

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Regular Meeting

August 24, 2015

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on August 24, 2015, in CR 1 of the Town Hall Annex.

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

PRESENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson
Mrs. Rita Volkmann, Vice Chairperson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman
Mrs. Patricia Doyle
Ms. Mary Kelly
Mr. Jay Weitlauf
Mrs. Lee White

ABSENT

Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos

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

Mrs. Watson acknowledged Beth Horler, GEA President.

C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

III. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

➤ **Update on Summer Feeding Program**

Ernie Koschmieder, Food Director, gave an overview of the Summer Feeding Program stating:

- that they have increased to 12 sites this year;
- during the 2014-15 school year, they provided 25,000 meals; for the 2015-16 school year, they provided 29,052 meals;
- he had a call from Senator Courtney who asked to come for a visit of the Groton Public Schools;
- they took in over 1,800 coins from students;
- next year there will be 15 sites;
- there will be a Golf Tournament on September 26, 2015 at the Birch Plans Golf Course with proceeds going to purchase equipment.

➤ **FHS proposed field trip to France**

Mrs. Elizabeth Porter, Social Studies Teacher at FHS, gave an overview of the proposed trip stating:

- They will visit London, Paris and Normandy;
- They will be leaving about June 20, 2016 for 10 days;
- Cost for students is \$3,200 and for parents or chaperone is \$3,565;
- They opened it up to the Freshman class last Friday;
- They will be looking into the students earning credit for the trip.

➤ **Update on staffing**

Ms. Austin reported on staffing as noted on **ATTACHMENT #1**.

➤ **Director of Human Resources Report re: Hiring update**

Ms. Austin gave a hiring update as noted on **ATTACHMENT #2**.

➤ **Update regarding the EL Program**

Ms. Austin gave an overview of the EL Program [**ATTACHMENT #3**].

➤ **Business Manager Report [ATTACHMENTS #4, 5, 6, 7]**

Mr. Meltabarger shared several handouts:

- Health and Life Insurance data
- Enrollment
- Staff new hires

III. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS – cont.

- Redflex – Student Guardian System: Mr. Meltabarger gave an overview of how Redflex works; there is no cost or personnel needs for the Board.

Mr. Meltabarger noted that we will need 10 new paraprofessionals.

Mr. Meltabarger gave an IT update.

- Middle Schools – 108 laptops for teachers; 300 Freshman Chromebooks and cases; 290 Chromebook cases; 144 Chromebooks; 4 interactive projectors.

- **Update regarding the DoDEA (Department of Defense Education Activity)**
Mr. Emery, Mrs. Nelson, and Mrs. Shannon Weigle, NEA Parent and Professional Grant Writer, gave a PowerPoint presentation of the DoDEA Grant [ATTACHMENT #8]. The grant is for 1 million dollars over 5 years.
- **Update regarding the MCEC Conference**
Dr. Graner and Mrs. Watson gave an overview of the people and workshops they attended. They both stated that it was an outstanding conference and, along with Dr. Ackerman, encouraged other Board members to attend in the future.
- **Update regarding the IB Leadership Camp**
Dr. Graner stated that he, Kelly Donovan and 4 students invited 48 students to the Leadership Camp held last week. Dr. Graner gave a brief overview of the camp.
- **Director of Buildings and Grounds Report**
Mr. Kilpatrick reported:
 - The sign at the entrance of FHS is in the process of being installed;
 - CB asbestos project is complete and ahead of schedule;
 - Rooms at CB have been painted; office space has been provided for the Principal and Secretary;
 - Installing white boards throughout the district;
 - CIP needs to be done earlier than last year;
 - He is closing out some grant projects;
 - He thanked his Maintenance staff for their efforts throughout the summer;
 - He noted a Centennial Celebration taking place in the middle of November.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance/Facilities Committee:

Mr. Weitlauf stated that the Finance/Facilities Committee met and discussed the items noted by the Business Manager.

2. Policy Committee: There was no report.

3. Curriculum Committee: There was no report
4. Negotiations Committee: Ms. Kelly stated that the Negotiations Committee will have their first meeting on Wednesday.
5. LEARN: Mrs. Volkmann stated that LEARN met and she had been involved in the hiring of new staff. LEARN will have their next meeting on August 28, 2015.
6. Groton Parent Council: There was no report. Their next meeting will be September 15, 2015 at Mary Morrisson School.
7. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee: There was no report. Their next meeting will be September 2, 2015.
8. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee: There was no report.
9. School Facilities Initiative Task Force: Dr. Ackerman stated that the School Facilities Initiative Task Force met last Thursday. Dr. Ackerman gave an overview of the School Facilities Initiative Task Force Committee. She stated that they have decided and voted to go to one (1) middle school. The vote was unanimous. They will ask for a Referendum in November of 2016.
10. Groton Scholarship: There was no report.
11. Magnet School Ad Hoc: There was no report.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the Special meeting minutes and the Regular meeting minutes of the July 27, 2015 are hereby accepted and approved.

2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING WARRANTS

RESOLVED, that the Warrants #3 & 4, are hereby accepted and approved.

A. CONSENT CALENDAR – cont.

A motion was made by Mrs. Volkmann and seconded by Ms. Kelly.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A SECOND READING OF THE REVISION TO GRADUATION REQUIREMENT POLICY P 6146 [ATTACHMENT #9].

A motion was made by Mrs. Doyle and seconded by Mrs. Volkmann to approve as a second reading the revision to Policy P 6146 Graduation Requirement minus items 2 & 3 on page 4.

**YES – Volkmann, Kelly, Doyle
NO - Weitlauf, Ackerman, Watson, White**

DEFEATED

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. White to approve as a second reading the revision to Policy P 6146 Graduation Requirement as presented.

**YES – Ackerman, White, Weitlauf, Kelly, Doyle, Watson
NO - Volkmann**

PASSED

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE GEED PLAN [ATTACHMENT #10].

A motion was made by Mrs. Volkmann and seconded by Mrs. White to approve the GEED Plan as presented.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING REVISION OF THE 2015-2016 CALENDAR (RESCHEDULING OF THE SPRING CONFERENCES) [ATTACHMENT #11].

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. Doyle to approve the revision of the 2015-2016 Calendar (rescheduling of the Spring Conferences) as presented.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mr. Weitlauf noted that he attended the CMS orientation.
2. Ms. Kelly noted:
 - a. That a friend who is moving into the district was very impressed with the service they received when registering their child.
 - b. She noted that a charitable event was held in the parking lot of FHS last Sunday and asked if they had followed the Use of Facilities policy. Mr. Kilpatrick stated that this group has held an event in the parking lot in past years.
3. Mrs. Volkmann congratulated the staff and the Central Office staff for the Convocation held today. She stated that it was outstanding.
4. Mrs. Watson also congratulated the staff and the Central Office staff for the Convocation held today.
5. Mrs. Doyle noted an e-mail from a parent regarding busing that she forwarded to the appropriate Central Office Administrator.
6. Dr. Ackerman stated that she also attended the Convocation and the CMS orientation. She thanked the custodians at each location for their efforts.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

Mrs. Watson noted that the September COW meeting has been moved to the 15th at Charles Barnum.

Mrs. Watson noted that there will be a Joint meeting of the Town Council/RTM/BOE on September 9, 2015.

B. Suggested Agenda Items

Mrs. Watson stated that the Meeting Template should be an agenda item for the next COW.

Mrs. Watson stated that items from the Groton Yardstick and the assessment calendar should be included on further COW agendas.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Volkmann and seconded by Dr. Ackerman to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY