

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Special Meeting

June 20, 2016

The special meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on June 20, 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 6:00 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
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome
Mrs. Rosemary Robertson
Mrs. Rita Volkmann
Mrs. Lee White
Mr. Jay Weitlauf

Mr. Gary Baker

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. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Don Meltabarger, Business Manager

Mr. Dennis Colclough, Director of Technology Services

Mr. Jacob Carlson, Student Representative

Miss Mackenzie Lyons, Student Representative

B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION OF VISITORS AND DELEGATIONS

NONE

I. **CALL TO ORDER – cont.**

C. **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

1. Mrs. Beth Horler, GEA President, stated her support as a teacher for an administrator to address the behavioral needs of students; she noted that children are coming to school with more stress and trauma than in the past. Mrs. Horler addressed the proposed Field Trip policy by asking is the post-trip report mandatory for all local field trips? She noted that the post-trip reports may pose a significant burden for teachers. Mrs. Horler recommended that the new policy apply to day-long or longer trips only. Regarding the non-sanctioned trips, she asked if they were educationally related – liability not clear. **[ATTACHMENT #1]**

II. **RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

NONE

III. **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

NONE

IV. **SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

1. **Update regarding School Handbooks** – Dr. Graner informed the Board that School Handbooks will be placed on the website beginning in the 2016-2017 school year.
2. **Update regarding the School Facilities Project** – Dr. Graner reported that the Town Council will hold a public hearing on June 21, 2016 to solicit information from the public regarding the referendum ordinance. The district expects to submit the school construction project paperwork before the end of the month.
3. **Groton Yardstick Data Report [ATTACHMENT #2]** – Mr. Emery gave an overview of the Groton Yardstick data.
4. **Update regarding the 2016 Summer Meals Program** – Mr. Ernie Koschmeider gave an overview of the Summer Meals Program noting that this is the third full year of the program. He further noted that in 2015 there were 12 sites; in 2016, there are 15 sites serving over 12,000 breakfasts. The sites are at Poquonnock Plains Park, Dolphin Gardens, Conning Towers/Nautilus Park, Kolnaski Magnet School, William Seely School, Fitch Middle School, West Side Middle School, Washington Park, Branford Manor, Groton Estates, Dolphin Community Center, Nautilus Park Community Center, Groton Public Library, Litton Avenue, and Riverfront Children’s Center. He further noted that Congressman Courtney came to view the programs several times; the City Recreational program started today; he has

IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS – cont.

purchased shirts and logo paid for by a grant; the sites are listed on the Groton Public Schools website and the Groton Public Library website; he is using local produce whenever they are available.

5. **Safe School Climate Survey Action Plans** – Ms. Austin noted that action plans have been collected from each of the schools and highlighted the trends. **[ATTACHMENT #3]**
6. **Revised Meeting Template** – Dr. Graner shared a revised Meeting Template and noted the changes.

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF

1. Assistant Superintendent Report

Ms. Austin reported that the actual anniversary of the Connecticut Submarine Century is June 21, 2016. There will be a ceremony at the Nautilus at 10:00 a.m. and a 100th Year Submarine Birthday Bash at Washington Park from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. She also noted that a fleet of submarine models will surface across Southeastern Connecticut. There is a public art event celebrating the region's 100 years as the "Submarine Capitol of the World!" Ms. Austin displayed some of the submarines that were made at CK. Lastly, she shared "Launching of the Fleet" activity on June 24, 2016, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at Ella T. Grasso Tech School Gymnasium. **[ATTACHMENTS #4, 5 & 6]**

2. Director of Teaching and Learning Report

Mr. Emery gave an overview of the L.A. Performance Task Comparison. **[ATTACHMENT #7]**

3. Business Manager Report

Mr. Meltabarger noted:

- Object Code Summary **[ATTACHMENTS #8 & 9]**
- The Health Reserve Report **[ATTACHMENT #10]**
- Enrollment Report **[ATTACHMENT #11]**

4. Director of Buildings and Grounds Report

Mr. Kilpatrick noted:

- that the water testing results have been received from all the tests; one fountain at FHS has been taken offline; the staff has retested a section at PV and the results have not been received; samples were drawn from CC and PV;
- CC Abatement – The Permanent School Committee awarded the bid; the Buildings and Grounds Department has taken 2.5 days to remove the contents of the building; the plan is to have the CC asbestos removed by August 1st so that teachers can organize their classrooms.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS – cont.

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF – cont.

5. Director of Human Resources

Mrs. LePine stated that to date there have been 19 teachers retire as well as 2 Administrators plus a small number of resignations. Interviews are being conducted to fill these positions.

Dr. Ackerman and Mrs. Volkmann made a referral to the COW for discussion of the hiring process for Administrative staff.

Mrs. Fitzgerald requested a quarterly report on staffing.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance/Facilities Committee:

There was no report.

2. Policy Committee:

There was no report.

3. Curriculum Committee:

There was no report.

4. Negotiations Committee:

Mrs. Watson noted that Paraprofessional negotiations are still being held. The next meeting will be June 21, 2016.

5. LEARN:

Mrs. Volkmann noted that LEARN had a breakfast meeting on June 9, 2016 that Dr. Ackerman and Dr. Graner attended. Dr. Howley shared her Development and Performance Plan and then they adjourned to their regular meeting where election of officers were held.

6. Groton Parent Council:

There was no report.

7. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee:

There was no report.

8. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee:

There was no report.

9. Groton Scholarship:

There was no report.

V. **COMMITTEE REPORTS** – cont.

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 will meet on June 22, 2016.
13. Ad Hoc Middle School Program Review:
Dr. Ackerman noted that the Ad Hoc Middle School Program Review Committee met and discussed the composition of the committee and that they will make a visitation to a Middle School with an IB Program.

VI. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the Regular meeting minutes of the May 23, 2016 and the Special meeting minutes of May 24, 25, 31, and two meetings on June 8, 2016, are hereby accepted and approved.

2. **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS**

- Target Take Charge of Education has made a donation of \$17.62 to Pleasant Valley School.
- Lowe's ToolBox for Education Grant was awarded to the Journey to Success Team (JTS) at Northeast Academy Elementary School in the amount of \$3,950.
- Ahold Financial Services has provided rewards in the amount of \$225.05 to Pleasant Valley School.

A motion was made by Mrs. Robertson and seconded by Mrs. Volkmann to approve the Consent Agenda.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

VI. **ACTION ITEMS** – cont.

B. **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Discussion and possible action regarding a second reading of policy P 6153 Field Trips.**

A motion was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mrs. Volkmann to send this policy back to the Policy Committee for reconsideration of certain language.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

C. **NEW BUSINESS**

FINANCE/FACILITIES:

1. **Discussion and possible action regarding FY 17 salaries for non-union employees and Central Office staff.**

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. White to approve the FY 17 salaries for non-union employees and Central Office staff with the exception of the Superintendent's salary.

YES – Watson, Ackerman, Robertson, White, Weitlauf

NO – Volkmann

ABSTAINED – Newsome, Fitzgerald

PASSED

It was requested that discussion be held at a COW meeting in June regarding salaries for non-union employees and Central Office staff.

2. **Discussion and possible action regarding revision to the FY 17 budget. [ATTACHMENT #12]**

A motion was made by Mrs. White and seconded by Mr. Weitlauf to approve the reduction made by RTM in the amount of \$262,000 which would require the elimination of the Director of Teaching and Learning position and the high school Family and Consumer Science position.

YES – Watson, Robertson, White, Weitlauf

NO – Volkmann, Ackerman, Fitzgerald

ABSTAINED – Newsome

MOTION DEFEATED

VI. ACTION ITEMS – cont.

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

A motion was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mrs. Volkmann to reconsider the previous vote.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

A motion was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mrs. White to approve the revision to meet the reduction to the FY 17 budget made by the RTM.

YES – Watson, Robertson, White, Weitlauf, Volkmann, Fitzgerald

NO – Ackerman

ABSTAINED – Newsome

PASSED

A referral was made to the COW to have a review of how the Director of Teaching and Learning duties are handled.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding an additional Kindergarten class at CK and a Preschool class at MM.

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. White to approve an additional Kindergarten class at CK and a Preschool class at MM.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

4. Discussion and possible action regarding an additional Special Education Supervisor.

A motion was made by Mr. Weitlauf and seconded by Mrs. Robertson to approve an additional Special Education Supervisor.

YES – Weitlauf, White, Robertson, Watson, Volkmann, Newsome,

Fitzgerald

NO – Ackerman

PASSED

VII. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mr. Weitlauf noted his attendance at the May 31, 2016 Retirement Ceremony; Graduation on June 17, 2016; and expressed his disappointment with the loss of Sean McKenna.

VII. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – cont.

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS – cont.

2. Mrs. Fitzgerald noted her attendance at the Military Volunteer breakfast; the Retirement Ceremony; and the high school function that Senator Courtney attended.
3. Mrs. Newsome stated that she had been asked for advice regarding Government by some young children.
4. Mrs. Volkmann noted the Walk across Groton function which she participated in and thanked Mr. Danner and his fourth and fifth grade students as well as parents; she also noted her attendance at Graduation.
5. Mrs. Robertson noted her attendance at Graduation; the GASP meeting; and Community Speaks Out meeting
6. Mrs. White noted her attendance at Graduation; the Military Volunteer meeting; and the Retirement Ceremony.
7. Dr. Ackerman noted her attendance at all the functions previously mentioned by Board members and shared her praised of the FHS Chamber Choir.
8. Mrs. Watson noted her attendance at the Retirement Ceremony; that she will be sending information to Susan and Denise regarding a Collaborative workshop; and she noted her attendance at Graduation.
9. Mrs. Volkmann thanked Mr. Emery for his many years of service to the Groton Public Schools
10. Mr. Weitlauf also thanked Mr. Emery for his many years of service to the Groton Public Schools.
11. Mrs. Watson also thanked Mr. Emery for his many years of service to the Groton Public Schools.

VIII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. FUTURE MEETING DATES AND CALENDAR ITEMS

As noted in the agenda.

B. SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS

NONE

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. Newsome to adjourn at 9:08 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY