

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Committee of the Whole

April 11, 2016

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Groton Board of Education was held on April 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 6:04 p.m.

PRESENT

ABSENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman, Vice Chairperson
Mr. Gary Baker
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome
Mrs. Rosemary Robertson
Mr. Jay Weitlauf
Mrs. Lee White

Mrs. Rita Volkmann

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. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Mr. Joseph Arcarese, Principal, Fitch High School
Mrs. Kathleen Santacroce, Fitch High School
Mr. Larry Croxton, Fitch High School
Mr. Douglas Manfred, Fitch High School
Mrs. Mary Harris, Fitch High School

1. Approval of Minutes of March 14, 2016

A motion was made by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald
to approve the minutes of March 14, 2016.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

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

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

- R2015-35 Review scheduling at the middle school level: This will be addressed by the Ad Hoc Committee to review middle school learning.
- R2015-42 After School Enrichment (elementary): This will be addressed at the May Curriculum meeting.
- R2015-39 Update on AP Test Pilot: This will be addressed May 2016.
- R2016-1 Status report regarding Computer Coding at the middle and high school levels: This will be addressed at the May Curriculum meeting.
- R2015-22 Ways to advertise to generate funds towards the budget: This will be addressed at the May 4, 2016 Policy Committee meeting.
- R2015-28 Discussion of the equitable distribution of funds for groups that need travel funds: This will be addressed at the May 4, 2016 Policy Committee meeting.
- R2015-51 Discussion of the School Climate Report – Longitudinal and years past: This will be addressed at the May COW meeting.
- R2015-56 Discussion of offerings at the middle schools and their enrollment; why they are different: This will be addressed by the Ad Hoc Committee to review middle school learning.
- R2016-6 Discussion of class sizes at FHS, e.g. scheduling: This will be addressed at the May COW meeting.

REMOVED:

- R2015-23 Discussion of a Concussion policy (P 5141.7)
- R2015-53 Discussion of a Cardiac Arrest policy (P 5141.28)
- R2014-23 Discussion of the IB program, i.e. Middle Years Program
- R2015-40 How Boosters do their financial and how it is working
- R2015-49 Parent engagement in the hiring process

The Board reviewed the Meeting Template. Dr. Graner noted that the Groton Yardstick items had not been addressed and stated that he would provide a Yardstick update in June.

3. FOI Conference in Haddam, April 22, 2016.

4. Discussion of the School Climate results.

This item was tabled until May.

5. Groton Yardstick update.

Dr. Graner stated that he would bring the Yardstick to the Principals, set a date for feedback, and then provide an update to the Board in June.

6. Update regarding college prep classes at FHS.

Mr. Arcarese gave an overview of the College prep classes and reviewed the handout of scores [ATTACHMENT #1]. He stated that he will provide end-of-year MAP scores; he noted that he met with the Math (Algebra I) teachers – some students are struggling.

A referral was made to the COW for an end-of-year update regarding College Prep classes at FHS.

7. Discussion of parent engagement in the hiring process.

Ms. Austin stated that they have moved to a collaborative hiring process and that it has been working well.

8. Update regarding Magnet Middle Schools.

Dr. Graner stated that the Middle School Assistant Program is a grant whose application deadline has been postponed yet again.

9. Review of the IB nomination process.

Dr. Graner explained that the strategy to encourage students to enter the IB program needs to be reviewed and updated for ways to reach out to more students.

The Board brainstormed ways to reach parents and students regarding entering the IB program at the middle school level.

10. Discussion regarding FY 17 budget.

Dr. Graner explained that the Connecticut legislature's Appropriations Committee has proposed that the ECS (Education Cost Sharing) grant be reduced by 4.6 million dollars for Groton; Groton is receiving 1.20% of ECS (per Sen. Maynard's Assistant); he noted that Groton taxpayers pick up about half the cost to educate military children residing in military housing; Groton has 19 days to adjust their budget and any proposed reduction must be included in the final budget number.

Dr. Graner noted that there are three choices for the Board relative to the MBR:

1. Cut no more;
2. Use 70% of the reserve – cut another \$46,542;
3. Cut to \$262,657 (the final MBR number).

The consensus of the Board was to cut no further of the reserve.

12. Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. Newsome to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY