

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

**Special Meeting**

**September 21, 2014**

A special meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on September 12, 2014, in the Nautilus Museum, for the purpose of conducting a Board Retreat.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Rita Volkmann, Board Chairperson, at 1:15 p.m.

**PRESENT**

**ABSENT**

Mrs. Rita Volkmann, Chairperson  
Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Vice Chairperson  
Dr. Andrea Ackerman  
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald  
Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos  
Dr. Kirsten Hoyt  
Ms. Mary Kelly  
Mr. Joey Schick

Mrs. Patricia Doyle

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent

The workshop began with a leadership icebreaker that engaged the Board in a dialogue about several quotes regarding excellent leadership principles. The Board then reviewed Chapter 1 of *District Leadership That Works* by Robert Marzano and Timothy Waters. The Board discussed the five key responsibilities of leadership teams.

The Board then reviewed the current Mission Statement and Board Goals (February 2012 – June 2013). Mike Graner and Susan Austin also presented a proposed Mission Statement developed by the Stakeholder Group at the May 2014 workshop. The Board discussed the proposed mission and came to consensus that this item should be added to the Board of Education agenda on Superintendent 22, 2014. The Board also reviewed the proposed District Goals and Objectives developed by the District Improvement Team in June 2014. The plan was presented using a graphic organizer called a Mind Map. After discussing the plan, the Board reached consensus that it should be forwarded for action at the Board of Education meeting on September 22, 2014.

The next topic considered by the Board was the development of an annual Performance Indicator schedule. Mike Graner shared the Ledyard Public Schools' annual Performance Indicator schedule, and the Board recommended several indicators which will be incorporated into a comprehensive schedule. The proposed Performance Indicator will be reviewed in light of the Groton Yardstick document developed several years ago. The final proposed list will be reviewed at the Committee of the Whole meeting in November.

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The Adopt-A-School program was considered by the Board, and the consensus of the group was that the program should be removed from the Board of Education Member Handbook.

The Board Retreat ended with a consideration of proposed changes to the Board's Bylaws. A few items were noted for review by the Policy Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.