

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

**Regular Meeting**

**December 14, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on December 14, 2015, in Room 11 of the School Administration Building.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk, at 6:05 p.m.

**PRESENT**

**ABSENT**

Mrs. Kim Shepardson  
Dr. Andrea Ackerman  
Mr. Gary Baker  
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald  
Ms. Mary Kelly  
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome  
Mrs. Rita Volkmann  
Mrs. Lee White  
Mr. Jay Weitlauf

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent  
Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil Personnel Services  
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. Laurie LePine, Director of Human  
Resources

Miss Mackenzie Lyons, Student  
Representative

Mrs. Moukawsher swore in the newly elected Board members – G. Newsome, R. Volkmann, K. Watson, K. Fitzgerald, and G. Baker.

Mrs. Moukawsher asked for nominations to fill the 2 vacancies on the Board.

- Ms. Kelly nominated Lee White.
- Mr. Baker nominated Jay Weitlauf.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

Mrs. Moukawsher swore in Lee White and Jay Weitlauf to fill the 2 vacancies on the Board.

Mrs. Moukawsher asked for a motion to temporarily approve the adopted Rules of Procedures of the Board of Education.

A motion was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald and seconded by Ms. Kelly to approve the adopted Rules of Procedures of the Board of Education.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

Mrs. Moukawsher asked for nominations for the position of Board Chairperson.

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. White to nominate Kim Watson as Board Chairperson.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

Mrs. Watson asked for nominations for the position of Board Vice Chairperson.

A motion was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mrs. White to nominate Andrea Ackerman as Board Vice Chairperson.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

The first order of business was the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Jacob Carlson.

**B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS**

Mrs. Sharon Shick gave an overview of the Mentor Program noting the addition of special education students to the program using UCONN Avery Point students. She explained how the program works. She further explained that Lori Secchiaroli worked very hard to get interns to also act as mentors. She noted that there were 4 at CK, 3 at CMS, and 3 at FHS.

**C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

NONE

## **II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

NONE

## **III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

The student representative reported:

- The scare incurred last Friday noting that the students were impressed with the response from the administration;
- The Freshman class is having a butter braid fundraiser; the Sophomore class are selling class shirts and sweat shirts; the Junior class are having a Santa's Breakfast fundraiser; and the Senior class are gift wrapping; selling class shirts and planning a winter ball in February;
- The high school is facing mid-terms.

## **IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

### ➤ **USDA Award – Ernie Koschmieder**

Mr. Koschmieder stated that he applied for and won the Bronze Level in the Healthy U.S. Challenge on behalf of the Groton Public Schools. He noted that each school would receive \$500.00. He further highlighted the various activities he participated in through this process. Lastly, he stated the need for a processing kitchen on the shoreline. Presently, New London, Norwich, and Groton are utilizing a processing kitchen located in Norwich.

### ➤ **Update regarding the DoDEA Grant – Valerie Nelson [ATTACHMENT #1]**

Mrs. Nelson gave a PowerPoint presentation of the \$983,000 5 year grant and explained the process.

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

### **1. Assistant Superintendent Report**

#### **• Technology Update**

Ms. Austin stated that the committee had 9 candidates and have selected 4 candidates to go to the second round for the position of Director of Technology Services.

Ms. Austin stated that printers are being put into the schools and the laptops are in the hands of middle school teachers

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

**2. Director of Teaching and Learning Report**

- **Literacy Assessment [ATTACHMENTS #2, 3, 4]**

Mrs. Davis gave an overview of the Literacy Assessments.

Mrs. Davis stated that the first round of the L. A. Tasks have been given.

**3. Business Manager Report [ATTACHMENTS #5, 6, 7]**

- Mr. Meltabarger gave an overview of the Budget Summary dated November 30, 2015; the Enrollment Update dated November 30, 2015; and the Special Education Placements Summary.

**4. Director of Buildings and Grounds Report [ATTACHMENT 8]**

- Mr. Kilpatrick stated that painting and flooring will be done during the winter break at the elementary level.
- CMS Traffic Issue – Mr. Kilpatrick stated that the CMS traffic issue has been resolved.
- NEA Water Tower Project – He noted the schedule for construction; the actual start time of the project is June 7, 2015 and will be completed by June 7, 2016; and he noted the changes to the original plan.

**5. Director of Pupil Personnel Services [ATTACHMENT #9, 10]**

- Mrs. Doolittle gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the additional School Social Workers and their benefits to the district.
- Mrs. Doolittle noted a grant through the efforts of Miranda Chapman entitled Military and Family Life Counselors (MFLC).
- Mrs. Doolittle gave a brief overview of the Restorative Justice Program.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Finance/Facilities Committee: There was no report.
2. Policy Committee: There was no report.
3. Curriculum Committee: There was no report.
4. Negotiations Committee: There was no report.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.**

5. LEARN: Mrs. Volkmann stated that LEARN met and that Manny Rivera, New London Public School Superintendent, reviewed the strategic plans and Magnet Pathways that are being developed.
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 Initiative Task Force: There was no report. They will not be meeting until February.
10. Groton Scholarship: Ms. Kelly stated that the Groton Scholarship Fund met and they are working on the letters that will be going out.
11. Magnet School Ad Hoc: There was no report.
12. Supt. 360° Review Ad Hoc: There was no report.

**V. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the Special Meeting of November 16, 2016 and the Regular meeting minutes of the November 23, 2015, are hereby accepted and approved.

**A. CONSENT CALENDAR – cont.**

**2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS**

- Robert and Kristin Fairbank have made a donation of \$500.00 to the FHS Fencing Team.

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

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

**B. OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL OF THE CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE FOR THE NEA WATER TOWER PROJECT [ATTACHMENT #8]**

A motion was made by Mrs. Watson and seconded by Ms. Kelly to approve the construction schedule for the NEA Water Tower Project as presented.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**2. REPORT OF THE AD HOC MAGNET SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

This item was tabled until the Committee is able to meet.

**VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

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

1. Mrs. Newsome noted a parent concern with the math program at the elementary level.
2. Ms. Kelly asked what the district is doing about the students who did poorly on the state test and how is the intervention working. This item will be discussed at a COW meeting.
3. Mr. Weitlauf noted an e-mail from a parent.
4. Dr. Ackerman commented on concern regarding a social gap that should be an exclusion gap. She further asked what does the SBAC test look like. This item will be discussed at a COW meeting.

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

- Dr. Ackerman made a referral to the COW to have another discussion regarding Data Teams.
5. Mrs. Watson noted that she and Mrs. Fitzgerald attended the Open House for Robotics and then attended the Drama production.

**VII. ADVANCE PLANNING**

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

As noted in the agenda.

Mrs. Watson noted the upcoming Budget meetings; Jan. 19, 2016 Joint Meeting with the Town Council; and Dec. 15, 2015 FOI workshop at the Town Hall Annex at 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Volkmann suggested that the Board could have their own FOI workshop. Dr. Graner will be scheduling an FOI workshop for the Board after the budget process is complete.

**B. Suggested Agenda Items**

Mrs. Volkmann made a referral regarding paraprofessionals concerning how to attract and retain them as well as their salaries. She also suggested a salary comparison survey be conducted with area Towns.

Mrs. Fitzgerald made a referral to Policy regarding an IT Communication Policy.

Mrs. Fitzgerald made a referral to COW to discuss offerings at the middle schools and their enrollment with an explanation as to why they are different.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. Volkmann to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**