

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Regular Meeting

January 23, 2017

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on January 23, 2017, in CR 1 of the Town Hall Annex.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kim Watson, Board Chairperson, at 6:02 p.m.

The first order of business was the pledge of allegiance to the flag by Mr. Scott Newsome.

PRESENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman
Mr. Gary Baker
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome
Mrs. Rita Volkmann
Mr. Jay Weitlauf

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

ABSENT

Mrs. Rosemary Robertson
Mrs. Lee White

Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil
Personnel Services

Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human
Resources

B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS

NONE

C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

1. Mr. Jeffrey Bresnahan, 410 Brook Street, addressed the need for a full-time Athletic Director and made a formal request to the Board to give it consideration during budget deliberations.

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

The Student Representatives reported:

- It was stated that mid-terms began Thursday, January 19, 2017 and will conclude on Tuesday, January 24, 2017.
- It was noted that the CorePlus Credit Union will be at Fitch High School on Thursday, February 19, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., to sponsor a free workshop focused on how to prepare, pay, and stay in college.
- The Fitch High in-school SAT is scheduled for Wednesday, April 5, 2017 for eleventh graders.
- The Student Representatives will be informing students about their roles as Student Representatives for the Groton Board of Education to give students a better understanding of the role of the Board of Education.
- The Student Council will initiate a box top collection for the purpose of helping elementary teachers build their classroom library.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- **Groton 2020**

Dr. Graner gave an update regarding the Groton 2020:

- The project is moving forward. Dr. Graner, Mr. Kilpatrick met with the Town Manager along with Mike Zuba.
- There is a need to appoint an architect and determine a theme for the new elementary Magnet schools to be built at Cutler and West Side Middle sites.
- Dr. Graner received a call from Senator Sommers, Co-chair of the Education Committee indicating her full support for the building projects.
- Dr. Graner noted that there may be a cut back on bonding projects; however, Groton is on the priority list.

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF

1. Business Manager Report [ATTACHMENT #1, 2, 3]

Mr. Meltabarger gave an overview of the FY 17 budget summary dated December 31, 2016 and the monthly Health Insurance Reserve report. Mr. Meltabarger stated that the FY 16 Audit Report will be presented to the Town on Tuesday, January 24, 2017.

Mrs. Volkmann requested that Mr. Meltabarger share with the Board its section of the audit.

B. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF cont.

2. Director of Buildings and Grounds Report

Mr. Kilpatrick reported:

- He is closing out State grants.
- That like other Central Office Directors, he is working on the FY 17 budget.
- Blue Ribbon Ceremony at MM: Mr. Kilpatrick praised members of his staff (Scott Reed, Kevin Lundy, Billy Costello, and Shawn Waldron for their effort with the Blue Ribbon Ceremony. He also noted his staff's support regarding the Celebration of the Arts at NEA along with the efforts of Head Custodian Wendell Gaston.
- Groton 2020: He noted that he received a note from Rick Norris stating that he is planning on selecting the Owner Representative for the middle school construction project.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance/Facilities Committee:

There was no report.

2. Policy Committee:

Mrs. Fitzgerald stated that the Policy Committee met and noted the policies on the agenda for a first and second reading. She also noted that the Policy Committee is continuing their work on the Policy Audit.

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 and had a presentation from Thomas Girard, Superintendent of Waterford, on the districts initiative and innovations on budget; fees for Magnet Schools will increase; and Blum and Shapiro Audit Firm was appointed for next year.

6. Groton Parent Council:

Mrs. Fitzgerald noted that the Groton Parent Council will meet on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at NEA.

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 meet on February 15, 2017, at 4:30 p.m., at the School Administration Building.
9. Groton Scholarship:
Mrs. Newsome noted that the Groton Scholarship Fund met on Thursday and are working towards their second letter writing campaign.
10. CABA
Dr. Ackerman noted that she has set up the Legislative Breakfast for February 15, 2017 at Fitch High School beginning at 7:45 a.m. Dr. Ackerman also noted that she is stepping down as the Board Representative to CABA and will be replaced by Mrs. Fitzgerald.
11. Trails Liaison:
Mrs. Newsome stated that the Trails Liaison has been meeting since November; however, she has been unable to attend these meetings.
12. Ad Hoc Middle School Program Review:
Dr. Ackerman stated that the Ad Hoc Middle School Program Review Committee met today and had a robust discussion.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the regular minutes of the November 28, 2016, are hereby accepted and approved.

2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS

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

- Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program (Robert Fairbanks) has made a donation of \$500.00 to the Fitch High School Fencing Team.

A. CONSENT CALENDAR – cont.

- The Patterson Family Foundation has made a donation through a library grant of \$5,000.00 to the Mary Morrisson Library.

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

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible action regarding a second reading of policy P 4118.112 Sexual Harassment.

This item was referred back to the Policy Committee for further review.

3. Discussion and possible action reading a second reading of policy P 5145.5 Exploitation/Sexual Harassment.

This item was referred back to the Policy Committee for further review.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible action regarding a first reading of policy P 6142 Student Nutrition and Physical Activity. **[ATTACHMENT #4]**

MOTION: Volkmann, Ackerman: To approve as a first reading policy P 6142 Student Nutrition and Physical Activity. **PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

2. Discussion and possible action reading a first reading of policy P 6161(a) Textbook Adoption. **[ATTACHMENT #5]**

MOTION: Fitzgerald, Ackerman: To approve as a first reading policy P 6161(a) Textbook Adoption. **PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of Fitch High School's field trip request to the Smithsonian National African-American Museum in Washington, DC scheduled for May 12, 2017 through May 14, 2017.

MOTION: Fitzgerald, Baker: To approve Fitch High School's field trip request to the Smithsonian National African-American Museum in Washington, DC scheduled for May 12, 2017 through May 14, 2017.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

4. Discussion and possible action regarding proposed response to the FY 16 ECS grant reduction. **[ATTACHMENT #6]**

MOTION: Weitlauf, Newsome: To approve the proposed response to the FY 16 ECS grant reduction. **PASSED 5-2 (Ackerman, Newsome)**

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mrs. Volkmann noted:
 - a. She attended the Celebration of the Arts at NEA and in December she attended the Media Showcase at NEA.
2. Mr. Weitlauf noted:
 - a. He attended the Celebration of the Arts at NEA and the December Media Showcase at NEA.
 - b. He noted that he talk with Betty Ann Rider at the library regarding an idea for a collaboration.
3. Mrs. Volkmann noted that she hope that the schools initiate the book clubs again.
4. Mr. Baker noted:
 - a. He attended the Celebration of the Arts at NEA.
 - b. He had the pleasure of narrating the Night before Christmas in December for the Winter Concert.
5. Mrs. Newsome thanked Mr. Sean Arcarese at the high school in his position as the theater teacher for working on a challenging piece.
6. Mrs. Watson noted:
 - a. She received e-mails regarding the need for a full-time Athletic Director
 - b. She attended the joint meeting with the Town.
 - c. She attended the Strategic Planning meeting.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

B. Suggested Agenda Items

Mrs. Watson noted having a discussion at a COW regarding ways of having a deeper relationship with the Student Representatives.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Newsome: To adjourn at 7:43 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY