

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

**Regular Meeting**

**October 23, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on October 23, 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 6:04 p.m.

The first order of business was the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag by Mr. Daniel Gaiewski.

**PRESENT**

**ABSENT**

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson  
Dr. Andrea Ackerman  
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald  
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome (arrived at 6:10 p.m.)  
Mrs. Lee White  
Mr. Jay Weitlauf

Mr. Gary Baker  
Mrs. Rosemary Robertson  
Mrs. Rita Volkmann

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds  
Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human Resources (arrived at 8:08 p.m.)  
Miss Cindy Fan, Student Representative  
Mr. Daniel Gaiewski, Student Representative  
Mr. Doug Manfred, GEA Vice President  
Mrs. Beth Horler, GEA President  
Mr. Seth Danner, Principal, Charles Barnum School  
Mrs. Jaime Giordano, Principal, Claude Chester School  
Mrs. Christine Dauphinais, Principal, Catherine Kolnaski School  
Mrs. Kathleen Miner, Principal, Mary Morrisson School  
Mr. Paul Esposito, Principal, Northeast Academy School  
Mr. Steven Wheeler, Principal, S. B. Butler School  
Ms. Miranda Chapman, Navy Liaison

Mrs. Watson requested a motion for an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.

**MOTION:** Fitzgerald, White: To suspend the rules and add an Executive Session at the end of the meeting for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.

**MOTION:** Watson, Fitzgerald: To amend the previous motion to include inviting Dr. Graner, Ms. Austin, and Mrs. LePine to attend. **PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

**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 Representatives reported:

- Boys Volleybrawl was taking place right now at Fitch High School in the big gym;
- A Tailgate will occur on Friday, October 27, 2017 at FHS before the home football game against New London;
- Spirit Week is the week of November 13-17, 2017;
- A Pep Rally will occur in the big gym on Friday, November 17, 2017;
- A Girls Powderpuff Game and a second Tailgate will take place at FHS on Friday, November 17, 2017;
- Eighth graders from WSM and CMS will be taking a field trip to FHS on Tuesday, October 31, 2017; students will get to learn more about FHS and tour the building;
- A Blood Drive is being sponsored by the Keyettes and will take place during school this Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at FHS;
- The first quarter of the 2017-2018 school year will close on Friday, November 3, 2017;
- The Homecoming Dance will be held at FHS on Saturday, November 18, 2017;
- The Senior Class Council will be holding a Drawstring Bag fundraiser that will run from the end of October to the end of November; Texas Roadhouse fundraiser will be on November 6, 2017, from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.;
- The Junior Class Council is currently planning their November – December Butter Braid fundraiser;
- The Sophomore Class Council is currently wrapping up their Class Quarter Zip Fleece fundraiser;
- The Freshman Class Council has elected their class officers;
- Fitch is now using the Anonymous Alerts App that allows students to message the Fitch High administration and/or school staff if there is a problem at school and they are looking for assistance. Students can access this app on their chromebook or by downloading it onto their phone.

#### **IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

##### **1. Update regarding the State Budget**

Dr. Graner noted that he and his staff have been working hard to align the budget. He also noted that a vote is scheduled at the Capital on Wednesday and he is hopeful that he will be able to announce that Connecticut has a budget by Thursday.

#### **A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF**

##### **1. Assistant Superintendent Report [ATTACHMENTS #1]**

Ms. Austin gave an overview of the SBAC ELA and Math data and then introduced the elementary Principals who gave an overview of their schools' Cohort Action Plan as well as their Climate Action Plan and Yardstick data.

Ms. Austin gave an overview of the implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). She stated that the Science Task Force has discussed aligning the standards with grade levels; teachers have asked for more PD; the middle school and high school are collaborating with support from Doug Llewelyn; and October 31, 2017 Jaime Reichenberg will work with the whole Task Force.

Ms. Austin stated that the Magnet School Assistance Program (MSAP) grant is funded over the next 5 years; both middle schools will become themed Magnet Schools – CMS: Arts and Humanities and WSM: STEM. In addition, the middle schools and Fitch High grades 9 & 10 plan to implement the IB Middle Years Program. The MSAP grant will fund the coordinator positions and the staff training.

##### **2. Business Office Report [ATTACHMENT #2]**

###### ➤ Object Code Summary

Dr. Graner noted that there is a \$500,000 deficit and he has initiated a hiring freeze. Again, he noted that hopefully on Thursday there will be a budget. Lastly, he noted that by November he will have trends to report to the Board.

###### ➤ Health Insurance Report

Dr. Graner reviewed the most recent data on the Health Insurance Reserve and stated that he hopes to have the October data next month.

##### **3. Director of Buildings and Grounds Report**

➤ Groton 2020 – Mr. Kilpatrick noted that the Selection Committee met last week and have chosen 2 finalists for the Construction Manager position

#### **IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Finance/Facilities Committee:  
There was no report.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS - cont.**

2. Policy Committee:  
Mrs. White note that the Policy Committee continues to meet.
3. Curriculum Committee:  
There was no report.
4. Negotiations Committee:  
There was no report.
5. LEARN:  
Mrs. Watson read noted that LEARN met on October 12, 2017 and read the report from Mrs. Volkmann that stated a LEARN Consortium, which includes Groton Public Schools, was awarded a Federal Education Department grant amounting to \$15,000,000. The purpose of the grant is to expand magnet school opportunities in Southeastern Connecticut.
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 September 25, 2017 2017, are hereby accepted and approved.

**A.     CONSENT CALENDAR – cont.**

**2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS**

**MOTION:** White, Newsome: To approve the Consent Calendar.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

**B.     OLD BUSINESS**

**NONE**

**C.     NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a Hiking Field Trip May 16 through May 19, 2018 to White Mountains, New Hampshire.**

**MOTION:** Newsome, White: To approve a Hiking Field Trip May 16 through May 19, 2018 to White Mountains, New Hampshire. **PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

- 2. Discussion and possible action regarding approval as a first reading policy P 5114 Suspension and Expulsion. [ATTACHMENT #3]**

**MOTION:** Fitzgerald, White: To approve as a first reading policy P 5114 Suspension and Expulsion. **YES – Watson, White; ABSTAINED – Weitlauf, Fitzgerald, Ackerman, Newsome. MOTION FAILED**

- 3. Discussion and possible action regarding approving an authorized signer for the School Lunch Program reimbursement claims.**

**MOTION:** Weitlauf, Ackerman: To approve Sam Kilpatrick as an authorized signer for the School Lunch Program reimbursement claims. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 4. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the 2018-2019 School Calendar [ATTACHMENT #4]**

**MOTION:** Watson, Weitlauf: To approve the 2018-2019 School Calendar. **PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.**

5. **Discussion and possible action regarding filing the Groton Public School's MYP candidacy application.**

**MOTION:** Weitlauf, Ackerman: To approve the filing of the Groton Public School's MYP candidacy application. **PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

6. **Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of the 2017-2018 Tuition Rates. [ATTACHMENT #5]**

Dr. Graner recommended that the Tuition Rates from 2016 be carried over for the 2017-2018 school year.

**MOTION:** Watson, Ackerman: To approve the 2017-2018 Tuition Rates. **PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

**A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS**

1. Mrs. Newsome noted correspondence from Fred Kent who had many questions, some she was able to answer and others she forward to the Superintendent.
2. Mrs. Fitzgerald noted that she went on a walk through at CMS; attended the GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee meeting; and attended an Ad Hoc Middle School Committee meeting.
3. Mr. Weitlauf noted that he attended the Martin Luther King Scholarship dinner and the FHS Marching Band competition.
4. Dr. Ackerman noted that she attended the Martin Luther King Scholarship dinner and a State Council meeting regarding military children.
5. Mrs. White noted that she attended the FHS Marching Band competition; the CABA Legislative Update; attended the Martin Luther King Scholarship dinner; noted that the Falcon Café will be hold an Octoberfest; and she noted the FHS Football Game on Friday at 6:30 p.m.
6. Mrs. Watson noted that she attended the Martin Luther King Scholarship dinner and the Sound of the Sea Marching Band completion

**VII. ADVANCE PLANNING**

**A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items**

As noted in the agenda.

**B. Suggested Agenda Items**

NONE

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Watson suspended the regular portion of the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

**MOTION:** Volkmann, Fitzgerald: To go into Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter and to Dr. Graner, Ms. Austin and Mrs. LePine to attend. **PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

A personnel matter was discussed. No action was taken.

**MOTION:** Ackerman, White: To return to Open Session at 9:02 p.m.  
**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

**MOTION:** Watson, Ackerman: To authorize the Superintendent to proceed with negotiations as discussed in Executive Session. **PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

**MOTION:** Volkmann, White: To adjourn at 9:04 p.m. **PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**