

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Regular Meeting

March 27, 2017

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on March 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 6:03 p.m.

The first order of business was the pledge of allegiance to the flag by Miss Cindy Fan.

PRESENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman
Mr. Gary Baker (arrived at 6:07 p.m.)
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome
Mrs. Lee White

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Miss Cindy Fan, Student Representative
Mr. Ernie Koschmeider, Food Services Director
Mrs. Karen Widham, Foreign Language, Fitch High School
Ms. Erin Pezqueda, Foreign Language, West Side Middle School

ABSENT

Mrs. Rosemary Robertson
Mrs. Rita Volkmann
Mr. Jay Weitlauf

Mr. Joel Lee, Student Representative

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

NONE

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

The Student Representative reported:

- A Chili Cook Off Fundraiser was held on March 9, 2017 to help fundraise for the athletic department and Special Olympics. There was a good turnout and those who attended really enjoyed themselves.
- The Mr. Falcon show was amazing! The turnout was more than was expected. Contestants consisted of eight senior males: Ethan Rios, Alex Garrett, Kevin Berardi, Matt Kerst, Ben Flax, Ryan Koehler, Tyler Gaccione, and Shiloh Feldman. They did a guy dance and a couples dance with their escort. Spirit videos were shown to determine Mr. Spirit. Talent performances were held to determine Mr. Talent. Also, there was a live question and answer portion. Ethan Rios was Mr. Congeniality; Shiloh Feldman won Mr. Talent; Matt Kerst won Mr. Spirit; and Tyler Gaccione won Mr. Falcon.
- A school dance will be held on Saturday, April 1, 2017 to help fundraise for Mrs. Sullivan's Washington, DC trip.
- Practice PSAT, PSAT, SAT, Post-secondary planning will be held on Wednesday, April 5, 2017. Freshman will take a practice PSAT, Sophomores will take the PSAT, Juniors will take the SAT with the writing portion, and Seniors have the opportunity to meet with their school counselor to go over post-secondary plans. School dismissal will be 23:00 p.m.
- Parent/teacher conferences will be held on Thursday, April 6, 2017.
- The Empty Bowl Project will be held Wednesday, April 19, 2017, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Box Tops for Groton Elementary Schools was announced to all the faculty members at Fitch during a Tuesday faculty meeting. This was done to avoid conflict with other group fundraisers and event, therefore the plan is put a collection box in the Main Office.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Dr. Graner noted that Mark Russell had attended the Cuba field trip and shared his experiences.

- **Calendar update regarding PD at the end of the school year**
Dr. Graner noted that a make-up PD will be held at the end of the school year (June 16, 2017).
- **Magnet School Assistance Program Grant Update (MSAP)**
Dr. Graner noted that the district will be submitting a grant in the next couple of weeks. It would be for \$500,000 per year of the grant.
- **Update on the High School Scoreboard**
Dr. Graner shared a photo of the new Scoreboard donated by Mystic Indoor Sports. [ATTACHMENT #1]

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF

1. **Assistant Superintendent Report [ATTACHMENTS #2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]**
 - Next Generation Accountability Data – Ms. Austin noted that SB and NEA have been selected as schools of distinction.
 - Elementary Reading Progress
 - Lucy Calkins Writing Workshop July 10-14, 2017.
 - Update on Professional Development Program – 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 – Ms. Austin noted a need for a 6th early release day – October 17, 2017.
2. **Business Manager Report [ATTACHMENT #10, 11, 12]**

Dr. Graner gave an overview of the FY 17 budget summary dated March 9, 2017; the unexpended balance as of that date is \$195,000. Dr. Graner also provided the monthly Health Insurance Report; claims for the month of February were 91% of the expected amount. Dr. Graner also clarified information regarding the W-2 hacking. He noted that there were actually 1363 W-2s that were affected. This is the total number of employees at any time in the district. The actual number of regular employees is slightly less than 800.
3. **Director of Buildings and Grounds Report**

Mr. Kilpatrick reported:

 - That he has spoken with Tom Rowe at the State Dept. who is auditing grants for CB and CC. He noted that \$260,000 will be returned to the Town regarding the CB and CC asbestos projects. He noted that the CB project was estimated at \$445,000 and came in at \$200,408 and the CC project was estimated at \$415,000 and came in at \$326,000. Each came in lower than the bid and generate a savings that will be returned to the Town.
 - The Fitch High School water heater has arrived and will be installed soon.

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF cont.

- National Gas has been approved and will begin to be used as of Friday; CC will be connected over the summer.
- Transportation – He has had an initial meeting to get the bus routes laid out.
- He noted that a new FRP will be written up for the new bus contract.
- Futures Education is looking at Special Education Transportation.
- Security will be meeting with the registrar of voters in the City of Groton next week at WSM.
- Presently, he is reviewing heating oil, electricity, and Natural gas contract.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance/Facilities Committee:
There was no report.
2. Policy Committee:
Mrs. Fitzgerald stated that the Policy Committee met and reviewed some policies; review of the CAFE Audit is ongoing. The next Policy Committee meeting is April 3, 2017 at 5:00 p.m., at the Town Hall Annex.
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 is ongoing
5. LEARN:
Mrs. Watson read the LEARN report.
6. Groton Parent Council:
Mrs. White stated that the Groton Parent Councils will meet on Wednesday.
7. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee:
Mrs. Watson noted that the Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee will meet on April 5, 2017.
8. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee:
Mrs. Fitzgerald noted that the GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee met and discussed the budget, how the GEA is responding to it; ways of restoring funds; teacher's pension; and the VLA.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

9. Groton Scholarship:
Mrs. Newsome noted that the Groton Scholarship Fund met and is deciding who will the recipients may be.
10. CABE
There was no report.
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 and thinking of change their meeting time to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesdays

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the regular minutes of the February 27, 2017 and Special meeting on February 22, 2017, are hereby accepted and approved.

2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS

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

- Dr. Robert and Rita Volkmann have made a donation of \$210.00 in honor of Mary Kelly to be shared by the elementary schools for the purpose of purchasing a book or books for the school libraries concerning Women and Science.

MOTION: Newsome, White: To approve the Consent Calendar.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of Paraprofessional Appreciation Day on April 2, 2017 and Paraprofessional Appreciation Week April 9 through 15, 2017.

MOTION: Baker, Ackerman: To approve Paraprofessional Appreciation Day on April 2, 2017 and Paraprofessional Appreciation Week April 9 through 15, 2017. **PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

2. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the Healthy Food Certificate.

MOTION: Watson, Baker: To approve the Healthy Food Certificate and that the Board also would like to keep the Event Exemptions in place. **PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

3. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of Fitch High School World Language field trip to Peru June 25 through July 3, 2018.

MOTION: Fitzgerald, White: To approve the Fitch High School World Language field trip to Peru June 25 through July 3, 2018. **PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

4. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of Middle School field trip to Quebec City, Canada April 13 - 18, 2018.

MOTION: White, Ackerman: To approve the Middle School field trip to Quebec City, Canada April 13 - 18, 2018. **PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mr. Baker noted that he attended the NEA play, "Shakespeare Rocks."
2. Mrs. Fitzgerald noted;
 - a. That she and Mrs. White attended the Fitch High School Student Council meeting.
 - b. That she, Dr. Ackerman, and Mrs. Newsome attended three IB classes.
 - c. That she attended a staff information session.

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS - cont.

3. Mrs. Watson noted:
 - a. That she received a letter of concern from a citizen regarding the staff letter regarding the W-2 Hacking.
 - b. She noted the Robotics competition and Music performance by middle school students.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

Town Council Public Hearing March 29, 2017 6:00 p.m., Senior Center

Dr. Graner noted that Junior Holly Conlon has been selected as one of the Connecticut Governor's Scholars of 2017. This award is given to top junior in Connecticut's high schools. This makes three out of the last four years that a junior at FHS has been selected for this prestigious award.

B. Suggested Agenda Items

NONE

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Fitzgerald: To adjourn at 7:58 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY