

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Committee of the Whole

June 11, 2018

A special meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Groton Board of Education was held on June 11, 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 6:07 p.m.

PRESENT

ABSENT

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

Mrs. Lee White

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

1. Approval of Minutes of May 21, 2018

MOTION: Ackerman, Weitlauf: To approve the minutes of May 21, 2018 with corrections. **PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

2. CB Hiking Club presentation [ATTACHMENTS #1, 2]

Mr. Seth Danner introduced students, Nick Capazzi, Jacob Cieplik, John Lambert, Brooke Mills, Sean Foley and Paisley Jones, who participated on the New Hampshire Hiking trip. The students gave an overview of the trip and shared their experiences.

Mr. Danner introduced students, Landon Parker and Julian Ryno, who participated in the STEM Enrichment Summer 2018 program. These students explained and demonstrated the challenges they participated in, i.e. Spero Drone and Lego Mindstorms Drone. This program was made possible by a Pfizer Grant in the amount of \$5,000.

3. Update regarding the new School Elementary Themes [ATTACHMENT #3]

Dr. Graner gave an overview of the proposed key points about Magnet School Themes for Groton Public Schools.

4. Lottery Process Update – CMS Class Sizes [ATTACHMENT #4]

Ms. Kathy Wilson gave an overview of the Groton Magnet School Lottery Process. Ms. Wilson noted that there is a strict process to follow going forward. Ms. Wilson noted that enrollment at each school will be capped at 186 for grade 6, 181 for grade 7, and 158 for grade 8. Final assignment of students through the lottery process will be done in mid-August when the Highly Mobile student slots are allocated. Any spots not taken will be filled in rank order from the application pool.

5. New elementary school update (Jack Butkus, Rick Norris)

Jack Butkus and Rick Norris gave an overview of the changes made by the State regarding the approval process for school construction. They also addressed the present status of the Merritt property. There was an in-depth discussion between the Board, Mr. Butkus, and Mr. Norris that generated pertinent information for all concerned.

Mrs. Watson suggested that Mr. Butkus and Mr. Norris return for further dialogue with the Board regarding Groton 2020.

6. Referral List and Suggested Agenda Items

The Board reviewed the Referral List.

Mrs. Volkmann suggested a referral of discussion of the pathway of the lottery system.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: Ackerman, Fitzgerald: To adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

Hiking Club 2017 - 2018

— Dr. Charles Barnum Elementary —
School

First day of a great week

- The flume
- Boise rock
- Hiking up 2.7 miles
- Monorail (snow trail)
- Lonesome lake
- Making the meals
- games





New Hampshire Day #2

- ❖ Ladder
- ❖ Tower
- ❖ Animals (Salamander, Ducks and Moose)
- ❖ Rocks
- ❖ Monorail
- ❖ Cannon Mountain
- ❖ Swamp & Planks







Day three

The waterfall

- We saw about 12 waterfalls on the way to the large waterfall
- We got to use a lifestraw at the waterfall
- We got to cross a river and stand on a rock by the waterfall

The basin

- The basin is one of the many rock formations in NH
- The water came in through a crack in the rock, swirled around and then left into a river
- Sometimes the water would swirl around twice instead of once







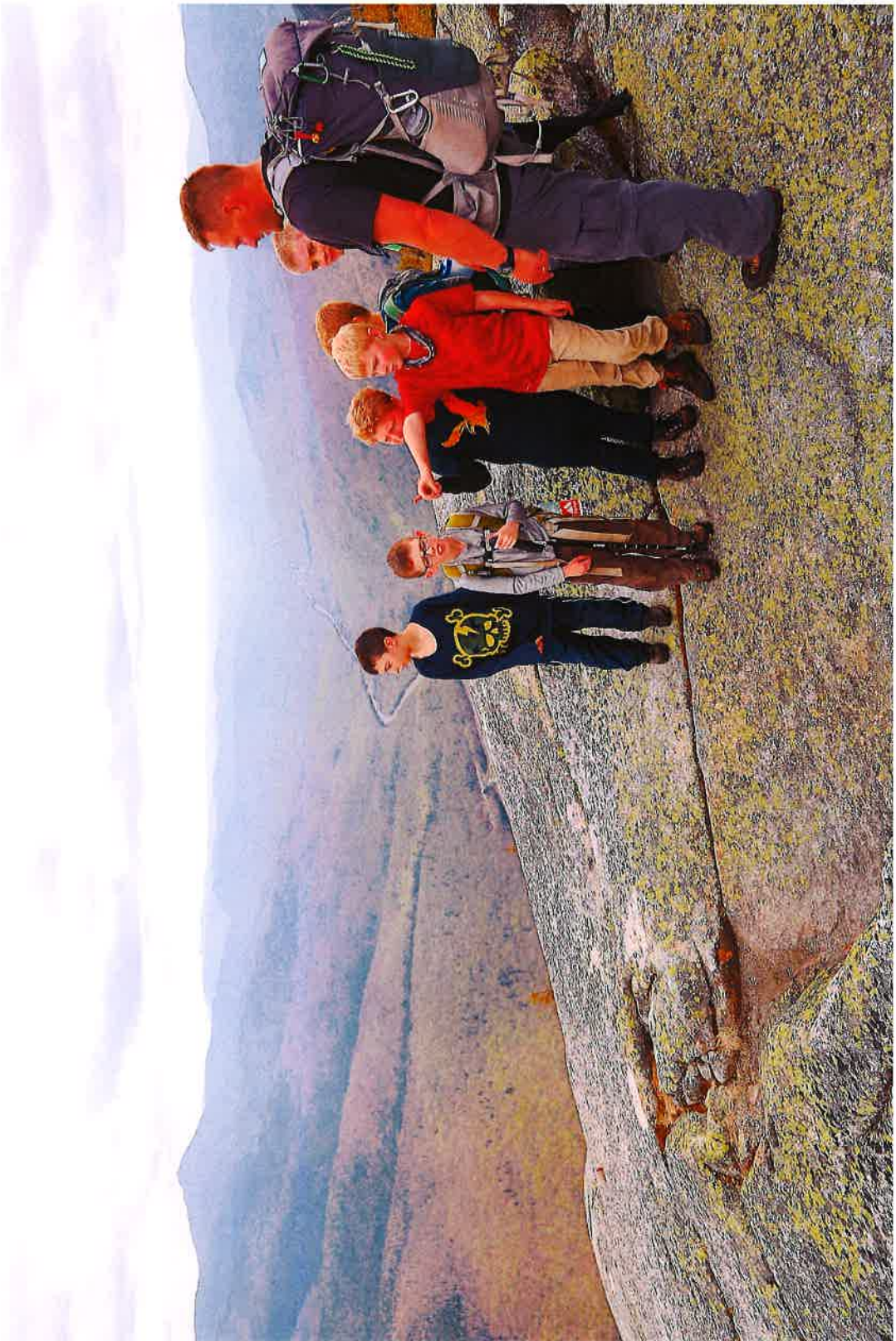
Hiking Club Activities

- Scatter ball
 - Gaga ball
 - Yuki ball
 - Ultimate
 - Football
 - Dodgeball
 - Blob tag
 - Discuss our trips leading up to NH
 - Rope Swing, River Crossing, Ships that Sink in the Night
-

Trips done

- Castle Craig:
 - Started hiking straight up
 - There was a castle at the top
 - When we got to the top we climbed the castle
- Sleeping Giant:
 - It looked like a real giant
 - We hiked the giants face
 - And we saw a waterfall
- MOST OF THE HIKES
- Bluff Point:
 - First Hike
 - 2 to 3 miles
 - Big loop
- Lantern Hill:
 - Third hike
 - Hiked about 4 hours
 - We saw an eagle at the overlook





Campsite games and chores

- Setting Up Tents.
- Campfire/Food
- Tipis
- Taps
- Checkers
- Devils Oven
- Mt. Misery
- BushWacking
- Fording a River





Thank you for the support!



STEM Enrichment - Summer 2018

— Dr. Charles Barnum Elementary —
School

The Request and Plan...

- Too many sports clubs and not enough 'other' stuff
- Applies for a Pfizer grant
 - Lego Robotics
 - Parrot Mambo Drones
 - Sphero
- Summer Enrichment - week after school gets out
- Plan for next school year including robotics tournament...
- Enrichment blocks during the school day
- The dreaded indoor recess....

Landon's Sphero Challenges

- Move 10 feet and change color
- Move forward 10 feet, change color turn left and 5 feet forward
- Step #2 and return home
- Complete a maze
- Small maze and get in the pool
- Other - student created challenges
- Chariot challenge - history
 - Program one full lap without touching anything
 - That enters you into a multi lap race



Julian's Drone Challenge

- Take off, land
- Take off, over for 5, then land
- Take off, fly forward, land in hoop
- Take off, move forward turn left move forward to land in hoop
- Take off, move forward, do flip, land in hoop
- Other - student created challenges



Lego Mindstorms and the future plan...

- Space Challenges
- Next year we may form a team for the state tournament...
- Compete against another GPS School?



Time for a quick demo....



KEY POINTS ABOUT MAGNET SCHOOL THEMES FOR GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**2015 Groton Public Schools Magnet Theme Survey (see results in table below)**

- In Dec 2015, 700+ GPS parents participated in an online survey about magnet school themes
- Survey themes were selected by the BOE Ad-hoc Magnet School Committee
- Parents were most interested in the STEM theme, followed by performing arts
- Dual language was the preferred theme in the “other category”

Groton Public School Elementary Magnet Schools

- In 2017, CK STEAM Magnet received 128 applications for 25 slots available, NEA Arts Magnet also had a waiting list of applicants
- The majority of applicants (44%) for CK came from MM
- The number of applicants for each school has increased over time

Magnet Theme Tools and Research

- Magnet schools were first developed in the 1980s for racial desegregation
- Magnet Schools of America (MSA) is a useful resource for districts developing new magnet programs
- MSA has studies on successful themes
- Other CT districts (New Haven, New London, Hartford) have multiple elementary magnet schools and can serve as models

2015 Magnet Theme Survey Responses

School	Total # of survey responses	% of respondents that chose a rating of 4 or higher per category (1 = not interested - 5 = very interested)					
		STEM	Marine Science	Performing Arts	Visual Arts	IB (PYP)	IB (MYP)
CC	39	64%	38%	44%	44%	44%	50%
CK	79	67%	51%	52%	54%	41%	32%
NEA	126	69%	35%	48%	34%	31%	46%
SBB	98	51%	32%	34%	29%	31%	41%
PV	60	48%	36%	39%	35%	28%	31%
CB	68	75%	47%	49%	38%	39%	42%
MM	52	60%	29%	44%	43%	40%	41%
CMS	133	63%	35%	34%	30%	34%	50%
WMS	68	57%	33%	45%	44%	37%	44%
FHS	198	58%	29%	38%	39%	29%	38%
Total	753	62%	36%	42%	38%	32%	40%

Groton Magnet School Lottery Process

January 1, 2018 Lottery opens (Parents may sign into NOVUS choice and select their school of choice or hand in a form to the secretary at their current home school)

March 31, 2018

Lottery Closes

April 7, 2017

Meeting with LEARN to determine preferences

1. Neighborhood
2. Siblings
3. Highly mobile
4. The right to decline after accepting

April 10, 2018

Run Lottery

April 30- May 5, 2018

Principals call parents of lottery selected students

May 7-11, 2018

Calls for students not accepted (lottery admin)

May 14-25, 2018

Deadline to decline or accept seats

May 29, 2018

Lists to elementary secretaries complete