

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

**Regular Meeting**

**August 11, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on August 11, 2014, in Room 19 of the School Administration Building.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Rita Volkmann, Board Chairperson, at 6:03 p.m.

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

**PRESENT**

Mrs. Rita Volkmann, Board Chairperson  
Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Vice Chairperson  
Dr. Andrea Ackerman  
Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos  
Dr. Kirsten Hoyt  
Ms. Mary Kelly

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools  
Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human Resources  
Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds

**ABSENT**

Mrs. Patricia Doyle  
Mr. Joey Schick

Mrs. Carolyn Dickey, Business Manager

Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil  
Personnel Services

➤ **Review of BOE vacancy selection process**

Mrs. Volkmann explained that a name has not been forwarded from the Republican Party to replace the vacancy incurred by the resignation of Shelley Gardner. Therefore, the Board is unable to address this vacancy at this time.

**B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS**

Mrs. Volkmann acknowledged Mrs. Beth Horler, GEA President, Mr. Floyd Dugas, Board Attorney, Mr. Jon Heller, School Facilities Task Force Chair, Mrs. Bobbi Jo Cini, Citizen, and Mrs. Susan Austin, the new Assistant Superintendent.

**C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

1. Mrs. Bobbi Jo Cini, Noank Road, asked the status of the two concerns she had presented to the Board – streaming sign at the entrance of FHS and the parent drop-off at CMS. Mrs. Cini also shared a concern regarding how her complaint was handled relative to her comments regarding to the Transportation Coordinator. She stated that she felt this was an infringement of her rights.

**II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

Dr. Graner responded:

- FHS Sign – The administration is trying to get a quote for the work order. Mr. Kilpatrick stated that Zoning has to do it.
- CMS Drop-off – Dr. Graner stated that Mr. Pendolphi had stated that architectural work has been done in the past; the administration will be monitoring the situation until a resolution is found
- Dr. Graner stated that he was unaware of Cini’s complaint and that he will look into it.

**III. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

**1. Staff/hiring Report**

Dr. Graner stated that 22 new teachers have been hired to date. Dr. Graner introduced Ms. Susan Austin, the new Assistant Superintendent.

**2. Review of Committee Assignments**

Dr. Graner stated that great progress has been made with the assignments to ensure that there were three members to all committees with the exception of Negotiations which has four members.

**3. Volunteer Data for the month of June**

Dr. Graner stated that there were 292 volunteers who generated 1694.8 volunteer hours.

Dr. Graner asked Board members who would be attending the CABA/CAPSS Convention November 14, 15, 2014 in Mystic.

Dr. Ackerman, Ms. Kelly, Dr. Hoyt, and Mrs. Gianacoplos stated that they would be attending.

**B. OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE RATIFICATION OF THE PARAPROFESSIONAL CONTRACT**

Mr. Dugas gave an overview of the negotiations with the paraprofessional association.

**A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded by Ms. Kelly to ratify the paraprofessional contract.**

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE RATIFICATION OF THE CUSTODIAL CONTRACT**

Mr. Dugas gave an overview of the negotiations with the custodial association.

**A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded by Ms. Kelly to ratify the custodial contract.**

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

Dr. Graner stated that he would like to review the job description for the Director of Teaching and Learning position with Mrs. Austin as well as the salary for the position.

Dr. Hoyt stated that she would like to see a new organizational chart.

Dr. Ackerman asked why a Director instead of an Assistant Superintendent.

**4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATION FOR A MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The Board reviewed the points shared by Ms. Kelly on pages 3, 5, 18.

**A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded by Mrs. Watson to approve the Educational Specifications for a Middle School with the corrections to pages 3, 5, 18 as discussed.**

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Heller stated that the School Facilities Task Force would be meeting on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

**5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE TEACHER AND ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATION PLAN**

Dr. Graner stated that he received notification today of approval by the State of the Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Plan for Groton.

Mrs. Horler gave an overview of the process for developing the plan.

**A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded by Mrs. Watson to approve the Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Plan for Groton.**

**YES – Volkmann, Watson, Ackerman, Gianacoplos,  
Hoyt  
ABSTINED – Kelly**

**PASSED**

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

NONE

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

B. Suggested Agenda Items

Mrs. Watson suggested that items discussed that were brought before the Board but not resolved continue to be listed under Old Business until they are resolved.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Watson and seconded by Dr. Hoyt to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**