

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Regular Meeting

September 25, 2017

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on September 25, 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 Ms. Austin.

PRESENT

ABSENT

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

Mr. Gary Baker

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Mr. Ken Knight, Business Manager
Miss Cindy Fan, Student Representative
Mr. Daniel Gaiewski, Student Representative
Mr. Rich Moravsik, Town Council Representative
Mr. Doug Manfred, GEA Vice President
Mrs. Beth Horler, GEA President
Mrs. Portia Bodelon, WSM Parent

B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS

Mrs. Watson acknowledged Rich Moravsik, Town Council member, who will be attending the Board of Education meetings as a representative of the Town Council.

C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

1. Mrs. Portia Bodelon, addressed the lack of remedial support for students. [ATTACHMENT #1]

Mrs. Watson made a referral to the COW for discussion of remedial services at the middle school level as well as what research is available.

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

The Student Representatives reported:

- That Scott Driscoll came to Fitch High School on Sept. 7, 2017 to talk to students in the morning and parents in the evening about internet safety;
- That the FHS Open House was held on Sept. 21, 2017;
- That on Sept. 19, 2017 the Fitch High School Marching Band and Chamber Choir was officially invited by Deputy Lord Mayor of Westminster, Robert Davis, to perform in the 2019 London New Year's Day parade and participate in festivals in London;
- That FHS will host a Marching Band Competition at Dour Field on Saturday, October 21, 2017;
- That the Music Department will be holding a Classic Rolling Stones Live! Concert on Friday, October 6, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., in the Fitch auditorium;
- That a new Student Section has been added for Home Football Games at FHS to increase school spirit;
- That Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held Thursday, October 12, 2017, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.;
- That PSAT testing for 9th, 10th and 11th graders will take place on Wednesday, October 11, 2017; 12th graders will work with counselors and teachers for after high school planning;
- Class Fundraisers: Class of 2020 held a ¼ Zip Sweatshirt sale on Sept. 21, 2017; Class of 2019 held a Mums Sale on Sept. 21, 2017; Class of 2018 will hold a 5 Guys sale on Oct. 8, 2017 and an Applebee's sale on Oct. 17, 2017.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

1. Update regarding the State Budget

Dr. Graner noted that there is dialogue for a compromise on the budget taking place; credit agencies are concerned and are re-evaluating the State's bond rating; Connecticut is the only State in the Union without a budget. He further stated that he will continue to keep the Board and public updated as things progress at the State level.

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF

1. Assistant Superintendent Report [ATTACHMENTS #2, 3, 4, 5]

Ms. Austin reported:

- a. August PD – Ms. Austin shared the survey results from the August PD;
- b. Enrollment/class size report – Ms. Austin shared the current enrollment/class size report. She highlighted those classes of concern;
- c. Individual student SBAC report – Ms. Austin shared and explained an individual student’s SBAC report;
- d. DoDEA – Math – Ms. Austin noted that Groton has receive the \$1.25 million DoDEA grant and explained the conditions attached to the grant;
- e. Ms. Austin shared the Children First Groton flyer regarding a community forum, *Healthy Development III: A Summit on Infant, Children, Adolescent Mental Health; A Community Conversation*. She also noted a workshop to be held at FHS with Jeanine Fitzgerald on October 11, 2017 entitled, *Beyond Bossing, Begging and Bribing* and on November 8, 2017 on *Discipline Matters*.

2. Business Office Report [ATTACHMENT #6, 7]

- Dr. Graner introduced the new Business Manager, Ken Knight.
- Object Code Summary – Mr. Knight gave an overview of the Object Code Summary dated September 22, 2017;
- Health Insurance Report - Dr. Graner noted that the latest data on the Health Insurance was not available at this time;
- Budget Timeline – Mr. Knight reviewed the budget timeline for FY 19.

3. Director of Buildings and Grounds Report

Mr. Kilpatrick reported:

- Groton 2020 – Mr. Kilpatrick noted that the Public Works Director is reviewing the scope to qualify the architect. He noted that a RFQ for the Construction Manager at Risk has been issued. He further noted that the language in the bill at the State has been updated to include the Cutler renovation as a “diversity school”; however, it has not been voted on yet pending the passage of a State budget.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance/Facilities Committee:

There was no report.

2. Policy Committee:

Mrs. White note that the Policy Committee met and that the policies are on the agenda for a second reading.

3. Curriculum Committee:

There was no report.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS - cont.

4. Negotiations Committee:
There was no report.
5. LEARN:
Mrs. Volkmann noted that LEARN has held many meetings on their construction project. She noted that they have selected Techtron. Next month LEARN will begin teacher negotiation.
6. Groton Parent Council:
Mrs. Fitzgerald noted that the Groton Parent Council met with the secretary and the Chair along with the Superintendent. She further noted that the Chairperson has resigned. It was determined that there was a need to reinvent the council. Rebecca Beyus is contacting schools for a list of PTA members to determine the future of the Parent Council activities.
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:
Mrs. Newsome noted that the Groton Scholarship Fund met and made changes this summer. They wrote a policy; have a new member, Matt Benoit; and they have a need for volunteers and donors.
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 August 28, 2017
2017, are hereby accepted and approved.

A. **CONSENT CALENDAR** – cont.

2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS

- An anonymous donation of \$450.00 has been made to the Groton Public Schools for the purpose of purchasing long sleeved warm-up jerseys for the Fitch Girls Soccer Team.

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

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Discussion and possible action regarding approval as a second reading of policy P 3542.22 Food Services Code of Conduct. [ATTACHMENT #8]**

MOTION: Weitlauf, White: To approve as a second reading policy P 3542.22 Food Services Code of Conduct. **PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

2. **Discussion and possible action regarding approval as a second reading of policy P 3542.43 Food Services Charging. [ATTACHMENT #9]**

MOTION: Robertson, Newsome: To approve as a second reading policy P 3542.43 Food Services Charging. **PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

C. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the FY 19 CIP Plan. [ATTACHMENT #10]**

MOTION: Ackerman, Fitzgerald: To approve the FY 19 CIP Plan. Watson, Robertson, White, Volkmann, Newsome, Ackerman, Fitzgerald; NO – Weitlauf. **PASSED**

2. **Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the 2018 Graduation Date.**

MOTION: Robertson, White: To approve the 2018 Graduation Date as June 22, 2018. Watson, Robertson, White, Volkmann, Ackerman Fitzgerald, Weitlauf; ABSTAINED – Newsome. **PASSED**

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the one-year extension of the Groton Public Schools' Secretaries Association bargaining agreement for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. (It is anticipated that this item will be discussed in Executive Session.)

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mrs. Fitzgerald noted that she received e-mails regarding bus issues; that she attended a 2-day Mental Health seminar; that she attended the Groton Parent Council meeting.
2. Mrs. Newsome noted that she attended the Parent Orientation at Fitch High School and she also noted that FHS now has a tutoring program.
3. Dr. Ackerman announced that three FHS students have won a Martin Luther King Scholarship, Lily Johnson, Daryl Bredy, and Jamin Importante.
4. Mr. Weitlauf noted that he received a call from a parent regarding elementary class sizes, that he attended the ceremony for the Deputy Mayor of Westminster invitation to the Fitch High School Marching Band and Choir, and he thanked Mr. Mark Russell for taping the ceremony
5. Mrs. Robertson noted that she attended a GASP meeting.
6. Mrs. Volkmann noted that she visited S. B. Butler's first day of school, that she attended the ceremony for the Deputy Mayor of Westminster invitation to the Fitch High School Marching Band and Choir, and thanked Mr. Kilpatrick regarding the size of the wording on the FHS sign.
7. Mrs. Watson noted that she attended the ceremony for the Deputy Mayor of Westminster invitation to the Fitch High School Marching Band and Choir, that she received the same e-mails as other Board members, and announced that Jeff Kotecki has been selected as the new principal of West Side Middle School.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

B. Suggested Agenda Items

NONE

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Volkmann, Fitzgerald: To go into Executive Session at 7:58 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the one-year extension of the Groton Public Schools' Secretaries Association bargaining agreement for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 and to invite Dr. Graner and Mr. Knight to attend.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

The one-year extension of the Groton Public Schools' Secretaries Association bargaining agreement for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 was discussed. No action was taken.

MOTION: Ackerman, White: To return to Open Session at 8:15 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION: Weitlauf, Fitzgerald: To accept the offer from the Groton Public Schools Secretaries' Association to extend the current contract for 1 year from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION: Volkmann, White: To adjourn at 8:23 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY