

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Regular Meeting

January 25, 2016

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on January 25, 2016, in CR 1 of the Town Hall Annex.

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Board Chairperson, at 6:03 p.m.

The first order of business was the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Mackenzie Lyons.

PRESENT

ABSENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman, Vice Chairperson
Mr. Gary Baker (arrived at 6:13 p.m.)
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Ms. Mary Kelly
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome (arrived at 6:08 p.m.)
Mrs. Rita Volkmann
Mrs. Lee White
Mr. Jay Weitlauf

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
Miss Mackenzie Lyons, Student Representative

Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil
Personnel Services

Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human
Resources

Mr. Dennis Colclough, Director of
Technology Services

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 representatives reported:

- The Student Council is planning a Valentine Campaign with the proceeds going towards the Mr. Falcon pageant on March 19, 2016;
- Planning is underway for a 2016-2017 Winter Ball or Dance;
- Planning is underway for a Student-to-Student Carnation fundraiser to benefit “D. Strong” campaign;
- The representatives noted the Noel Butler project this weekend entitled “Laramie Project”;
- The representatives noted that the Chamber Choir performed for the Martin Luther King Ecumenical Service.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

➤ **FY 17 Budget Development**

Dr. Graner stated that the Board was well into the review of the proposed 2016-2017 budget which represents a 1.4% increase.

➤ **Update regarding Impact Aid**

Dr. Graner stated that the district received the first payment of Impact Aid for FY 16 in the amount of 1.3 million dollars.

➤ **Legislative Update**

On Wednesday, John Heller, Mike Zuba and Dr. Graner will meet with Representative Bumgardner in Hartford regarding the 80% funding for the three schools.

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF

1. Assistant Superintendent Report

Ms. Austin stated that NEA Arts Celebration was outstanding.

Mrs. Austin stated that she has been working with elementary Principals and noted the following meetings that will be held at the Central Office in room 11:

- January 26, 2016 – Mental Health Summit
- January 27, 2016 – Connecticut Sub Century, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- January 28, 2016 – Job Fair for teachers and paraprofessionals

2. Director of Teaching and Learning Report

- Mr. Emery noted a meeting of the Groton Teaching and Learning Collaborative relative to the early release on February 9, 2016 for the training of middle and high level teachers.
- Mr. Emery noted a meeting on January 26, 2016 of the District Data Teams relative to performance tasks.

2. Business Manager Report

- Mr. Meltabarger shared the Budget Summary dated December 31, 2015 and the monthly Insurance Report dated December 2015. He noted that the 2015-16 health insurance account was up to \$717,000. There is \$137,000 unexpended funds in the current budget; the budget may be tight at the end of the month due to special education.

3. Director of Buildings and Grounds Report

Mr. Kilpatrick noted the extra jobs his department was able to accomplish during the Christmas break:

- Painting projects;
- Gym floors;
- Stone dust at CMS for the parent turn around area;
- Heating – new procedures have been initiated;
- There will be a Safety and Security meeting on February 3, 2016 at 2:30 p.m., in Room 19 of the Central Office;
- He noted that he had attended a Safety and Security training in Hartford in October 2015;
- He is preparing to submit plans relative to the abatement at CC;
- He is working with the new IT Director relative to the reuse of frames from Promethean Boards.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance/Facilities Committee: There was no report.
2. Policy Committee: There was no report due to a lack of a quorum. Those present held a working meeting.
3. Curriculum Committee: There was no report.
4. Negotiations Committee: Ms. Kelly stated that the Negotiations Committee met and that the Unified Sports has been approved. Dr. Graner noted that the Paraprofessionals will begin negotiations soon.
5. LEARN: Mrs. Volkmann stated that LEARN met and that Tony Sheridian, President and CEO of the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce relative to their concern with the Regional Calendar, e.g. the impact of having school begin before Labor Day and that LEARN is working on a survey regarding efficiency for special education.
6. Groton Parent Council: Mr. Weitlauf stated that the Groton Parent Council met on January 12, 2016 and discussed the budget and that Susan Austin discussed the Mental Health Summit.
7. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee: There was no report.
8. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee: Mrs. Volkmann stated that GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee met and discussed substitutes for teachers and paraprofessionals, recruiting at the Central Office, interns, consistent room temperature; the 327 printers of which approximately 200 have been installed; whiteboards; and the safety meeting on February 3, 2016.
9. School Facilities Initiative Task Force: Dr. Graner stated that he would be going to the State Department on Wednesday with John Heller and Mike Zuba.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

10. Groton Scholarship: Mrs. Newsome stated that the Groton Scholarship Fund met and they were accepting applications. going out.
11. Magnet School Ad Hoc: Mrs. Fitzgerald stated that the Magnet School Ad Hoc Committee met December 21, 2015 and they are analyzing the survey results.
12. CABE: Dr. Ackerman noted the Legislative Breakfast and a CABE Retreat in New Haven she attended.
13. Supt. 360° Review Ad Hoc: Dr. Graner noted that the Board had received the survey of questions for the Supt. 360° review.
14. Military/Superintendent Liaison: Dr. Graner noted that Miranda Chapman was the Chair of this committee and they will be meeting very soon.
15. Trails Liaison: It was noted that this committee will meet on March 24, 2016.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the Regular meeting minutes of the December 14, 2015 and the special meetings of January 4 & 19, 2016, are hereby accepted and approved.

2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS

- A donation of \$1,500.00 has been made to the FHS Robotics Team.
- The Henley Company has made a donation of \$1,400 to the FHS Fencing Team for the purchase of an Absolute Fencing Scoreboard.

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Ms. Kelly.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL AS A SECOND READING OF REVISION TO POLICY P 5146 POLICE IN THE SCHOOLS**

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL AS A FIRST READING OF POLICY P 5141.7 CONCUSSION**

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

2. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL AS A FIRST READING OF POLICY P 5141.28 SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST PREVENTION**

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

3. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL AS A FIRST READING OF POLICY P 6145 EXTRA-CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES**

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

4. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL AS A FIRST READING OF POLICY 5141.12 SEARCH AND SEIZURE**

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mr. Weitlauf noted:
 - a. He attended the January 12, 2016 Groton Parent Council meeting.
 - b. He attended the Martin Luther King Ecumenical Service.
 - c. He attended the Joint meeting with the Town Council on January 19, 2016.
 - d. He attended the AGSA/GEA/BOE Liaison Committee meeting on January 20, 2016.
 - e. He attended the NEA Celebration of the Arts program.
 - f. He thanked the Maintenance Department for their efforts regarding snow removal.
 - g. He thanked Mark Russell for his efforts relative to NEA's Celebration of the Arts.

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS – cont.

- h. He thanked Don Meltabarger and his staff relative to Impact Aid.
- 2. Ms. Kelly noted that she attended the Martin Luther King Ecumenical Service and the NEA Celebration of the Arts with Mrs. White.
- 3. Dr. Ackerman noted a concern from a parent relative to a bus issue that she forward to Mrs. Gomez.
- 4. Mrs. Fitzgerald noted:
 - a. She attended, along with Mr. Weitlauf, the Christmas Concert.
 - b. She attended the Policy Committee meeting.
 - c. She attended the Town Council/RTM/BOE Liaison Committee meeting.
- 5. Mrs. White noted:
 - a. She attended the Legislative Breakfast.
 - b. She attended the NEA Celebration of the Arts.
 - c. She attended the Martin Luther King Ecumenical Service.
- 6. Mrs. Volkmann noted:
 - a. She attended the Legislative Breakfast.
 - b. She attended the NEA Celebration of the Arts.
 - c. She attended the Martin Luther King Ecumenical Service.
- 7. Mrs. Watson noted:
 - a. The Volunteer Hours.
 - b. The Board Retreat – She asked that if Board members had items for the agenda to forward them to Dr. Graner or herself.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

Mrs. Watson noted a Curriculum Committee meeting on February 2, 2016.

B. Suggested Agenda Items

NONE

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. White to adjourn at 7:02 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY