

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Committee of the Whole

September 12, 2016

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Groton Board of Education was held on September 12, 2016 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 6:15 p.m.

PRESENT

ABSENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson
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

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

1. Presentation regarding Teacher Leadership Roles

Beth Horler, GEA President, gave an overview of discussions she has had with the Superintendent, Larry Croxton, and Susan Austin on ways teachers can be leaders, e.g. Ed Camps, Curriculum Council members and teachers-in-residence. **[ATTACHMENT #1]**

2. Discussion of FHS weighted grading system

Erin McGuire, Assistant Principal, gave a PowerPoint presentation of the FHS Weighting Scales. She noted that the high school would like to use the scale from Meridian that already has its multiplier for various academic levels

3. Approval of Minutes of August 8, 2016

A motion was made by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Robertson to approve the minutes of August 8, 2016.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

4. Review and revision of the master Meeting Template and Referral List

Dr. Graner and the Board reviewed the master Meeting Template and Referral List.

5. Discussion of class sizes at FHS

Joe Arcarese, Principal of FHS, reviewed the class sizes at FHS highlighting the high enrollment in many classes. **[ATTACHMENT #3]**

A referral was made by Mrs. Volkmann to add alternative High School options.

A referral was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald to add discussion of the NBA Program.

A referral was made by Mrs. Volkmann to add discussion and placement of the VLA Program.

6. Discussion of the IB nomination process

Dr. Graner gave a brief overview of how the nomination process was handled last year.

Mrs. Fitzgerald noted her concern regarding a double standard relative to the invitation process utilized.

It was the consensus to send a personal letter to all parents of middle school students inviting them to a presentation highlighting Fitch High School's IB, AP and Project Lead the Way course offerings.

7. Overview of the School Opening

Dr. Graner stated that the school opening went very well with minor glitches in transportation.

Dr. Graner noted the departure of Groton students for a field trip on a tall ship this past weekend. The students are participating in the More Than Words Leadership Program.

8. Review of the CIP Proposals

Mr. Kilpatrick reviewed the proposed FY 18 CIP plan noting that he had moved forward all items asked for last year and added a project to address water safety concerns in the school buildings. **[ATTACHMENT #4]**

9. Discussion of the proposed Board Retreat

Dr. Graner noted that there would be discussion around the book, *The Smartest Kids in the World* by Amanda Ripley and also noted that date was needed for the Retreat. It was the consensus of the Board to hold the Retreat on October 30, 2016, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

10. District public relations initiatives

Dr. Graner stated that the district hired a P.R. professional for this position to represent the Groton Public Schools. Chairman Watson noted the new communication plan that is being implemented; she also pointed out that Board members comments at televised meetings carry a great deal of weight.

11. Discussion of BOE electronic devices

Mr. Weitlauf stated that the Finance/Facilities Committee reviewed this issue and decided that Board members could either opt in or opt out.

This item will be placed on the September 26, 2016 agenda for a vote.

14. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mrs. Robertson and seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to adjourn at 8:46 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY