

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Committee of the Whole

July 11, 2016

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Groton Board of Education was held on July 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 6:10 p.m.

PRESENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman, Vice Chairperson
Mr. Gary Baker
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Rosemary Robertson
Mrs. Rita Volkmann
Mr. Jay Weitlauf

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Joseph Arcarese, Principal, Fitch High School

ABSENT

Mrs. Gretchen Newsome
Mrs. Lee White

Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil
Personnel Services

Mr. Don Meltabarger, Business Manager

Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of
Buildings and Grounds

2. BOE REGULAR BUSINESS

a. Approval of the minutes of June 13, 2016

A motion was made by Mrs. Robertson and seconded by Mr. Baker to approve the minutes of June 13, 2016.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

b. Review of the Referral List

Mrs. Watson made a referral to the Finance/Facilities Committee to look into computers/laptops for Board members. She also suggested a review of Board committee structure be held at the next Board Retreat.

2. **BOE REGULAR BUSINESS - cont.**

b. Review of the Referral List - cont.

Mrs. Watson suggested an Ad Hoc Committee to investigate Board Operations, e.g. committee structure. Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Robertson, and Mr. Weitlauf volunteered to serve on this Ad Hoc Committee.

c. Update Regarding School Facilities Projects

Mrs. Watson noted that there will be a meeting of the RTM on Wednesday, July 13, 2016, at 7:30 p.m., at the Senior Center where the School Facilities Projects will be discussed.

d. Report of the Ad Hoc Communications Committee

Ms. Austin stated the Ad Hoc Communications Committee has been meeting every week. She gave an overview of the Communications Plan [ATTACHMENT #1].

Mrs. Volkmann suggested a full-page ad be taken out in the newspaper highlighting Groton.

e. Report of the Ad Hoc Middle School Program Review Committee

Dr. Ackerman stated that the Ad Hoc Middle School Program Review Committee has been meeting and that they are staying within the Board of Education's parameters; the Committee will invite others as needed, and they will be receiving training in the Middle Years Program.

f. Orientation of the Board Evaluation

Dr. Graner shared a copy of the CABA Board Evaluation document and reviewed it with the Board. He noted that CAPSS will be coming out with a similar document which he will review.

This item will be discussed at the Board Retreat in September.

g. CABA November Convention Participation

Dr. Graner noted that the CABA/CAPSS Convention will be held on November 18 and 19, 2016 in Mystic. He also noted that Mrs. Fitzgerald, Dr. Ackerman, and Mrs. Robertson are presently signed up; he and Ms. Austin will also be attending.

3. CURRICULUM

a. Proposed Curriculum Development Process

Ms. Austin reviewed the proposed Curriculum Development Process as recommended by the CSDE and the structures in place in Groton Public Schools [ATTACHMENT #2].

b. Review of the 2015-2016 Early Dismissal PD Plan

Ms. Austin gave an overview of the 2015-2016 Early Dismissal PD Plan. She noted that the focus of PD in the elementary school and middle school was a Teachers College Writers' Workshop. With the additional five extended day PD's, teachers were able to work on curriculum mapping, shared lesson design, performance tasks, looking at student work, interventions and enrichments, and behavioral supports; including responsive classroom and restorative practices.

c. Update Regarding the Educational Evaluation

Dr. Graner noted that the Educational Evaluation is a statutory requirement. The CSDE has given the district an extension. If a teacher is retiring, the evaluation does not have to be scored. If a teacher is on leave, the district provides an additional extension.

d. Review of the X Block Proposal

Mr. Arcarese gave an overview of the X Block proposal and requested that the X Block be restored at the high school on a proposed Tuesday schedule for department collaborations [ATTACHMENT #3]. He described a plan that would be followed and a tuning protocol for looking at student work [ATTACHMENT #4].

Mrs. Volkmann asked what area towns are doing relative to early release days and/or collaboration.

A referral was made to the C.O.W. for discussion of how the high school supervision is working.

e. Update Regarding the Groton Yardstick

Dr. Graner stated that he and Ms. Austin reviewed the data and concluded that it was not reliable enough to share with the Board at this time.

f. Update Regarding the Spring Literacy Data Analysis

Dr. Graner stated that he does not have the analysis at this time.

3. **CURRICULUM - cont.**

g. Report on MCEC Training Seminar

Dr. Graner noted that there were five attendees to the MCEC Training Seminar; everyone heard some wonderful speakers. He noted a book, "Smartest Student in the World" and highlighted a speaker who addressed "How do we help military kids?" Overall, he stated that everyone was highly impressed with the seminar.

4. **POLICY**

a. Review of the Field Trip Policy (P 6153)

Ms. Austin gave an overview of the Field Trip policy (P 6153) [ATTACHMENT #5]. It will be forwarded to the full Board for a second reading.

Mrs. Volkmann made a referral to the C.O.W. for a report on after school programs that are occurring in the district.

Mrs. Volkmann suggested that an Expulsion Report be placed on the Meeting Template for November and February.

b. Review of the Bidding Policy (P 3323)

Ms. Austin stated that this item will be forwarded to the Finance/Facilities Committee for review.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. Volkmann to adjourn at 8:42 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY