

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Committee of the Whole

March 14, 2016

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Groton Board of Education was held on March 14, 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
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
Ms. Erin McGuire, Assistant Principal, Fitch High School
Mr. Sean McKenna, Assistant Principal, Fitch High School
Ms. Kelly Donovan, Fitch High School

1. Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2016

A motion was made by Mrs. Volkmann and seconded by Mrs. White to approve the minutes of January 11, 2016.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

2. Review and revise the Master Meeting Template and Referral List

Dr. Graner stated that he felt some revisions needed to be made to the Meeting Template and that he will bring the template back to the Board for their review.

The Board reviewed the Referral List and made the following revisions:

R2014-15 Discussion of budget information mailer: This will be addressed in
November 2016

R2015-49 Parent engagement in the hiring process: This will be addressed at the
April COW meeting

ADDED to COW: R2016-57 Discussion of Resource Officers at the middle school level

3. Discussion of Board attendance at the MCEC Conference June 27, 28, 29, 2016 and the NSBA Conference April 9, 2016

Mrs. Watson noted the MCEC and NSBA conferences and asked Board members who would be interested in attending either.

MCEC – Newsome, White, Ackerman, Watson

NSBA – Volkmann, Ackerman

Mrs. Watson noted the resignation of Mary Kelly from the Board of Education. She further noted that tentatively there would be a Special Meeting at 5:30 p.m. on March 28, 2016 to interview a candidate to fill the vacancy on the Board.

4. Mental Health Summit Update

Ms. Austin noted the website that indicates the keynote speakers and agenda.

5. Discussion of the Data Teams: data presentation, process and effectiveness [ATTACHMENTS 1, 2, 3]

Mr. Emery gave a PowerPoint presentation on Data Team Review. He further reviewed the Fall LA PT Instructional Strategies and the Math Instructional Strategies; each instructional strategies included examples of the strategies utilized.

6. Presentation regarding the 2015 CMT/CAPT Science Scores and Action Plan [ATTACHMENT #4]

Mr. Henkle gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Science Scores results and Action Plan.

7. Update regarding the new SAT [ATTACHMENT #5]

Mr. McKenna and Ms. McGuire gave a PowerPoint presentation of the new SAT.

8. Discussion of the IB Career-related Program and Middle Years Program Application [ATTACHMENT #6]

Ms. Kelley Donovan gave a PowerPoint presentation of the IB Career-related Program and Middle Years Program.

Ms. Donovan stated that she and Dr. Graner recently attended a workshop in Maryland on the IB Career-related Program and Middle Years Program. She further stated that they are at the beginning stages of looking at this program for FHS.

Mrs. Volkmann stated that she would like to see a cost for this program; what other school districts have this program.

Board members requested more information on this program:

- cost outline
- what other schools have experienced
- growth rate
- teaching philosophy

Mr. Emery showed a short video from the Washington Township School Foundation on the Middle Years Program. Dr. Graner noted that New London Public Schools is going for it.

9. Consideration of an Ad Hoc Committee to review middle school learning

Mrs. Watson stated that the charge for the Ad Hoc Committee to review middle school learning would include:

- Middle Year Program
- STEM (WSM)
- Arts (CMS)
- Junior High versus Middle School concept

This item will be on the new BOE agenda.

10. Update on unexpended balance transfer (health insurance reserve) [ATTACHMENT #7]

Dr. Graner explained the handout entitled, Health Insurance Reserve Funds available for other uses after Corridor Funding.

There was extensive Board discussion regarding the proposal presented by Dr. Graner to return funds to the Town from the Health Insurance Reserve account.

Dr. Graner stated that he will report back to the Board after the February numbers have been received so that the Board can make an informed decision.

Mrs. Volkmann suggested having ANON come in to talk to the Board.

11. Discussion of the FY 17 CIP budget

This item was tabled.

12. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mrs. Newsome and seconded by Dr. Ackerman to adjourn at 10:55 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY