

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Committee of the Whole

July 13, 2015

A Committee of the Whole meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on July 13, 2015, in Room 11 of the School Administration Building.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kim Watson, Board Chairperson, at 6:05 p.m.

PRESENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson
Mrs. Rita Volkmann, Vice Chairperson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman
Mrs. Patricia Doyle
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Ms. Mary Kelly
Mr. Jay Weitlauf

ABSENT

Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos
Mr. Joey Schick

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Michael Emery, Director of Teaching and Learning
Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Don Meltabarger, Business Manager
Mr. Larry Croxton, GEA President
Mr. Peter Russell, AON
Mr. Carlton Lindgren, AON
Mrs. Lee White, Citizen

Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent

1. Approval of minutes of June 8, 2015

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. Volkmann to approve the minutes of June 8, 2015.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

2. Presentation regarding HSA medical insurance plan [ATTACHMENT #1]

Mr. Peter Russell and Mr. Carlton Lindgren, AON Representatives, gave an overview of the HAS Medical Insurance Plan. They stated that the final regulations are not out yet.

3. Update regarding Board of Education Health Insurance reserve account [ATTACHMENT #2]

Mr. Meltabarger gave an overview of the Board's Health Insurance reserve account. Mrs. LePine explained corridor funding.

4. Discussion regarding substitutes for paras, teachers and long-term assignments [ATTACHMENTS #3 & 4]

Dr. Graner and Mr. Meltabarger gave an overview of the rates for subs via a survey of area districts and certified substitute amounts and FTEs of area districts. It was explained that the need for substitutes occur due to the number of professional development, faculty meetings and illness of staff that may occur on the same day.

Ms. Kelly and Mrs. Watson asked if we are utilizing substitutes in the best way. They asked what is involved in the coordination of substitutes and the cost.

Mrs. Fitzgerald asked if it is cheaper to have stipends for teachers to attend activities after school hours.

5. Update on the Minimum Budget Requirement [ATTACHMENT #5]

Mr. Meltabarger gave an overview of the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) that was recently signed into law.

6. Follow-up regarding Intra-District Magnet Schools

Mrs. Watson asked for volunteers to serve on an Ad Hoc Committee to address Intra-district Magnet Schools in Groton. Dr. Ackerman, Mrs. Fitzgerald and Mr. Weitlauf volunteered to serve.

The Board discussed what the mission and timeline of this committee would be. It was determined that the committee's mission would be to develop a practical guideline plan of implementation of an Intra-district Magnet School in the hope of retaining and returning students to Groton and to investigate the feasibility of establishing Intra-district Magnet Schools in Groton. The timeline would be for the committee to have a recommendation by November for the full Board to consider.

7. Discussion regarding selection of Board Member to fill vacancy

Mrs. Watson recognized Mrs. Lee White as the candidate to fill the vacant position on the Board.

8. Review of Referral List

The Board reviewed the Referral List.

Mrs. Fitzgerald suggested that a representative from CAFE (Patrice McCarthy) be invited to meet with the Board to discuss pending bills and their impact on Groton. Dr. Graner stated that he would coordinate that meeting.

9. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Volkmann to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY