

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Special Meeting

July 17, 2017

A special meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on July 17, 2017, in CR 1 of the Town Hall Annex.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

The first order of business was the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag by Miss Cindy Fan.

PRESENT

ABSENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Rosemary Robertson
Mrs. Rita Volkmann
Mr. Jay Weitlauf

Mr. Gary Baker
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome
Mrs. Lee White

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds (arrived at 7:02 p.m.)
Miss Cindy Fan, Student Representative
Mr. Doug Manfred, GEA Vice President
Mrs. Beth Horler, GEA President

B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS

NONE

C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

The Student Representative reported:

- That she is involved in the interviewing process for a Spanish Teacher, Math Teacher, demo lessons, and next Wednesday a discussion of the use of cell phones.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

1. Introduction to the Groton Yardstick [ATTACHMENTS #1, 2, 3]

- a. Dr. Graner gave an overview of Groton Yardstick data. An in-depth discussion of the data will occur at the next COW meeting (August 14, 2017).

2. Transportation Study Report

- a. Dr. Graner gave an overview of the recommendations from Rich Labrie, Transportation Consultant. Mr. Labrie noted several observations and recommendations that included the hiring of an Assistant Transportation Coordinator to handle the implementation of the software system. Mr. Labrie also noted that the recommendations could reduce the number of buses which would generate a savings to the district.

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF

1. Assistant Superintendent Report [ATTACHMENTS #4, 5]

Dr. Graner reported:

- a. Status report on computer coding at the middle school and high school levels – This item was tabled.
- b. Update re: Fitch High School newly approved courses as of February 22, 2016 – This item was tabled.
- c. Update re: Consumer Science courses – This item was tabled.
- d. District Overview of the SBAC Results – Math, ELA
Ms. Austin shared the 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 SBAC data including the ELA and Math Cohort data for Groton.
- e. Year-End-Results of Fountas and Pinnell
Ms. Austin shared the Fountas and Pinnell data for the elementary schools

2. Business Office Report

- Dr. Graner noted that we finished the year with a positive balance. He also noted that teachers would be able to be paid for July and August with 2016-2017 funds.

3. Director of Buildings and Grounds Report

Mr. Kilpatrick reported:

- Groton 2020 Plan – He noted that he met with the committee last week to review the thirteen (13) proposals for the 2020 Plan that has been whittled down to five (5) firms they will be interviewing.
- The PV move of material and furniture is going smoothly.

3. Director of Buildings and Grounds Report – cont.

- The moving of the portables from PV to CB is not going as well as he had hoped – he has received a permit from the Planning Dept. to place the portables at CB; however, there is a need for a permit to pour concrete in order to place the portables at CB and will be cutting the oak tree at CB tomorrow that will allow the portable to be placed at CB.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance/Facilities Committee:
There was no report.
2. Policy Committee:
There was no report.
3. Curriculum Committee:
There was no report.
4. Negotiations Committee:
There was no report.
5. LEARN:
There was no report.
6. Groton Parent Council:
There was no report.
7. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee:
There was no report.
8. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee:
There was no report.
9. Groton Scholarship:
There was no report.
10. CABE
There was no report.
11. Trails Liaison:
There was no report.
12. Ad Hoc Middle School Program Review:
There was no report.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the regular meeting minutes of June 26, 2017 and special meeting minutes of June 19, 2017 (Board Report and Personnel Matter), are hereby accepted and approved.

MOTION: Ackerman, Robertson: To approve the Consent Calendar.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the Groton Schools Custodian and Maintenance Association Contract.

MOTION: Weitlauf, Robertson: To approve the Groton Schools Custodian and Maintenance Association Contract.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the Transportation Study recommendations.

MOTION: Fitzgerald, Ackerman: To approve the Transportation Study recommendations.

YES – Watson, Ackerman, Weitlauf, Robertson, Fitzgerald

NO – Volkmann

PASSED

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding the expenditure of the Department of Defense's Supplemental Impact Aid grant.

MOTION: Robertson, Volkmann: To approve the expenditure of the Department of Defense's Supplemental Impact Aid grant.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mrs. Fitzgerald reported:
 - a. She received communications from Representative de la Cruz.
 - b. She attended, along with Mrs. White and Mrs. Robertson, a budget workshop at the New London Public Library.
2. Dr. Ackerman reported that she attended the Writers Workshop held at FHS.
3. Mr. Weitlauf shared comments regarding the hiring of an Assistant Transportation Coordinator.
4. Mrs. Robertson reported:
 - a. She attended the meeting at the New London Public Library regarding the ECS funding.
 - b. She attended the legislative wrap up on June 13, 2017.
 - c. She received, for the 8th time, the Paul Harris Award.
5. Mrs. Volkmann asked questions regarding:
 - a. The status of the Business Manager position.
 - b. The number of teaching positions still to be filled.
 - c. Substitutes – what is being done to recruit substitutes during the summer.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

Mrs. Watson stated that she requested that Board members meet on July 24, 2017 to review the Superintendent's evaluation.

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B. Suggested Agenda Items

NONE

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Weitlauf: To adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY