

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Committee of the Whole

January 11, 2016

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Groton Board of Education was held on January 11, 2016 in Room 11 of the School Administration Building.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kim Watson, Board Chairperson, at 6:08 p.m.

PRESENT

ABSENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman, Vice Chairperson
Mr. Gary Baker
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Ms. Mary Kelly
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome
Mrs. Rita Volkmann
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. Don Meltabarger, Business Manager
Mr. Dennis Colclough, Director of Technology Services
Mrs. Christine Dauphinais, Principal, Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School
Mr. Paul Esposito, Principal, Northeast Academy School
Mrs. Shannon Weigle, Grant Writer

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 9, 2015

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. White to approve the minutes of November 9, 2015.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

Dr. Graner introduced the new Director of Technology Services, Dennis Colclough, and noted his background.

Mrs. Watson noted the January 19, 2016 joint meeting with the Town Council and asked the Board for items they would like to address with the Town Council regarding the budget:

- Details of School Choice and the proposed NEA Arts Magnet School;
- Collaboration regarding the budget;
- Possible collaboration on a joint Town/Board of Education marketing position.

3. MAGNET SCHOOL AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE

Dr. Graner gave an overview of the minutes of the last meeting (December 21, 2015) of the Magnet School Ad Hoc Committee and the survey results. Mrs. Weigle gave an overview of the survey responses. She noted that there were 750 responses.

Mr. Esposito gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the proposed NEA Arts Magnet School noting what would be needed for next year. **[ATTACHMENT #1 & 2]**

Dr. Graner addressed the financial aspect of initiating a magnet performing arts program at Northeast Academy.

Mrs. Fitzgerald stated that the next step would be to make sure that the cost needed for NEA and CK Magnet Schools are in the budget.

Dr. Graner noted that Mrs. Weigle is working on applying for a grant to operate both middle schools as intra-district magnet schools.

Dr. Ackerman asked what exactly is needed at CK so that the Board could support them.

4. CONTINUE REVIEW OF THE 2016-2017 PROPOSED BUDGET

Mr. Meltabarger presented the Board with replacement pages to the budget.

Dr. Graner and the Board held an intensive review and discussion of the proposed 2016-2017 budget.

Mrs. Volkmann suggested a budget brochure be developed to hand out to parents and the community.

The Board decided by consensus to have a budget Worksession after the Joint Meeting with the Town Council on January 19, 2016 beginning a 7:00 p.m.

5. REVIEW OF REFERRAL LIST

The Board reviewed the Referral List.

Mrs. Volkmann made a referral to the Curriculum Committee regarding the status of Computer Coding at the middle and high school levels.

Ms. Kelly made a referral to the Policy Committee for a review of the Board of Education policies and procedures.

Mrs. Watson made a referral to the COW regarding Title I, II, and III and what it will mean to the Board's budget.

Mrs. Watson also made a referral to the Finance Committee for a review of savings around the current year.

Dr. Ackerman made a request to have R2015-47 regarding Data Teams be placed on the next COW agenda.

Ms. Kelly made a request to have R2014-19 regarding an Action Plan in response to CMT Science Scores be placed on the February 2, 2016 COW agenda.

Mrs. Volkmann made a request to have R2014-30 regarding what training teachers are receiving to support mainstreaming of special education students be placed on the March COW agenda.

Ms. Kelly asked that the 360 Evaluation be placed in the Board Notes.

Board Retreat – Dr. Graner stated that the Board Retreat would be January 31, 2016, 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. He would check on the feasibility of having the Board Retreat at the Nautilus Museum.

6. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Ackermann and seconded by Ms. Kelly to adjourn at 9:20 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY