

Groton Board of Education  
Special Meeting Minutes  
January 31, 2016  
11:30 a.m.  
Submarine Force Museum

**Members Present:** Kim Shepardson Watson-Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman-Vice Chairperson, Gary Baker, Katrina Fitzgerald, Gretchen Newsome, Rita Volkmann, Jay Weitlauf, Lee White

**Members Absent:** Mary Kelly

**Also Present:** Mike Graner, Susan Austin, Laurie Pallin

Chairman Shepardson Watson called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to conduct a Board Retreat.

The meeting began with a discussion of each Board member explaining his/her motivation for Board service. Each Board member identified the achievements he/she hopes to realize over the next two years. Dr. Graner then displayed several slips of paper with a leadership statement on each. Board members were asked to select the statement that meant the most to them and then explained why to the group.

Following a lunch break, the Board watched a TED Talk by Roselinde Torres entitled, "What it takes to be a great leader." The group began a discussion regarding the book, Great by Choice, by Jim Collins. Dr. Graner introduced the book by reviewing the concepts from Jim Collins' prior book, Good to Great. The Board separated into groups of two and three and was asked to identify one of the key concepts from the book. After all the key ideas were explained, the Board had a discussion regarding the relevance of those points to Groton Public Schools.

Dr. Graner distributed the CABA article, "Steady in the Face of Change – Eight Rules for Effective Boards." The Board was again separated into groups of two and three. Each small group was asked to explain the two rules assigned to them and rate the Board's effectiveness on those two rules.

Following the discussion of the concept regarding effective boards, the group viewed a YouTube video entitled, "The End of Average," by Todd Rose. During the last half hour of the retreat, the Board identified a number of processes and procedures that the members would like to discuss in more detail at a future Committee of the Whole meeting. The topics identified included committee structure, agenda development, data review/analysis, policy development, curriculum, and fiscal management.

**MOTION:** Shepardson Watson, Volkmann; to adjourn at 4:30 p.m.  
**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**