

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

**Committee of the Whole**

**September 18, 2017**

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Groton Board of Education was held on September 18, 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 (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)  
Mr. Jay Weitlauf  
Mrs. Lee White

Mr. Gary Baker

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Dennis Colclough, Director of Technology Services  
Mr. Sam Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds  
Mr. Ken Knight, Business Manager  
Mrs. Rebecca Beyus, Communications Coordinator  
Mr. Daniel Gaiewski, Student Representative  
Miss Cindy Pan, Student Representative  
Mr. Douglas Manfred, GEA Vice President  
Ms. Kelly Donovan, IB Teacher, Fitch High School  
Miss Lily Johnson, IB Student  
Mr. Jack MacDonald, IB Student  
Mr. Mat Krick, IB Student  
Mr. Jeff Kotecki, Assistant Principal, West Side Middle School  
Mr. Terry Henkle, Science Teacher, West Side Middle School  
Mrs. Portia Bodelon, Parent

**1. Approval of Minutes of September 11, 2017**

**MOTION:** Robertson, White: To approve the minutes of September 11, 2017.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**2. International Baccalaureate Lesson (1 hour for lesson and questions) [ATTACHMENT #1]**

Ms. Donovan led the Board through an IB lesson by asking three questions with responses of agree or disagree and having the Board explain their choice. The Board also viewed a video and Ms. Donovan shared an article that would have been used as homework to students, as well as recommended several books.

**3. Report regarding role of Board in curriculum process**

Dr. Graner stated that he had contacted several area districts to determine if they had a Council and/or Board Curriculum Committee.

**Responses were:**

East Lyme – they used to have a Curriculum Council – next year the Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction will head the district council for teaching & learning as well as all content based district committees

Ledyard – they have a districtwide committee (Instructional Council) that provides feedback/suggestions throughout the curriculum development process. The Board representative reports at Board meetings on a monthly basis so that the Board is informed of new curricula and revisions.

Montville – they have a Board Committee (Education & Evaluation Committee)

New London – they have a Curriculum Committee – Board members participate in the development process

Norwich – they do not have a Curriculum Committee – they have a Curriculum Council

Stonington – they have a Teaching & Learning Committee – which includes some Board members

North Stonington – they have a working committee and then presentation to the Board

Ms. Austin gave an overview of the Groton's Curriculum & Instruction Council's work to date.

**4. Discussion regarding FHS College Level Courses**

Mrs. Watson stated that the purpose of this item was to determine what type of data the Board wanted to receive from the high school.

Volkman      Wants teachers not Mr. Arcarese making the presentation.

Fitzgerald    Asked what are teachers doing differently now then during the pilot.

Watson        Asked how is the PSAT used and who pays for it.

Fitzgerald    Asked how long has PSAT been offered and to whom.

Volkman      Asked how many students are in each college level class and how many teachers.

5. **Director of buildings and Grounds Report**

a. **Update on FY 19 CIP draft [ATTACHMENT #2]**

FY 2019 would consist of:

Asbestos Removal at Fitch High School	\$370,000
FHS Tennis Courts and Football Field Resurface/Recrown	\$300,000
MM Parking Lot – Planning	\$ 80,000

FT 2020 would consist of:

Asbestos Removal at SBB	\$275,000
FHS Gym Floor	\$40,000
MM Parking Lot Construction	\$420,000
Storage Facilities (replacement building)	\$300,000

6. **Technology Update [ATTACHMENT #3]**

Mr. Colclough gave a technology update.

7. **Budget Update [ATTACHMENT #4]**

Dr. Graner gave an overview of the State Budget passed on September 15, 2017 and that it will be sent to Governor Malloy for his approval. Dr. Graner highlighted several of the key points:

- Eliminates the MBR requirements for non-alliance districts.
- Increases teacher contribution to TRB from 6% to 7% (1/18/18) and 8% (7/1/18).
- Allow municipalities to override the arbitration decisions with a 2/3 vote of local legislative bodies.
- Modify section 10-157 of the CGS to allow towns with a population of less than 10,000, with less than three public schools located in their town and with less than 2,000 resident students to not have a local superintendent.
- Require boards of education to enter into cooperative arrangements with municipalities to provide administration and central office duties. The town legislative body shall make this determination.
- Prohibit boards of education from entering into leases for equipment, such as phone systems, computers, portable classrooms, vehicles, and copiers without town authorization.
- Require shared maintenance of buildings, grounds, equipment and information technology between boards of education and towns.
- Prohibit boards of education from hiring any administrative personnel for positions which are not included in the proposed and approved budget without town concurrence.
- Allow towns to reopen collective bargaining agreements to negotiate savings in the event that education aid is reduced by more than 10%.
- All towns to reopen collective bargaining agreements when changes are needed to effectuate consolidation or shared services agreements.

- All municipalities to use volunteer service provided by children and parents by prohibiting collective bargaining agreements from containing provisions prohibiting the practice.

**8. Develop budget timeline**

This item was tabled.

**9. Review the 2017-2018 Tuition Rates [ATTACHMENT #5]**

Dr. Graner noted that he would recommend that the 2016-2017 rates be carried over for the 2017-2018 school year.

**10. Referral List and Suggested Agenda Items**

Mrs. Volkmann requested the addition of a discussion of the Cell Phone policy at a COW.  
Mrs. Fitzgerald requested the addition of a discussion of playground safety and consistency at a COW.

**11. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Ackerman, Volkmann: To adjourn at 8:56 p.m.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**