

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

**Committee of the Whole**

**May 15, 2017**

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Groton Board of Education was held on May 15, 2017 in Room 19 of the School Administration Building.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kim Watson, Board Chairperson, at 6:05 p.m.

**PRESENT**

**ABSENT**

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson  
Dr. Andrea Ackerman, Vice Chairperson  
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald  
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome  
Mrs. Rosemary Robertson  
Mrs. Rita Volkmann  
Mr. Jay Weitlauf  
Mrs. Lee White

Mr. Gary Baker

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil Personnel Services  
Mr. Sam Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds  
Mrs. Beth Horler, GEA President  
Mr. Larry Croxton, GEA Vice President  
Mrs. Christine Dauphinais, Principal, Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School

**1. Approval of Minutes of May 8, 2017.**

**MOTION:** Robertson, White: To approve the minutes of May 8, 2017.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**2. Eastern Point Beach Concession Stand Operation**

Mr. Kilpatrick gave the background surrounding the Eastern Point Beach Concession Stand and its operation. He noted that it had been run by the Mr. and Mrs. Garcia; however, the stand will no longer be opened.

Mr. Koschmeider stated that it would be a summer time stand; could use high school students and students from the Transition Academy to work the counter and that all the students would be paid for their services. The operation of the concession stand would be in addition to his

duties to the Summer Feeding Program. Mr. Koschmeider noted that he has the funds to operate the stand and feels it can make money for the district. He further noted that he has asked to be notified of the acceptance of his RFD by this Friday so that he can begin to make his plans for the operation of the stand. Lastly, he noted that opening day for the stand is June 17, 2017.

It was the consensus of the Board forwarded to the May 22, 2017 meeting for vote on.

### **3. FY 18 Budget Reduction Priorities [ATTACHMENT #1]**

Dr. Graner gave an overview of the results of the meeting with RTM on May 21, 2017 noting that an FOI was filed due to the meeting being adjourned citing it was an illegal meeting. Dr. Graner stated that the RTM had asked the Board for a list of what they restore, e.g. Middle School Sports, No Pay for Play, Media Specialist.

Dr. Graner shared the FY 18 Proposed Budget vs. FY 17 Budget and FY 16 Actual summary dated May 15, 2017. This summary showed a FY 18 budget approved by the Town Council of \$74,492,000.

The dialogue was tabled to the Special Meeting.

### **4. Curriculum and Instructional Council Update**

Ms. Austin gave an overview of the work to date of the Curriculum and Instructional Council:

- Audit of Curriculum Writing, past, presents and future
- District Software
- Strategic Action Plans

K-12 was in need of addressing (ELA)

- Grammar
- Phonics
- Writing

Ms. Austin noted a book entitled, Power of Grammar written by Mary Ehrenworth. She stated that she will be purchasing a copy for several Language Arts teachers.

### **5. Math Task Force**

Ms. Austin gave a brief overview of the work of the Math Task Force.

Mrs. Volkmann asked what curriculum writing will occur this summer.

Ms. Austin noted the following curriculum writing projects are planned:

- K-5 or K-8 Writing
- Phonics
- Grammar
- Algebra I and II

**6. LAS Data (ELL students)**

Ms. Austin gave a brief overview noting that Maria Lozano will be asked to future COW meeting to give a more in-depth report. She noted that 32 children have exited; 29 children exited or have advanced to a higher ELL level, and that there were a lot of new comers last year.

**7. Update on the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) Grant [ATTACHMENTS #2, 3]**

Mrs. Doolittle gave an overview of the IDEA Grant noting that it is a 2-part grant – Section 611 and Section 619.

Section 611 Entitlement Grant involves two non-profit schools – Stedfast Academy (will be closing in June) and Sacred Heart. This grant supplements the salaries of the teachers and paraprofessionals as well as their benefits. She noted that there are 54 paraprofessionals in addition to the Board of Education paraprofessionals.

Section 619 involves Preschool Entitlement Grant supplements the salaries for summer school teachers and paraprofessionals and their benefits.

**8. Object Code Summer – release of remaining site budget funds [ATTACHMENT #4]**

Dr. Graner noted that the FY 17 unexpended funds is \$255,929; the remaining site budgets funds is \$92,000; and the maintenance is \$83,000. Dr. Graner noted that he would be informing Principals that they can use the remaining site budget funds. By the second week in June, there will be \$80,000 left to address needs in the district.

**9. Fraud Hotline**

Dr. Graner stated that the Policy Committee is developing a Fraud Hotline policy and that the cost for a Fraud Hotline is \$250.00. He further noted that he will investigate who will man the hotline and who should pay for the hotline.

**10. Update regarding the Greenhouse at Fitch High School**

Mr. Kilpatrick gave a brief overview of the Greenhouse at Fitch High School noting that delivery of the Greenhouse material will take 6-8 weeks to arrive. He further noted that the building permit has been received and that the Greenhouse will be constructed in the Fall.

**11. Update on the Groton 2020 [ATTACHMENT #5]**

Dr. Graner stated that the Town has hired an Owners Representative, Jack Butkus; the State Board of Education has approved CC as being out of racial balance. Dr. Graner gave a brief overview of the Groton 2020 plan and noted that we may need legislative help to get through the plan. He further noted that Rick Norris is heading the project and the plan is moving along. He noted that the question is whether the District can get 80% reimbursement for the project.

**12. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Ackerman, White: To adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**