

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Committee of the Whole

November 14, 2016

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Groton Board of Education was held on November 14, 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 6:09 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson  
Dr. Andrea Ackerman, Vice Chairperson  
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald  
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome  
Mrs. Rosemary Robertson  
Mr. Jay Weitlauf (arrived at 6:15 p.m.)  
Mrs. Lee White

**ABSENT**

Mr. Gary Baker  
Mrs. Rita Volkmann

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Seth Danner, Principal, Charles Barnum School  
Ms. Kathy Wilson, Cutler Middle School  
Mrs. Kristen Widham, Cutler Middle School  
Ms. Allisson Socha, Fitch High School  
Mrs. Shannon Weigle, Grant Writer

**MOTION:** Ackerman, Fitzgerald: To suspend the rules to add discussion of the Joint Meeting with the Town Council on Nov. 15, 2016 and the Groton 2020 to the agenda.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**1. Approval of Minutes of September 12, 2016**

**MOTION:** Robertson, White: To approve the minutes of September 12, 2016.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**2. Field Trip Request**

**a. Hiking Club (CB & CMS)**

Mr. Seth Danner and Ms. Kathy Wilson gave an overview of the trip to New Hampshire that is scheduled for May 2017; 14 grades 4 & 5 students with 10<sup>th</sup> grade students as mentors.

This item will be placed on the November 28, 2016 BOE agenda for approval.

**b. Cutler Trip to Italy, France & Spain [ATTACHMENT #1]**

Mrs. Kristen Widham gave an overview of the scheduled itinerary; 15 attendees – 7 students (8<sup>th</sup> graders only), 6 parents, Mr. Woodman and Mrs. Widham. The trip is scheduled for April 6-14, 2017. The cost of the trip is \$2,977.

Dr. Graner has already approved this trip.

**c. Proposed FHS trip to Europe**

Ms. Allison Socha gave an overview of the proposed FHS Europe trip with stops in Switzerland, Italy, and France; it is an 11 day trip departing the Wednesday after Graduation; 9 students, Yvette Morales, and Ms. Socha will be attending; approximate cost of trip is \$3,600.

This item will be placed on the November 28, 2016 BOE agenda for approval.

**3. Grant Writer Report**

Mrs. Shannon Weigle gave an overview of her experience with the Groton Public School beginning with being a parent volunteer at NEA. She offered her Grant Writing Services to the NEA Principal who informed the Superintendent. Dr. Graner invited Mrs. Weigle in to discuss her Grant Writing services. Dr. Graner then proposed her services to the Board who concurred. The position is funded by Title II funds

Mrs. Weigle gave an overview of the grants she has been working on. [ATTACHMENT #2]

**4. Review of the Meeting Template and Referral List**

Dr. Graner reviewed the Meeting Template stating that all items to date have been addressed. Dr. Graner reviewed the Referral List with the Board.

**5. Development of a “Who’s Who” Recognition Program**

Dr. Graner stated that he envisioned the development of criteria for those students who distinguished themselves after graduating from Fitch High School. Mr. Croxton noted that there was a Wall of Fame located by the Gym at FHS and suggested Mike Ellis, Sr. as a good resource for how to proceed. Mrs. White suggested Karen Bryers as another resource.

**6. Update regarding Dept. Chair supervision at FHS**

This item was tabled.

**7. Strategic Plan Format (East Hampton Model)**

Dr. Graner proposed a 6 year plan starting with this year.

**8. Review of purposed BOE Meeting Schedule [ATTACHMENT #3]**

Mrs. Watson stated the new format of 2017 BOE Meeting Schedule will be piloted for 6 months. The only change is having two COW meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> COW meeting will address items on the Referral List and the Meeting Template and the 2<sup>nd</sup> COW meeting will address items from Finance and Curriculum.

This item will be placed on the November 28, 2016 BOE agenda for approval.

**9. Update regarding the Curriculum/Instruction Council [ATTACHMENT #4]**

Ms. Austin gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Curriculum/Instruction Council.

This item will be placed on the November 28, 2016 agenda for approval.

**10. Update regarding the proposed Greenhouse Project**

Dr. Graner shared his concerns with the Greenhouse project and stated that he needed to see a budget and utility cost for the Greenhouse. He further stated that they did not have a building permit yet.

Dr. Graner stated that he will get together with Mr. Daigneault to resolve his concerns.

This item will be placed on the November 28, 2016 BOE agenda approval.

**11. Joint Meeting with the Town Council on November 15, 2016**

Dr. Graner gave an overview of the Referendum:

- status of imbalance at CC
- will apply for diversity status
- Middle School would open in 2020
- 2 elementary schools would open by the fall of 2022
- May be starting Intra-district Magnet School at the 2 Middle School in the fall

Mrs. Watson stated that the Joint Meeting would start at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex.

**12. Budget**

Dr. Graner stated that at present the next budget may be a 2.2% increase and include using 1 million offset.

**14. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Ackerman, Robertson: To adjourn at 8:50 p.m.  
**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**