

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Committee of the Whole

November 9, 2015

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Groton Board of Education was held on November 9, 2015 in library of Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Rita Volkmann, Board Vice Chairperson, at 6:10 p.m.

PRESENT

Mrs. Rita Volkmann, Vice Chairperson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos
Ms. Mary Kelly
Mr. Jay Weitlauf
Mrs. Lee White

Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Terry Henkle, Science Coordinator
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome, Guest
Mr. Larry Croxton, GEA Vice President

ABSENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson
Mrs. Patricia Doyle

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of
Schools

1. Approval of minutes of October 13, 2015

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. White to approve the minutes of October 13, 2015.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

3. Update regarding Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) ATTACHMENT #1]

Mr. Henkle gave an overview of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). He noted that the new Science assessment will roll out in 2019-2020.

4. Magnet School Ad Hoc Committee Update [ATTACHMENT #2 & 3]

Mrs. Fitzgerald gave an overview of the work of the Magnet School Ad Hoc Committee to date. She stated that the committee:

- Have been meeting, discussing, researching Magnet Programs
- Mr. Esposito stated that he is ready to roll out the Arts Magnet School concept in September at NEA
- Grants are being pursued.

Mrs. Fitzgerald stated that the next step is to get parent involvement and Science teacher involvement and expand the committee.

5. Discussion of Class Size Guidelines

The Board discussed the draft Class Size Guidelines. Mrs. Volkmann shared a 2013-2014 Class Size Parameters.

It was the consensus of the Board to separate the grades accordingly:

K-1	20
2-3	23
4-12	25

The Board requested enrollment for the Middle and High School levels of classes with less than an enrollment of less than 15.

This item will be placed on the November 23, 2015 agenda.

6. Review of the reformatted Meeting Template

Board members stated that they like the new format. They added for November – review of the Financial Audit Report and for August – Safe School Climate Survey Results.

7. Discussion of the proposed Unified Sports Program [ATTACHMENT #4]

Ms. Austin reviewed the proposed Unified Sports Program.

The Board requested that all cost be itemized at the bottom of the proposal and that this item be placed on the November 23, 2015 agenda.

8. Discussion regarding funding of extra curriculum activities [ATTACHMENT #5]

Ms. Austin reviewed the funding of extra curriculum activities.

The consensus of the Board was to refer R2015-28 Discussion of the equitable distribution of funds for groups that need travel funds to the Policy Committee.

9. Review of Referral List

The Board reviewed the Referral List.

Mrs. Volkmann made referrals to COW:

- How to get Board meetings widely broadcast
- Discussion of a draft letter to the Town Manager requesting that future voting be moved from FHS back to the Town Annex due to parking issues.

It was the consensus of the Board to put the approval of the draft letter to the Town Manager requesting that future voting be moved from FHS back to the Town Annex due to parking issues on the November 23, 2015 agenda.

10. Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Ackermann and seconded by Ms. Kelly to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY