

Groton Board of Education
Special Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2017 @ 5:45 p.m.
Project Oceanology, Room 243

Members Present: Kim Shepardson Watson-Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman-Vice Chairperson, Gary Baker, Katrina Fitzgerald, Rosemary Robertson, Rita Volkmann, Jay Weitlauf, Lee White

Members Absent: Gretchen Newsome

Also Present: Michael Graner, Susan Austin

Chairman Shepardson Watson called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. The Chairman stated that the purpose of the meeting was to conduct a Board retreat.

1. Discussion of the pilot Board Meeting Schedule (January through June 2017) and discussion of the Board Committee Structure

The pilot of 2 COW meetings per month and not holding the Finance/Facilities and the Curriculum Committees was discussed.

A discussion ensued regarding the merits of the Curriculum and Instructional Council. Several Board members think the information regarding curriculum is insufficient for the Board to make proper decisions regarding curriculum. The Board agreed, however, that the meeting schedule of 2 COW meetings per month will continue. The first COW will include the referral items, and the agenda for the second meeting will include at least one hour dedicated to curriculum and instruction and one hour to finance/facilities issues. The structure of the two COW meetings will continue until January 2018.

Mrs. Fitzgerald suggested a budget working group to help with the budget development.

2. Discussion regarding Board of Education relations with other municipal bodies

The Town & City Councils/RTM/BOE Liaison Committee is a very useful group, but it would be beneficial to receive more information regarding Town and City issues. For example, a discussion of how the Town and City view the Groton 2020 plan.

The Board discussed the process for ensuring positive working relations with other municipal leaders. Several suggestions were offered including:

- Inviting Town Council members to the schools and providing school-related information to Town Councilors. For example:
 - Invite the Town Council to Board of Education meetings
 - Sending the Administrative Update to the Town Council
 - Sending the School Matters bulletin to the Town Council

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It was also suggested that the Superintendent set up regular meetings with the new Town Manager, John Burt.

The Board also concluded that a meeting with the Town Council will be scheduled in September before the COW meeting on September 11, 2017 (5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.).

MOTION: Ackerman, White; to adjourn at 8:32 p.m.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY