

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Regular Meeting

August 22, 2016

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on August 22, 2016, in CR 1 of the Town Hall Annex.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Andrea Ackerman, Vice Chairperson, at 6:10 p.m.

The first order of business was the pledge of allegiance to the flag led by Mrs. Johnson.

PRESENT

ABSENT

Dr. Andrea Ackerman, Vice Chairperson
Mr. Gary Baker
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome
Mrs. Rosemary Robertson
Mrs. Rita Volkmann
Mr. Jay Weitlauf
Mrs. Lee White

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Donald Meltabarger, Business Manager
Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Mr. Joseph Arcarese, Principal, Fitch High School
Mrs. Valerie Nelson, Grant Administrator

Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil
Personnel Services

B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS

Mr. Ernie Koschmeider, Food Director, gave a brief overview of the summer meals program noting that 31,769 meals were served this summer. He thanked Mr. Kilpatrick and his staff for their efforts; the summer meals program worked with 12 reading clubs; they will be having a Hungry Bellies Golf Tournament; and he thanked Dr. Graner, Mr. Meltabarger, and Mr. Weitlauf for spending a day riding along with him viewing the program.

Dr. Graner presented the Good Neighbor Award, sponsored by GASP, to Ernie Koschmeider.

C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

NONE

IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

➤ **Update regarding School Facilities Projects**

Dr. Graner stated that the RTM voted to send the referendum to the voters on November 8, 2016

Dr. Graner noted that last Friday the district received the Smarter Balance 2016 SBAC scores for 3rd – 8th grade students. [ATTACHMENTS #1, 2, 3, 4]

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF

1. Assistant Superintendent Report

a. Summer Activities – Ms. Austin noted the following:

- Teacher's College Readers Workshop
- Math for Leaders Workshop
- She noted an article in the Day by Deb Straszheim; [ATTACHMENT #5]
- Administrators' Leadership Retreat was held;
- Responsive Classroom;
- Science and Stem Conferences;
- She noted that the teachers developed curriculum and 16 curricula were presented to the Curriculum Committee worked.

b. Summer Writing Conference – Mrs. Nelson noted that two 4 day sessions were held:

- 319 students attended;
- Busing was provided;
- Sessions were held at CB and WSM;
- There were 15 elementary and 2 middle school teachers;
- 193 surveys were returned.

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF – cont.

c. CT Sub Century Report – Ms. Austin noted the following:

- Ms. Austin and Dr. Graner attended the Air and Sea Celebration;
- Sub Box Derby will be held Sept. 4, 2016;
- CT Maritime Festival will be held Sept. 9-11, 2016;
- Groton Fall Festival will be held Oct. 8, 2016;
- Navy Day at Nautilus Museum will be held Oct. 12, 2016.

2. Business Manager Report [ATTACHMENTS #6, 7, 8]

Mr. Meltabarger gave an overview of the final FY 2017 budget savings and unbudgeted items; Health Insurance Reserve Report; and an enrollment report.

3. Director of Buildings and Grounds Report

Mr. Kilpatrick reported on the large projects his department worked on this summer:

- CC asbestos abatement project; it is \$90,000 under budget;
- Construction of the Transition Academy at the Central Office;
- FHS IT project in the Tech wing;
- The natural gas line is coming up Fort Hill;
- A new burner was put in the boilers at FHS;
- A problem was found in the oil tank at FHS and they are working to resolve it;
- Choral risers were built at CMS;
- SB and CB - divided 1 portable at each school;
- A Social Studies classroom has been converted to a Science class at WSM;
- Scott Reed built cabinets at CK for Science labs;
- FHS Sign – A transmitter will be installed tomorrow;
- Water testing problems were found at CC (2 classrooms) and PV (5 classrooms) and work has been done to correct the issues.

4. Director of Human Resources Report

Mrs. LePine reported on the hiring activities for certified staff;

- 29 teachers and 3 Central Office positions;
- She is monitoring enrollment and class sizes and made modifications where necessary;
- She will be monitoring Preschool, PreK and Kindergarten enrollment right up until the first day of school;
- She will be attending the Military Job Fair on September 8, 2016.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance/Facilities Committee:
Mr. Weitlauf stated that the Finance/Facilities Committee met on August 15, 2016 and received reports from the Business Manager, the Director of buildings and Grounds and the Director of Technology Services. The committee discussed the SRO, policy referrals, Redflex, and solar energy panels.
2. Policy Committee:
Mrs. White noted that the Policy Committee has met twice this summer. Their next meeting will be September 6, 2016.
3. Curriculum Committee:
Mrs. Volkmann stated that the Curriculum Committee met on August 2, 2016; Their next meeting will be September 19, 2016.
4. Negotiations Committee:
Dr. Graner stated that the Negotiations Committee met today regarding the Administrators' contract.
5. LEARN:
There was no report. The next LEARN meeting will be September 9, 2016.
6. Groton Parent Council:
There was no report.
7. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee:
There was no report.
8. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee:
There was no report.
10. Groton Scholarship:
There was no report.
11. CABE
There was no report.
12. Trails Liaison:
There was no report.
13. Ad Hoc Communications:
The Communications Plan will be presented later in this meeting.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

14. Ad Hoc Middle School Program Review:
Dr. Ackerman stated that the Ad Hoc Middle School Program Review Committee will meet next Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the regular minutes of the June 20, 2016, and the special minutes of July 11, 19, 25, August 1, 2, 8, 15, 17, 2016, are hereby accepted and approved.

2. RESOLUTION APPROVAL OF GIFTS

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby accepts gifts to the Groton Public Schools as follows:

- Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program (Susan Poe) has made a donation of \$125.00 to the Charles Barnum Hiking Club.
- The City of Groton has made a donation of \$15,000 to Fitch High School.

A motion was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mrs. Robertson.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible action regarding a second reading of policy P 6153 Field Trips. [ATTACHMENTS #9 & 10]

A motion was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mrs. Robertson to approve as a second reading policy P 6153 Field Trips.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

C. NEW BUSINESS

FINANCE/FACILITIES:

- 1. Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of a School Resource Officer.**

A motion was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mrs. Robertson to approve the salary of the School Resource Officer in the amount of \$44,000 from the Board's operations budget.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

CURRICULUM:

- 1. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the following curricula:**
 - a. Social Studies Curriculum, Grades 4-10**
 - b. AP Computer Science Principles**
 - c. AP Statistics**
 - d. IB AB Initio Spanish**
 - e. Spanish for Native Speakers**
 - f. Writing Intervention**
 - g. Reading Intervention**
 - h. Honors Personal Finance II: Money, Banking and Business**
 - i. UCONN ECE English 1004: Intro to Academic Writing**
 - j. Specialized U.S. History 9-10**
 - k. AP Physics I**
 - l. Specialized Health**
 - m. College Readiness Math**
 - n. IB Classical Languages**
 - o. Specialized Government/History 11-12**
 - p. AP Government and Politics**

A motion was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mrs. White to approve the curriculum, items a-p, as presented.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

- 2. Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of the FHS Department Collaboration Period.**

A motion was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mr. Weitlauf to approve the FHS Department Collaboration Period as presented.

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

YES – White, Robertson, Weitlauf, Ackerman, Baker, Fitzgerald
NO - Volkmann, Newsome

PASSED

POLICY:

1. **Discussion and possible action regarding a first reading of policy P 4112.4 Health Examinations. [ATTACHMENT #11]**

A motion was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mrs. White to approve as a first reading policy P 4112.4 Health Examinations.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

BOE:

1. **Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of the District Communications Plan. [ATTACHMENT #12]**

A motion was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mr. Baker to approve and implement the District Communications Plan.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

2. **Discussion and possible action regarding a Joint Town Council/Board of Education Committee on shared services.**

A motion was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mrs. White to participate in the joint Town & City Councils/Board of Education Committee on Shared Services.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mrs. White noted that she attended a CABA Leadership Conference in Old Saybrook.
2. Mrs. Robertson noted that she attended a GASP meeting and that she will be joining Community Speaks.
3. Mr. Weitlauf noted:
 - a. He visited the summer meals program this summer.
 - b. He visited the CC asbestos abatement program.

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS – cont.

- c. He attended the United Way activity hosted by Mohegan Sun. The United Way wanted it noted that the Groton Public School has the highest participation rate in Southeastern CT.
- d. He attended the Policy Academy this summer.
- 4. Mrs. Volkmann commented on the Finance/Facilities Committee minutes regarding the BOE electronic device. She noted that she would like the full Board to discuss this item at a COW.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

Mrs. Volkmann suggested that Dr. Graner share with new Board members the opening day schedule.

Dr. Graner noted:

August 29, 2016	Convocation at FHS
August 30, 2016	PD at FHS
August 31, 2016	PD – School Based
September 1, 2016	First Day of School

B. Suggested Agenda Items

NONE

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mr. Weitlauf to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY