

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Committee of the Whole

June 13, 2016

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Groton Board of Education was held on June 13, 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

Mrs. Gretchen Newsome

Dr. Andrea Ackerman, Vice Chairperson (arrived at 6:20 p.m.)

Mr. Gary Baker (arrived at 6:50 p.m.)

Mrs. Rita Volkmann

Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald

Mrs. Rosemary Robertson

Mr. Jay Weitlauf

Mrs. Lee White

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

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

Mr. Larry Croxton, Fitch High School

Mrs. Beth Horler, GEA President

Ms. Erin McGuire, Assistant Principal, Fitch High School

Mr. Seth Danner, Principal, Charles Barnum School

Mrs. Lori Secchiaroli, Special Education Supervisor

**1. Discussion of the appointment of an additional Special Education Supervisor
[ATTACHMENT #1]**

Ms. Austin reviewed the special education priorities involved with the proposed additional Special Education Supervisor as well as the revised organizational chart for the Special Education Department. Dr. Graner noted that the cost would be \$124,000. Most of that cost would be generated from the Technology Coordinator position.

2. Approval of Minutes of May 9, 2016

A motion was made by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Robertson to approve the minutes of May 9, 2016.

**YES – Watson, Fitzgerald, Weitlauf, White, Ackerman, Baker
ABSTAINED – Robertson**

PASSED

3. Guidance Update – College Acceptance Information [ATTACHMENT #2]

Ms. McGuire shared a list of colleges that students attended for 2014, 2015, and 2016 with the percentages of students who attended.

4. Remedial College Courses Attendance Update

Ms. McGuire stated that the school plans to use the Naviance College Teacher System to acquire information regarding student academic performance in college. This will allow the school to identify students who take remedial courses.

5. Update regarding Department Chairs

Mr. Arcarese stated that having Department Chairs is going great. He gave the history of Department Chairs at the high school; 2004-2005 they were considered Administrators, some time later they began to be eliminated; 2015-2016 they were Instructional Facilitators; now Department Chairs teach 4 out of 6 classes; there are Department Chairs for Math, Social Studies, Science, English, and one responsible for Health, P.E., Music, Art, Business Education, and Consumer Science. There is none for Foreign Language. Mr. Arcarese explained the duties of Department Chairs.

6. Discussion of the College Prep Classes at FHS following the elimination of Basic level courses [ATTACHMENT #3]

Mr. Arcarese stated that the high school was finishing their first year of College Prep Classes and that they have a ways to. Mr. Arcarese gave an overview of the handout which shows the grades for students who would have been in Applied Math but are now in College Prep Algebra 1 in 2015-2016, all Algebra 1 students including student that would have been in Applied Math in 2015-2016, and all Algebra 1 and Applied Math students in 2014-2015. He gave an overview of the grades for students who would have been in Basic English 9 but now are in College Prep English 9 in 2015-2016, all English 9 students including those that would have been in Basic English 9 in 2015-2016, and all English 9 or Read 180 students in 2014-2015.

He noted that the next step would be:

- Bringing back NUA (National Urban Alliance);
- Monitor student performance by getting the X Block back;
- Have year-long classes for the needy students;
- Have reading, writing, math, Falcon Academy, and the National Honor Society students to provide assistance.

Mr. Arcarese stated that he would provide data on how other Towns have fared with this concept.

7. Report on Performance Task Data (Math) [ATTACHMENT #4 & 5]

Mr. Emery gave an overview of the PowerPoint presentation of the Performance Task Data (Math) and shared the instruction strategies developed by teachers.

8. Discussion regarding revision to the FY 17 budget and proposed reorganization of Central Office Administration [ATTACHMENT #6]

Ms. Austin reviewed the proposed Central Office Organizational Chart.

9. Discussion regarding the need for an additional Kindergarten class at CK and a Preschool class at MM

Dr. Graner noted that CK has 91 students who have applied for Kindergarten; without another Kindergarten class CK can only take 2 or 3 student for the Magnet School. He noted that the teacher for this additional Kindergarten class would be coming from MM.

Ms. Austin and Mrs. Doolittle explained the need for an additional Preschool class at MM.

10. Review and revise the master Meeting Template and Referral List

REFERRAL LIST

Mrs. Fitzgerald suggested the need for discussion of implementing a Day of Service. Dr. Graner stated that he would take this suggested to the Principals and report back to the Board in August.

Mrs. Fitzgerald requested that R2015-51 and R2016-60 be combined – they are the same.

Mrs. Fitzgerald requested that R2015-56 be removed.

Mrs. Fitzgerald requested that R2016-5 be referred to Curriculum.

MEETING TEMPLATE

Mrs. Fitzgerald suggested that College Prep Update be held in February and June at a COW meeting.

Mrs. Fitzgerald suggested that After School Enrichment Program Update be held at the March BOE meeting.

11. Update regarding School Facilities Projects

Dr. Graner stated that the School Facilities Projects were moving along. He noted that Mark Oefinger had submitted a letter regarding swapping the land to meet the obligation of the grant which was used to purchase the Merritt property. The grant required that the land purchased be used for recreation; the Town plans to offer alternative sites of equal or greater value in exchange for the use of the Merritt property as a middle school.

12. Report of the Ad Hoc Communications Committee

Mrs. White stated that there was no report at this time. She expected to have a report for the July 11, 2016 meeting.

13. Report of the Ad Hoc Middle School Program Committee

Dr. Ackerman noted that a number of meetings have been held; at the second meeting, the Middle School Principals were invited to attend where the history was reviewed, they looked at reports previously established; at the next meeting they will decide on the membership of the committee. She stated the committee wanted to ensure equity and rigor.

Dr. Graner stated that had met with the faculty of WSM and they were very excited about becoming a Stem Magnet School.

14. Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. White to adjourn at 9:03 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY