

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Committee of the Whole

May 21, 2018

A special meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Groton Board of Education was held on May 21, 2018 in Room 11 of the School Administration Building.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kim Watson, Board Chairperson, at 6:04 p.m.

**PRESENT**

**ABSENT**

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

Mrs. Rosemary Robertson

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Sam Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds  
Mr. Ken Knight, Business Manager  
Miss Cindy Fan, Student Representative

**1. Approval of Minutes of April 9, 2018**

**MOTION:** Ackerman, Weitlauf: To approve the minutes of April 9, 2018.  
**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**2. Elementary Magnet School Themes [ATTACHMENTS #1, 2]**

Dr. Graner noted that the committee brain stormed and came up with four proposed themes; a survey will be sent out to parents. He also noted that the committee will be meeting with the architects on Wednesday.

Dr. Graner and Dr. Ackerman gave an overview of the proposed themes.

Dr. Graner shared enrollment data for the proposed schools that would be closed and suggested the closing of MM and explained the rationale and the benefits of closing MM.

Mrs. Volkmann and Mrs. Newsome stated that they would not be in favor of having elementary schools of 600 students.

This item will be placed on a future COW agenda for further discussion of the closing of an additional school.

Ms. Kathy Wilson, MYP Coordinator, noted that the district has received candidacy for MYP. She also noted that 2.5 days of PD is required and they have a consultant. The EXPECT Grant will cover cost incurred for PD.

**3. LAS Data [ATTACHMENTS #3, 4]**

Ms. Maria Lozano, ELL Teacher, gave an overview of the English Learners (ELs) Program K-12 PowerPoint presentation as well as the scores obtained by the students. She noted that she has submitted a FEMA grant in the amount of \$100,000 and to reimburse the Town for expenses associated with the education of student displaced by last fall's hurricanes.

**4. Special Education Update [ATTACHMENTS #5, 6, 7]**

Mrs. Doolittle gave an overview of the Districtwide PreK and Integrated PreSchool Programs brochure. Mrs. Nadine Macklin, Special Education Supervisor, gave an overview of the PowerPoint slides relative to the CT DOTS (Connecticut's Documentation and Observation for Teaching System) and the Child Observation Summary Form.

**5. Science and Math Task Force Updates [ATTACHMENT #8]**

Ms. Austin gave an overview of the work of the Science Task Force noting that they have made more progress in the last year and have zoomed into the middle schools. Their next step is to work with the elementary schools.

Ms. Austin noted that the Math Task Force has drafted course sequence for the 2017-2018.

The Board stated that they need more information on the sequences.

Ms. Austin noted that 18 teachers went to a National Conference through the DoDEA Grant and that teachers felt that they were on the right pathways.

**6. FY 18 Budget Update [ATTACHMENT #9]**

Mr. Knight gave an overview of the FY 18 Budget Summary dated May 17, 2018 that shows a balance of \$478,453.

**7. Discussion of IB students paying for their test**

Dr. Graner noted that it should be only students in the diploma program paying for their test.

The Board had extensive discussion of the pros and cons of students paying for their test.

Mrs. Fitzgerald shared a personal statement of her concerns regarding this item.

Mrs. Watson suggested that this item be brought back during budget time for further review.

**8. Discussion of Tuition Rates breakdown [ATTACHMENTS #10, 11]**

Dr. Graner reviewed the differences between the old (2010-11) Tuition Fees chart and the proposed chart (2018-19). Dr. Graner stated that the IB tuition is presently a concern due to a request from a Stonington family to participate in the IB Program.

**9. FY 18 OPEB Account Update [ATTACHMENTS #12, 13]**

**MOTION:** Weitlauf, Fitzgerald: To table this item to a future COW agenda.  
**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**10. BoE Summer Retreat**

Dr. Graner suggested that the Summer Retreat be held on a Monday night and he suggested two dates: July 30, 2018 and August 6, 2018. Board members will be polled regarding their preferred date for holding the Summer Retreat.

Mrs. Fitzgerald suggested that for the Winter Retreat the Board should do an educational retreat and conduct the Board and Superintendent's evaluations.

**11. Referral List and Suggested Agenda Items**

The Board reviewed the Referral List.

**12. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Ackerman, White: To adjourn at 8:45 p.m.  
**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

## Fitzgerald Statement