

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Regular Meeting

March 26, 2018

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on March 26, 2018, 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 6:10 p.m.

The first order of business was the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag by Beth Horler

PRESENT

ABSENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman
Mrs. Jane Giulini
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome
Mrs. Rosemary Robertson
Mrs. Rita Volkmann
Mrs. Lee White
Mr. Jay Weitlauf

Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Miss Cindy Fan, Student Representative
Mr. Daniel Gaiewski, Student Representative

B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS

Mr. Arcarese noted that the Fencing Team has won the State Championship and the Co Op Ice Hockey Team has also won the State Championship. Mr. Arcarese gave an overview of the accomplishment of Jared Kosman, Wrestler for FHS. Jared is the fifth person in the CIAC history to win 4 State Championships. He has won the State Class, State Open, New England Championship, and now the National Championship. Mr. Arcarese introduced Jared Kosman and his parents.

C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

1. Mrs. Portia Bodolon, 159 Shennecossett Road, extended her congratulations to Jared Kosman for his accomplishment. She also noted her concern with the lack of support for 504 students at the high school. She further noted her concern for the need for more transparency relative to the budget document.

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

1. Mrs. Watson noted that she has received e-mails from Mrs. Bodolon and others in the Town.

III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

The Student Representatives reported:

- On Wednesday, March 14, 2018, students held a walk-in assembly to remember the Parkland victims. This event was student run with the support of Fitch faculty. A bid thanks to the students, the local police officers, firefighters, and the registrar of voters for speaking at the event and the faculty for all their support. Afterwards, 77 students were registered to vote and the League of Women Voters reported that this was the most students that have ever registered at Fitch High School.
- On Wednesday, March 14, 2018, the Keyettes hosted a blood drive. Dr. Graner also noted that it was also Pie Day.
- On Thursday, March 15, 2018, Fitch High School hosted a regional college fair.
- Fitch's annual *Mr. Falcon Pageant* was held on Friday, March 16, 2018. Congratulations to Mitch Shapiro-Albert for taking home the title Mr. Falcon. A huge thank you to the cast and crew for all of their work.
- Seniors Fundraisers:
 - The Shack Fundraiser on Tuesday, April 3, 2018, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 - Applebee's Fundraiser on Monday, April 9, 2018, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.
 - Frogeez Fundraiser on Friday, April 13, 2018, from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 - Fitch High School Drawstring Bag Sale for \$10.00
- Juniors Fundraisers:
 - 99 Restaurant Fundraiser on Wednesday, March 28, 2018, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 - Chocolate covered Pretzel Rods Fundraiser are being sold for \$1.00 a rod.
- Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors are reminded to sign up for their preferred courses next year via Powerschool. Students have until the end of March to do this. If anyone has any questions or problems, students are encouraged to visit the Guidance Suite.
- The end of the Third Quarter of the 2017-2018 school year will close on Tuesday, April 12, 2018. The date is subject to change due to possible school cancellations or school calendar adjustments.
- The in-school SAT Day has been moved to Tuesday, April 24, 2018. Ninth and tenth graders will be taking the practice PSAT, eleventh graders will be taking the SAT< and seniors will be working on their college application process. It will be an early dismissal day for students.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences have been moved to Wednesday, April 25, 2018, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at Fitch High School.

III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – cont.

- The Anonymous Alerts anti-bullying and safety app reporting system helps combat bullying and other negative activity in schools by empowering students to speak up. The system allows for 1-way or 2-way anonymous encrypted communications between submitters (students, parents or community members) and district administration and/or school staff. Users of the system have the option to remain anonymous or to reveal their identity when submitting a report. During the 2017-2018 school year, 28 alerts were received and responded to. Alerts have also been received pertaining to Grasso Tech and Stonington High School. (FHS was also able to help notify both high schools to alert them of their students in need.) All alerts were responded to promptly and the families and students were given the support necessary, depending on the nature of the alert.
- Dr. Graner noted that Dan Gaiewski was the MC at the School Safety Forum.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

1. Alliance District Update

Ms. Austin gave an update on the Alliance District Grant noting that it has been verified that funding is coming and that work has begun regarding absenteeism and the data is being tracked.

2. FY 19 Budget Process (Public Hearing, March 28, 2018)

Dr. Graner noted that the Town Council would be holding a Public Hearing on March 28, 2018 at the Senior Center, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF

1. Assistant Superintendent Report

- Ms. Austin noted that on November 5, 2018, a Mental Health forum will be held. She also noted an article in the Groton Times regarding Magnet Schools. She stated that the lottery closing date is March 31, 2018; enrollment is done online.

Ms. Austin also reported on the successful community conversation on school safety held on March 22, 2018.

2. Business Office Report [ATTACHMENT #1, 2, 3]

- **Object Code Summary**
Dr. Graner gave an overview of the Object Code Summary of the FY 18 Budget Summary dated March 21, 2018 that shows an unexpended balance of \$226,606.
- **Health Insurance Report**
Dr. Graner noted reviewed the Health Insurance Report dated March 16, 2018.
- **Five-year School Budget Projection**
Dr. Graner gave an overview of the five-year School Budget Projection.

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF cont.

3. Director of Buildings and Grounds Report

- **Groton 2020:** Mr. Kilpatrick noted that a small group (Chris Lund, Rick Norris, Bob Austin Lafrance, Jack Bukus, and Sam Kilpatrick) interviewed 6 architectural firms. This was reduced to 4 and then to 2. The 2 semi-finalist were selected for a scope review.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance/Facilities Committee:
Mr. Weitlauf noted that the Finance/Facilities Committee met Monday and reviewed the five-year projection and the budget.
2. Policy Committee:
There was no report.
3. Curriculum Committee:
There was no report.
4. Negotiations Committee:
There was no report.
5. LEARN:
Mrs. Volkmann noted that the LEARN Board met last week. The Director of Development, Jack Cross, he introduced his staff which is extensive; he spoke about the new student services program called the Ocean Avenue Learning Academy which they hope to open November; LEARN's collaboration with the Vermont International Academy with China. Mrs. Volkmann also noted that China is interested in how LEARN does their Early Learning for Preschool students; LEARN collaboration with the National Coast Guard Museum Association – for any future education program LEARN will be the resource for the Academy; celebrated Marine Science of Distinction in Connecticut; she noted that Groton has 62 students at the Marine Science Magnet School; UCONN has announced a partnership with NAEYC School through the Masters Association; LEARN is still working with the RESC Alliance regarding fingerprinting.
6. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee:
There was no report.
7. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee:
There was no report.
8. Groton Scholarship:
There was no report.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS - cont.

9. CABA
There was no report.
10. Trails Liaison:
There was no report.
11. 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 February 26, 2018, are hereby accepted and approved.

2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS

- The American Philatelic Society has made a donation of \$100.00 to the Cutler Middle School Stamp Club.
- Northeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs has made a donation of \$300.00 to the Cutler Middle School Stamp Club.
- Sarah Ellen Steere has made a donation of \$250.00 to the Cutler Middle School Stamp Club.
- Emily Steere has made a donation of \$150.00 to the Cutler Middle School Stamp Club.
- YourCause, LLC Trustee for Pfizer Foundation has made a donation of \$500.00 (Peter Fairbank) to the Fitch High School Fencing Team.

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

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

1. Discussion and possible action regarding the end of the COW meetings pilot and the reestablishment of the Curriculum and Finance/Facilities Committees.

MOTION: Weitlauf, Robertson: To approve the end of the COW meetings pilot and the reestablishment of the Curriculum and Finance/Facilities Committees. **PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the Supplemental Enhancement Grant for the high school's CWE (Cooperative Work Experience) program.

MOTION: Newsome, Giulini: To approve the application for the Supplemental Enhancement Grant for Fitch High School's CWE (Cooperative Work Experience) program and to commit to continue the initiatives developed with this grant award. **PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

3. Discussion and possible action regarding the Supplemental Enhancement Grant for the high school's Manufacturing program.

MOTION: Giulini, White: To approve the application for the Supplemental Enhancement Grant for Fitch High School's Manufacturing program and to commit to continue the initiatives developed with this grant award. **PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

4. Discussion and possible action regarding the acknowledgement of the contributions of paraprofessionals and acknowledge April 2, 2018 as Paraprofessional Appreciation Day and April 2 through the 6, 2018 as Paraprofessional Appreciation Week.

MOTION: Robertson, Ackerman: To acknowledge the contributions of paraprofessionals and acknowledge April 2, 2018 as Paraprofessional Appreciation Day and April 2 through the 6, 2018 as Paraprofessional Appreciation Week. **PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

5. Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of a stipend using Enterprise funding for the Food Service Director.

MOTION: White, Ackerman: To approve the compensation for the Food Service Director. **PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

6. Discussion and possible action regarding approval as a first reading of policy P 5113 Attendance. **[ATTACHMENT #4, 5]**

MOTION: Volkman, Robertson: To approve as a first reading of policy P 5113 Attendance. **YES – Robertson, White, Volkman, Watson, Ackerman, Giuliani, Weitlauf. NO – Newsome. PASSED**

7. Discussion and possible action regarding approval as a first reading of policy P 5131 Conduct. **[ATTACHMENT #6]**

MOTION: Weitlauf, Volkman: To approve as a first reading of policy P 5131 Conduct. **PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

8. Discussion and possible action regarding approval as a first reading of policy P 5144.1 Use of Physical Force. **[ATTACHMENT #7]**

MOTION: Newsome, Volkman: To approve as a first reading of policy P 5144.1 Use of Physical Force. **PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

9. Discussion and possible action regarding the adjustment of the 2017-2018 School Calendar to include Good Friday.

MOTION: To approve the adjustment of the 2017-2018 School Calendar to include Good Friday.

This item was tabled.

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mr. Weitlauf noted:
 - a. That he would be reading at CC on Wednesday in a Kindergarten class.
 - b. That he attended a student discussion on Guns and School Safety forum on March 15, 2018 at the Municipal Building.
 - c. That he attended a community conversation on March 22, 2018 regarding School Climate and Safety at FHS.
 - d. That he received a call from Town Councilor Rachel Franco who was in contact with Chris Connelly regarding a R.I. law in-home lesson plans for snow days; the district could opt to not make up snow days.
 - e. That he received a question from a parent and RTM member regarding the use of cell phones by students.

2. Mrs. Newsome noted:
 - a. Her congratulations to the Aluminum Falcons on their win in Rhode Island.
 - b. That the St. Patrick Parade was great.
 - c. She praised the Groton/Mystic Lacrosse Team for litter pick up after the parade.
3. Mrs. Giulini noted:
 - a. The grid lock after the parade.
 - b. The Bill Memorial Library is updating their heating/lighting.
4. Dr. Ackerman noted:
 - a. That she attended the walk-in at FHS.
 - b. That she attended the PD last Friday and saw Kelly Donavon lead the group on how to do a IB theme lesson.
 - c. That she attended the information session at CMS regarding MYP.
5. Mrs. Robertson noted:
 - a. That she read at CK for Read Across America
 - b. That she attended the school safety meeting on March 15, 2018 that was spear headed by Dan.
 - c. That she attended a GASP meeting on March 19, 2018 and the Board meeting of the Sound Community celebrating happy Social Work month and awarded the Don Miller Frig.
6. Mrs. White noted:
 - a. That she attended the walk in at FHS.
 - b. That she attended the school safety meeting.
 - c. That she participated in the Read Across America at SBB.
7. Mrs. Giulini noted the NEA Arts Festival where her grandchildren attend.
8. Mrs. Volkmann noted:
 - a. That she has been contacted by Waterford, New London, and Stonington Board of Education members regarding having LEARN have regional transportation.
 - b. She made a referral that the Superintendent contact the State Vo Tech Superintendent regarding more collaboration with Grasso Tech.
9. Mrs. Watson noted:
 - a. That she received e-mail and had conversation relative to the budget.
 - b. That she participated in Read Across America at two schools.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

The need for a Special Meeting on April 2, 2018 at the THA prior to the Town Council meeting.

March 28, 2018	Town Council Public Hearing	Senior Center, at 7:00 p.m.
April 4, 2018	RTM Ed. Committee	TBD

Mrs. Volkmann noted that through LEARN she will be attending the NSBA Conference next week.

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B. Suggested Agenda Items

NONE

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: White, Newsome:

To adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY