

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

**Regular Meeting**

**August 25, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on August 25, 2014, in CR 1 of the Town Hall Annex.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Rita Volkmann, Board Chairperson, at 6:06 p.m.

The first order of business was the pledge of allegiance to the flag led by Mr. Seth Danner.

**PRESENT**

**ABSENT**

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

Mrs. Patricia Doyle  
Mr. Joey Schick

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent  
Mrs. Carolyn Dickey, Business Manager  
Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human Resources  
Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds

Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil  
Personnel Services

➤ **Review of BOE vacancy selection process**

Mrs. Volkmann explained that the Board had interviewed Katrina Fitzgerald as a replacement for the vacancy incurred by the resignation of Shelley Gardner.

A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded by Mrs. Gianacoplos  
to approve Katrina Fitzgerald to fill the vacancy on the Board.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

**B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS**

NONE

**C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

1. Mr. Bruce Flax, 632 Noank Road, asked:
  - a. Where were the funds for the new position Director of Teaching and Learning found;
  - b. He stated that he was opposed to allowing students from Norwich/Preston who attend the Marine Science Magnet School participating in sports for Fitch High School.

**II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

- Mrs. Volkmann stated that she would like clarification on the position of Director of Teaching and Learning and participation of students from Norwich/Preston who attend the Marine Science Magnet School participation in sports for Fitch High School.

**III. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

**1. Staff/hiring Report**

Mrs. LePine stated that there were 60 positions to be filled this summer. There were 23 retirees and resignations; 21 new teachers attended the New Teacher Academy; and there at 2 new openings, Science and P.E., for the start of the new school year that will be filled with substitutes.

**2. School Opening**

Dr. Graner stated that the Convocation was held this morning; Mrs. Horler addressed the teachers and noted that she was the 25<sup>th</sup> Teacher of Year; he showed a “Ted” talk; in the P.M. teachers attended Faculty Meetings; Tuesday will be a P.D. in the A.M. with a roll out of the Evaluation Plan in the P.M.; and Wednesday will be a building based P.D.

**3. Science Test Scores**

Dr. Graner introduced Mr. Bass, Mr. Jones and Mr. Arcarese who gave brief overviews of the 8th grade Science Scores and the 10<sup>th</sup> grade CAPT Science Scores.

**4. Class Sizes**

Ms. Austin gave an update on class sizes noting that every elementary school is impacted in the primary grades. Ms. Austin stated that if any school rises above 21-23, the Administration may have to come back to the Board for support.

**A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF**

**a. Object Code Budget Summary of 2013-2014**

**A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF – cont.**

Mrs. Dickey gave an overview of the Object Code Budget Summary of 2013-2014. Mrs. Dickey also explained the complexities of the anticipated Affordable Care Act and the additional costs that are involved.

**b. Overview of the 2014-2015 Budget**

Dr. Graner gave an overview of the Object Code Budget Summary for 2014-2015 and noted how it would affect the Spend Plan.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Finance/Facilities Committee:

Dr. Hoyt stated that the Finance/Facilities Committee met on August 18, 2014 and addressed the Object Code Summary, 2014-2015 Spend Plan and several items that are on the agenda for Board approval.

2. Negotiations Committee:

There was no report.

3. LEARN:

There was no report.

4. Policy Committee:

There was no report.

5. Curriculum Committee:

There was no report.

6. Groton Parent Council:

Mrs. Gianacoplos stated that the Groton Parent Council would meet on September 9, 2014, at S. B. Butler School at 5:30 p.m.

The question was asked if this meeting could be held at the Central Office. Dr. Graner stated he would check into this possibility.

7. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee:

There was no report.

8. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee:

There was no report.

9. School Facilities Task Force:

There was no report.

10. Groton Scholarship:

There was no report.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the July 14, 2014 Special Meeting and the August 11, 2014 Regular meeting, are hereby accepted and approved.

2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING WARRANTS

RESOLVED, that the Warrants dated August 29, 2014, are hereby accepted and approved.

3. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS

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

- Pfizer United Way Campaign (Everett Wilhelm) has made a donation of \$238.48 to the Fitch High School Robotics Team.
- The Pfizer Corporation has made a donation, in the form of a grant, of \$5000.00 to the Fitch High School Robotics Team.

A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded by Mrs. Watson.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. UPDATE ON STATUS OF THE HANDLING OF A CITIZEN'S COMPLAIN

Mrs. Volkmann stated that this item will be discussed at the Board Retreat.

2. UPDATE ON THE STREAMING SIGN AT FHS

Mr. Kilpatrick stated that he met today with the Town and stated that the district has to submit a building application for the installation of the streaming sign at FHS.

3. UPDATE ON THE REVISED PROCEDURE FOR PARENT DROP-OFF AT CMS

Dr. Graner gave an overview of the parent drop-off at CMS and stated that the administration will continue to monitor it.

A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded by Mrs. Watson to add an item (#10) to the Agenda regarding the extension of medical leave of absence for a paraprofessional.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING REVISIONS TO THE 2013-2014 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE**

A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded by Ms. Gianacoplos to approve the revisions to the 2013-2014 Board Meeting Schedule as presented.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE 2014-2015 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE**

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Dr. Hoyt to approve the 2014-2015 Board Meeting Schedule as adjusted.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE CMS HIKING CLUB OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIPS**

A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded by Mrs. Watson to send this request to the Superintendent for approval.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE HIRING OF DIRECTOR OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Mrs. Watson to approve the hiring of a Director of Teaching and Learning as presented.

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

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

**PASSED**

- 5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE SPORTS PARTICIPATION OF NORWICH AND PRESTON STUDENT WHO ATTEND THE MARINE SCIENCE MAGNET SCHOOL TO COMPETE FOR FITCH HIGH SCHOOL**

**A motion was made by Mrs. Watson and seconded by Dr. Hoyt to approve the request for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders from Norwich and Preston who attend the Marine Science Magnet School as a pilot for 2014-2015 for sports participation for Fitch High School and to review the request again in August 2015.**

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

- 6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF SAMUEL KILPATRICK TO THE SCHOOL FACILITIES TASK FORCE**

It was noted that this is the Mayor's committee and no action needs to be taken by the Board.

- 7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF THE 2014-2015 BUDGET SPEND PLAN**

Dr. Graner gave an overview of the spend plan. It was determined that no action was need by the Board at this time.

- 8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF THE VIDEOTAPING OF GEF FUNDRAISING**

**A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded by Mrs. Watson to approve the videotaping of GEF fundraising activities.**

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

**9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE RATIFICATION OF THE SECRETARIES CONTRACT (ANTICIPATE GOING INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION)**

A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded by Mrs. Watson to ratify the Secretaries Contract.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

**10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE EXTENSION OF A MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR A PARAPROFESSIONAL**

A motion was made by Mrs. Watson and approved by Dr. Hoyt to approve the request for an extension of a medical leave of absence for a paraprofessional.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Ms. Kelly asked that visitors on the agenda be placed first.
2. Dr. Ackerman noted:
  - a. She visited CMS;
  - b. She congratulated the custodial staff at FHS and CMS;
  - c. She noted the MCEC Conference and in particular a Sarah Smiley Book;
  - d. She also noted that MCEC brought in students from all over the country to the convention and noted their experience;
  - e. She noted that she, Val Nelson and Rita Volkmann took a tour of Washington. One of their stops was a Monument where she found the name of a student (Carl Lavelle) she had her first year of teaching.
3. Mrs. Watson and Mrs. Volkmann noted that they attended the District Convocation.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

Discussion of possible dates for the Board Retreat was held. By consensus September 21, 2014, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. was selected with the location to be determined.

**B. Suggested Agenda Items**

Mrs. Watson suggested:

- Equity of programs in the Middle schools
- Minority Hiring

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded Mrs. Watson by to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**