

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Regular Meeting

June 25, 2018

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on June 25, 2018, in CR 1 of the Town Hall Annex.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Andrea Ackerman, Vice Board Chairperson, at 6:05 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. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Jane Giulini
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome
Mrs. Rosemary Robertson
Mrs. Rita Volkmann
Mrs. Lee White

Mr. Jay Weitlauf

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Mr. Ken Knight, Business Manager

B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS

1. Mie Green (CK) – National Invention Convention Winner

Dr. Graner stated that Mie Green is a 3rd grade student who participated in the Connecticut Invention Convention; students were asked to think of an everyday problem that bothers them, then use the engineering design process to create a solution. Her invention was the “Benny Chair” in honor of her brother who has autism and SPD. Dr. Graner stated that CK was able to send 20 students to go to the regional finals at Goodwin College. Ten students were selected to go to the State finals at UCONN’s Gampel Pavilion. Mie was selected and invited to attend the National Convention in Dearborn MI at the Henry Ford Museum. Her invention was selected as a Superstar Invention by Koch Industries and she was interviewed by Koch Industries for an in-house video they are creating to be shown to employees worldwide.

Dr. Graner introduced Mie Green who demonstrated the Benny Chair.

B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS – cont.

2. The Eugene O’Neill Theater Center Young Playwrights Festival – Jessie Zieminski, Clara Gerrish, Anslie Dybala

Laura Quashnie introduced Anslie Dybala (WSM) and noted that Anslie was a student in an enrichment playwriting class held for approximately eight weeks. Students across all three grade levels took the class and created 10-15 page on-act plays which were submitted to the Eugene O’Neill Young Playwright’s Competition. Anslie’s play, “Actions Speaks Louder Than Words” tells a unique love story that spans the course of many years. The characters are well-developed and readers end up really caring about and rooting for them. Anslie managed to create this interest even though one of her main characters, Luke, was a selective mute-never uttering a word until the final scenes of the play. Out of over 200 submissions, Anslie’s piece was selected as a finalist. As a finalist she was invited to participate in a two-day Playwriting Workshop at the Eugene O’Neill Theater, where she and other finalists were able to work with actors and writers to workshop the winning plays while also developing their own skills as storytellers. Anslie is a talented young writer with a unique voice.

Dr. Graner introduced Clara Gerrish who was also invited to the festival as a Guest Playwright. Clara explained the basic plot of her play and Dr. Graner pointed out that Clara represented FHS as the poet laureate. She read her poem at the Mystic Artistic Café Workshop last month.

Dr. Graner introduced Jessie Zieminski who was chosen as one of the five Selected Playwrights to participate in the annual Eugene O’Neill Young Playwrights Festival. Of the 208 applicants, Jesse’s play emerged as noteworthy, an honor earned from both talent and dedication. In 2016, Jesse was accepted as a Guest Playwright when he wrote a play as part of his Creative Writing class and attended the Young Playwrights Festival in an honorable mention capacity. In 2017, he applied again – this time writing a play entirely on his own and not as part of a class assignment. He was, sadly, not invited in 2017, but he did not let that deter him. This year, showing characteristic perseverance, Jesse wrote a third play, submitted it on his own, and became a contest winner, earning the honor of workshopping his play for a stage reading with professional actors. His play, Places To Go, People To Be, is a timely drama between a stepfather, Harold, and his stepson, Matthew, tracing their lives as Matthew attempts to work through his recovery through his addiction. Jesse’s ability to create believable characters facing challenges shines through in this powerful play.

C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

NONE

IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

1. **Graduation Update – Post-secondary Plans Report [ATTACHMENT #1]**
Dr. Graner gave an overview of the post-second plans report.

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF

1. **Assistant Superintendent Report**

Ms. Austin introduced Gail Oko who showed a video of the Sandy Hook Promise Program which deals with preventing gun violence before it happens. The program has several goals:

- **Start with Hello**
- **SOS Signs of Suicide**
- **Say Something**
- **Safety Assessment and Intervention**
- **Training for students and staff**
- **Reaching out to legislators**

2. **Business Office Report [ATTACHMENT #2]**

- **Object Code Summary**

Mr. Knight gave an overview of the Object Code Summary dated June 18, 2018 showing an unexpended balance of \$714,357.

- **Health Insurance Report**

Mr. Knight noted there was no report.

3. **Director of Buildings and Grounds Report**

- **Groton 2020:** Mr. Kilpatrick noted that a group met with the architect to do final programming and that the PBSC also met with the architect and received the same presentation.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance/Facilities Committee:
Mrs. Fitzgerald noted that the Finance and Facilities Committee met and reviewed a CIP request for August, purchasing and how to handle it, Central Office salaries and what it cost to educate students, tuition rates, and non-union salary increases.
2. Policy Committee:
Mrs. White noted that the Policy Committee met and discussed the policies on the agenda for a second reading.
3. Curriculum Committee:
Dr. Ackerman noted that the Curriculum Committee met and they met with APEX and did a Webinar; they invited Mr. Diskin and some teachers to give feedback relative the APEX Online Platform proposed to replace the Virtual Learning Academy at FHS.
4. Negotiations Committee:
There was no report.
5. LEARN:
Mrs. Volkmann noted that the LEARN Board met last Thursday. She noted that a Groton student who is a senior and going to the Coast Guard Academy presented and another Groton student in June was a speaker. She also noted that the Executive Board finalized Dr. Howley's evaluation, the election of officers was held and she was reelected to the Executive Board, she has been elected to the Building Committee re: LEARN Academy on Ocean Avenue.
6. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee:
Mrs. Watson noted that the Town and City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee met two weeks ago. There was representation from each of the Boards and the committee will be meeting again in August. The purpose of the committee will be to hear about the work all parties are doing.
7. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee:
Mrs. Watson noted that GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee met and had a wrap up of the year.
8. Groton Scholarship:
There was no report.
9. CABA
There was no report.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

10. Trails Liaison:
There was no report.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the regular meeting minutes of May 29, 2018 with a correction, is hereby accepted and approved.

MOTION: White, Fitzgerald: To approve the Consent Calendar.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of policy P 5145.12 Search and Seizure. **[ATTACHMENT #3]**

MOTION: Robertson, Fitzgerald: To approve as a second reading policy P 5145.12 Search and Seizure.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of policy P 6172 Alternative Education Programs. **[ATTACHMENT #4]**

MOTION: White, Robertson: To approve as a second reading policy P 6172 Alternative Education Programs.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible action regarding the Sandy Hook Promise Program.

MOTION: Volkmann, Robertson: To approve the Sandy Hook Promise Program.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the APEX Learning Program pilot for summer school 2018.

MOTION: Fitzgerald, White: To approve the APEX Learning Program pilot for summer school 2018.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

3. Discussion and possible action regarding the adjustment to the FY 19 budget to align it with the approved budget. [ATTACHMENT #5]

MOTION: Newsome, White: To approve the adjustment to the FY 19 budget to align it with the approved budget.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION: White, Robertson: To approve payment of CABE dues out of DOD funds.

MOTION: Volkmann, Giulini: To amend the motion to include payment of NSBA dues out of DOD funds.
YES – Fitzgerald, Ackerman, White, Robertson, Giulini
NO – Watson, Newsome
ABSTAINED – Volkmann
PASSED

MOTION: Watson, Robertson: To approve payment for the Chromebooks out of DOD funds.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

4. Discussion and possible action regarding distribution of \$250,000 to cover the expenses for Other Post-Employment Benefits fund.

MOTION: White, Robertson: To approve the distribution of \$250,000 to cover the expenses for Other Post-Employment Benefits fund.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mrs. Giulini noted:
 - a. Her praise of the Art Gallery Room.
 - b. She attended 3 committee meetings at once.
 - c. She attended a Civic Meeting with 3 high school students.
2. Dr. Ackerman noted:
 - a. She thanked all parties involved with the dedication of the Art Gallery Room.
 - b. She attended the Awards Ceremony at the high school.
3. Mrs. Robertson noted:
 - a. She attended the Teacher Retirement Ceremony.
 - b. She attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at EP Beach.
 - c. She attended the Liaison Committee meeting.
 - d. She attended a GASP meeting.
 - e. She attended a Sound Community Service meeting.
 - f. She attended the Art Gallery Room Ceremony.
4. Mrs. White noted:
 - a. She attended the Mentor Dinner.
 - b. She attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at EP Beach.
 - c. She attended the FHS Graduation.
 - d. She thanked Mrs. Watson on how she conducted the Liaison meeting.
5. Mrs. Volkmann noted:
 - a. She thanked Jeri DeSantis, Advisor of the Amphora.
 - b. She attended the FHS Graduation,
 - c. She attended the Awards Ceremony at FHS.
 - d. She attended Secretary Negotiations.
 - e. She attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at EP Beach.
 - f. She attended the Teacher Retirement Ceremony.
6. Mrs. Watson noted the same things that other Board members noted and read a thank you for retiree Lee Ann Olson.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

B. Suggested Agenda Items

NONE

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VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Newsome:

To adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY