



TOWN OF GRAFTON
GRAFTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
30 PROVIDENCE ROAD
GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01519
(508) 839-5421

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MINUTES
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
May 10, 2016
Conference Room F
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Daryl Rynning, Chairman
Laura Often, Vice Chair
Peter Carlson, Secretary
Maureen Cohen, Member
Jennifer Connelly

Student Bianca Carangelo
Representatives: Hannah Kelley

Also Present: Dr. James Cummings, Superintendent of Schools
Tracey Calo, Assistant Superintendent
Daniel Gale, Finance Director

Call to Order – Open Session

- a. Community Groups and Citizens – None
- b. Student Presentation – Sophomore Student Alison Bayreauther presented her sensory garden project proposal for the Girl Scout Gold Award. The sensory garden would be a dedicated garden area creating a learning environment and will stimulate the five senses. Ms. Bayreauther chose the project after spending time with some special needs children, a family member and others whom she met while helping out in a daycare program. Elements included in the garden are lambs ear for touch, musical pipes for sound, wind spinners and other plants to help students engage in learning about nature and their senses. Ms. Bayreauther was present this evening to ask for support from the School Committee and the community. She outlined ways in which the community could assist; materials, supplies and/or monetary donations, or volunteers to assist with the build. She was also looking for sponsorships of beds within the garden. Mrs. Often thanked Ms. Bayreauther for presenting and asked if prior gardening helped in her decision of this project. This and the goal of being a pediatrician peaked Ms. Bayreauther's interest in this project. People wishing to assist Ms. Bayreauther could reach her via email. Mrs. Rynning commended Ms. Bayreauther for a precise presentation noting the Gold Award was a huge commitment, she was proud of her. Mrs. Cohen asked where the project would

be laid out. It would be in the back corner of the Millbury Street School and hoped to finish the project by her junior year.

1. Educational Reports

- a. GHS School Improvement Plan Update – Jim Pignataro, Jon Kelly, Karla Evers, Lois Rossiter, Sandy Iafolla and Shawn Langevin were present to give their school improvement plan update; a review of the past year goals and a presentation of his new goals. Mr. Pignataro thanked the school council members, parents and staff for their continued support and assistance. The 2015-2016 goals were outlined as follows; Goal #1 Positive social emotional learning school climate, which was a large goal that they worked towards this year. It included training for staff and students on signs of distress, protocol development, developing mindfulness and wellness programming and data collection and analysis and the development of wellness/mindfulness programming for all students. A student Town Hall program was created which gave students a way to voice concerns and offer ideas on ways to support mental health and wellness at GHS. A wellness camp was held with activities ranging from self analysis of personal stress, review of coping mechanisms and activities designed to build awareness of mental health struggles. Next steps included repeating the wellness camp on a regular basis, looking to assemblies and advisories to address mental health concerns and coping strategies, creating a girls support group, bolstering alumni connections and addressing student concerns brought forth in Town Hall programs. Goal #2 New school website, which created a more “user friendly” interface, an updated home page, academics page, student life & activities page, about GHS page, and updates to the parents and faculty access page. Goal #3 Advanced placement access & availability which included data analysis of current practice and comparison. Coordination with the Mass. Insight Program to accelerate teaching training, student preparation and AP programming access. Goal #4 Maximize student engagement & learning through instructional strategies which included discussion and sharing of collaborative strategies along with implementing a peer observation program with department heads. Mr. Pignataro reviewed the 2016-2017 goals. Goal #1 Increase student engagement via active learning strategies to provide ongoing opportunities for faculty to exchange ideas on active learning strategies, peer observation. This goal will create opportunities for teachers to develop and implement a variety of active learning strategies and build student engagement and improve learning outcomes. Goal #2 Increase parent participation in student growth. This goal will seek new opportunities to broaden parent support in order to better contribute towards the academic and emotional growth and success of students. They will connect parents with opportunities related to college and career readiness and promote an increased awareness surrounding social and emotional health issues. Goal #3 Student assessment; with this goal they will review and make recommendations to provide more authentic and meaningful assessment by which students can show their proficiency of subject matter knowledge and skill. Goal #4 Senior Internship program which will include researching comparative district

internships, surveying student interest and solicit input from staff in order to make recommendations on the benefits and feasibility of launching a community based senior internship program. The School Committee could see the great strides the high school was making; moving forward with their past goals and future goals. All were thanked for the presentations.

- b. GHS School Report: ELL Teacher Nancy Miranda was present with students Alberto Laguna, Jorge Laguna, Peace Shobayo, Javier Alvarez, Sara Gutierrez, Andres Sivakova and Alan Medieta. An overview of the ELL Program was given along with a slide show presentation prepared by the students. The program identifies the English language learners, assesses students, provides appropriate instruction, integrates ELL students into the culture of GHS, and documents ELL instruction. Students work each day on the language domains; listening, speaking, reading and writing. Ms. Miranda noted that for ELL students, their native language was not English and it was a challenge to work towards fluencies in English language. Ms. Miranda assesses each student then prepares a schedule that works for them individually. She looks for opportunities for her students to work with others, and be more involved within the school and the community. The ELL program also incorporates technology as much as possible finding opportunities to use it in other ways. Ms. Miranda outlined the many successes of the program; improving English fluencies, passing of MCAS exams, qualifying for the National Honor Society, achieving honor and high honors goals, graduating on time, acceptance to colleges and receiving scholarships. The students gave a brief outline on how they came to Grafton and their success in the program. All were thanked for presenting and sharing their stories. The School Committee was very proud of these students.
- c. Technology Update – Neil Trahan and Jon Kelly were present to give a technology update. Mr. Kelly gave an outline from the initial roll out of the 1:1 initiative at the Grafton High School. They had numerous conversations with staff, students and parents. He'd visited other 1:1 schools collecting data both internally and externally. They were identifying any gaps and finding ways to improve. When students leave GHS they want to be sure they are prepared and set up to succeed. They have worked towards making sure their technology lines up with the current curriculum. He outlined where they were to date servicing staff and students and how they planned to move forward. A number of careful observations, discussions and analyses had taken place relative to the effectiveness of the tech integration, and 1:1 program. Mr. Kelly discussed proper uses of iPads, the structure of them and how students were educated on this. Mr. Kelly discussed how the 1:1 initiative would be managed and how applications were pushed out to students while still allowing students to be creative. Mr. Trahan discussed profiles within the applications and how they managed this on the "back side" of the iPad. They created two application lists; a foundation list and a catalogue list which housed approximately 270 approved applications. He outlined how additional applications could be requested. Mr. Trahan discussed items which made the 1:1 initiative successful and the iPad

Profile. Mr. Kelly summarize the staff training and support, the delivery/management of content and the importance of having consistent training for staff and students. Mr. Kelly discussed the website and how they deliver content. He reviewed the Learning Management System (LMS program). It was a storehouse for content, a universal platform for uploading assignments, documents, calendar information. Teachers, students and parents would have access to this and would see consistency throughout GHS. Teachers and students will find it easier to access and use. Mr. Kelly hoped to pilot the program in the fall.

2. General Business

- a. Collaborative Report: Dr. Cummings provided the Third Quarter Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative report to the committee. The committee reviewed the report. No formal vote was needed. There were no questions relative to the report.
- b. Superintendent Evaluation: Mrs. Rynning summarized the evaluation process and results of each category. Mrs. Rynning stated that Dr. Cummings scored very well on the entire evaluation. His overall performance was exemplary and proficient. Dr. Cummings thanked the committee for positive feedback and the recommend areas of improvement. He hoped to continue to improve in the coming year. Dr. Cummings noted that his success goes back to his tremendous staff, from the teachers, the maintenance crew, support staff and school committee stating their hard work helps him maintain success. A motion was made by Mr. Carlson to approve the superintendent's end of cycle evaluation dated May 10 2016 as presented. Motion seconded by Mrs. Often. Motion carried 5-0 School Committee and 2-0 Student Representatives.

3. School Committee Member Reports

- a. Mrs. Often attended a wellness meeting. They met in small groups and worked on surveys which will be going in the near future.
- b. Mrs. Often recognized and thanked Daryl Rynning for her ten years of service. She thanked Mrs. Rynning for being a mentor to her and a resource to so many members. Mrs. Rynning appreciated working with everyone, stating it was a great experience and she truly enjoyed her time serving on the School Committee.

4. Future Agenda Planning:

- a. Continuation of Policy review

5. Approval of Minutes – None

6. Financial Report

- a. A motion was made by Mrs. Often that the School Committee approve Warrant #46, dated May 12, 2016 in the amount of \$301,513.12. Motion seconded by Mr. Carlson. Motion carried 5-0 School Committee and 2-0 School Representatives.

7. Policy - None
8. Correspondence - None
9. Executive Session - At 9:10 p.m. a motion was made to enter into executive session for the purpose of non union negotiations under Chapter 30A, Paragraph 21, Section A, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation of discussions with non union personnel and to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non union personnel. Roll Call vote, Peter Carlson, aye, Maureen Cohen, Aye, Jennifer Connelly, aye, Laura Often, aye and Daryl running Aye. Motion carried 5-0. The Committee will return to open session to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted



Cindy Ide
Recording Secretary