

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Regular Meeting

February 27, 2017

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on February 27, 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 6:00 p.m.

The first order of business was the pledge of allegiance to the flag by Mr. Larry Croxton.

PRESENT

ABSENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman
Mr. Gary Baker (arrived at 6:30 p.m.)
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome
Mrs. Rosemary Robertson
Mrs. Rita Volkmann
Mr. Jay Weitlauf
Mrs. Lee White

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. Brian Chidley, Robotics Adviser
Mr. Everett Wilhelm, Robotics Adviser

Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil
Personnel Services

Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human
Resources

B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS

1. Dr. Ackerman introduced Krystina Waters, the 2016 Martin Luther King Scholarship winner. Dr. Ackerman shared the accomplishments of Krystina Waters noting that she will be attending WPI, she has won a \$74,000 Merit Scholarship and will received a total of \$216,000 from financial aid.

2. Mr. Arcarese introduced Peter Dentch, the 2016 winner of the Congressional Software competition.
3. Mr. Brian Chidley gave a PowerPoint [**ATTACHMENT #1**] presentation of the 2016-2017 FIRST Robotics Experience. Mr. Chidley also noted that Krystina Waters and Peter Dentch are also members of the Robotics Team. Mr. Chidley also shared a short video of a competition.

C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

The Student Representatives reported:

- Miss Fan noted that she gave testimony to the State Appropriations Committee on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 along with a special education parent, Dr. Graner, Ms. Austin and members of the local municipalities on the State Education budget cuts to Groton.
- It was noted that the CorePlus Credit Union will be at Fitch High School on Wednesday, March 13, 2017, at 6:30 p.m., at Mystic Indoor Sports. Tryouts and practices will begin the week after.
- The second blood drive of the year will be on Thursday, March 16, 2017.
- Mr. Falcon, a senior male event, is coming up; participants will be performing a dance, a talent of their choice, a spirit video they created, and have a live question and answer portion. Signups and tryouts will take place earlier this month. Practices will run from March 6 through 10, and March 13 through 17, 2017, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The Mr. Falcon Show will be on Saturday, March 18, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., in the Fitch High School Auditorium.
- On Mondays, Wednesday, and Thursdays after second period, there is a thirty-minute block called CLT for students to get extra help from a teacher, print an assignment, or study. On Fridays students complete one of the lessons on Naviance during the thirty-minute block. The Student Council will be forming a couple ideas to revamp CTL to help build the Fitch community and a bond amongst the students.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- **Update on proposed FY 18 State Budget**

Dr. Graner gave an overview of the FY 18 State Budget and its effect on Groton. He noted that there were 7 people from Groton who gave testimony before the State Appropriations Committee. He further noted that districts may not know the final cut until the end of June.

Dr. Graner noted that on March 20, 2017, local legislators will be asking students and citizens to speak on the budget cuts at a Town Hall meeting to be held at Fitch High School beginning at 6:00 p.m..

- **Groton 2020**

Dr. Graner gave an update regarding the Groton 2020:

- The Town has hired a construction manager;
- The next step is to hire an architect;
- 600 million dollars is slated for school construction (bonding);
- Will be working with parents, teachers on the theme for the new Intra-district elementary schools.

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF

1. **Assistant Superintendent Report**

Ms. Austin gave an overview of two meetings held last week; Curriculum and Instruction Council and District Data Teams including the Groton Teaching and Learning Collaborative. She noted the draft Groton Strategic Plan. Ms. Austin also noted that administrators have gone through a 4 hour of Teacher Evaluation calibration training with LEARN. Lastly, Ms. Austin noted this week is Read Across America and Dr. Seuss's birthday. The Groton Public Schools will celebrate the third One District, One Book, One Problem with Dr. Seuss "I will read with my eyes shut." We will be counting all books read, students and staff.

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

Mr. Meltabarger gave an overview of the FY 17 budget summary dated January 31, 2017 and the monthly Health Insurance Reserve report that was shared at the COW meeting. Mr. Meltabarger also shared the FY 16 Audit Report that was presented to the Town on Tuesday, January 24, 2017.

3. **Director of Buildings and Grounds Report**

Mr. Kilpatrick reported:

- That his staff did a terrific job in cleaning up after the blizzard.
- That he has submitted the ED 046 for CB; this is a request for payment – he noted that Groton should get over \$100,000 back.
- The paperwork for the CC project is complete.
- He thanked Mr. Arcarese for Art class that did a nice job matting a certificate of the Charles Barnum Blue Ribbon award.

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF cont.

- He noted that his department had a piece of equipment that they could no longer get repaired; he sent it to the high school and the Robotics Team was able to make the necessary repairs. He thanked them for their efforts.
- Lastly, he noted that the Permanent School Building Committee is a 5-member committee. Presently, they only have 3 members. He asked if there was anyone interested in serving to contact him.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance/Facilities Committee:
There was no report.
2. Policy Committee:
Mrs. White stated that the Policy Committee meets the first Monday of the month. She further noted that their review of the CAFE Audit is ongoing.
3. Curriculum Committee:
There was no report.
4. Negotiations Committee:
Mrs. Watson noted that the Negotiations Committee is negotiating with the Custodians/Technicians/Maintenance bargaining union.
5. LEARN:
Mrs. Volkmann noted that the Executive Board of LEARN met. She noted that LEARN's Sexual Harassment policy is similar to Groton's; she noted that fees are going up by 2% for Magnet Schools.
6. Groton Parent Council:
Mrs. White stated that the Groton Parent Councils meet the last Wednesday of the Month. She noted that Ms. Austin discussed the budget.
7. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee:
Mrs. Robertson stated that the Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee has switched to meeting every other month. Their next meeting will be in April.
8. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee:
Mrs. Watson noted that the GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee met on February 15, 2017 and discussed printers, had a united front discussion around the budget, and held a discussion of the structure of the liaison committee.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

9. Groton Scholarship:
Mrs. Newsome noted that the Groton Scholarship Fund met two or three weeks ago. She noted that the deadline for applications has been met with few applicants; if more students want to apply they should.
10. CABA
Mrs. Fitzgerald noted the Legislative Breakfast that Dr. Ackerman organized.

Mrs. Robertson noted CABA Day on the Hill on March 8, 2017.
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 with all IB teachers, went to visit 2 middle schools, and that she and Mr. Weitlauf will be visiting Kelly Donovan's Theater of Knowledge class on March 7, 2017.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the regular minutes of the January 23, 2016 and Special meetings on January 19, 23 (Budget Worksession and Ad Hoc Middle School Review), 30 (Public Hearing and Budget Worksession), February 6 (Budget Worksession), and 15 (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:

- Carol Bair has made a donation of a viola to the Groton Public Schools.
- Pfizer Inc., through a Science in the Field Grant, has made a donation of \$1,000.00 to Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School.

A. CONSENT CALENDAR – cont.

MOTION: Robertson, Newsome: 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.

MOTION: White, Robertson: To approve as a second reading policy P 4118.112 Sexual Harassment.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

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

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

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION: Watson, Volkmann: To rescind the motion.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION: To approve as a second reading policy P 5145.5 Exploitation/Sexual Harassment with adjustments as suggested by Dr. Ackermann.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

3. Discussion and possible action regarding a second reading of policy P 6142.101 Student Nutrition and Physical Activity.

MOTION: White, Fitzgerald: To approve as a second reading policy P 6142.101 Student Nutrition and Physical Activity and the regulations.

B. OLD BUSINESS cont.

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

PASSED

4. Discussion and possible action regarding a second reading of policy P 6161(a) Textbook Adoption

**MOTION: White, Volkman: To approve as a second reading
policy P 6161(a) Textbook Adoption.**

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the More Than Words field trip to sail from Fort Lauderdale to Cuba March 18 – March 26, 2017.

**MOTION: Baker, Robertson: To approve the More Than Words field
trip to sail from Fort Lauderdale to Cuba March 18 – March 26, 2017.**

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

2. Discussion and possible action reading approval of the field trip for Fitch High School Travel Club students to Portugal and Spain July 1-12, 2018.

**MOTION: Fitzgerald, Robertson: To approve the field trip for Fitch
High School Travel Club students to Portugal and Spain July 1-12, 2018.**

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

3. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of Board Appreciation Month in March.

Dr. Graner noted the art work for Board Appreciation Month presented to the Board.

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mrs. Fitzgerald noted:
 - a. She attended the January Parent Council meeting; Public Hearing on the budget; Legislative Breakfast; AGSA/GEA/BOE Liaison Committee meeting; Shared Services meeting – the next meeting is March 1, 2017, 6:30 p.m., at the Town Hall Annex; the same e-mails that other Board members received.
2. Mrs. Newsome noted Ash Wednesday, on March 1, 2017.
3. Mr. Baker shared his appreciation for Dr. Graner's assistance with some concerns presented to him.
4. Dr. Ackerman noted:
 - a. A concern from a parent regarding how bad the roads were after the blizzard.
 - b. She applauded the Maintenance Workers' efforts during the blizzard.
5. Mr. Weitlauf thanked Kelly Donovan's IB Language Arts class for the invitation to visit their class.
6. Mrs. Robertson noted:
 - a. She attended Shared Services meetings; GASP meetings; brought in food for a basket for Riverview; she attended the Legislative Breakfast; she attended the Joey Gingeralla Scholarship function and won a basket.
7. Mrs. White noted that she attended many of the activities other Board members attended and that she attended the Mary Kelly Memorial Service.
8. Mrs. Volkmann noted:
 - a. She asked Dr. Graner to speak about the opportunity afforded Valerie Nelson. Dr. Graner stated that there was an article in the Day Newspaper on Valerie Nelson who has been invited by Congressman Courtney to be his guest tomorrow night to hear President Trump's first address to a joint session of Congress.
 - b. She thanked Christina Scala, Photography Teacher at FHS, for the photos displayed at Mystic Seaport.
 - c. She noted the Book Fund and stated that there are still funds in that account.
 - d. She noted the need for revenue and asked the Superintendent to reach out to Norwich Public Schools regarding NFA versus their students attending Groton Magnet Schools. (This is a referral to the COW.)
 - e. She made a referral to the COW for discussion of FHS scheduling.
 - f. She attended the Legislative Breakfast.
 - g. She noted that the next AGSA/GEA/BOE Liaison Committee meeting is March 22, 2017, at 4:30 p.m.
9. Mrs. Watson noted:
 - a. That the Board has been together a lot the last couple of months due to the budget and that she attended the Legislative Breakfast.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

B. Suggested Agenda Items

NONE

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, White: To adjourn at 8:09 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY