

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Regular Meeting

October 24, 2016

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on October 24, 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 6:00 p.m.

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

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
Mrs. Lee White
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
Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Miss Cindy Fan, Student Representative
Mr. Joel Lee, Student Representative
Mr. Seth Danner, Principal, Charles Barnum School
Mrs. Jamie Giordano, Principal, Claude Chester School
Mrs. Christine Dauphinais, Principal, Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School
Dr. Monica Franzone, Principal, Mary Morrisson School
Mr. Paul Esposito, Principal, Northeast Academy School
Mrs. Kathleen Miner, Principal, Pleasant Valley School
Mr. Steven Wheeler, Principal, S. B. Butler School
Ms. Dara Yovino, Teacher, Transition Academy
Ms. Judy Kernen Paraprofessional, Transition Academy

Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human
Resources

B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS

1. Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, gave an overview of the new Transition Academy that is located at the Central Office. She introduced Ms. Dara Yovino, Teacher and Judy Kernen, Paraprofessional. Ms. Yovino gave a brief outline of the student's program. Ms. Yovino introduced two students from the program, Odie Wilson and Megan Lanyon, who presented the Board with products from their program.
2. Ms. Austin and Mrs. Giordano congratulated Carol Marsiglio who has been selected as a finalist for the 2016 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

The Student Representatives reported:

- That the Dress for Success Program was launched and it has been great; participation is expected to increase as the program continues. The next two dates are Wednesday, November 2nd and Wednesday, November 17th.
- The PSAT and Post-Secondary workshops were held on October 19, 2016. The PSAT was administered to 750 freshmen, sophomore and juniors. Seniors attended post-secondary workshops.
- Spirit Week started today and will run for the entire week.
- Blood Drive will be held on October 26, 2016.
- Pep Rally, Tailgate, and Home Football Game will be held on October 28, 2016.
- The Homecoming Dance will be held on Saturday, October 29, 2016.
- Eighth graders will visit FHS on November 3, 2016. They will tour and learn about what Fitch has to offer.
- EXPO Night at Fitch for students and parents in the 6th and 8th grade will be held Thursday, November 3, 2016. Tables will be set up to show what Fitch offers in Academics, Electives, Activities, and Athletics.
- The Powderpuff Game will be held on November 21, 2016. There will be four teams that consist of female students from each grade to complete in a football game. Each team will have a max of fifteen female players, two student football coaches, and one teacher advisor. Two practices will be held on November 15th and November 16 to prepare for the game on November 21st.

III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – cont.

- The Bonfire will be held on November 22, 2016. It is open to all students at Fitch. This is a great bonding event for students and will boost school morale.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- **SBAC Action Plans Gr. 3-5 [ATTACHMENT #1]**
Ms. Austin introduced the elementary principals who gave an overview of their schools data and Action Plan.
- **Overview of the proposed 2017-2018, 2018-2018 School Calendars [ATTACHMENTS #2 & 3]**
Dr. Graner presented the proposed 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 School Calendars. They will be further discussed at the next COW.
- **October 1, 2016 Enrollment Report [ATTACHMENT #4]**
Dr. Graner gave an overview of the October 1, 2016 enrollment report.

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF

1. **Assistant Superintendent Report [ATTACHMENT #5]**
 - a. **Update on the Curriculum Handbook and the proposed Curriculum/Instructional Council**

Ms. Austin gave an overview of the Curriculum Handbook noting that pages 18 and 19, Curriculum Revision Timeline, should be revised. She stated that she plans to review these pages to determine the status of the listed curriculum and make the necessary revisions.

It was determined that the proposed Curriculum/Instructional Council should be initiated sooner rather than later. Dr. Graner stated that he and Ms. Austin will begin implementing the Council.

Ms. Austin noted that this past Saturday, she, Dr. Ackerman and several staff members went to a conference at Columbia College.
2. **Business Manager Report [ATTACHMENT #6 & 7]**

Mr. Meltabarger gave an overview of the budget summary dated September 30, 2016 and the monthly Health Insurance Reserve report.

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF – cont.

3. Director of Buildings and Grounds Report [ATTACHMENT #8]

Mr. Kilpatrick reported:

- That he has been reviewing safety plans for the last month which has necessitated a revision to the proposed CIP plan, e.g. removal of lead solder wherever possible.
- He will be addressing an asbestos project at SB or FHS this summer.
- He noted that some Towns in Connecticut are slated to receive snow this week.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance/Facilities Committee:

Mr. Weitlauf stated that the Finance/Facilities Committee met on October 17, 2016 and received reports from Mr. Meltabarger and Mr. Kilpatrick as well as an update on the Greenhouse.

2. Policy Committee:

Mrs. White stated that the Policy Committee continues to meet and noted the policies on the agenda for a first reading.

3. Curriculum Committee:

Mrs. Volkmann stated that Ms. Austin had covered everything that the Curriculum Committee addressed at their meeting.

4. Negotiations Committee:

Mrs. Watson noted that the Negotiations Committee has completed negotiations on the Paraprofessional and AGSA contracts.

5. LEARN:

Mrs. Volkmann noted that the Executive Board of LEARN met and received a report from the Superintendent of East Hampton, Paul Smith. She also noted that Dr. Howley presented an Administrator's Calendar that is on a month to month basis.

6. Groton Parent Council:

Mrs. White noted that the Groton Parent Council would be meeting tomorrow at 5:30 p.m., at Claude Chester School.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS - cont.

7. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee:
There was no report.
8. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee:
Dr. Graner noted that the GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee meeting was postponed until November 9, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.
10. Groton Scholarship:
There was no report.
11. CABB
Mrs. Watson noted the November 18, 19, 2016 CABB/CAPSS Conference.
12. Trails Liaison:
There was no report.
13. Ad Hoc Middle School Program Review:
Dr. Ackerman stated that the Ad Hoc Middle School Program Review Committee met today and reviewed the cost of implementing the Middle Years Program.
15. Ad Hoc Operations:
Mrs. Watson noted that the Ad Hoc Operations Committee met last week and will be presenting at the Board Retreat.
16. COMPACT:
Dr. Ackerman noted that the COMPACT met and discussed how temporary housing is being held.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the regular minutes of the September 26, 2016, and the special minutes of September 12, October 6 and 13, 2016, are hereby accepted and approved.

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

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

C. NEW BUSINESS

BOE:

1. **Discussion and possible action regarding the ratification of the Paraprofessional Association Agreement.**

MOTION: White, Volkmann: To approve the ratification of the Paraprofessional Association Agreement.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

2. **Discussion and possible action regarding the ratification of the Association of Groton School Administrators Agreement.**

MOTION: Baker, Ackerman: To approve the ratification of the Association of Groton School Administrators Agreement.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

3. **Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of the Superintendent’s contract.**

MOTION AS AMENDED: Weitlauf, Robertson: To approve the Superintendent’s contract.

YES – Watson, Ackerman, Weitlauf, Robertson, White, Baker, Fitzgerald, Newsome

ABSTAINED – Volkmann

PASSED

AMENDMENT: Newsome, Robertson: To approve the Superintendent’s contract as amended with the inclusion of unused vacation reimbursement and long-term Health Care provisions

YES – Watson, Ackerman, Weitlauf, Robertson, White, Baker, Fitzgerald, Newsome

ABSTAINED – Volkmann

PASSED

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding the Class Size Guidelines. [ATTACHMENT #9]

MOTION: Fitzgerald, Robertson: To approve the Class Size Guidelines.

YES – Watson, Ackerman, Weitlauf, Robertson, White, Baker, Fitzgerald, Volkmann
ABSTAINED – Newsome

PASSED

POLICY:

1. Discussion and possible action regarding a first reading of policy P 1325 Advertising and Promotion. [ATTACHMENT #9 & 10]

MOTION: Fitzgerald, Volkmann: To approve as a first reading policy P 1325 Advertising and Promotion.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

2. Discussion and possible action regarding a first reading of policy P 3320 Purchasing Procedures. [ATTACHMENT #11]

MOTION: Fitzgerald, White: To approve as a first reading policy P 3320 Purchasing Procedures.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

3. Discussion and possible action regarding a first reading of policy P 3323 Bidding. [ATTACHMENT #12]

MOTION: Fitzgerald, Ackerman: To approve as a first reading policy P 3323 Bidding.

YES – Watson, Ackerman, Weitlauf, Robertson, White, Baker, Fitzgerald, Volkmann
ABSTAINED – Newsome

PASSED

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mr. Weitlauf noted that he attended the Martin Luther King Scholarship Dinner.
2. Mrs. Robertson noted that she attended the Martin Luther King Scholarship Dinner.
3. Mrs. White noted that she attended the Martin Luther King Scholarship Dinner.
4. Mrs. Fitzgerald noted that she attended the Shared Services Committee meeting and the Martin Luther King Scholarship Dinner.
5. Dr. Ackerman noted her appreciation and the support from the Board relative to the Martin Luther King Scholarship Dinner.
6. Mrs. Robertson noted that she attended the Martin Luther King Scholarship Dinner and the how important it was to include 8th grade students at the dinner.
7. Mrs. Watson noted that she attended the Martin Luther King Scholarship Dinner and the Shared Services Committee meeting.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

B. Suggested Agenda Items

COW – Curriculum Council and “Who’s Who”

Mrs. Volkmann made a referral to the COW to discuss what is going to happen next relative to Consumer Science.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, White: To adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY