

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Special Meeting

December 18, 2017

A special meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on December 18, 2017, in CR 1 of the Town Hall Annex.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of School, at 6:05 p.m.

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

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

Mrs. Jane Giulini

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
Mr. Daniel Gaiewski, Student Representative
Mrs. Rebecca Beyus, Communications Coordinator
Mrs. Yolanda Cooley, Parent
Mrs. Becky Vogel, Parent
Mrs. Michelle Gustavson, Parent

Dr. Graner opened the floor for nominations for the position of Board Chairperson.

MOTION: White, Robertson: To nominate Kim Shepardson Watson as Board Chairperson.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

Mrs. Watson opened the floor for nominations for the position of Board Vice Chairperson.

MOTION: Volkmann, Robertson: To nominate Andrea Ackerman as Board Vice Chairperson.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS

NONE

C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

1. Mrs. Yolanda Cooley, 259 Noank-Ledyard Road, expressed her concern with the NEA site budget. She highlighted the efforts of the PTO to lobby at the State level for full funding for Groton. She further noted that the PTO had purchased risers and a sound system for NEA as well as the lack of support for the Drama production and the ability to accommodate all the students who showed an interest in being in the drama production.
2. Mrs. Becky Vogel, 467 River Road, urged the Board to reconsider the site budget at NEA and the lack of a drama coordinator.
3. Mrs. Michelle Gustavson, 61 Algonquin Drive, urged the Board to reconsider the site budget at NEA and the lack of a drama coordinator. She further noted that her children had a strong interest in music.
4. Mrs. Portia Bodolon, 159 Shennecossett Parkway, encourage the Board to provide more remedial support in the district. She further highlighted the lack of communication to the parents in the district.

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

1. Mrs. Volkmann noted that she has made a referral regarding financial equity.
2. Mrs. Fitzgerald asked for clarification regarding translation of documents to parents and she encouraged the public to attend Board of Education meetings to share any concerns they may have.
3. Mrs. Newsome also expressed her concern with the translation of documents to parents.
4. Mr. Weitlauf thanked the parents who spoke and asked who is running the drama at NEA.
5. Mrs. Watson also thanked the parents who spoke.

III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

The Student Representatives reported:

- Student Leadership is considering ideas for a second Spirit Week and Pep Rally.
- Seniors will be holding a Custom Candy Fundraiser now until February 1, 2018 and an Applebee's Fundraiser on January 9, 2018, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.
- Eighth graders from WSM and CMS visited FHS on December 5, 2017. The event involved a tour of FHS, an IB presentation, lunch and student presentations. The 8th graders also had the opportunity to meet with the leaders of our extracurricular activities at the EXPO fair.
- College Goal Connecticut took place on December 13, 2017. The event allowed students to receive information about the process of applying to college and filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. Forty-five families attended that night and filled out the FAFSA form. Also, a FHS student won a \$250 scholarship sponsored by College Goal Connecticut.

III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – cont.

- State Senator Heather Somers, of the 18th District, visited FHS on December 11, 2017. She visited three classes and then held a question and answer session with students. Senator Somers gave students a better understanding of what she and her colleagues do at the Capitol Building.
- The Photo Club and the Unified Sports will be hosting an ugly sweater and hat fundraiser on December 20, 2017. For a one-dollar donation students can dress up in their holiday attire.
- The Random Acts of Kindness Club and the FHS School Climate Committee are sponsoring their annual door decorating contest. This year's theme is family and community. The judging will take place on December 20, 2018.
- The FHS Carolers visited many GPS homes and businesses to bring some holiday cheer through song. All Carol-O-Gram proceeds went directly to the FHS Music Booster.
- Winter break will be from December 23, 2017 to January 1, 2018. On the Friday before Winter break, students will attend an assembly to listen to all ensembles of the Fitch Music Department.
- Every year, the FHS Staff come together to help families who live in Groton. FHS staff pick up tags from the main office that contain gift ideas for local children in need. All gifts are delivered to our Groton Social Services offices.
- Midterm exams will begin on January 22, 2018 and end on January 25, 2018. The first semester of the 2017-2018 school year will close on January 25, 2018. Dates are subject to change due to possible school cancellations.
- We recently found out that we have two students who are accepted to both Harvard and Yale University.
- The FHS football team was presented with the Nooan Award for outstanding sportsmanship and overall fan behavior.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

1. Update regarding the Alliance District Program

Dr. Graner noted that he has not been invited to Hartford yet to receive an Alliance District orientation; on January 2, 2018 the Town Council will officially adjust he budget; he gave clarification of notification of Groton being an Alliance District.

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF

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

Mrs. Rebecca Beyus, Communications Coordinator, gave an overview of her efforts in providing communication in the district. She noted a survey that generated 200 responses. A thank you will be sent out to those who responded. She also noted the issue of translation of documents and accessibility for parents – those without accessibility to the web will receive a paper copy. Mrs. Beyus also noted:

- An article coming out on January 5, 2018 in The Day Education Guide;
- EXPECT Grant will be meeting with LEARN in January;
- The activities at the Magnet Schools at CK and NEA;
- School Choice will hold a function on February 21, 2018 at the Subbase;
- Two Alumni's will be coming back to FHS;
- The website is being revamped by Mr. Colclough, Director of Technology Services;
- Gearing up for registration for Adult Education and Kindergarten;
- Budget communication, i.e. budget flyer.

2. Business Office Report [ATTACHMENT #3, 4]

➤ **Object Code Summary**

Mr. Knight gave an overview of the Object Code Summary dated December 18, 2017; the budget currently has a \$747,000 deficit due primarily to the paraprofessional account.

➤ **Health Insurance Report**

Mr. Knight shared the October Health Insurance Report.

3. Director of Buildings and Grounds Report

- Mr. Kilpatrick noted that Maintenance department has been busy with snow and ice removal. The Maintenance Department will be working a 4-day Winter Break at FHS and a couple of school and on the budget.
- **Groton 2020:** Mr. Kilpatrick noted that the PBSC met on Thursday and was well represented. They discussed what they wanted the buildings to look like. He further noted that Dr. Graner, Ms. Austin and himself met to align the program with the spaces in building.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

2. Policy Committee:
Mrs. White note that the Policy Committee discussed the three policies on the agenda.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

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 focused on finances regarding cuts to RESC budgets; the teacher contract has been settled; discussed the effective Board member. Mrs. Volkmann noted that the Executive Board will be meeting on Thursday.
6. 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 on December 5, 2017. However, she was unable to attend.
10. CABA
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 November 27, 2017 and the special meetings minutes of November 13 and December 11, 2017, are hereby accepted and approved.

2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS

- Trueson and Robyn Tarinelli have made a donation of \$1,000.00 to the Music Program of Claude Chester School.

A. CONSENT CALENDAR – cont.

- Walmart has made a donation in the amount of \$820.00 to Claude Chester School.

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

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible action regarding approval as a second reading of the policy and regulations for P 5145.14 On-Campus Recruitment. **[ATTACHMENT #5, 6]**

MOTION: Watson, Fitzgerald: To approve as a second reading of the policy and regulations for P 5145.14 On-Campus Recruitment.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible action regarding proposed FY 18 Budget Adjustments. **[ATTACHMENT #7]**

MOTION: Weitlauf, Fitzgerald: Pending approval by the Town Council of additional appropriations, the proposed FY 18 Budget in the amount of \$959,000 will be adjusted to cover personnel needs.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

MOTION: Weitlauf, Ackerman: Pending approval by the Town Council of addition appropriations, the proposed FY 18 budget in the amount of \$979,541 will be adjusted to cover personnel needs and CABE membership. **PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

2. Discussion and possible action regarding approval as a first reading policy P 1330 Use of School Facilities. **[ATTACHMENT #8, 9]**

MOTION: Weitlauf, Newsome: To approve as a first reading policy P 1330 Use of School Facilities. **PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding approval as a first reading policy P 5145.4 Students: Discrimination (LGBT/Gender). **[ATTACHMENT #10]**

MOTION: White, Fitzgerald: To approve as a first reading policy P 5145.4 Students: Discrimination (LGBT/Gender). **PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

4. Discussion and possible action regarding approval as a first reading policy P 5145.53 Students: Transgender and Non-Conforming Youth. **[ATTACHMENT #11, 12]**

MOTION: Volkmann, Fitzgerald: To approve as a first reading policy P 5145.53 Students: Transgender and Non-Conforming Youth. **YES – Watson, Ackerman, Fitzgerald, Robertson, Volkmann, White, Weitlauf. ABSTAINED – Newsome. PASSED**

5. Discussion of Grant Writer compensation.

MOTION: Fitzgerald, Robertson: To approve compensation for the Grant Writer not to exceed \$23,683 per the Title II grant. **PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

6. Discussion of stipends for HR Director and the Director of Buildings and Grounds.

MOTION: Newsome, White: To approve the stipends for the HR Director and the Director of Buildings and Grounds for services rendered during the absence of a Business Manager; the Director of Buildings and Grounds will continue supervision of the Transportation Department and the Food Services Department. **YES – Watson, Ackerman, Fitzgerald, Robertson, Newsome, White, Weitlauf. ABSTAINED – Volkmann. PASSED**

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mr. Weitlauf noted numerous emails.
2. Mrs. White noted numerous emails

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS – cont.

3. Mrs. Volkmann noted numerous emails, one from a parent concern that their email had been rejected by the server.
4. Mrs. Fitzgerald noted numerous emails.
5. Mrs. Newsome noted numerous emails.
6. Dr. Ackerman noted her attendance at the CABE conference.
7. Mrs. Watson noted:
 - Her attendance at the FHS drama production of Macbeth;
 - The same emails as other Board members;
 - That she met with Patrice;
 - That she has been invited to talk to the Town Council;
 - That Patrice will be reinstating the Liaison Committee and the Shared Service Committee.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

B. Suggested Agenda Items

NONE

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Weitlauf: To adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY