

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

**Regular Meeting**

**September 28, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on September 28, 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. Nelson.

**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  
Mrs. Lee White

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  
Mr. Jacob Carlson, Student Representative

Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil  
Personnel Services

Mr. Kevin Lemoi, Director of Technology  
Services

Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human  
Resources

Miss Mackenzie Lyons, Student  
Representative

**B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS**

NONE

**C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

NONE

**II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

NONE

**III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

The student representative reported:

- PSATs will be held on October 14, 2015;
- Spirit Week – October 19-23, 2015:
  - Pep Rally on October 23, 2015
  - Homecoming Praise, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
  - Homecoming Football Game with Bacon Academy at 6:30 p.m.
  - Homecoming Dance October 24, 2015, 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- He was among those who met with Senator Joe Courtney regarding the cafeteria and related matters;
- Over 500 parents attended the Open House on September 19, 2015;
- New common initiative with South Carolina.

**IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

- **Update regarding the proposed 2016-2017 School Calendar**  
Dr. Graner shared the proposed regional calendar for 2016-2017 [ATTACHMENT #1] for the Board to review. It was suggested that the April vacation for Groton occur the week of April 9, 2017.
- **Review of the COW/BOE Meeting Template**  
Dr. Graner reviewed the COW/BOE Meeting Template with the Board. Adjustments were made.
- **Review of the District, Magnet Schools, Special Education Enrollment**  
Dr. Graner and Ms. Austin stated that they are waiting for October 1<sup>st</sup> for more accurate numbers.

**IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS – cont.**

➤ **Update regarding DoDE Grant – Literacy Enrichment Program**

Mrs. Nelson gave an overview of the progress to date. She stated that the first session was held last Wednesday. Principals will be working with teachers on Friday. Mrs. Nelson shared the schedule of workshops for the teachers. [ATTACHMENT #2]

➤ **SBAC Results**

Mr. Emery stated that he and Ms. Davis have trained one member from each of the 9 schools; by Friday their data on their students will be in their hands.

**A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF**

**1. Business Manager Report**

Mr. Meltabarger shared the Health Insurance Summary [ATTACHMENT #3] and enrollment for the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year [ATTACHMENT #4].

**2. Director of Buildings and Grounds Report**

Mr. Kilpatrick reported:

- Note that he will close-out of the CMS temporary classroom project by the end of the week;
- FSH Sign – He noted that the cost to repair the sign is \$11,500; to replace the sign, the cost from the same company is \$12,000;
  - the sign was bought in 2004;
  - the life span of LED signs is 10 years;
  - the sign wasn't working when it was first moved; they were able to work on it to make adjustments and had it working for a couple of weeks; then when they changed the message, it broke again
- Merritt House – He is working with the Town Manager regarding its use for one of the special education programs – students ages 18-21;
- Robotics – There was a tour of the FHS a couple of weeks ago with the Town Manager and Gary Schneider; some space was found near the Wood Shop area;
- All Key Fobs have been issued to the Town and City Policy for an emergency situation;
- He had a request from a citizen regarding the back stairs at MM; the citizen wants a ramp installed at the back of the building and stated that she would start a petition to get the ramp;

**2. Director of Buildings and Grounds Report – cont.**

- Moisture repairs at FHS – Leaks were noticed in the upper portion of the new addition and it was suggested to use block sealer for the leaks. He stated that he is trying to eliminate potential problems and the next step is to add flashing.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Finance/Facilities Committee: Mr. Weitlauf stated that the Finance/Facilities Committee met on September 21, 2015 and discussed the CIP plan, tuition rates, and the budget timeline.
2. Policy Committee: There was no report. The Policy Committee will meet October 5, 2015.
3. Curriculum Committee: There was no report. The Curriculum Committee will meet on October 5, 2015.
4. Negotiations Committee: Ms. Kelly stated that the Negotiations Committee have concluded negotiations of the GEA agreement.
5. LEARN: Mrs. Volkmann stated that LEARN held an Executive Board meeting and that LEARN will meet on October 8, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. She stated that they will have a report from the Superintendent of New London Public Schools at the next LEARN meeting.
6. Groton Parent Council: Mrs. Fitzgerald stated that the Groton Parent Council met last week and that Mr. John Heller came with the School Facilities Task Force plan. The next meeting of the Groton Parent Council will be in November.
7. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee: Mrs. Fitzgerald stated that the Town & City Councils/RTM/Board of Education Liaison Committee met and discussed FMS use, education cost sharing, IDEA grant, civilians in Navy Housing, and cameras on the buses.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.**

8. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee:  
Mrs. Gianacoplos stated that the BOE/AGSA/GEA Liaison Committee will meet on October 28, 2015, at 4:30 p.m., at the Central Office in Room 19.
9. School Facilities Initiative Task Force:  
Dr. Ackerman stated that the School Facilities Initiative Task Force met; however, they did not have a quorum. Those in attendance received a historic perspective.
10. Groton Scholarship:  
There was no report. Ms. Kelly stated that the Groton Scholarship Fund will meet on October 15, 2015.
11. Magnet School Ad Hoc:  
Mrs. Fitzgerald stated the Magnet School Ad Hoc Committee met and discussed grant possibilities, committee expansion; Mr. Esposito and Mrs. Dauphinais were in attendance; changing NEA to an Arts Magnet School; Mrs. Dauphinais shared what's going on at CK.

**V. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the Regular meeting minutes of the August 24, 2015 with corrections to page 4, item #9 with the removal of the sentences, *“She stated that they have decided and voted to go to one (1) middle school. The vote was unanimous.”*, are hereby accepted and approved.

**2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING WARRANTS**

RESOLVED, that the Warrants #5, are hereby accepted and approved.

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

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

**B. OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. RESOLUTION OF CUSTODIAL WORKERS RECOGNITION DAY**

WHEREAS, Custodial workers and maintenance men provide service in multiple settings for the upkeep of the Groton Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, the support and services provided by custodial workers and the maintenance department are integral to the continued upkeep of our school facilities; and therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools, recognize the many contributions of the custodial workers and the maintenance department and acknowledges October 2, 2015 as Custodial Workers Recognition Day.

A motion was made by Mrs. Volkmann and seconded by Mrs. Gianacoplos to approve the resolution for Custodial Workers Recognition Day.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING EXPANSION OF PRE-SCHOOL SPEECH PATHOLOGIST (.4 FTE)**

A motion was made by Mrs. Volkmann and seconded by Mrs. White to approve the expansion of the Pre-School Speech Pathologist position (.4 FTE).

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL OF GRANT WRITER POSITION**

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. White to approve the Freelance Grant Writer position with amendments to the job description.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

C. **NEW BUSINESS** – cont.

4. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF AD HOC COMMITTEES:**

1. **Revision of the Groton Yardstick**
2. **Superintendent's Evaluation**

Mrs. Watson asked for volunteers to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee to make revisions to the Groton Yardstick. Mrs. Gianacoplos, Mr. Weitlauf, Mrs. Volkmann, and Ms. Austin volunteered to serve.

Mrs. Watson asked for volunteers to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee regarding the Superintendent's evaluation. Mrs. Watson, Ms. Kelly, Dr. Ackerman, and Mrs. Fitzgerald volunteered to serve.

5. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF THE 2015-2016 TUITION RATES [ATTACHMENT #5]**

A motion was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mrs. White to approve the 2015-2016 Tuition Rates.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

6. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS FOR 2015-2016**

A motion was made by Mrs. Doyle and seconded by Mrs. White to approve the 2015-2016 Board of Education Goals.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

7. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MISSION STATEMENT FOR 2015- 2016**

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Ms. Kelly to approve the 2015-2016 Mission Statement.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

8. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE PARTICIPATION OF NORWICH STUDENTS ON FHS ATHLETIC TEAMS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Groton Board of Education approves the request from Norwich and Preston Public Schools who attend the Marine Science Magnet School to allow the participation at Fitch High School for sports and to review the request again in August 2016.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Ms. Kelly to approved the motion.

A motion was made by Mr. Weitlauf and second by Mrs. Gianacoplos to table this motion until October.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Mrs. Volkmann to amend the motion to read:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Groton Board of Education approves the request from Norwich Public Schools to allow a student who attends Three Rivers Middle College to participate in Football, if the student qualifies, at Fitch High School for sports.

**YES – Weitlauf, Kelly, White, Volkmann, Watson, Gianacoplos, Doyle, Fitzgerald**

**NO - Ackerman**

**PASSED**

Mrs. Fitzgerald made a referral for the development of a policy for non-Groton students to participate in sports at FHS.

9. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE ALLOCATION OF \$50,000 FROM THE DoD SUPPLEMENTAL IMPACT AID GRANT FOR THE PURCHASE OF 20 PROMETHEAN BOARDS**



**C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.**

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Mrs. White to approve the allocation of \$50,000 from the DoD Supplemental Impact Aid Grant for the purchase of 20 Promethean Boards.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF THE FY 2017 CIP PLAN AS A DRAFT AND THEN FORWARDING IT TO THE TOWN COUNCIL [ATTACHMENT #6]**

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to approve the FY 2017 CIP Plan with corrections and then forward it to the Town Council.

A motion was made by Mr. Weitlauf and seconded by Mrs. Gianacoplos to amend the motion to change CK and NEA to priority 1.

**VOTE ON MOTIONS:**

**AMENDMENT: YES – Weitlauf, Kelly, White, Gianacoplos, Doyle,  
Fitzgerald**

**NO - Volkmann, Watson**

**ABSTAINED – Ackerman**

**PASSED**

**MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED:**

**YES – Weitlauf, Kelly, White, Watson, Gianacoplos,  
Ackerman, Doyle, Fitzgerald**

**ABSTAINED – Volkmann**

**PASSED**

**VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

**A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS**

1. Mrs. Fitzgerald noted:

- She received a complaint regarding garbage and a tree at the back of SB and that the sliding gate doesn't close;

**A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS – cont.**

- She shared an the article on NEA that was feature in the Connecticut Family Magazine Writing project;
  - She attended Finance/Facilities meeting, Magnet Ad Hoc Committee meeting, Town Council/BOE Liaison Committee meeting, Town Council Joint meeting, and the FHS Band Home Show.
2. Mrs. Doyle noted a call regarding transportation that she forwarded to the appropriate Central Office Administrator.
  3. Dr. Ackerman noted the FHS winner of the Martin Luther King Scholarship, Kiana Foster-Mauro. She noted that the Martin Luther King dinner is October 15, 2015.
  4. Mr. Weitlauf noted:
    - That he attended the Finance/Facilities Committee meeting;
    - That he attended the Marching Band Competition.
  5. Ms. Kelly noted that she attended the Marching Band Competition.
  6. Mrs. Volkmann noted:
    - That she received an e-mail from a citizen who saw the test scores in the newspaper and had questions;
    - That she received an e-mail regarding the Town Council and the Stonington Institute going into an agreement relative to building a 190 bed facility at the bottom of the driveway at CK. She asked Dr. Graner to look into this issue.
  7. Mrs. Watson noted:
    - That she attend the FHS Marching Board Home Show;
    - That she attend Town meetings and the Facility meeting.

**VII. ADVANCE PLANNING**

**A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items**

As noted in the agenda.

October 28, 2015      BOE/AGSA/GEA Liaison Committee meeting  
Take the Groton Parent Council off the Board calendar.  
October 15, 2015      Martin Luther King Dinner

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. Fitzgerald requested discussion of the School Climate Report and an update regarding cameras on the buses.

**Regular Meeting**

September 28, 2015  
Page 11

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. Doyle to adjourn at 8:41 p.m.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**