

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Committee of the Whole

August 13, 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

Mr. Sam Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds

1. Approval of Minutes of July 9, 2018

MOTION: Ackerman, White; To approve the minutes of July 9, 2018.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

2. CSDE Report re: Racial Imbalance Statistics - This item was tabled until the next COW meeting.

3. APEX Evaluation Feedback (Attachment #1)

Mr. Adam Diskin gave an overview of the APEX Evaluation Feedback including a review of the responses of the student survey. There were 8 courses that were not completed due to time constraints and there were 5 teachers in the program. Electives taken were P.E., Health, Environmental Science, Music, and Computer Application. Mr. Diskin stated that he felt that this program is for all students.

Mr. Mike Brayman, teacher, and Ray Valentino, student, shared their experiences in the program.

The Board requested a status report on the 8 courses that were not completed.

4. Overview of SAT Results - This item was tabled until the next COW meeting.

5. Adjournment

MOTION: Ackerman, White; To adjourn at 6:47 p.m.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

2018 APEX SUMMER SCHOOL PILOT REPORT

Enrollment information

Total students enrolled = 27

- ✓ Credit recovery= 25
- ✓ Unique credit (advancement and enrichment) = 2

Course Information

- ✓ Total courses taken: 39
 - Mathematics: 14
 - Language Arts: 7
 - Social Studies: 6
 - Science: 6
 - Electives: 6

Course Completion Information

- ✓ Completed course with passing grade = 31
- ✓ Incomplete courses = 8

Student Survey responses

What did you like most about the Apex program? (What aspects helped you learn? Were there certain things that made this type of learning easier for you?)

- ✓ yes the online courses helped better than a teacher to student it just makes a lot more sense in my head
- ✓ The study guides as some teachers don't give study guides
- ✓ Breaking it into smaller sections
- ✓ I'm more hands on so this didn't help a whole lot.
- ✓ I like that it teaches you direct information that is on the quiz and test
- ✓ I liked the short answer quizzes.
- ✓ That it was an online course
- ✓ I like that it's online

- ✓ I guess I enjoyed the videos the most but nothing within this program specifically stood out to me as to what made learning easier.
- ✓ The activities that were in the lessons help me review for the quizzes and tests.

What did you dislike most about the APEX program? (What did you find difficult? What types of questions or assignment were confusing or frustrating?)

- ✓ Strongly dislikes this form of online teaching not enough time to finish course currently feeling rushed
- ✓ Some confusingly worded quiz questions
- ✓ The difficulty, and short time.
- ✓ I dislike everything is locked and you need a teacher to unlock it
- ✓ Nothing
- ✓ Idk
- ✓ How often we would read and then do a quiz.
- ✓ it was a lot of work for a summer school class
- ✓ it's really long
- ✓ I disliked only having 4 weeks when apex is a "summer program". I believe a long duration should be given to those taking the program.

1. The APEX class was presented in a clear and organized way.

Strongly agree	30.8%
Agree	38%
Neutral	15.4%
Disagree	8.1%
Strongly Disagree	7.7%

2. The APEX program presented small amounts of information at a time, allowing me to focus.

Strongly agree	15.4%
Agree	38.5%
Neutral	23.1%
Disagree	23.1%
Strongly Disagree	0

3. The videos and varied modes of presentation of information were engaging and kept me focused.

Strongly agree	15.4%
Agree	38.5%
Neutral	30.8%
Disagree	15.4%
Strongly Disagree	0

4. The presentations within APEX are from real life problems and cultural knowledge, which allowed me to connect to the learning.

Strongly agree	0
Agree	61.5%
Neutral	30.8%
Disagree	7.7%
Strongly Disagree	0

5. The Pre-Test allowed me to identify what I know and focus on what I did not know.

Strongly agree	30.8%
Agree	30.8%
Neutral	15.4%
Disagree	15.4%
Strongly Disagree	7.7%

6. The text-to-speech was very helpful to my learning.

Strongly agree	15.4%
Agree	30.8%
Neutral	38.5%
Disagree	15.4%
Strongly Disagree	0

7. The teachers were helpful when I had a question.

Strongly agree	38.5%
Agree	38.5%
Neutral	23.1
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	0

8. The 4 weeks was enough time for me to finish my course.

Strongly agree	7.7%
Agree	23.1%
Neutral	23.1%
Disagree	23.1%
Strongly Disagree	23.1%

9. Would you recommend the APEX program for students during the school year. YES (76.9%) NO 23.1%

APEX supports:

1. Unique learning opportunities for individual student needs (Special Education, advancement opportunities, remedial supports)
2. Academic Lab- tutorial supports
3. Our ELL population
4. Provides achievement data