

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Committee of the Whole

January 8, 2018

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Groton Board of Education was held on January 8, 2018 in Room 11 of the School Administration Building.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Kim Shepardson Watson, Board Chairperson, at 6:05 p.m.

PRESENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome
Mrs. Rita Volkmann
Mr. Jay Weitlauf
Mrs. Lee White

ABSENT

Mrs. Jane Giulini
Mrs. Rosemary Robertson

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Mr. Ken Knight, Business Manager
Mr. Daniel Gaiewski, Student Representative
Miss Cindy Fan, Student Representative
Mr. Douglas Manfred, GEA Vice President
Mr. Mike Doyle, PSBC

1. Approval of Minutes of December 11, 2017

MOTION: White, Newsome: To approve the minutes of December 11, 2017.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

2. Groton 2020 Advisory Committee

Dr. Graner gave a brief update on Groton 2020 Advisory Committee stating that the administration continues to meet with the SLAM architects. They will be meeting with them tomorrow. The administration has discussed with the architects the classroom needs and decided on 12 classrooms for grade 6, 12 classrooms for grade 7, and 12 classrooms for grade 8. Also decided was to have a black box theatre for 150 people, a cafeteria, and a stage. He further noted that the administration reached out to teachers and parents and that approximately 30 people responded and attended the first Advisory Committee meeting. Dr. Graner stated that this meeting was very productive. Dr. Graner suggested that there should be Ad Hoc Committees of the Board to address the naming of the schools, physical structure, etc.

Board members requested that the Superintendent reach out to the 30 people who attended the initial meeting to confirm their commitment.

3. Magnet School Funding [ATTACHMENT #1]

Dr. Graner reviewed the Magnet School Funding, i.e. Elementary Music Teachers FTE Breakdown. He also noted that CK uses their site funds for their needs and that NEA submitted a site funds proposal for next year that would provide approximately \$60,000 for magnet related needs.

Mrs. Volkmann noted that the administration should look at equity for all schools.

Mrs. Fitzgerald noted that there should be a larger site budget for Magnet Schools.

Mr. Weitlauf noted that he would like to see the true budgets for the Magnet Schools.

Mrs. Volkmann noted that the Board should discuss the cost of busing for Magnet Schools.

4. Alliance District Update

Dr. Graner gave an update on the meeting he attended today relative to Alliance Districts.

- There was always 30 district, then 3 more Towns were added: Torrington, Thompson, and Groton. He noted that the Alliance District “set aside” grant goes directly to the Board. He further noted that he and Ms. Austin will be working on the Alliance budget which has to be completed by January 19th and expended by June 30, 2018. It was noted that the Smart Goals are monitored.

5. FY 19 Budget Workshop [ATTACHMENTS #2, 3, 4]

Dr. Graner gave an overview of the draft Object Code Summaries dated January 8, 2018. Dr. Graner explained the differences between draft 1, 2, and 3. Dr. Graner also gave an overview of the budget adjustments for FY 18 dated January 8, 2018. He also noted that 14 teachers have submitted letters of retirement.

Mrs. LePine gave an update on the Health Insurance Plan indicating that Anthem has a 10% increase amounting to 1.3 million dollars. She noted that a 7% increase has been included in the budget.

Board members requested the enrollment and class size data prior to the January 16, 2017 COW meeting. It was also suggested that Object Codes 600 and 700 be reviewed at that meeting.

6. Referral List and Suggested Agenda Items

The Board reviewed the Referral List.

Mrs. Volkmann made a referral to the Facilities Committee for discussion of the Ad Hoc Committee structure.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: Ackerman, Weitlauf: To adjourn at 8:55 p.m.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY