

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Special Meeting

December 15, 2014

A special meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on December 15, 2014, 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 6:05 p.m.

The first order of business was the pledge of allegiance to the flag led by Jamal Neal.

PRESENT

ABSENT

Dr. Andrea Ackerman

Dr. Kirsten Hoyt

Mrs. Patricia Doyle

Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald

Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos

Ms. Mary Kelly

Mr. Joey Schick

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson

Mrs. Rita Volkmann

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Mr. Michael Emery, Director of Teaching and Learning

Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Paul Pattavina, Supervisor of Special Education

Ms. Lori Secchiaroli, Supervisor of Special Education

Miss Mackenzie Lyon, Student Representative

Mr. Jamal Neal, Student Representative

Mrs. Carolyn Dickey, Business Manager

Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human Resources

Mr. Kevin Lemoi, Director of Technology Services

Mrs. Watson and Board members held a moment of silence in remembrance of Sandry Ramos Morales, Security Guard at Fitch High School.

B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS

NONE

1. **Hiking Club Update** – Mr. Seth Danner and Ms. Kathy Wilson gave an overview of the recent hiking trips taken by the Hiking Club. They noted that there were 25 students in the club at present. They noted the upcoming trips to New Hampshire in May would be the final trip of the year.

C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

1. Mr. Chris Stocker, 52 Meadow Street, gave an overview of the Fencing Club noting that there are 12 teams. On behalf of the Fencing Club, he requested financial support from the Board in the amount of \$2,000 for replacement supplies.

D. STUDENT LIAISON REPORT

The student representatives reported:

- They acknowledged the Candle Light Vigil they attended prior to the meeting for Sandry Ramos Morales.
- The student body finished week one of Operation Care for the subbase sailors who are unable to go home for the holidays. 1348 various items were collected for them.
- The student body is going into week two for the Safe Futures Shelter project.
- Last Friday the Student Representatives participated in the open mike performance by the Chamber Choir at Bridge Market.
- This week they begin Caroling in the community.
- Seniors had a meeting today regarding senior dues being separated from Prom expenses.
- The student leaders are making strides in sending liaisons to teacher meetings.

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Mrs. Gianacoplos asked the Superintendent if he was going to look into the Fencing Club request and getting back to the Board.

The Superintendent responded the he would.

III. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

1. **Assessment Program Update** – Ms. Austin shared GPS Assessment at a Glance information sheet[**ATTACHMENT #1**]:
 - a. The district leadership team had decided to review assessments i.e., moving away from multiple choice to open ended responses to performance based assessments;
 - b. Teaching and Learning department has been working with Principals, 21st Century Collaborative and District Improvement Team to get their input;
 - c. The district has applied for an Assessment Reduction Grant through LEARN

III. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS – cont.

- d. MAP assessments are given to students in grades K-8 in the fall and spring and is optional; for intervention in the winter;
 - e. MAP assessments are given to students in grades 9-12 for intervention students in the fall/winter/spring;
 - f. CMT, CAPT in Science (grades 5, 8, 10) in March, SBAC (grades 3-8, 11) for spring;
 - g. AP, IB, PSAT, SAT, ACT.
2. **Update regarding the Common Core Standards** – Mr. Emery shared some of the items that can be found on the Internet regarding Math i.e., an example of a Performance Task.
 3. **Overview of the 2014-2015 Budget: Object Code Summary** – Dr. Graner reviewed the latest Object Code Summary [**ATTACHMENT #2**].

Mr. Schick left at 7:20 p.m.

4. **Update regarding the 2015-2016 Budget** – The Superintendent is working with the current Business Manager on the budget. They have finished the salary account. He noted the insurance projections for next year include only a modest increase.

Dr. Graner announced the new Business Manager, Donald Meltabarger, who is coming from East Lyme. He will be starting in February.

5. **Volunteer Data for the Month of November**

Dr. Graner stated there were 315 volunteers who generated 1239.95 volunteer hours for the month of November.

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF

- 1 **Director of Buildings and Grounds Report**

Mr. Kilpatrick noted:

- The district has turned FMS over to the Town; paper shredding truck will be there tomorrow to shred material;
- The repositioning of the FHS sign has run into minor construction problem;
- Lockable Foyers – MM is next to be done;
- Mr. Kilpatrick is in the process of developing plans for the Christmas shut down.

2. **Special Education Update**

Mrs. Doolittle, Dr. Pattavina and Ms. Secchiaroli gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the PPS Department. [**ATTACHMENT #3**]

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance/Facilities Committee: Dr. Graner stated that the Finance/Facilities Committee met and discussed the Object Code Summary and the CIP Plan.
2. Policy Committee: Mrs. Doyle stated that the Policy Committee met on December 1, 2014 and discussed the policies on the agenda for approval.
3. Curriculum Committee: There was no report.
4. Negotiations Committee: There was not report.
5. LEARN: Mrs. Volkmann stated that LEARN met and that Dr. Levy presented and overview of the Introduction to Manufacturing Course.
6. Groton Parent Council: There was no report.
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: Mrs. Fitzgerald stated that the School Facilities Task Force met December 11, 2014 and discussed the site placement of a middle school; decided that all elected officials meeting on a regular basis to come to consensus. Mrs. Fitzgerald also noted that there was two (2) vacancies on the School Facilities Task Force.
10. Groton Scholarship: Ms. Kelly stated that the Groton Scholarship were working on the applications for the students.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the November 24, 2014, are hereby accepted and approved.

A. CONSENT CALENDAR – cont.

2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING WARRANTS

RESOLVED, that the Warrant dated December 12, 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 Foundation Volunteer Program (Charles Ebbinghaus) has made a donation of \$1000.00 to the Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School.**

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

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE SECOND READING OF POLICY P 5131.81 USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES [ATTACHMENT #4]

A motion was made by Mrs. Doyle and seconded by Ms. Kelly to approve as a second reading policy P 5131.81 Use of Electronic Devices.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE SECOND READING REVISION TO POLICY P 9221 VACANCIES ON THE BOARD [ATTACHMENT #5]

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Mrs. Doyle to approve as a second reading revision to policy P 92214 Vacancies on the Board.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS – cont.

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE SECOND READING OF REVISION TO POLICY P 9000 RULES OF PROCEDURE: RULE 3.8.C ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS [ATTACHMENT #6]

A motion was made by Mrs. Doyle and seconded by Mrs. Volkmann to approve as a second reading revision to policy P 9000 Rules of Procedure: Rule 3.8.C Electronic Participation at Meetings.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE SECOND READING OF REVISION TO POLICY P 6141.321 TECHNOLOGY APPROPRIATE USE [ATTACHMENT #7]

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Mrs. Doyle to approve as a second reading revision to policy P 6141.321 Technology Appropriate Use.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE FIRST READING THE REVISION TO POLICY P 6146 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS [ATTACHMENT #8]

A motion was made by Ms. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Doyle to approve as a first reading the revision to policy P 6146 Graduation Requirements.

**YES – Fitzgerald, Kelly, Ackerman, Watson, Gianacoplos,
Doyle**

ABSTAINED – Volkmann

PASSED

Mrs. Doyle left at 8:29 p.m.

2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE 2014-2015 TUITION RATES

This item was forwarded back to the Superintendent to check the numbers and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING REVISION TO THE CIP PLAN [ATTACHMENT #9]

A motion was made by Mrs. Watson and second by Mrs. Gianacoplos to approve the revision to the CIP Plan to include in the final draft a narrative reviewing the 5 year CIP history and that the correct amount for asbestos removal should be \$885 on the Project Summary page.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE FORMAT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT’S EVALUATION

It was the consensus of the Board to discuss this item at the COW meeting in January and have approval of the format at the January Regular meeting.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE RATIFICATION OF THE AGSA AGREEMENT

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mrs. Gianacoplos noted that she received a letter from a parent with concerns regarding a child.
2. Mrs. Watson stated she also receive the same letter.
3. Mrs. Fitzgerald stated that she also received the same letter.
4. Ms. Kelly stated that she also received the same letter.
5. Dr. Ackerman stated that she also received the same letter.
6. Mrs. Volkmann stated that she also received the same letter.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

B. Suggested Agenda Items

Mrs. Gianacoplos made a referral for discussion of Personal Finance as a graduation requirement to the Curriculum Committee.

B. Suggested Agenda Items - cont.

Mrs. Watson made a referral to the COW for discussion of the Flip Classroom.

Mrs. Volkmann made a referral to the COW for discussion of how much training teachers are receiving to support mainstreaming of special education students.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL OF THE FENCING COACH STIPEND

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to go into Executive Session at 9:01 p.m., for the purpose of discussing the Fencing Coach Stipend and to invite Dr. Graner to attend.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

The Board discussed the Fencing Coach Stipend. No action was taken.

A motion was made by Mrs. Watson and seconded by Mrs. Gianacoplos to return to Open Session at 9:16 p.m.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

A motion was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mrs. Volkmann to approve an MOA revising the Coaching stipend for Head Fencing Coach and creating a stipend for an Assistant Fencing Coach.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

A motion was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald and seconded by Ms. Kelly to adjourn at 9:18 p.m.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY