

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Regular Meeting

November 28, 2016

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on November 28, 2016, in CR 1 of the Town Hall Annex.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent, at 6:06 p.m.

The first order of business was the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

PRESENT

ABSENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman
Mr. Gary Baker (arrived at 6:32 p.m.)
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Rosemary Robertson
Mrs. Rita Volkmann
Mrs. Lee White
Mr. Jay Weitlauf

Mrs. Gretchen Newsome

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Donald Meltabarger, Business Manager
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. Peter Bass, Principal, Cutler Middle School
Mr. John Jones, Principal, West Side Middle School
Mr. Ernie Koschmeider, Food Director
Mr. David Daigneault, Fitch High School
Ms. Casey Halliwell, Fitch High School

Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil
Personnel Services

Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human
Resources

B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS

➤ **Election of Officers**

Dr. Graner asked for nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Board.

MOTION: Ackerman, Robertson: To nominate Kim Shepardson Watson as Chairperson of the Board.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

Dr. Graner asked for nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson of the Board.

MOTION: White, Robertson: To nominate Andrea Ackerman as Vice Chairperson of the Board.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

➤ **Recognition of the Marching Band**

Mr. Andrew Lefebvre, Band Director, gave a brief overview of the accomplishments of the Marching Band. Mr. Lefebvre introduced members of the Marching Band who further outlined the accomplishments of the Marching Band; Arianna Stanberry, Dana Santillana and Nick Hilbig.

C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

1. Overview of the Dress for Success Program [ATTACHMENT #1]

Ms. Casey Halliwell, Advisor, Daniel Gaiewski, Cindy Fan (Program Manager), Matthew Krick (Leadership), and Arianna Stanberry gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Dress for Success Program.

III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

The Student Representatives reported:

- Spirit Week/Pep Rally/Tailgate/Homecoming Dance:
 - Spirit Week was as success. Students and teachers really enjoyed it.
 - Pep Rally was a lot of fun; always a highlight every year.
 - Tailgate was cold, but the people that came really liked the food and games.
 - Homecoming Dance was a great turnout.

III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – cont.

- 8th Grade Visit and EXPO Night:
 - 8th graders from West Side and Cutler visited the school and got to tour the school and learn about some of what Fitch offers.
 - EXPO Night had a pretty good turnout. Students and parents got to explore some of the clubs and sports that Fitch offers.
- Powderpuff Game:
 - Great time for all the students that participated. Seniors took the win, Juniors came in second, then Sophomores and Freshmen.
- Thanksgiving Football Game:
 - The Fitch High football team won against Ledyard and ended the ten year series of losses.
- Winter Sports Season:
 - Winter Sports season begins today.
- MAP Testing:
 - MAP testing begins later this week for ninth graders and will run for about the next two weeks.
- Connecticut Association of Board of Education (CABE) Convention 2016 Review:
 - Each student representative shared their experience at the CABE/CAPSS Convention.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- **Report of the Oliver Hazard Trip**
Mark Russell, Video Technician, shared a slide show of the student's activities on the Oliver Hazard Trip. This slide show is being aired on Channel 19.
- **Update on Groton 2020 Plan**
Dr. Graner shared that following the referendum, the projects are now included on the State's Priority list; however, there are a few things that needs to be done:
 - Apply for the Diversity School grant status for CC School.
 - The need for a waiver for the \$450 per square feet renovation cost cap.

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF

1. **Assistant Superintendent Report [ATTACHMENT #2]**
 - a. **Middle School Presentation of the SBAC results**
Mr. Peter Bass, Cutler Middle School, and Mr. John Jones, West Side Middle School, gave a presentation of the results for last spring's 6th, 7th & 8th grade ELA and Math SBAC exams.

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF – cont.

2. Business Manager Report [ATTACHMENT #3 & 4]

Mr. Meltabarger gave an overview of the budget summary dated October 31, 2016 and the monthly Health Insurance Reserve report.

3. Director of Buildings and Grounds Report

Mr. Kilpatrick reported:

- That he is wrapping up his budget work sheets and noted that language changes are need in the CIP Plan.
- He noted the water issues at FHS, CC, PV – funding was requested in the CIP; retesting was done that did not come back favorable.
- He noted the close out of the CC asbestos abatement project
- He noted a Town request for a report on energy usage.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance/Facilities Committee:

Mr. Weitlauf stated that the Finance/Facilities Committee met last Monday and received the Business Manager report, an analysis of the budget, and a report on the Greenhouse.

2. Policy Committee:

Mrs. White stated that the Policy Committee met and noted the policies on the agenda for a first and second reading.

3. Curriculum Committee:

There was no report.

4. Negotiations Committee:

There was no report.

5. LEARN:

Mrs. Volkmann noted that the Executive Board of LEARN met on November 10, 2016 and received a report from Blum Shirpero on the audit. She also noted that Patricia McCarthy, Deputy Director and General Counsel of CABC, reported on the Connecticut Collision.

6. Groton Parent Council:

Mrs. White noted that the Groton Parent Council met and that the teachers discussed the need for volunteers.

7. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee:

There was no report.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS - cont.

8. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee:
Mrs. Watson noted that the GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee will hold a follow up meeting on December 5, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.
9. Groton Scholarship:
There was no report.
10. CABA
Mrs. Watson noted the CABA/CAPSS Conference held on November 18, 19, 2016.
11. Trails Liaison:
There was no report.
12. Ad Hoc Middle School Program Review:
Dr. Ackerman stated that the Ad Hoc Middle School Program Review Committee met on November 23, 2016; however, there was no quorum. Dr. Ackerman also noted that that she, John Jones, Peter Bass, Terry Henkle, and Gretchen Newsome went to the Metropolitan Learning Center in Bloomfield. She noted that they had a rich conversation with them.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the regular minutes of the October 24, 2016, and the special minutes of October 24 (Ad Hoc Middle School), October 24 (Board Retreat), and November 9, 2016 (AGSA/GEA/BOE Liaison), are hereby accepted and approved.

2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS

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

- The Mello family has donated a 1/4 size violin to the Northeast Academy School.
- Robert and Kristin Fairbank have made a donation of \$500.00 to the Fitch High School Fencing Team.

3. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS – cont.

MOTION: Volkmann, Fitzgerald: To approve the Consent Calendar.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

POLICY:

1. Discussion and possible action regarding a second reading of policy P 1325 Advertising and Promotion. **[ATTACHMENT #5]**

MOTION: White, Katrina: To approve as a second reading policy P 1325 Advertising and Promotion.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding a second reading of policy P 3320 Purchasing Procedures. **[ATTACHMENT #6]**

MOTION: White, Katrina: To approve as a second reading policy P 3320 Purchasing Procedures.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding a second reading of policy P 3323 Bidding. **[ATTACHMENT #7]**

MOTION: White, Katrina: To approve as a second reading policy P 3323 Bidding.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of the Greenhouse Construction.

MOTION: Volkmann, Robertson: To approve the Greenhouse Construction.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of the 2017-2018 School Calendar. **[ATTACHMENT #8]**

MOTION: Fitzgerald, Robertson: To approve the 2017-2018 School Calendar.

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding a first reading of policy P 4118.112 Sexual Harassment. **[ATTACHMENT #9]**

MOTION: Watson, Ackerman: To approve as a first reading policy P 4118.112 Sexual Harassment.

4. Discussion and possible action reading a first reading of policy P 5145.5 Exploitation/Sexual Harassment. **[ATTACHMENT #10]**

MOTION: White, Robertson: To approve as a first reading policy P 5145.5 Exploitation/Sexual Harassment.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the Curriculum/Instruction Council Pilot Program.

MOTION: Volkmann, Robertson: To approve the Curriculum/Instruction Council Pilot Program. **[ATTACHMENT #11]**

6. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the 2017 Board of Education Meeting Schedule. **[ATTACHMENT #12]**

MOTION: White, Fitzgerald: To approve the 2017 Board of Education Meeting Schedule.

7. Discussion and possible action regarding acceptance of the Claude Chester asbestos abatement project as complete.

MOTION: Weitlauf, Baker: To accept the Claude Chester asbestos abatement project as complete.

8. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the Hiking Club Field Trip to New Hampshire to be held in May 2017.

MOTION: Baker, Volkmann: To approve the Hiking Club Field Trip to be held in May 2017.

9. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the FHS Europe Field Trip departing the Wednesday after Graduation.

MOTION: Volkmann, Robertson: To approve the FHS Europe (Switzerland, France, Italy) Field Trip departing the Wednesday after Graduation.

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mrs. Robertson noted that she attended the CABA/CAPSS Convention, the Sound Community meeting, and a GASP meeting.
2. Mrs. White noted that she attended the CABA/CAPSS Convention.
3. Mrs. Fitzgerald noted that she attended the District Safety meeting, the CABA/CAPSS Convention, and noted her Charter revision concerns.
4. Mrs. Volkmann noted that she attend the FHS Basket Raffle.
5. Dr. Ackerman noted that she attended the CABA/CAPSS Convention and the PD at the Mystic Seaport.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

Dr. Graner noted articles in the Day regarding More for Words and the Transition Academy.

B. Suggested Agenda Items

NONE

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, White: To adjourn at 8:44 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY