

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
AD HOC MAGNET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2015
9:00 A.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 5**

Members Present: Andrea Ackerman, Katrina Fitzgerald, Jay Weitlauf

Members Absent: Susan Austin

Also Present: Mike Graner, Chris Dauphinais, Paul Esposito

The meeting was called to order by Katrina Fitzgerald at 9:05 a.m.

1. The minutes from August 4, 2015 were reviewed.
2. MSAP Grant – This grant is a federal grant, not a state grant. Dr. Graner will be meeting with LEARN next week to get more information.
3. Review Magnet Extension Chart – Areas that need the most development were discussed. The committee also discussed utilizing already established LEARN magnets; particularly dual language in that they need a “home.” Paul Esposito stated that he has a well researched plan that he could see working for NEA. Chris Dauphinais said she has an established program that could use more support from Central Office. Two discussion points came out of Paul and Chris’ conversation:
 - a. How to make space/selective lottery;
 - b. Phasing in of new magnet programs.

The consensus of the committee was that the goal is to have seven “specialized” programs; two of which would maintain “traditional” programs.

The topic of a whole school versus “cohort” programs to start marketing led to the question of why? To gauge community response? Are we to that point yet?

4. Intradistrict vs. Interdistrict – The committee reviewed the current moratorium on interdistrict magnet schools and determined the path ahead for Groton would be to consider developing additional intradistrict magnet programs. Dr. Graner briefed the committee on the plan to seek special legislation to fund the School Facilities Initiative Task Force’s proposed school construction plan.
5. Committee Expansion (i.e.: school administration, teacher, community member) - Paul Esposito and Chris Dauphinais were identified as additional members of the Ad Hoc Committee. Dr. Graner, Katrina, and Jay will approach the Groton Parent Council to solicit their membership to participate on the Ad Hoc Committee. The committee discussed having a marketing person who writes grants and also participates on the committee.
6. Set Meeting Dates – The next meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Superintendent’s Office.

7. Review Timeline – This item was tabled.
8. Items for Future Discussion
 - Utilizing already established LEARN magnet schools
 - Review timeline
 - Tentative presentation in December to the BoE's Committee of the Whole after new members are seated.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.