

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Regular Meeting

July 27, 2015

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on July 27, 2015, in CR 1 of the Town Hall Annex.

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kim Watson, Vice Board Chairperson, at 6:04 p.m.

The first order of business was the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Mrs. Watson.

PRESENT

ABSENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson
Mrs. Rita Volkmann, Vice Chairperson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman
Mrs. Patricia Doyle
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos
Ms. Mary Kelly
Mr. Jay Weitlauf

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Michael Emery, Director of Teaching and Learning
Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Mr. Don Meltabarger, Business Manager

Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil
Personnel Services

Mr. Kevin Lemoi, Director of Technology
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. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

➤ **Update regarding Administrative Hiring**

Dr. Graner introduced Steve Wheeler, Principal of S. B. Butler School. Mr. Wheeler gave a brief overview of his background.

➤ **Update regarding Maritime History Field Trip**

Dr. Graner introduced Jessica Wurzbacher, Joe Geraci, Bruce MacDonald, and B.J. Finnell relative to the Maritime History Field Trip. Ms. Wurzbacher gave an overview of the field trip on a tall ship which will be 5 days in duration September 12-17, 2015 from New London to Newport.

➤ **Update regarding Model Schools Conference**

Mr. Emery and Ms. Austin gave a PowerPoint presentation [ATTACHMENT #1] of the Model Schools Conference they attended with Dr. Graner.

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF

1. Business Manager Report [ATTACHMENTS #2 & 3]

Mr. Meltabarger gave an overview of the final FY 2015 budget summary and the Health Insurance Summary.

2. Director of Buildings and Grounds Report

Mr. Kilpatrick reported:

- Work has been completed on the asbestos project at CB; carpet went in, floors have been stripped and waxed;
- He has asked for an architect to work on the installation of safety boosters at MM;
- MM has low water pressure; will be installing safety booster;
- FHS – new cameras have been installed;
- FHS – sign will be moved by the end of the summer;
- CB – working to replace sign at the drive way;
- CK – requested a new wall;
- NEA – water project: He introduced Shokoofeh Rezazadeh, Planning Engineer, Dr. John McClellan, Engineer with Tighe & Bond, and Judy Simpanen, Operations Manager in the Town of Groton. Ms. Rezazadeh and

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF – cont.

Dr. McClellan gave an overview of the project which included adjustment requested by the Board. He also noted:

- The driving force of the project is the condition of the existing tank which is very poor and fire protection for NEA
- The project will take approximately nine (9) months to complete.

It was the consensus of the Board to move to project forward to the Town Council.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance/Facilities Committee: Mr. Weitlauf stated that the Finance/Facilities Committee met last Monday and voted to forward items 1-6 to the full Board with a deadlock on item 2.
2. Policy Committee: There was no report.
3. Curriculum Committee: There was no report
4. Negotiations Committee: Ms. Kelly stated that the Negotiations Committee met today and set future dates for negotiations on the teachers' contract.
5. LEARN: There was no report.
6. Groton Parent Council: There was no report.
7. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee: There was no report.
8. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee: There was no report.
9. School Facilities Task Force: Mrs. Watson stated that the School Facilities Task Force took a tour of the Merritt property. Mrs. Fitzgerald noted the results of the survey indicated that peoples' main concern was an increase in taxes. Mrs. Gianacoplos stated that she had a call from a community member who had questions which she shared with the Board.
10. Groton Scholarship: There was no report.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the June 22, 2015, with corrections on page 7, are hereby accepted and approved.

2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING WARRANTS

RESOLVED, that the Warrants #2, are hereby accepted and approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Mrs. Volkmann.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE AQUARION WATER TOWER PROJECT

This item was addressed under Reports from Staff.

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ENTERPRISE FUND PERSONNEL:
b. FOOD SERVICES [Attachment #1]

A motion was made by Mr. Weitlauf and seconded by Ms. Kelly to award a 7.5% increase for the Food Services Director

YES – Weitlauf, Kelly, Volkmann, Watson, Gianacoplos, Doyle, Fitzgerald
NO - Ackerman

PASSED

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

c. THE TREE HOUSE PROGRAM

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Dr. Ackerman to award a 2% increase for the Director of the Tree House Program.

YES – Weitlauf, Kelly Volkmann, Watson, Gianacoplos, Ackerman
NO - Fitzgerald
ABSTAINED – Doyle

PASSED

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING AN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE SPECIALIST [ATTACHMENT #4]

Dr. Graner and Mr. Meltabarger gave an overview of the need for an American Sign Language Specialist noted that this is required per the student's IEP.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING AN ADJUSTMENT TO THE APPROVED FY 2016 BUDGET

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Dr. Ackerman to adjust the FY 2016 budget by \$400,000 out of the 201 account.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE REORGANIZATION OF FHS ADMINISTRATION [ATTACHMENT #5]

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Ms. Kelly to accept the proposed reorganization of the FHS administration.

YES – Weitlauf, Kelly, Watson, Gianacoplos, Doyle, Fitzgerald, Ackerman
ABSTAINED – Volkmann

PASSED

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SUPPLEMENTAL IMPACT AID GRANT EXPENDITURE [ATTACHMENT #6]

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. Gianacoplos to approve the proposed Department of Defense Supplemental Impact Aide Grant expenditure as recommended.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING AN APPOINTMENT TO FILL A BOARD OF EDUCATION VACANCY

The Board interviewed Lee White to fill the vacancy on the Board.

A motion was made to accept the Democratic candidate Lee White to fill the vacancy on the Board.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE CONTRACT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Anticipation of going into Executive Session.)

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mrs. Fitzgerald noted her attendance at:
 - a. The School Facilities Task Force Committee meeting;
 - b. The Magnet School Ad Hoc Committee meeting;
 - c. The CABE Conference held today in Old Saybrook.
2. Mrs. Doyle noted that Noank School is completely gone.
3. Mrs. Gianacoplos noted the call from a community member with questions relative the proposed new middle school.
4. Ms. Kelly noted that a conversation with a mother who stated that her child would be going to high school and expressed concerns about drugs at the high school.
5. Mr. Weitlauf noted his attendance at:
 - a. Finance/Facilities Committee meeting;
 - b. The Magnet School Ad Hoc Committee meeting;
 - c. The Negotiations Committee meeting.
6. Mrs. Watson noted that she, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Dr. Graner and Ms. Austin attended a “Shine a Light On Heroin” conference at Fitch High School that was outstanding.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

August 3, 2015 the Magnet School Ad Hoc Committee will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Central Office in Room 5.

B. Suggested Agenda Items

NONE

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

B. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE CONTRACT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Mrs. Volkmann to go into executive session at 8:23 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the contract of the Superintendent of Schools.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

The Superintendent's contract was discussed. No action was taken.

A motion was made by Mrs. Doyle and seconded by Dr. Ackerman to return to Open Session at 8:42 p.m.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Mrs. Volkmann to give the Superintendent 2% raise, increase his vacation days to 25 and extend his contract to June 30, 2018.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

A motion was made by Mr. Weitlauf and seconded by Mrs. Doyle to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY