

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

**Special Meeting**

**July 14, 2014**

The special meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on July 14, 2014, in Room 11 of the School Administration Building.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Rita Volkmann, Board Chairperson, at 6:00 p.m.

The first order of business was the pledge of allegiance to the flag led by Mrs. Watson.

**PRESENT**

Mrs. Rita Volkmann, Board Chairperson  
Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Vice Chairperson  
Dr. Andrea Ackerman  
Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos (via phone)  
Ms. Mary Kelly  
Mr. Joey Schick

**ABSENT**

Mrs. Patricia Doyle  
Dr. Kirsten Hoyt

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Michael Lovetere, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
Mr. Sam Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds  
Mr. Kevin Lemoi, Director of Technology Services  
Mr. Wesley Greenleaf, School Facilities Task Force  
Mr. Jon Heller, School Facilities Task Force (arrived at 6:40 p.m.)

Mrs. Carolyn Dicker, Business Manager

Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil  
Personnel Services

Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human  
Resource Services

**B. Recognition and Participation of Visitors and Delegations**

Dr. Graner introduced Sam Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds, Wes Greenleaf, former Director of Buildings and Grounds, Kevin Lemoi, Director of Technology Services, and Michael Lovetere, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

**C. Comments from Citizens**

NONE

## II. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

### **A. Hiring Report**

#### ➤ **Teaching Staff**

Mr. Lovetere reported that to date 15 certified staff have been hired with 3 more positions still to be filled: middle school Math, high school Physics and high school Guidance. He stated that beginning in August paraprofessional openings will begin to be filled.

#### ➤ **Assistant Superintendent**

Mr. Lovetere stated that curriculum writing has occurred over the summer regarding elementary Math, elementary Writing, Language Arts 6-8, English 11 & 12, Freshman Seminar Grade 9, and Digital Citizenship K-8. The curriculum writing was completed by June 30, 2014. The curriculum writing constitutes 300 hours which will be paid from Title II funds.

Mr. Lovetere stated that he has been working with Mr. Lemoi and Mr. Kilpatrick. He noted that he and Mr. Lemoi have been discussing policy and procedure and that Mr. Kilpatrick has been doing a number of things to keep the district going in the right direction.

Mr. Lovetere stated that he is still looking at the budget for savings and his department is planning the new teacher orientation for August 18 and 19, 2014.

Dr. Graner noted that a seven member interview committee has reviewed 30-33 applications regarding the Assistant Superintendent position. They have whittled the candidates down to 7 who will be interviewed on Thursday and Friday.

Mr. Kilpatrick reported:

- That he has visited the FHS roof and is working with the contractor; the gym roof will be done by the end of the week; however, due to the weather it may be completed at a later date;
- Ceilings at MM;
- Carpeting at CB and MM;
- Sally ports – There is \$200,000 in the budget to cover this; will begin with PV
- Custodial training on August 11, 2014
- He noted a custodial death in Massachusetts – As a result, he has sent a notice to his staff noting the dangers of chemical usage;
- FHS window leaks;
- The movement of equipment for special needs students.

Mr. Lovetere gave an update on Dave Overton, Supervisor of Maintenance, who left on medical leave to deal with a family issue in Florida. Mr. Lovetere stated that he will be returning to the Groton Public Schools.

**II. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – cont.**

**B. End-of-Year 2013-14 Budget Report**

Dr. Graner gave an end-of-year 2013-2014 budget report. He noted: that the unexpended balance on June 16, 2014; however, after the final encumbrances were accounted for, the district had sufficient funds to purchase workbooks for next year in the amount of \$150,000, a new Wi-Fi System, and \$225,000 was used to off-set the short fall in Health Insurance.

Mr. Lemoi reported:

- He has discussed infrastructure with the Tech staff;
- He is looking at server warranties;
- He is looking at software in the district;
- He is looking at inventory;
- He is looking at curriculum software – if it's being used or not being used;
- He is conscious of the budget;
- He is researching wireless technology.

Dr. Graner noted that the DOD has a balance of 1 million dollars; \$70,000 was used for a matching grant for the purchase of computers.

**C. Board of Education attendance at MCEC**

Dr. Graner noted that Mrs. Volkmann, Dr. Ackerman and Mrs. Nelson will be attending.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR PROPOSED MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Dr. Graner gave an overview of how the educational specifications were developed. It was noted that a historical piece needs to be added to the educational specifications.

Mrs. Gianacoplos signed off at 7:27 p.m.

The Board reviewed the educational specifications document and made grammatical as well suggested changes. The Board instructed the Superintendent to incorporate these changes into the document and forward a revised copy to Board members for review before the August 11, 2014 Board meeting.

**III. NEW BUSINESS – cont.**

**2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A PARENT COMPLAINT (ANTICIPATED TO BE HELD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION)**

A motion was made by Mr. Schick and seconded by Ms. Kelly to go into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a complaint regarding a student personnel record and to invite Dr. Graner and the family to attend.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

The Board discussed the parent complaint. No action was taken.

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mr. Watson to return to Open Session at 8:40 p.m.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

A motion was made by Mrs. Watson and seconded by Dr. Ackerman that the Board does not take action regarding the parent complaint heard in Executive Session on July 14, 2014. The issue does not fall within the Board's purview.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING TITLE IX INVESTIGATION (ANTICIPATED TO BE HELD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION)**

A motion was made by Mrs. Watson and seconded by Mr. Schick to go into Executive Session at 8:59 p.m. to receive an update from the Superintendent regarding a Title IX investigation and to invite the Superintendent to attend.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

Dr. Graner gave an update regarding a Title IX investigation. No action was taken.

A motion was made by Mrs. Watson and seconded by Ms. Kelly to return to Open Session at 9:12 p.m.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

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**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mrs. Watson and seconded by Ms. Kelly to adjourn at 9:13 p.m.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**