

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

**Regular Meeting**

**November 27, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on November 27, 2017, in CR 1 of the Town Hall Annex.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Andrea Ackerman, Vice Board Chairperson, at 6:00 p.m.

The first order of business was the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag by Shaun Martin.

**PRESENT**

**ABSENT**

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson (arrived at 6:24 p.m.)  
Dr. Andrea Ackerman  
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald  
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome  
Mrs. Rosemary Robertson  
Mrs. Rita Volkmann (arrived at 6:05 p.m.)  
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. Doug Manfred, GEA Vice President  
Ms. Miranda Chapman, Navy Liaison  
Mr. Brian Chidley, Fitch High School  
Mr. Everett Wilhelm, Robotics Advisor  
Mr. Martin Cloudes, Robotics Advisor  
Mr. Tom Sullivan, Parent  
Mrs. Kristen Sullivan, Parent  
Miss Eva Chamard, Co-Captain, Robotics  
Miss Sara Mitchell, Co-Captain, Robotics  
Mr. Stefan Cloudas, Robotics Team Member  
Mr. Zack Champrey, Robotics Team Member  
Mr. Nathan Kowalski, Robotics Team Member  
Mr. David Martinez, Robotics Team Member  
Mr. Aidan Sullivan, Robotics Team Member  
Ms. Cierra O'Grady, Robotics Team Member  
Mrs. Portia Bodolon, Parent

**B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS**

Mr. Brian Chidley gave highlights of the 2017 season of the Fitch Robotics Team. Eva Chamard gave highlights of the 2017 games of the Robotics Team and Sara Mitchell gave an overview of the outreach of the Robotics Team.

**C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

1. Mrs. Portia Bodolon, 159 Shennecossett Parkway, shared her concerns regarding the middle schools, i.e. funding for remedial services and how being an Alliance District is going to be used for middle schools. She also expressed concerns about the College Prep classes at the high school.

**II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

NONE

**III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

The Student Representatives reported:

- Boys Volleyball was incredible as students and coaches had a great time;
- Spirit Week was excellent because many students participated each day;
- Pep Rally was eventful. A couple of highlights included Mr. Wolfradt dressed up as a cheerleader and games such as musical chairs were played;
- Girls Powderpuff Game was held. Also during Powderpuff, a cookout took place which allowed students to get hot chocolate and hangout;
- Homecoming was held to great success;
- Winter Sports Night will take place tonight at 7:00 p.m., in the Fitch High School auditorium;
- Tryouts for winter sports started today, November 27, 2017;
- The Fitch High School Football team is 10-0 and won the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) Championship. They qualified for a spot in the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) Class L football playoffs. The first game in the CIAC Class L football championship will be held tomorrow at 6:30 p.m., at Fitch High School;
- The Fall Band Concert featuring the Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Percussion Ensemble performed on Wednesday, November 15, 2017, in the Fitch High School Auditorium;
- The Fall Chorus Concert will feature the Chamber Choir, Women's Choir, and Strings on Thursday, November 30, 2017, in the Fitch High School Auditorium starting at 7:00 p.m.;
- The 8<sup>th</sup> grade from West Side Middle School and Cutler Middle School will visit Fitch High School on December 5, 2017;

**III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – cont.**

- Financial Aid Night and College Planning Night will be held on December 6, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., in the Fitch High School auditorium. Students and parents will get to learn about how to prepare, pay, and stay in college from a Core Plus representative;
- The FSH drama club will perform their winter production of *Macbeth* on December 7-9 at 7:00 p.m. and December 10, 2017, at 1:00 p.m.;
- College Goal Connecticut night will be held December 13, 2017, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Fitch High School Library. Students and parents will get to receive information about the process of applying to college and filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form;
- Class Council Updates:
  - Seniors: Homecoming Dance turned out great. The students and chaperones had an enjoyable time. December 8, 2017, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
The Shack Fundraiser will be held on Monday, December 4, 2017, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Applebee's Fundraiser will be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2017, from 11:00 to close.  
Senior Bag fundraiser will run for about one more week.
  - Juniors: are in the process of organizing the Junior Prom.
  - Sophomores: The Mystic Luxury Cinema Fundraiser will be held on Thursday, December 7, 2017 and will be selling soup at Jonathan Edwards Winery Holiday Mart on Sunday, December 10, 2017.
  - Freshmen: Currently are planning future fundraisers.

**IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

**1. Update regarding the State Budget**

Dr. Graner noted that he heard from the State Department regarding the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR). It was noted to him that because Groton is an Alliance District, our MBR will be based on their last years' appropriated amount. It was also noted that starting on December 11, 2017, the Board of Education will review a prioritized list of adjustments to the budget with a vote by the Board of Education to be held on December 18, 2017.

**2. Alliance District Update [ATTACHMENT #1]**

Dr. Graner gave an overview of Groton being an Alliance District noting that PD will focus on literacy and that an Alliance District must receive the same amount of funding as the previous year. He further noted that no allocation for additional funds have been made for Alliance Districts.

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

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

**CMT/CAPT – Science Data:** Ms. Austin have a PowerPoint presentation of the CMT & CAPT Science Performance Level Data for 2016-2017.

**NGSS and Science Task Force:** Ms. Austin stated that the Science Task Force has met 3 times; they had presentations by Dr. Reichenberg and Dr. Llewelyn to every science teacher at the middle school level. She further noted that the Science Center is a wealth of information as well as LEARN and that the Task Force will continue to meet.

**SBAC Growth:** Ms. Austin showed a PowerPoint presentation of the SBAC growth throughout the district.

**2. Business Office Report [ATTACHMENT #4]**

➤ **Object Code Summary**

Mr. Knight gave an overview of the Object Code Summary dated November 27, 2017; the budget currently has a \$747,000 deficit due primarily to the paraprofessional account.

➤ **Health Insurance Report**

Mr. Knight stated that the October Health Insurance Report was unavailable due to the holiday.

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

➤ **Groton 2020:** Mr. Kilpatrick noted that 3 new members have been added to the Committee – C. Post, J. Giordano, and D. Manfred. He noted a monthly update from R. Norris and clarified that the Architect is SLAM Consortium for the new Middle School design. Lastly, he noted that interviews were held for the Construction Manager and that O & G was selected.

➤ Mr. Kilpatrick noted that Public Works is developing RFPs that will be out by the new year for an Architect for the conversion of the middle schools to elementary schools. Lastly, he received today copies of grant notifications for Consolidated Middle School at a 47.5% reimbursement rate; West Side Elementary at a 57.5% reimbursement rate, and Cutler Elementary at a 80% reimbursement rate.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Finance/Facilities Committee:  
There was no report.
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. Volkmann noted that the LEARN Board met and had a talk by the Guilford Superintendent regarding school start times; LEARN received a clean Audit report from Blum Shapiro. A discussion was held regarding the CCJEF case. Dr. Graner noted that Groton would likely receive less ECS funding when the case is settled.
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 October 23, 2017, are hereby accepted and approved.

2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS

- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fairbanks have made a donation of \$500.00 to the Fitch High School Fencing Team

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

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

B. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the 2018 Board Meeting Schedule. [ATTACHMENT #5]

**MOTION:** Weitlauf, White: To approve the 2018 Board Meeting Schedule. **PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

2. Discussion and possible action regarding approval as a first reading of the policy and regulations for P 5145.14 On-Campus Recruitment. [ATTACHMENT #6, 7]

**MOTION:** Watson, Fitzgerald: To approve as a first reading of the policy and regulations for P 5145.14 On-Campus Recruitment. **YES – Watson, White; Weitlauf, Fitzgerald, Ackerman, Robertson; ABSTAINED – Volkmann, Newsome. PASSED**

**VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

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

1. Mrs. Fitzgerald noted the same e-mails that other Board members received and an e-mail regarding the General Fund.
2. Dr. Ackerman noted her attendance at the CABE Conference.
3. Mr. Weitlauf stated that it has been a privilege to have worked with the Board during his tenure on the Board and he acknowledged the Student Representatives and their service to the Board of Education.
4. Mrs. Robertson noted her attendance at the CABE Conference, at a meeting of GASP, her participation in the WSM Trivia Contest, and tomorrow she will be participating in the Sound Community Services.
5. Mrs. White noted her attendance at the CABE Conference.
6. Mrs. Volkmann noted a letter from a parent, who has a freshman and a junior, with questions – she stated that she would forward the letter to the Superintendent; and a request from the community regarding IB costs.
7. Mrs. Watson noted e-mails regarding the NEA productions; her attendance at the CABE Conference; and her attendance at the Universal Health Screening.

Board members thanked Jay Weitlauf for his service on the Board of Education.

**VII. ADVANCE PLANNING**

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

As noted in the agenda.

Mrs. Fitzgerald requested that the meeting dates of the Curriculum Council be placed on the Agenda.

**B. Suggested Agenda Items**

NONE

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Ackerman, White: To adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**