

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

**Regular Meeting**

**September 26, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on September 26, 2016, in CR 1 of the Town Hall Annex.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kim Watson, Chairperson, at 6:05 p.m.

The first order of business was the pledge of allegiance to the flag led by Mr. Henkle.

**PRESENT**

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson  
Dr. Andrea Ackerman, Vice Chairperson  
Mrs. Rosemary Robertson  
Mrs. Rita Volkmann  
Mrs. Lee White

**ABSENT**

Mr. Gary Baker  
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald  
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome  
Mr. Jay Weitlauf

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent  
Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil Personnel Services  
Mr. Donald Meltabarger, Business Manager  
Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human Resources  
Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds  
Miss Cindy Fan, Student Representative  
Mr. Joel Lee, Student Representative  
Mr. Joseph Arcarese, Principal, Fitch High School  
Mr. Terry Henkle, Science Coordinator

**B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS**

NONE

**C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

NONE

**II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

NONE

### **III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

The Student Representatives reported:

- This past Saturday the Sounds by the Sea Marching Band completion was held;
- The “Dress for Success” program will begin on October 5, 2016 and will be held the first and third Wednesday of each month;
- The Fall Spirit Week will be October 24-28, 2016 with a Pep Rally on October 28, 2016 for the game against Windom High School; the Homecoming Dance on October 29, 2016; Football games on October 28, 2016; before the same the naming of the Field House after John Blount; half time activity will be to honor the 1976 State Champions and the #1 team in New England;
- The male Volleyball Tournament on October 27, 2016;
- PSAT testing will be held on October 19, 2016 for 9, 10, 11 graders;
- Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on October 20, 2016.

Mr. Arcarese noted the Joel Lee will be published in the American Chemical Society.

### **IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

- **Update regarding SBAC Results [ATTACHMENT #1]**  
Ms. Austin gave a brief overview of the SBAC results. She noted that Principals will give a more in-depth overview of their schools results at the regular BOE meeting in October.
- **Review of CMT/CAPT Science Scores [ATTACHMENT #2]**  
Mr. Henkle gave an overview of the CMT/CAPT Science Scores noting that there will be at least 2 more years of the CMT/CAPT tests before the NGSS test will be implemented.
- **Update regarding SAT scores [ATTACHMENT #3]**  
Mr. Arcarese gave an overview of the SAT Performance scores for the class of 2016 juniors.
- **NSBA Conference Attendance**  
Mrs. Watson noted the NSBA Conference will be held March 25-27, 2017 in Denver, CO. Mrs. Volkmann noted that she would like to attend and have the Board of Education pay for her registration only.

#### **A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF**

1. **Assistant Superintendent Report**
  - a. **Report on Title I, II, III grants [ATTACHMENTS #4, 5]**  
Ms. Austin gave an overview of the Title I, II, III grants.

**A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF – cont.**

**2. Business Manager Report**

Mr. Meltabarger noted that he was unable to secure the monthly Health Insurance report. He also noted busing issues at CB (another bus was added to support the special education program) and NEA (coming online on Wednesday).

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

Mr. Kilpatrick reported:

- Today was the first heat day;
- The Transition Academy has been in operation for the last couple of weeks;
- CIP proposal that will be discussed later in the agenda.

**4. Director of Pupil Personnel Services**

Mrs. Doolittle gave a reported on the training of regular education teachers to support the mainstreaming of special education students. She gave an overview of the process involved and noted that the training is different at each level.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Finance/Facilities Committee:

Dr. Graner stated that the Finance/Facilities Committee met and discussed the CIP proposals, Tuition Rates, budget timeline all of which are on the agenda for approval.

2. Policy Committee:

There was no report.

3. Curriculum Committee:

Dr. Ackerman stated that the Curriculum Committee met last week and had input from elementary and middle school Principals as well as the secondary Curriculum Coordinator.

4. Negotiations Committee:

Mrs. Watson noted that the Negotiations Committee will meet for mediation on Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

5. LEARN:

Mrs. Volkmann noted that the Executive Board of LEARN met last Thursday and LEARN met Friday. She further noted:

- The State is cutting all RESC by 7%;
- Dr. Howley will be part of a committee on how to making funding more equitable.

6. Groton Parent Council:

There was no report.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS - cont.**

7. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee:  
Dr. Graner noted that the Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee met on September 7, 2016 and discussed the Groton 20/20 Plan and the land swap. The next meeting will be October 5, 2016.
8. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee:  
Mrs. Watson noted that the GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee will meet on October 19, 2016, at 4:30 p.m.
10. Groton Scholarship:  
There was no report.
11. CABE  
There was no report.
12. Trails Liaison:  
There was no report.
13. Ad Hoc Communications:  
Mrs. Watson noted the work of the Ad Hoc Communications Committee is complete.
14. Ad Hoc Middle School Program Review:  
Dr. Ackerman stated that the Ad Hoc Middle School Program Review Committee met September 6, 2016 and discussed school visitation dates, reviewed the SBAC results of the middle schools. Dr. Ackerman noted that the next meeting will be October 6, 2016, at 4:30 p.m. and will focus on budget implications.
15. Ad Hoc Operations:  
Mrs. Watson noted that the Ad Hoc Operations Committee will hold a meeting before the Board Retreat is held.

**V. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the regular minutes of the August 22, 2016, and the special minutes of February 24, August 29 and September 6, 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 (Brian Russo) has made a donation of \$100.00 to the Fitch High School class of 2015.

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. White.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

**B. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Discussion and possible action regarding a second reading of policy P 4112.4 Health Examinations. [ATTACHMENTS #6]

**MOTION:** Volkmann, White: To approve as a second reading policy P 4112.4 Health Examinations.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

**FINANCE/FACILITIES;**

1. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the 2016-2017 Tuition Rates. [ATTACHMENT #7]

**MOTION:** Ackerman, White: To approve the 2016-2017 Tuition Rates as presented.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of the FY 2017-2023 CIP Plan. [ATTACHMENT #7]

**MOTION:** Robertson, Volkmann: To approve the FY 2017-2023 CIP Plan as presented.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.**

1. **Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the 2017-2018 budget timeline. [ATTACHMENT #9]**

Mrs. Watson noted the 2017-2018 budget timeline.

2. **Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the Title I, II, III grant allocations as presented.**

**MOTION:** White, Robertson: To approve the Title I, II, III grant allocations as presented.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**CURRICULUM:**

1. **Discussion and possible action regarding the weighted grading system at FHS. [ATTACHMENT #10]**

**MOTION:** Robertson, White: To approve the weighted grading system at FHS as presented beginning with the class of 2021.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**BOE:**

1. **Discussion and possible action regarding BOE Electronic Devices.**

Mrs. Watson requested that Board members notify Dr. Graner of their desire for an electronic device.

Mrs. Watson made a referral to the Policy Committee to develop a policy regarding BOE Electronic Devices.

2. **Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of the Custodial Workers Recognition Day.**

**MOTION:** Volkmann, Ackerman: That October 2, 2016 is designated as Custodial Workers Recognition Day and that the Board of Education and Superintendent Graner thank all custodians for their commitment and dedication to the children of Groton.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

**VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

**A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS**

1. Dr. Ackerman noted:
  - a. That she attended the Professional Development day at FHS.
  - b. That she attended the first day of school at CMS and that the school sparkled.
  - c. That she attended the Band Competition at FHS. She also noted that FHS is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation.
  - d. That the Martin Luther King Dinner will be held on October 20, 2016 at the Mystic Marriott.
2. Mrs. Robertson noted:
  - a. That she went on the walk-through of CC to observe the asbestos abatement project.
  - b. She invited the Board to the Mental Health Summit.
  - c. That she attended the GASP meeting.
3. Mrs. White noted:
  - a. She attended the Marching Band Competition at FHS.
  - b. That she will be attending the Martin Luther King Dinner.
4. Mrs. Watson noted:
  - a. She attended the Marching Band Competition at FHS.
  - b. That she forwarded a collaboration grant with Parks and Recreation to Ms. Austin.

**VII. ADVANCE PLANNING**

**A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items**

As noted in the agenda.

**B. Suggested Agenda Items**

NONE

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Ackerman, White: To adjourn at 8:08 p.m.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**