

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Committee of the Whole

August 14, 2017

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Groton Board of Education was held on August 14, 2017 in Room 11 of the School Administration Building.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Kim Watson, Board Chairperson, at 6:08 p.m.

PRESENT

ABSENT

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

Mr. Gary Baker

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Sam Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Miss Cindy Fan, Student Representative
Mr. Daniel Gaiewski, Student Representative
Mrs. Rebecca Beyus, Communications Coordinator

1. Approval of Minutes of July 10, 2017

MOTION: Ackerman, White: To approve the minutes of July 10, 2017.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

2. Update on the 2017 Summer School

This item was tabled to the next COW meeting.

3. Groton 2020 Update

Mr. Kilpatrick noted that there will be a meeting on Thursday, August 17, 2017, to select the architect for the middle schools project. They are down to two firms to consider.

4. **High School Data:**

a. **Update on new courses approved February 16, 2016 [ATTACHMENT #1]**

Mr. Arcarese reviewed the enrollment and the number of sections in the new courses.

b. **Status of Computer Coding**

Mr. Arcarese noted that computer coding is addressed through the AP Computer Programming course at the high school. Dr. Graner noted that at CMS Computer Coding is addressed by Kathy Wilson, Computer Literacy teacher, and the STEM program; at WSM Computer Coding is addressed by Elizabeth Wilson and Karen Bryer, Computer Literacy teachers. Ms. Austin noted that at the elementary level Computer Coding is addressed through the enrichment program after school.

c. **Update on Consumer Science Courses**

Dr. Graner and Mr. Arcarese noted that there have been changes in certification for Consumer Science. Persons with three years' experience as a chef, a Bachelor's degree and additional education courses are now eligible for a new Culinary Arts certification.

5. **Discussion regarding the Student Representative role on the BOE**

Mrs. Watson explained that the purpose of this item is to discuss ways that the Student Representatives could better participate in the Board of Education meetings. Cindy Fan explained that at the CAFE Convention other student representatives noted various ways that they participated in the Board of Education meetings. Board members suggested that the student representatives could have referral rights, could attend and participate at Board committee meetings, and share any items of concern from their peers with the Board.

6. **Groton Yardstick Follow-up**

This item was tabled to the August 21, 2017 COW meeting.

7. **Update regarding elementary science materials**

Ms. Austin noted that the district is purchasing the Science Kits for grades K-5 at a cost of \$127,000 from Title I funds. She also noted that teachers will receive training and will rotate the materials in the kits.

8. **Curriculum and Instruction Update:**

a. **K-8 L.A. Curriculum** – Ms. Austin noted that per the Curriculum Council's review of the Action Plans, there is a need to look at the ELA curriculum K-8, in particular phonics, grammar, language, and spelling. K-5 developed a pacing guide. The middle school did a great job finding a lot of resources; however, they still need to come up with a pacing guide. Ms. Austin noted that the teachers will be coming back together on August 22 (Math Task Force) and 23 (ELA teachers), 2017; in September the teachers will bring back data to the Curriculum Council for review.

b. **Math – Algebra Curriculum Alignment** – Ms. Austin noted that a Common Core pacing guide had been found for use in the Algebra Curriculum alignment.

9. Communication Update [ATTACHMENT #2]

Rebecca Beyus gave an overview of the different means of communication in the district and a review of the various means of communication published over the last year.

10. Discussion of the budget mailer

Rebecca Beyus noted that the mailer should briefly outline where school funding comes from in a very basic way and the mailer should be sent out to the community in March.

Mrs. Volkmann made a referral discussion of a later start time for the middle school and high school levels.

11. Adjournment

MOTION: Ackerman, Volkmann: To adjourn at 8:13 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY