

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Regular Meeting

April 27, 2015

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on April 27, 2015, in CR 1 of the Town Hall Annex.

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kim Watson, Board Chairperson, at 6:02 p.m.

The first order of business was the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Christine Dauphinais.

PRESENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos
Ms. Mary Kelly
Mr. Jay Weitlaug

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Michael Emery, Director of Teaching and Learning
Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Ms. Don Meltabarger, Business Manager
Mr. Jamal Neal, Student Representative
Miss Mackenzie Lyon, Student Representative

ABSENT

Mrs. Rita Volkmann, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Patricia Doyle
Mr. Joey Schick

Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil
Personnel Services

Mr. Kevin Lemoi, Director of Technology
Services

Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human
Resources

B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS

Mrs. Watson and Dr. Graner along with Principals John Jones (WSM), Peter Bass (CMS) and Joseph Arcarese (FHS) presented the CABE Student Leadership Awards to the deserving students from their schools:

Kyle Egan and Rachel Lewis (WSM)
Cassandra Flax and Christopher Holmes (CMS)
Mackenzie Lyon and Jamal Neal (FHS)

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. Gianacoplos to suspend the rules and move item #2 under New Business up on the agenda.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

C. NEW BUSINESS

2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A TRUCK DONATION FROM THE CITY OF GROTON

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Ms. Kelly to accept the Truck donation from the City of Groton for use with the summer program and for pick-ups from contract vendors.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

1. Mrs. Beth Horler, GEA President thanked the Board for honoring National Teacher Day. Mrs. Horler also asked that the Board have a moment of silence in remembrance of Lenny Burke, a former Groton Public Schools teacher.

The Board held a moment of silence in remembrance of Lenny Burke, a former Groton Public School teacher.

D. STUDENT LIAISON REPORT

The student representatives reported:

- That on Saturday, April 25, 2015, a Zumathon was held and raised \$1,100 that will be used towards the Senior Prom ticket cost.
- That the Marching Band Leadership was changing. They just went through the leadership process and Memorial Day practice will begin soon.
- That testing will begin on Monday.
- Senior Activities:
 - All State Festival will begin on Thursday;
 - Music Dinner Dance with a Roaring Twenty's theme on May 8, 2015 in the FHS Cafeteria.
- That the Class Elections are coming up for sophomores, juniors, and seniors.
- That the Robotics Team just returned from St. Louis where they went to the semi-finals and placed 3rd out of their division of 76 teams. 3000 teams attended.

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

III. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

➤ **Update regarding the Common Core Standards**

Mr. Emery stated that the SBAC test started last week at the elementary level; technology is going well; and that there have been technical errors on SBAC's side.

➤ **Update regarding the 2015-2016 budget**

Dr. Graner noted several meetings with the RTM:

April 29, 2015	at 7:00 p.m., at the Senior Center	RTM Annual Budget meeting
May 5, 2015	at 6:00 p.m., at the Senior Center	RTM Education Committee
May 13, 2015	at 7:30 p.m., at the Senior Center	Full RTM meeting

Dr. Graner stated that the Town Council has reduced the Board's budget by \$400,000 due to Health insurance savings.

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF

1. **Business Manager Report**

- a. **FY15** – Mr. Meltabarger shared the FY 2015 Budget Summary [**ATTACHMENT #1**] and a summary of the district's health insurance [**ATTACHMENT #2**].

2. **Director of Buildings and Grounds Report**

Mr. Kilpatrick reported:

- CB asbestos abatement – a pre-bid meeting was held and there were 13 bid attendees;
- WSM Fire Panel issue during the April vacation; the fire panel was replaced.
- All School Security Grant – he noted that \$113,500 went to the Town
- Secure Foyers at CC and SB – Power needs to be upgraded to handle extra boards.
- NEA – The Northeast Aquarion Water is asking to put a water tower on school property.
- FHS Stage Lighting upgrades have been made.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance/Facilities Committee:

There was no report. The next meeting of the Finance/Facilities Committee will be May 18, 2015. Dr. Graner stated that the water tower issue at NEA will be on the agenda.

2. Policy Committee:

There was no report. The next meeting of the Policy Committee will be May 4, 2015.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

3. Curriculum Committee: There was no report. The next meeting of the Curriculum Committee will be May 4, 2015.
4. Negotiations Committee: There was no report.
5. LEARN: There was no report.
6. Groton Parent Council: There was no report. The next meeting of the Groton Parent Council will be May 12, 2015.
7. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee:
Mrs. Fitzgerald noted the minutes of the April 1, 2015 meeting of the Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee were in the Board packet. The next meeting of the Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee will be May 6, 2015.
8. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee:
Mrs. Gianacoplos stated that the GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee met April 8, 2015 and discussed school security and safety plans, substitutes, classroom printers, SBAC, and the early release PD days on next years' calendar.
9. School Facilities Task Force: Mrs. Fitzgerald stated that the School Facilities Task Force met and discussed public outreach and how to do it as well as talked with a consultant to administer surveys. Dr. Graner noted that tentatively there will be Public Hearings on May 21 and 28, 2015 to hear the public's feeling on the issue of one middle school and 2 new elementary schools. The next meeting of the School Facilities Task Force will be May 14, 2015.
10. Groton Scholarship: Ms. Kelly stated that the Groton Scholarship Fund met on April 23, 2015. Ms. Kelly noted that 95-97 students were awarded scholarships in the amount of \$57,000.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the March 23, 2015 and the Special Meetings of April 1 (Town & City Councils/RTM/BOE Liaison Committee), 6, and 8 (BOE/AGSA/GEA Liaison Committee), 2015, are hereby accepted and approved.

2. **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING WARRANTS**

RESOLVED, that the Warrants #19 & 20, are hereby accepted and approved.

3. **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS**

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby accepts gifts to the Groton Public School as follows:

- **Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program (Edward Martin) has made a donation of \$75.00 to the Fitch High School and (Peter Fairbank) has made a donation of \$1,000.00 to the Fitch High School Fencing Team.**

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Dr. Ackerman.

**YES – Watson, Weitlauf, Ackerman, Gianacoplos,
Fitzgerald**

ABSTAINED – Kelly

PASSED

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A SECOND READING OF REVISION TO POLICY P 5113 ATTENDANCE [ATTACHMENT #3]**

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Ms. Kelly to approve as a second reading revision to Policy P 5113 Attendance.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING REVISION TO THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL CALENDAR

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Ms. Kelly to revise the 2015-2016 school calendar to include Option #1 as presented.

**YES – Watson, Kelly, Ackerman, Gianacoplos
NO – Fitzgerald, Weitlauf**

PASSED

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A FIRST READING OF REVISION TO POLICY P 6162.51 SURVEY OF STUDENTS [ATTACHMENT #4]

A motion was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald and seconded by Dr. Ackerman to approve as a first reading revision to Policy P 6162.51 Survey of Students and send this policy back to the Policy Committee to adjust the wording in regards to 48 hours of notification.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A FIRST READING OF REVISION TO POLICY P 6153 FIELD TRIPS [ATTACHMENT #5]

A motion was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mrs. Gianacoplos to approve as a first reading revision to Policy P 6153 Field Trips.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

5. RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL TEACHER DAY AND WEEK

WHEREAS, May 5, 2015 has been designated as National Teachers' Day and May 4-8, 2015 has been designated as National Teachers' Week, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education acknowledges that May 5, 2015 has been designated as National Teachers' Day, and May 4-8, 2015 has been designated as National Teachers' Week, and

C. _____ NEW BUSINESS – cont.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to express its appreciation and gratitude to all teachers who serve the children of the Groton Public Schools, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education recognizes that quality teaching is the single most important factor influencing students' learning; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education and Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools, thanks all teachers for their commitment and dedication to the children of Groton.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Mr. Weitlauf.

Ms. Kelly was out of the room for this vote.

PASSED

6. RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL SCHOOL NURSES' DAY

WHEREAS, May 6, 2015 has been designated as School Nurses' Day, and

WHEREAS, school nurses provide the services mandated by the State of Connecticut, and

WHEREAS, school nurses provide nursing care to students with asthmas, diabetes, life threatening allergies and neurological cardiovascular problems, and

WHEREAS, school nurses give preventative and acute care to students and staff, health education, medication management and supportive counseling daily, and

WHEREAS, school nurses actively collaborate with staff, families and medical providers to build student capacity for self-management, self-advocacy and learning, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education acknowledges that May 6, 2015 has been designated as School Nurses' Day, and

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to express its appreciation and gratitude to all school nurses for the unique contributions they make every day toward improving the health and well-being of children in the Groton Public Schools; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education and Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools, thanks all school nurses for their commitment and dedication to the children of the Groton Public Schools.

A motion was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mrs. Gianacoplos.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mrs. Gianacoplos thanked the City of Groton for the donation of the truck to the Food Services Department.
2. Dr. Ackerman noted 41 letters of communication from Mrs. Sullivan’s class at Pleasant Valley School. Dr. Ackerman shared the students concerns:
 - 7 request in regard to computers for a computer lab or teacher or games;
 - 3 requests regarding school uniforms: 2 requests for uniforms and 1 request for no school uniforms;
 - 2 request for Art teachers;
 - 2 request for no ban on bag lunches;
 - 2 request for more meat, sausage and bacon in lunches;
 - 2 request not to have a ban on sweets for schools;
 - 1 request for a stand up desk;
 - 1 request to “close the book on homework.”Dr. Ackerman congratulated Mrs. Sullivan on her students writing skills.
3. Mrs. Watson stated that she attended the Arbor Day Ceremony at CK.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items – cont.

Mrs. Watson noted the three (3) dates for meeting with the RTM:

April 29
May 4
May 5

B. Suggested Agenda Items

NONE

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Dr. Ackerman to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY