

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Committee of the Whole

January 16, 2018

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Groton Board of Education was held on January 16, 2018 in Room 11 of the School Administration Building.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT

ABSENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Jane Giulini
Mrs. Rosemary Robertson
Mrs. Rita Volkmann
Mr. Jay Weitlauf
Mrs. Lee White

Mrs. Gretchen Newsome

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
Mrs. Beth Horler, GEA President
Mr. Seth Danner, Principal, Charles Barnum School
Mrs. Jamie Giordano, Principal, Claude Chester School
Mrs. Christine Dauphinais, Principal, Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School
Mr. Paul Esposito, Principal, Northeast Magnet School
Mr. Steve Wheeler, Principal, S. B. Butler School
Mr. Peter Bass, Principal, Cutler Middle School
Mr. Jeff Kotecki, Principal, West Side Middle School
Mr. Matt Brown, Vice Principal, Fitch High School
Ms. Erin McGuire, Vice Principal, Fitch High School
Ms. Kimberly Shockley, Northeast Magnet School
Ms. Maggie Courter, Special Education Dept. Head, Fitch High School
Mr. Jason England, Science Dept. Head, Fitch High School
Ms. Justine Fugere, Fitch High School
Ms. Nicole Howell, Fitch High School
Mr. Scott Post, Fitch High School
Ms. Christina Scala, Fitch High School
Ms. Kate Serio, Fitch High School
Mrs. Rachael Franco, Town Council Member
Mrs. Portia Bordelon, Parent

1. **Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2018**

MOTION: White, Giulini: To approve the minutes of January 8, 2018.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

2. **Curriculum and Instruction Council Update: Course Proposals [ATTACHMENTS #1, 2, 3]**

Ms. Austin gave an overview of the presentations from the teachers at the last Curriculum and Instruction Council meeting. She noted that they went back to the handbook and had the teachers fill out the forms indicating why the need for the courses and the financial implications.

- Latin Prose and Latin Poetry – Nicole Howell gave an overview of the proposed Latin courses and the change to the path students would be taking Latin in the future.
- Science 9-10 and Science 11-12: Mrs. Courter and Mr. England gave an overview of the proposed Science course that would include special education students. These courses would take the regular education teacher into the special education classes.
- Photography 3 – Ms. Scala gave an overview of the Photography 3 course and the implication on the budget.
- Falcon Café – Mr. Post and Ms. Fugere gave an overview of the proposed course and the possibility of Mr. Post and Ms. Fugere getting certified as Serve Safe Instructors and to be able to administer the test to the students. This will allow students to get a jump on a profession after leaving high school in the culinary field.
- Spanish for the Workplace – Ms. Serio gave an overview of the proposed course highlighting the benefits of students being able to communicate with Spanish speaking people in the workplace.
- African American Studies – Ms. McGuire noted that this course needs more research and that Mrs. McKenna and Ms. Hodge are anticipating implementation in 2020.
- Graphic Novels – Ms. McGuire read a description of the course from Mrs. McKenna.

Board members requested that the Superintendent forward requested information on the proposed courses electronically. The Superintendent noted that 7 of courses would be on the January 22, 2018 agenda for Board approval.

3. **Alliance District Update: Accountability Index**

Dr. Graner noted that he and Ms. Austin went through a Webinar on Alliance District Grant. He also noted Groton is 73.2% in the 2015-2016 Accountability Report: the 2016-21027 report is not out yet.

4. **Bus Contract Proposal**

This item was tabled.

5. **FY 19 Budget Workshop: Object Codes 600 and 700**

Mr. Knight and Dr. Graner stated that no Alliance funds are included in the proposed FY 19 budget.

The elementary principals gave an overview of their site budgets and how they are administered.

The Board began a review of Object Code 600. Due to the lack of the corresponding Function Code data, it was hard for the Board to get a full understanding of the overall data. It was determined that the Board should receive the full budget to have a meaningful discussion of the budget.

6. Magnet School Program Support [ATTACHMENTS #4, 5]

CK and NEA principals gave an overview of their site budgets and how they are administered. It was noted that CMS's site budget was \$93,950, WSM's site budget was \$91,000, FHS's site budget was 285,000, the Athletic budget was \$245,000, the Testing budgets are AP is \$44,000 and IB is \$16,000.

Mrs. Fitzgerald noted that she felt Magnet Schools should have a separate budget line.

Dr. Graner noted that to date there are 18 teachers who will be retiring.

7. Referral List and Suggested Agenda Items

The Board reviewed the Referral List.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Ackerman, Giulini: To adjourn at 9:12 p.m.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY