

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Committee of the Whole

February 22, 2017

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Groton Board of Education was held on February 22, 2017 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 6:10 p.m.

PRESENT

ABSENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman, Vice Chairperson
Mr. Gary Baker (arrived 6:19 p.m.)
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome
Mrs. Rosemary Robertson
Mrs. Rita Volkmann (arrived 7:40 p.m.)
Mr. Jay Weitlauf
Mrs. Lee White

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Don Meltabarger, Business Manager
Mrs. Beth Horler, GEA President
Mr. Joseph Arcarese, Principal, Fitch High School
Mr. Matt Brown, Assistant Principal, Fitch High School
Mr. Scott Newsome, RTM Member

1. Approval of Minutes of February 13, 2017

MOTION: Robertson, White: To approve the minutes of February 13, 2017.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

- 2.** Dr. Graner gave an overview of the testimonies given to the State Appropriations Committee on February 21, 2017 including testimony from Cindy Fan, Student Representative of the Board, and a special education parent. There were seven people from Groton who gave testimony.

3. Update on College Level Classes [ATTACHMENT #1]

Mr. Arcarese and Mr. Brown gave a PowerPoint presentation of the responses from Department Heads who were asked two questions:

- How is it going?
- Is rigor being maintained?

Mr. Arcarese stated that 3 out of 4 of the departments stated that it was going well; Math, however, is a problem. Mr. Arcarese noted that he will ask Ms. Austin to put together a Task Force to address the problem in Math.

4. Update regarding the implementation of NGSS

Dr. Graner shared several highlights provided by Mr. Henkle.

- Mr. Henkle has attended Level III Certification for Completion of NGS-CT Training
- Mr. Henkle attended 1st year NGSS elementary/science kit(s) transition training at East Bay Education Collaborative. Teacher received training from East Bay Educational staff.
- Scientist in residence is ongoing.
- Middle and secondary educators are currently enrolled in NGS-CT state's online free PD for NGSS transition.
- Middle and secondary educators will receive PD on Engage in Arguments from Evidence which supports NGSS/CCSS from Douglas Llewellyn on April 10, 2017.
- Curriculum writing for middle school/high school educators will occur at the end of the school year.
- Training will occur for elementary educators for year #2 Science kit implementation.
- Ninth grade Science curriculum transition from Integrated Science to possibly an Integrated Earth Science Model; this supports the State's 3-year future Science assessment in 2019.

5. Update of early release day PD program [ATTACHMENT #2]

Ms. Austin gave an overview of the early release days for the 2016-2017 school year.

6. Discussion of Food Service Director duties

Mr. Meltabarger shared that Mr. Koschmeider has been visiting area Towns looking at their Food Service programs. As a result, Montville has made a request for his assistance, as a consultant, with their program through the end of the current school year. They have agreed to pay 20% of his salary beyond his Groton salary.

It was the consensus of the Board that they concur with granting this request with the understanding that it will be until the end of the current school year. The details of this arrangement will be spelled out in a MOU between Groton and Montville Public Schools.

7. FY 18 Budget Work Session [ATTACHMENTS #3, 4, 5,6]

Mr. Meltabarger reviewed the discussion from the last Budget Worksession regarding the budget increase amount – 1.67% versus 1.79%.

Dr. Graner noted the meeting dates with the Town Council on the budget:

March 29, 2017	Public Hearing	Sr. Ctr.	7:00 p.m.
April 3, 2017	Education Budget	THA	6:00 p.m.
April 25, 2017	Budget Adoption	THA	6:00 p.m.

Dr. Graner noted that meetings with the RTM will occur in May.

It was the consensus of the Board to proposed a budget in the amount of \$77,745,293. This represents a 1.67% increase.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Ackerman, Baker: To adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY