

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

**Regular Meeting**

**May 23, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on May 23, 2016, in the Band Room of Fitch High School.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Board Chairperson, at 6:10 p.m.

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**PRESENT**

**ABSENT**

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

Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Mr. Dennis Colclough, Director of Technology Services

Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human Resources

Mr. Jacob Carlson, Student Representative

Miss Mackenzie Lyons, Student Representative

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – cont.

B. **RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION OF VISITORS AND DELEGATIONS**

Mrs. Watson and Dr. Graner recognized the winners of the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Young Playwrights Festival. The Principals of WSM, CMS, and FHS gave a brief overview of the plays written by the students.

Ariannah Black  
Abigail Rogers  
Adelle Clark  
James Zieminski  
Jennifer Lussier

Mrs. Watson and Dr. Graner presented the CAFE Student Leadership Awards. The Principals (WSM, CMS, and FHS) gave a brief bio of the achievements of each student that helped to earn them this award.

Abigail Rogers  
Jackson Meuse  
Jacob Viramontez  
Madison Apostolis  
Susanna Mewha  
Francis DelCampo

Mrs. Watson and Dr. Graner presented the Friends of Education and Support Personnel Awards.

**Friends of Education**

Jean Doyle, CK  
Lee Browkaw, CB  
Margaret Casanas, CC  
Paul Rogers, CMS  
Markie Blansett, FHS  
Faye Cleetus, MM  
Zachary Cleetus, MM  
Jennifer Amaral, NEA  
Melanie Shutt, PV  
Sandi Wallace, SBB

**Support Personnel**

Lisa Stidham, CK  
Diane Shafer, CB  
Robert Patterson, CC  
Sue Tryon, CMS  
Carol Kirchhoff, FHS  
Lora Shoop, MM  
Anngnette Stanfield, NEA  
Dawn Drake, PV  
Theresa Seals, SBB  
Lisa Teixeira, WSM

Mrs. Watson and Dr. Graner presented the 2017 Teacher of the Year Awards.

Dan Vanasse, CK  
Janice Salemma, CB  
Deborah Cocheo, CC  
Andrew Lefebvre, FHS  
Jen Hynes, MM  
Erica Johnson, NEA  
Lizanne Johnson, PV  
Rita Mangelinkx, SBB

Barbara Mlynarski, WSM  
RuthAnn Eichelberg, CMS

**District Teacher of the Year**

RuthAnn Eichelberg, CMS

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – cont.

C. **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

NONE

II. **RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

NONE

III. **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

NONE

IV. **SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

1. **FY 17 Budget Update** - Dr. Graner noted that the RTM had reduced the budget by \$262,000 less than 0%. He noted that there was a motion on the agenda to address this reduction.
2. **Update regarding the School Facilities Project** – Dr. Graner noted that the Board and Town Council held a joint meeting and the Town Council made a motion to proceed with the referendum for November 8, 2016. He further noted that today he received notification that Groton is racially balanced.
3. **Update regarding the MCEC Conference** – Dr. Graner noted that Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Newsome, Dr. Ackerman, and Mrs. White would be attending the MCEC Conference in June along with Ms. Austin and himself.

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

1. **Assistant Superintendent Report**

Ms. Austin reported:

- The Military Superintendents Liaison Committee breakfast will be held on May 26, 2016 at the Coast Guard Academy and the speaker will be Donna Linstrom.
- CT Sub Century Report – Ms. Austin thanked all the partners who participated in STEMFEST.
- Ms. Austin stated that a school safety conversation was held today and she will share the discussion with the Principals.

**IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS – cont.**

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

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

Mr. Emery noted:

- SBAC Administration Update - the administration of the elementary SBAC ended last Wednesday; the Middle School ended Friday; makeups will be held; computers held up very well; a handful of students opted out; and the results will not be received until August.

**3. Business Manager Report**

Mr. Meltabarger noted:

- Object Code Summary [ATTACHMENT #1]
- The Health Reserve Report [ATTACHMENT #2]

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

Mr. Kilpatrick noted:

- that his department is preparing for summer work;
- that he will be getting bids for the CC abatement project this week;
- that final payment was received by the Town for the two projects;
- that he will be preparing forms for the close out of the CB project;
- that the water testing is proceeding; seven schools of the ten are finished;
- that districts throughout the State are doing water testing and the results will take a while to be received.

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. Finance/Facilities Committee:**

Mr. Weitlauf noted that the Finance/Facilities Committee met on May 16, 2016. They discussed FY 17 budget, the purchase of AEDs for the Athletic Department, and received an update regarding the FY 16 Grants. The next meeting will be held on June 20, 2016.

**2. Policy Committee:**

Mrs. White noted that the Policy Committee met. Ms. Austin noted the committee discussed the Field Trip policy and procedures of the P 9000 series.

**3. Curriculum Committee:**

Dr. Ackerman noted that the Curriculum Committee met and had discussion with Andrea Davis and Linda Cady on the techniques of teaching of grammar; how Gifted students are chosen; a report on the after school program at Pleasant Valley.

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS - cont.**

4. Negotiations Committee:  
Mrs. Watson noted that Paraprofessional negotiations are being held.
5. LEARN:  
Mrs. Volkmann noted that LEARN met on May 12, 2016 at the Connecticut River Academy (Magnet School). She noted that 50% of its populations come from 50 districts in Connecticut. She further noted that Dr. Howley gave a legislative update.
6. Groton Parent Council:  
Mrs. White and Mrs. Fitzgerald noted that the Groton Parent Council met and discussed the calendar for next year; getting caps and gowns that are not disposable.
7. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee:  
Mrs. Fitzgerald noted that the Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee met on May 4, 2016 and that Mr. Weitlauf is the Co-Chair of the committee. The committee discussed the budget and the School Facilities projects.
8. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee:  
Mrs. Watson noted that the GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee met on May 18, 2016 and discussed the Survey of College Level Courses; implementation for next year, safety, and substitutes for teachers and paraprofessionals.  
  
Mrs. Volkmann noted her concerns regarding the elimination of the basic courses at FHS. She made a referral to the COW to discuss this issue at the July meeting.
9. Groton Scholarship:  
Mrs. Newsome stated that the Groton Scholarship met last week. She noted that there are 87 scholarships for 67 students.
10. CABE:  
There was no report.
11. Trails Liaison:  
There was no report.
12. Ad Hoc Communications:  
Mrs. White stated that the Ad Hoc Communications Committee have been meeting every Wednesday and discussed the need for a better calendar; need to reach people in a better fashion, i.e. CK & NEA, social media. Their next meeting will be May 25, 2016.
13. Ad Hoc Middle School Program Review:  
Dr. Ackerman noted that the Ad Hoc Middle School Program Review Committee will be meeting on Tuesday at 8:30 a.m.

**VI. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. CONSENT AGENDA**

**1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the Regular meeting minutes of the April 25, 2016 with correction of adding Mrs. Robertson as present and the Special meeting minutes of April 29 and May 11, 2016 with correction to the May 11 minutes of the removal of “Magnet School” in the first sentence and the removal of Mrs. Fitzgerald as having made the motion to approve the minutes of May 4, 2016, are hereby accepted and approved.

**2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS**

Annie’s Grants for Gardens Winner have made a donation of \$2,500 to Mary Morrisson School.

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. Robertson to accept items 1 and 2 of the consent agenda.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

**B. OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

**POLICY:**

**1. Discussion and possible action regarding a first reading revision of policy P 6153 Field Trips. [ATTACHMENT #3]**

A motion was made by Mrs. Robertson and seconded by Mrs. White to approve as a first reading revision of policy P 6153 Field Trips.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**FINANCE/FACILITIES:**

**1. Discussion and possible action regarding revision to the FY 17 budget.**

Dr. Graner noted that in considering how to address the RTMs reduction of the Board’s budget by \$262,000, he recommended the elimination of the Director of Teaching and Learning position in the amount of \$164,000 and the elimination of the High School Family & Consumer Science position in the amount of \$105,000. This item was referred to the COW agenda in June for further discussion.

**VI. ACTION ITEMS – cont.**

**C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.**

**1. Discussion and possible action regarding revision to the FY 17 budget - cont.**

Dr. Graner noted the need for an addition Kindergarten class at CK and the addition of a Preschool class at MM. This item was referred to the COW agenda in June for further discussion.

**2. Discussion and possible action regarding the recommendation for the appointment of a Behavioral Coordinator.**

Dr. Graner gave an overview of his recommendations to reassign the Special Education Supervisor to address the behavioral problems at CC, CK, and CB, and to reassign the Special Education PPT Coordinator in lieu of the Technology Coordinator. These items were referred to the COW agenda in June for further discussion.

**3. Discussion and possible action regarding the purchase of three portable AEDs.**

A motion was made by Mrs. Robertson and seconded by Mrs. White to approve the purchase of three portable AEDs.

**YES - Weitlauf, White, Robertson, Watson, Volkmann, Baker, Newsome,  
Fitzgerald**

**NO - Ackerman**

**PASSED**

**VII. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

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

1. Mr. Weitlauf thanked Mrs. White and Mr. Baker for moving the Communications Committee along.
2. Dr. Ackerman noted that she received an e-mail regarding PreK teachers and the retention of the program.
3. Mrs. Fitzgerald noted that she received the same e-mail.
4. Mrs. Newsome noted:
  - a. that the Legally Blonde play went very well, and
  - b. the Fields of Fire Adventure Park activity was attended by juniors and seniors, and the students were well behaved.

**VII. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – cont.**

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

5. Mrs. Volkmann noted that she attended, along with other Board members, the GEA Hall of Fame Ceremony. The honorees were:
  - Gary Carlson, Graphic Arts at CMS
  - Susan Chase-Hildebrand, Social Studies at CMS
  - Kathleen Johnson, Elementary at NK and then NEA
  - Sally Keating, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
  - Donna Purdy, Principal at SBB
  - Joanne Wildes, Elementary at CB
6. Mrs. Newsome thanked the Town Council for moving forward with the Referendum.
7. Mrs. Watson noted:
  - a. the same e-mail regarding PreK teachers the retention of the program,
  - b. her attendance at the GEA Hall of Fame Ceremony,
  - c. that the Town Council considers the collaborative spirit between the Town Council and the Board of Education to be just great, and
  - d. the list of meetings in the Board Notes.

**VIII. ADVANCE PLANNING**

**A. FUTURE MEETING DATES AND CALENDAR ITEMS**

As noted in the agenda.

**B. SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Weitlauf referred discussion of the Board Committee structure (P 9000) to the COW.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. Robertson to adjourn at 9:25 p.m.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**