

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Regular Meeting

October 26, 2015

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on October 26, 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 Miss Mackenzie Lyons.

PRESENT

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

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Mr. Michael Emery, Director of Teaching and Learning
Mr. Don Meltabarger, Business Manager
Mr. Jacob Carlson, Student Representative
Miss Mackenzie Lyons, Student Representative

ABSENT

Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos

Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Kevin Lemoi, Director of Technology Services

Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds

Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human Resources

B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS

Dr. Ackerman introduced the winner of the Martin Luther King Scholarship, Kiana Foster-Mauro.

C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

1. Mrs. Natalie Buford Billings, 15 Ashby Street, who shared her concern with the proposed MOU for the Norwich student to participate in sports at FHS. **[ATTACHMENT #1]**
2. Mrs. Beth Horler, GEA President, who thanked the Board Negotiations Committee for their efforts in negotiating a successor agreement with the GEA. Mrs. Horler also gave a “thumbs up” to Amy Murphy for the Teaching and Learning Workshop held at MM today. Mrs. Horler further suggested that the efforts of teachers throughout the district should be recognized more often.

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Mrs. Fitzgerald asked a clarifying question stating that the MOU was for informational purposes only.

III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

The student representatives reported:

- First Spirit Week activities:
 - Homecoming Game held last Friday
 - Collection of Food, Books, personal hygiene items, and clothes for the needy
 - First Pep Rally held last Friday
- Homecoming was held on October 24, 2015 and 170 people attended
- Unified Soccer Day went very well

IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- **November 3, 2015 Regional PD [ATTACHMENT #2]**

Mr. Emery and Dr. Graner gave an overview of the activities scheduled for the November 3, 2015 Regional Professional Development day.

- **Update regarding District Technology**

Dr. Graner gave a District Technology update:

- Running into problems regarding the replacement of printers, i.e. 17 color and 303 black;
- Technicians are going around teacher to teacher hooking up printers;

IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS – cont.

- Promethean Boards are ordered;
- WiFi problems in some cases are a bit confusing;
- Laptops are being rolled out to teachers;
- ST Math has been instituted; however, Chrome Books are a problem.

➤ **Special Education Budget Update**

Mr. Meltabarger reported:

- That most bills are in;
- Tuitions are in good shape;
- Support Account;
- Hiring Account;
- Severance Pay;
- Health Insurance Report; [ATTACHMENT #3]
- Budget Planning Schedule [ATTACHMENT #4] – The Board suggested that the January 19, 2016 meeting be a joint meeting with the Town Council.

➤ **Norwich MOU**

Dr. Graner gave an overview of the purposed MOU. He stated that he had checked with the Board's Attorney and CIAC.

It was the consensus of the Board not to go forward with the MOU.

This item will be removed from the Referral List.

➤ **Update regarding policy P 1330 Use of Facilities Regulations [ATTACHMENT #5]**

Dr. Graner shared a copy of the Use of Facilities Regulations which included a fee chart.

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF

1. **Business Manager Report**
2. **Director of Buildings and Grounds Report**
3. **Director of Teaching and Learning Report [ATTACHMENT #6]**

Mr. Emery gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Writers Workshop, Teachers College visit and NCTM.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance/Facilities Committee:
Mr. Weitlauf stated that the Finance/Facilities Committee met on October 19, 2015 and discussed savings in the current year, salary account, upcoming Emergency Drill, an additional FTE for a special education position, roofing repairs, and timeline for the budget.
2. Policy Committee:
Mrs. Doyle stated that the Policy Committee met on October 5, 2015 and discussed several items which were on the agenda for approval.
3. Curriculum Committee:
There was no report. The Curriculum Committee will meet on November 16, 2015.
4. Negotiations Committee:
Mrs. Watson thanked the Negotiations Committee their efforts in negotiating a successor GEA agreement.
5. LEARN:
Mrs. Volkmann stated that LEARN met and Doreen Marvin, Director of Development, facilitated a Focus Group; they had a report from the Auditors for LEARN. Mrs. Volkmann asked the administration if FHS had a Citizenship Course.
6. Groton Parent Council:
Mrs. Fitzgerald stated that the Groton Parent Council's next meeting will be November 10, 2015.
7. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee:
Ms. Kelly stated that the Town & City Councils/RTM/Board of Education Liaison Committee met on October 7, 2015 and discussed the renovation of FMS at a cost of \$15-18 million dollars; budget; an alternative was suggested of a building across the street – should be consider for purchasing – this was a discussion item only, the committee was forewarned that the 2017-2018 budget would be cumulative 7% and approximately 11% the following year; Dr. Graner had stated that Groton has been dealing with Racial Imbalance for years and that he was going to ask for special legislature to deal with this issue; Year of the Navy; Grant Writer; school buses and cameras.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

8. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee:
There was no report. The next 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 continued the discussion of pursuing reimbursement and downsizing the membership by not filling the positions of those who step down from the committee. The next meeting will be November 12, 2015. Dr. Graner stated that Representative John Scott and Aundre Bumgardner will be in attendance.
10. Groton Scholarship:
Ms. Kelly stated that the Groton Scholarship Fund met on October 15, 2015. She noted that there were two new officers and two new members. She further noted that last year 92 students received scholarships in the amount of \$57,675.
11. Magnet School Ad Hoc:
Mrs. Fitzgerald stated the Magnet School Ad Hoc Committee met on October 13, 2015 and discussed the MSP Grant, ways and why parents are sending their students to Magnet Schools, and survey for staff. The next meeting of the Magnet School Ad Hoc Committee will be November 2, 2015.
12. Yardstick Ad Hoc:
There was no report. Mrs. Volkmann stated that the Yardstick Ad Hoc Committee would be meeting on November 5 and 12, 2015.
13. Supt. 360° Review Ad Hoc:
Mrs. Watson stated that the Supt. 360° Review Ad Hoc Committee has held one meeting to date.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the Regular meeting minutes of the September 28, 2015, are hereby accepted and approved.

2. **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING WARRANTS**

RESOLVED, that the Warrants #8, are hereby accepted and approved.

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

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ACCEPTANCE OF THE GROTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION GRANT**

This item was tabled.

2. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ADOPTION OF THE 2015-2016 BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS [ATTACHMENT #6]**

A motion was made by Mrs. White and seconded by Ms. Kelly to approve the 2015-2016 Board of Education Meeting Schedule.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

3. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL OF REVISION TO POLICY P 5141.3 HEALTH AND ASSESSMENT AND IMMUNIZATIONS AS A FIRST READING [ATTACHMENT #7]**

A motion was made by Mrs. Doyle and seconded by Mrs. Volkmann to approve revision to policy P 5141.3 Health and Assessment and Immunizations as a first reading.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

4. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL OF REVISION TO POLICY P 5141.21 ADMINISTERING MEDICATION AS A FIRST READING [ATTACHMENT #8]**

A motion was made by Mrs. White and seconded by Ms. Kelly to approve revision to policy P 5141.21 Administering Medication as a first reading.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

5. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL OF POLICY P 5146 POLICE IN THE SCHOOLS AS A FIRST READING [ATTACHMENT #9]**

A motion was made by Ms. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. White to approve policy P 5146 Policy in the Schools as a first reading and to forward it back to the Policy Committee to change the title of the policy and address concerns noted by Board members.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

6. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL OF REVISION TO POLICY P 3326 PAYING FOR GOODS AND SERVICES AS A FIRST READING [ATTACHMENT #10]**

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to approve revision to policy P 3326 Paying for Goods and Services as a first reading.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR [ATTACHMENT #11]

A motion was made by Ms. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. White to approve the 2016-2017 School Calendar as presented.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF THE CLASS SIZE PARAMETERS

This item was tabled to the November 9, 2015 COW meeting.

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE HIRING OF AN ADDITIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. Volkmann to approve the hiring of an additional Special Education Teacher.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING RATIFICATION OF THE GEA CONTRACT

A motion was made by Mrs. Volkmann and seconded by Mrs. White to ratify the GEA Contract.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mr. Weitlauf stated that he attended the Teaching and Learning Forum today.
2. Mrs. White stated that she attended the Martin Luther King Scholarship Dinner along with other Board members and it was outstanding.
3. Ms. Kelly stated that she also attended the Martin Luther King Scholarship Dinner along with other Board members and it was outstanding.
4. Mrs. Volkmann stated that she was contacted by a Kindergarten parent from SBB who was impressed with the quality of learning received by her Kindergartener.

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS – cont.

5. Dr. Ackerman thanked the Board members for their comments on the Martin Luther King Scholarship Dinner. Dr. Ackerman noted that she attended the:
 - Columbia University workshop with a group of teachers;
 - Presentation on grammar at Columbia University and it was outstanding;
 - She would be attending the November 3, 2015 presentation on grammar.

6. Mrs. Fitzgerald that she attended:
 - Policy Committee meeting on October 5, 2015
 - Town & City Councils/RTM/BOE Liaison meeting on October 7, 2015
 - School Facilities Task Force meeting on October 8, 2015
 - Magnet Ad Hoc and the Supt. 360° Review Ad Hoc meetings on October 13, 2015

7. Mrs. Watson stated that she also attended the Teaching and Learning Forum.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

B. Suggested Agenda Items

Mrs. Watson requested discussion at a COW or Regular BOE meeting regarding blending like services with the Town and Marketing of Groton.

Mrs. Fitzgerald requested discussion at a COW meeting regarding paying for students going to championship competitions.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Doyle and seconded by Mrs. Volkmann to adjourn at 8:57 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY