

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Regular Meeting

May 22, 2017

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on May 22, 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 6:10 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
Mrs. Rita Volkmann
Mr. Jay Weitlauf

ABSENT

Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome
Mrs. Rosemary Robertson
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. Joel Lee, Student Representative
Mrs. Heather Somers, State Senator
Mr. Joe de la Cruz, State Representative

B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS

- **Robotics Championship Winner** – Brian Chidley, Robotics Advisor, gave an overview of the Robotics Team for 2017. **[ATTACHMENT #1]** The FHS Robotics Team won 1st place:
 - In the New England District, Se Mass Event;
 - In the Atlantic District, Bridgewater Raritan;
 - In the New England District, Rhode Island District
 - In the New England District, Championship EventMr. Chidley also noted that the FHS Robotics Team won 4 trophies for Engineering and that there were 35 students who participated this year.

- **CABE Student Leadership Award Recipients** – Dr. Graner and Mrs. Watson presented a certificate to the CABE Student Leadership Award recipients:
 - Simon Chidley (CMS)
 - Railey Ann Westervelt (CMS)
 - Samantha Maiolo (WSM)

B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS – cont.

- Xavion Quito (WSM)
 - Cindy Fan (FHS)
 - Joel Lee (FHS)
- **O’Neill’s 12th Annual Young Playwrights Festival** – Dr. Graner and Mrs. Watson acknowledge the 12th Annual Young Playwrights:
- Grace Clark (FHS)
 - Claire Morgan (FHS)
 - Kate Paecht (CMS)
 - Shane Crespín (WSM)

Mrs. DeSantis gave an overview of what is involved for students to participate in the Young Playwrights Festival.

- **Friends of Education and Support Personnel Awards** – Dr. Graner and Mrs. Watson presented certificates of appreciation to Friends of Education and Support Personnel:

Support Personnel

Mark Russell (CK & CB)
Gail Kelly (CC)
Helen Lake (CMS)
Jason Spangler (FHS)
Cheryl Russell (MM)
Julie Messina (PV)
William Harris (SB)
Klaudija Ljubivic (WSM)

Friends of Education

Oscar Garcia (CK)
Bridget Doyle-Kusy (CB)
Karen Dole (CC)
Amy Mattson (CMS)
Martin Cloudas (FHS)
Carly Fisher (NEA)
Kristen Panse(NEA)
Rebecca Montieth (PV)
Melissa Brookhart (SB)
Rose LaBox (WSM)

- **Citation from the General Assembly** – Senator Somers and Representative de la Cruz presented a citation from the General Assembly to Brian Koehler for his admission to the Coast Guard Academy. He is ranked 7th out of a class of 287.
- **Teacher of the Year and Outstanding Educators** – Dr. Graner and Mrs. Watson presented plaques to the 2017 Outstanding Educators of Groton and Groton’s Teacher of the Year:

Outstanding Educators

Jacquelyn Wilson (SB)
Jennifer Anthony (CK)
Shaun Farquhar (CB)
Laura Hoinsky (MM)

Teacher of the Year

Amy McKenna (FHS)

B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS – cont.

Tara Jones (WSM)
Karen Mitchill (PV)
Brenda Williams (NEA)
Caitlin Miner (CC)
Kevin Mazzearella (CMS)
Amy McKenna (FHS)

C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

The Student Representatives reported:

- Junior Prom was a successful event with a great turnout. The prom was held in the Main hallway of the high school. They received an outpouring of support from restaurants and companies that allowed us to keep cost down, but keep the quality up.
- Final Exams:
 - Wednesday, June 7, 2017 – 1A & 2A (Seniors Only)
 - Friday, June 9, 2017 – 3B & 4B
 - Monday, June 12 – 1B & 2B
 - Tuesday, June 13, 2017 – 3A & 4A
 - Wednesday, June 14, 2017 – 1A & 2A – Make-Up Exams (Seniors Only)
 - Thursday, June 15, 2017 – Make-Up Exams
- Underclassmen Awards will be held on Thursday, June 1, 2017, at 6:30 p.m., in the Fitch High Auditorium.
- Fitch Athletics Awards will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., in the Fitch High Cafeteria.
- Senior Events:
 - Senior Awards and Scholarships – May 23, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.
 - Holiday Hill/Senior Field Day – Thursday, May 28, 2017, from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 - Senior Prom – Saturday, June 3, 2017, from 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the Mystic Marriott.
 - Senior and Faculty Breakfast and Graduation Rehearsal #1 – Thursday, June 15, 2017, from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
 - Graduation Rehearsal #2 – Friday, June 16, 2017, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
 - Graduation – Friday, June 16, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. on the Dorr Field.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

1. **Groton 2020** – Dr. Graner stated that he, Senator Somers and former Representative Winkler went to Hartford today to attempt to get a diversity school status. He noted that we are at the top of the Priority School Construction list. He further noted that CC is out of racial imbalance; the plan for Cutler Middle School renovation is under consideration to be changed from a renovation project to a diversity project; we should know the final outcome by Thursday. Lastly, he noted that he will be attending the Town Council meeting on May 23, 2017 to address the 2020 plan.
2. **FY 18 Budget Update** – Dr. Graner gave an update on the FY 18 budget by noting that the RTM has approved a Board of Education budget in the amount of \$74,900,000. Any adjustment to the budget will be completed by June.

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF

1. **Assistant Superintendent Report [ATTACHMENTS #2]**
Ms. Austin shared a communication being handed out on the closing of Pleasant Valley Elementary School.
2. **Business Office Report [ATTACHMENT #3 & 4]**
Dr. Graner gave an overview of the FY 17 budget summary dated May 10, 2017; the unexpended balance as of that date is \$168,973. Dr. Graner stated that Principals were appreciative of the ability to spend the remaining site budget funds. Dr. Graner gave an overview on the Health Insurance Reserve for the month of March.
3. **Director of Buildings and Grounds Report**
Mr. Kilpatrick reported:
 - That he has a delivery date for the Greenhouse material; the plans have been approved and the permit has been received.
 - That he and Mrs. Gomez are working on transportation; the bus routes have been sent to Future Education; and he and Mrs. Gomez are receiving training.
 - Energy – He noted that we are at the end of the contract for oil and diesel fuel and will be going out to bid.
4. **Director of Human Resources**
Dr. Graner reported that there are 14 more teachers who utilized the retirement incentive in addition to 17 previous retirees. Lastly, he noted that May 26, 2017 is the deadline for Administrators to notify the district of their retirement.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance/Facilities Committee:
There was no report.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

2. Policy Committee:
Mrs. Watson noted that the Policy Committee met and the policies discussed were on the agenda for approval.
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 LEARN Board met on May 11, 2017 and heard from Dr. Tina Mannarino, Director of Young Children, Birth to 3 Years Old. They watched a video entitled, “Circle of Security.” Ms. Austin noted that the plan is to use it on a Professional Development Day. Mrs. Volkmann also noted that Dr. Howley shared that layoff notices to the Professional Staff has gone out. Lastly, Mrs. Volkmann shared that the cost to attend the Friendship School will be \$3,960.
6. Groton Parent Council:
Mr. Weitlauf stated that the Groton Parent Council met on April 26, 2017 and discussed the budget and how to lobby for funds as well as how to attract more attendees to the Groton Parent Council meetings.
7. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee:
Mrs. Watson noted that the Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee will meet on June 7, 2017, at 5:30 p.m., at the School Administration Building, Room 11.
8. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee:
Mrs. Watson noted that the GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee will meet on May 24, 2017, at 4:30 p.m., at Par Four.
9. Groton Scholarship:
Mrs. Watson noted that the Groton Scholarship Awards Ceremony will be May 23, 2017.
10. CABE
There was no report.
11. Trails Liaison:
There was no report.
12. Ad Hoc Middle School Program Review:
There was no report.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the regular minutes of the April 24, 2017 and Special meeting on April 3, 2017, are hereby accepted and approved.

2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS

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

- Morgan Stanley has made a donation of \$500.00 to Cutler Middle School.
- Ledge Light Health District has made a donation of \$500.00 to Claude Chester School through the Outdoor Edible School Garden Mini-Grants.
- Foxwoods Resort Casino has made a donation of \$2,000.00 to the Northeast Academy School for reading.
- YouCause, LLC Trustee for Pfizer Annual Giving Campaign (Susan Poe) has made a donation in the amount of \$122.00 to Charles Barnum School for the Hiking Club.
- Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rousseau have made a donation of \$1,000.00 to the Fitch High School Fencing Team.

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

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible action regarding approval as a second reading policy P 5131.6 Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco Products. **[ATTACHMENT #5]**

MOTION: Baker, Weitlauf: To approve as a second reading policy P 5131.6 Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco Products.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS – cont.

MOTION: Watson, Baker: To rescind the previous motion.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

Dr. Ackerman asked that the last two words at the end of the third paragraph be removed.

MOTION: Volkmann, Weitlauf: To approved the second reading of policy P 5131.6 as revised.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

2. Discussion and possible action regarding approval as a second reading policy P 6172.4(a) Title I Parent Involvement. **[ATTACHMENT #6]**

MOTION: Weitlauf, Baker: To approve as a second reading policy P 6172.4(a) Title I Parent Involvement.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

3. Discussion and possible action regarding approval as a second reading policy P 6146.1 (a-c) Examination/Grading. **[ATTACHMENT #7]**

MOTION: Volkmann, Weitlauf: To approve as a second reading policy P 6146.1 (a-c) Examination/Grading as revised.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible action regarding approval as a first reading regulation R 3435 Fraud Prevention and Investigation. **[ATTACHMENT #8]**

MOTION: Baker, Volkmann: To approve as a first reading regulation R 3435 Fraud Prevention and Investigation.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

2. Discussion and possible action regarding approval as a first reading policy P 1331 Smoking in School Facilities. **[ATTACHMENT #9]**

MOTION: Weitlauf, Volkmann: To approve as a first reading policy P 1331 Smoking in School Facilities.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding approval as a first reading policy P 4118.231 Smoking, Drinking, and Use of Drugs on School Premises. **[ATTACHMENT #10]**

MOTION: Volkmann, Weitlauf: To approve as a first reading policy P 4118.231 Smoking, Drinking, and Use of Drugs on School Premises.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

4. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan. **[ATTACHMENT #11]**

MOTION: Volkmann, Weitlauf: To approve the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

5. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the Eastern Point Beach Concession Stand Operation under the direction of the GPS Food Service Department.

MOTION: Watson, Volkmann: To approve the Eastern Point Beach Concession Stand Operation under the direction of the GPS Food Service Department.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Dr. Ackerman noted that two weeks ago she attended Virginia Richard's funeral and she extended her condolences to the family.
2. Mr. Weitlauf thanked all the parents who attended the budget meetings and who lobbied for Groton's budget. He also praised the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan. Lastly, he asked the administration what the estimated cost for legal fees would be to replace the CAFE Policy Audit.
3. Mrs. Volkmann thanked the RTM for restoring some funds to the Board's budget and she noted the importance of the Retirement Reception on June 8, 2017 in light of the retirees who took the retirement incentive.
4. Mrs. Watson noted the Volunteer data for the month of April – 1219.25 volunteer hours and 2015 volunteers.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

Mrs. Watson stated that the June 19 COW would be used as a Board Retreat to discuss the Board Committee structure.

B. Suggested Agenda Items

NONE

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Weitlauf: To adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY