develop and implement (P) K-12 curricula, supported by authentic learning in all content areas.
- Goal #2: Granby Public Schools leadership team will exemplify transparency and trustworthiness, and engage with all members of the school district and community.
- Goal #3: Provide the necessary technology to support curricular needs.
- Goal #4: Develop modern facilities that support authentic learning environments.

**The Granby Public School Committee would like the opportunity to hear the wishes and ideas of the public. Therefore, the Committee has set aside a period of time at each School Committee meeting to hear from the public on issues that affect the school district and are within the scope of the Committee's responsibilities. Visitors wishing to address the School Committee must do so adhering to the guidelines and specifications as outlined in Granby Public School Policy BEDG.**

**A copy of the full policy can be found at [www.granbypublicschoolsma.net](http://www.granbypublicschoolsma.net) or by contacting the Superintendent's office at 413-467-7193.**

**"Please be advised that this meeting will be video and audio taped as well as televised"**

**[Per MGL Ch. 30A sect. 20(e) anyone wishing to video or audio record an open session of the school committee meeting must notify the Chairperson. We request such notification five (5) days prior to the meeting date.]**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Harrop,  
Recording Secretary for the School Committee