

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

(*Attachments are available upon request from the Superintendent's Office.)

Committee of the Whole

August 20, 2018

A special meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Groton Board of Education was held on August 13, 2018 in Room 11 of the School Administration Building.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kim Watson, Board Chairperson, at 6:05 p.m.

PRESENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Rosemary Robertson
Mr. Jay Weitlauf
Mrs. Lee White

ABSENT

Mrs. Jane Giulini
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome
Mrs. Rita Volkmann

Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Sam Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Mr. Ken Knight, Business Manager
Miss Addie Clark, Student Representative
Mr. Daniel Gaiewski, Student Representative

1. Approval of Minutes of August 13, 2018

MOTION: White, Ackerman: To approve the minutes of August 13, 2018.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

2. Communications Update (Attachment #1)

Ms. Austin and Mrs. Rebecca Beyus gave an overview of efforts being made with communication in the district. Mrs. Beyus noted that the district is continually sharing information regarding Groton 2020, MYP, and the Magnet Schools with parents, staff and community. Mrs. Beyus shared the June issue of School Matters; shared the logos for Magnet Schools (CMS/WSM); and the Summer 2018 issue of the Education Guide.

3. Summer Curriculum Work Update (Attachment #2)

Ms. Austin introduced Scott Hicks, Science Task Force member, who gave an overview of how science is taught at the middle school level, with the implementation of NGSS and the support from CREC. He gave specific examples of a lesson on force and motion that he taught in eighth grade. He stated that there are multiple resources – both online and hands-on and textbooks become obsolete.

Ms. Austin gave an overview of Summer Curriculum Work and Professional Development.

4. Discussion re: Earl Childhood Program Needs

Ms. Austin noted that she is closely watching the Kindergarten numbers. She also noted that a submarine is expected in October that may affect Kindergarten numbers. Nadine Maclin has been meeting with her pre-school colleagues, in district and out of district including Children First Groton. From this came a concern regarding the readiness for some students entering Kindergarten due to their young age and lack of pre-school experience. Ms. Austin will be meeting with the teachers conducting the Kindergarten screening and collect data regarding the students' readiness for Kindergarten and the possible reasons for their lack of readiness. It may be necessary to hire a Kindergarten teacher or transitional Kindergarten teacher to address this issue, or provide additional support in the classroom.

5. Treehouse Program Update (Attachment #3)

Mr. Knight gave an overview of the budget for the Treehouse Program.

6. Object Code Summary Revision (Attachment #4)

Mr. Knight gave an overview of the Object Code Summary dated August 20, 2018 and explained the revisions that will make it easier to follow.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: Ackerman, Rosemary: To adjourn at 8:38 p.m.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY