

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Committee of the Whole

September 11, 2017

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Groton Board of Education was held on September 11, 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 6:04 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
Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Mr. Sam Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Mrs. Amy Ruotolo, Special Education Supervisor
Mrs. Beth Horler, GEA President
Mr. Douglas Manfred, GEA Vice President
Mrs. Alisha Stripling, Director, Treehouse Program

1. Discussion of NBA Program [ATTACHMENT #1]

Ms. Amy Ruotolo gave a PowerPoint presentation of the NBA program at FHS.

2. Approval of Minutes of August 14, 2017

MOTION: White, Robertson: To approve the minutes of August 21, 2017.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

3. Update regarding Teaching and Learning Structure

Ms. Austin gave an overview of the Teaching and Learning Structures that are in place, i.e. Collaborative teams, Data Teams, Math Task Force noting that there is high interest for a Science Task Force, and Literacy and Math Specialists at the elementary level. Ms. Austin also noted that teachers discussed assessments during the two day PD held in August.

4. DoDEA Math Grant

Ms. Austin gave an overview of the Math DoDEA Grant. She noted that Groton was granted a second DoDEA grant in the amount of 1.250 million dollars over a 5-year period. This grant will allow for the hiring of staff to oversee the grant, tutors, Math Clubs, major PD around the grant, attendance at the MCEC conference during year 2 and 3, supplies such as iPads, books, online platforms, technology software, and embedded PD.

5. Update regarding the Treehouse Program [ATTACHMENT #2]

Mrs. Alisha Stripling, Director of the Treehouse Program, gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Treehouse Program.

6. Discussion of School Start Times

Mrs. Watson asked the Board, and they shared, what they thought of the article provided by Graner from the 2016 American School Health Association on school start times. Dr. Graner noted that he had additional data on school start times that Board members could review at their leisure. Mrs. Watson stated that this item will be an ongoing referral for Board discussion.

7. Director of Buildings and Grounds report:

- a. **Portables transferred to CB** – Mr. Kilpatrick stated that Board members could view the transfer of the portables to CB on Channel 19. The transfer is complete; should receive material for the installation of the ramps tomorrow; and the necessary electrical work will be completed in the very near future.
- b. **Groton 2020** – Mr. Kilpatrick stated that the architect work firm of Silver-Petrucelli has been selected. He further noted that the PSBC is working the contract. Lastly, he noted that Christie Post will be appointed to the committee in October and Jaime Giordano will also be appointed.
- c. **Discussion of the DRAFT CIP [ATTACHMENT #3]**
Mr. Kilpatrick reviewed the draft CIP. He noted that the CIP will be on the regular Board agenda for approval at its next regular meeting.

8. Status of FY 18 Budget

Dr. Graner noted that staffing needs throughout the district is a concern. He is also concerned that the Town May have to absorb the 3.4 million dollar for the teacher's pension.

9. Report on meeting with Gov. Malloy and Sec. Barnes

Dr. Graner and Mrs. Watson gave an overview of the meeting with Gov. Malloy and Sec. Barnes. Town Mayor Flax, John Burt, Town Manager, City Mayor Hedrick along with Dr. Graner and Mrs. Watson met with Gov. Malloy and Sec. Barnes for a half hour. Dr. Graner and Mrs. Watson also met with Senator Somers briefly afterwards.

10. Update regarding Magnet School Transportation Grant [ATTACHMENTS #4, 5]

Dr. Graner noted the lack of communication with parents and the issues that arose as a result. He shared the resolutions and the future plans of communicating to parents regarding transportation.

11. Referral List and Suggested Agenda Items
NONE
12. Adjournment

MOTION: Ackerman, Newsome: To adjourn at 8:55 p.m.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY