

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

**Regular Meeting**

**February 22, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on February 22, 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 6:05 p.m.

The first order of business was the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Mrs. White.

**PRESENT**

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson  
Dr. Andrea Ackerman, Vice Chairperson  
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald  
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome  
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

**ABSENT**

Mr. Gary Baker  
Ms. Mary Kelly

Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil  
Personnel Services

Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human  
Resources

Mr. Dennis Colclough, Director of  
Technology Services

Mr. Jacob Carlson, Student Representative

Miss Mackenzie Lyons, Student  
Representative

**B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS**

NONE

**C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

NONE

**II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

NONE

**III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

NONE

**IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

Dr. Graner noted that on Thursday, Dr. Graner will be traveling, along with Mark Oefinger, Sam Kilpatrick, and Lenny Winkler, to Hartford regarding the special legislature on the proposed school facilities projects.

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

**1. Assistant Superintendent Report**

Ms. Austin noted:

- CT Sub Trail Stickers for the fundraiser on February 26, 2016; she asked everyone to wear blue and gold to help bring the U.S. Groton Sail home to Groton;
- The Dr. Seuss Campaign on March 2, 2015 – 1 book/1 problem;
- The STEMFEST for West Side Middle School;
- CT Sub Story Corps for students to tell stories;
- Mental Health Summit on April 7, 2016.

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

- Mr. Emery noted a meeting of the Groton Teaching and Learning Collaborative today where they discussed Professional Development; they have finalized plans for the elementary and middle school levels; they will finalize plans for the high school on Tuesday;

**A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF – cont.**

- Mr. Emery noted that testing is coming up:
  - The testing window for CMS/WSM will be for 6 weeks; each student will take tests on six mornings during that period.
  - The high school will take the SAT and CAPT Science for 10<sup>th</sup> graders on March 2, 2016.

**2. Business Manager Report**

Mr. Meltabarger noted:

- The Empty Bowl Project will be held on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at FHS;
- The Noank Nibbles Program where students are packaging teas and herbs;
- There is a proposed building project of a new greenhouse at FHS; Groton Utilities may be contributing \$25,000 towards this construction;
- Monthly Health Report regarding the reserve account; the current year reserve balance is now \$870,000;
- Enrollment update.

**3. Director of Buildings and Grounds Report**

Mr. Kilpatrick noted:

- The need to close out the project at CB;
- His department is working to close out the FHS Roof project and the CMS portables project;
- He is working with Rick Norris regarding LED projects at NEA and for the FHS parking lot;
- He is getting quotes on the Interior LEDs at the rest of the schools.

Dr. Graner noted the Volunteer Data for the month of January as 1128 volunteer hours.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Finance/Facilities Committee:

There was no report.

2. Policy Committee:

Ms. Austin noted that the Policy Committee met and discussed policies regarding the Police: Questioning of Students, Concussion, and Cardiac Arrest.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.**

3. Curriculum Committee: Mrs. Volkmann noted that the Curriculum Committee met and discussed the proposed new courses for FHS.
4. Negotiations Committee: There was no report
5. LEARN: Mrs. Volkmann stated that LEARN met and that Dr. Howley and Susan Iwanski, Dr. Spera, Principal of the Marine Science Magnet School, presented their SBAC test results. Dr. Spera will host a NEASC evaluation visit.
6. Groton Parent Council: Mr. Weitlauf noted that the next meeting of the Groton Parent Council will be March 8, 2016.
7. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee:  
Dr. Graner noted that the Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee met and discussed shared services, budget, and the Town financial status.
8. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee:  
It was noted that the next meeting of the GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee will be March 16, 2016, at 4:30 p.m., at the Central Office.
9. School Facilities Initiative Task Force:  
Dr. Graner stated that he would be going to the State Department on Thursday to meet with Representative Bumgardner in Hartford. He stated the next meeting of the School Facilities Initiative Task Force would be March 10, 2016.
10. Groton Scholarship: There was no report.
11. Magnet School Ad Hoc: There was no report.
12. CABE: There was no report.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.**

13. Military/Superintendent Liaison: There was no report.

Dr. Graner asked Board members if they were interested in attending the MCEC Conference June 27, 28, 29, 2016 in Washington. Mrs. Newsome, Dr. Ackerman, and Mrs. White noted their interest.

14. Trails Liaison: There was no report. 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 January 25, 2016 and the special meetings of January 25, February 1 and 3, 2016, are hereby accepted and approved.

**2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS**

- Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program has made a donation of \$50.00 to the FHS Lacrosse Team.
- Matt Forde has made a donation of \$790.00 to be split between Athletics and Band at CMS.

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. White.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

**B. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL AS A SECOND READING OF REVISION TO POLICY P 5146 POLICE: QUESTIONING OF STUDENTS**

A motion was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald and seconded by Dr. Ackerman.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

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

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

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald and seconded by Dr. Ackerman.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING NEW COURSES AT FITCH HIGH SCHOOL:**

- AP Computer Science
- AP Statistics and Probability
- College Readiness Math
- UCONN Introduction to Academic Writing
- AP Government
- Specialized Social Studies
- Spanish for Native Speakers
- IB Classical Studies in Latin
- Specialized Health
- Personal Finance II
- PLTW: Honors – Civil Engineering and Architecture
- IB Ab Initio Spanish

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. White.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ACCEPTANCE OF THE CB ASBESTOS ABATEMENT PROJECT AS COMPLETE**

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

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.**

**5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF FY 17 BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET**

A motion was made by Mr. Weitlauf and seconded by Dr. Ackerman to approve the FY 2016-2017 budget in the amount of \$76,730,239 which represents a 0% increase over last year.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

**VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

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

1. Mr. Weitlauf noted:
  - a. He attended the NEA meeting with the neighbors regarding the Water Tower Project. He noted that the presentation was well received by those present.
2. Dr. Ackerman noted that she was surfing the television over the weekend and found the Martin Luther King Scholarship Dinner on Channel 12.
3. Mrs. Fitzgerald noted:
  - a. She attended the Board Retreat.
  - b. She attended the Curriculum Safety meeting.
  - c. She attended the Liaison Library Tour.
  - d. She attended the Policy Committee meeting.
  - e. She attended the Water Tower presentation at NEA.
  - f. She attended the School Facilities Task Force meeting.
  - g. She attended the Groton Scholarship meeting on February 18, 2016.
4. Mrs. Volkmann noted:
  - a. She noted the Congressional Ap Contest winner Vittorio Papandrea.
  - b. She asked when the Ad Hoc for Middle School Curriculum would meet.
5. Mrs. Watson noted:
  - a. That also received the notice regarding the Congressional Ap Contest winner.
  - b. That she receive correspondence from a taxpayer with questions regarding the budget.
  - c. That Gary Baker had forwarded he full support of the proposed budget in his absence.
  - d. That she would be meeting with Karen Bryer regarding the Superintendent's evaluations.

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

6. Mrs. Newsome noted that next Drama production at FHS would be *Legally Blond*.
7. Mrs. Volkmann thanked the Board for getting together for a Board Retreat.
8. Mrs. White noted that she attended the Laramie Project presentation and it was outstanding.
9. Mrs. Watson noted correspondence from Mayor Flax regarding the Board discussing shared services and if there were any Board members who wanted to be part of this discussion. Mrs. Fitzgerald and Mrs. White noted they would be interested. Mrs. Watson stated she would also like to be included.
10. Mrs. Fitzgerald noted the IB nomination of students at the middle school level and asked to see the criteria for being nominated. She also suggested that the Ad Hoc Committee for middle school concerns be reconvened.

**VII. ADVANCE PLANNING**

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

As noted in the agenda.

**B. Suggested Agenda Items**

NONE

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. White to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**