

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Regular Meeting

February 23, 2015

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on February 23, 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 6:07 p.m.

The first order of business was the pledge of allegiance to the flag led by Mackenzie Lyon.

PRESENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson
Mrs. Rita Volkmann, Vice Chairperson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman
Mrs. Patricia Doyle
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos
Ms. Mary Kelly

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
Mr. Kevin Lemoi, Director of Technology Services
Ms. Don Meltabarger, Business Manager
Miss Mackenzie Lyon, Student Representative

ABSENT

Dr. Kirsten Hoyt
Mr. Joey Schick

Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil
Personnel Services

Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human
Resources

Mr. Jamal Neal, Student Representative

B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS

NONE

C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

1. Mrs. Bobbi Jo Cini, 316 Groton Long Point Road, addressed several issues:
 - She stated that she was disappointed in the Board for not having the sign at FHS moved back to the road side;
 - She stated that since the passing of the Security Guard at FHS, the position has not been filled; she feels it needs to be look at and filled;
 - She stated that she was opposed to the proposed new school; she feels that Groton has never come in budget and mentioned the various maintenance issues at FHS she has observed; she also noted the broken window at CMS;
 - She noted all the consultant fees had been paid for past school construction projects and that the funds were not well spent.

D. STUDENT LIAISON REPORT

The student representative reported:

- The students have begun to prepare for the CAPT Science testing; tenth graders will be taking the test on March 11, 2015.
- She gave an update on the sports teams:
 - Girls basketball have qualified for ECC and State Tournaments
 - Boys Basketball have qualified for ECC and State Tournaments
 - Wrestling Team has two student who have placed 2nd at State
 - Women's Fencing has secured the ECC Team Championship
 - Cheerleading Team took 1st place at ECC
- She noted that a defensive driving seminar was held last Friday and was well received.
- She stated that a meteorologist came to speak on his vocation to juniors and seniors and the presentation was filmed live during their activity block.

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Mrs. Gianacoplos asked for the status of the sign at FHS. Mr. Kilpatrick responded that all the necessary steps have been taken and the work will be completed when the weather permits this spring.

Mrs. Gianacoplos asked for the status of the replacement of the Security Guard. Dr. Graner stated the position has been replaced with the full-time equivalent.

Mrs. Volkmann asked for an update on the maintenance issues mention by Mrs. Cini. Mr. Arcarese responded that the area has been patched twice since the renovation of FHS; however, this winter weather has affected the situation.

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS – cont.

Ms. Kelly asked about the broken window at CMS. The Superintendent stated that he would check into it and report back to the Board. Mr. Kilpatrick stated that he has received a work order for the window within the last 2 months and when the window is received, it will be installed.

III. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

NONE

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF

NONE

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance/Facilities Committee: There was no report.
2. Policy Committee: There was no report.
3. Curriculum Committee: There was no report.
4. Negotiations Committee: There was not report.
5. LEARN: Mrs. Volkmann stated that LEARN met last week and that Jan Perraccio, Superintendent from Old Saybrook, reported on their budget. Ms. Perraccio stated that they had 3 budgets: (1) Central Office budget which is a sustained service budget; (2) Administration budget with is 0 based and has tiered levels; (3) Superintendent's budget. She also addressed the challenges with declining enrollment. Mrs. Volkmann also noted a report from Peter Smith, Lobbyist for the RESC, on the Governor's budget. She further noted that Dr. Howley with the Superintendents on February 13, 2015. Dr. Graner noted two points: (1) the Legislative breakfast where the Superintendent's met with 5 legislators and the Superintendents made it clear to the legislators that they are trying to improve communication; (2) the Interim Commissioner shared the process for hiring

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

the new Commissioner. Dr. Graner further noted that the State Dept. of Education is looking at the Education Evaluator System. Lastly, Mrs. Volkmann noted that there are no new taxes for the State of Connecticut and that transportation is going to be a priority.

6. Groton Parent Council: There was no report.
7. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee:
Mrs. Doyle stated that the Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee met February 4, 2015 and discussed shared services, the budget, and upcoming school facilities initiatives. Mrs. Doyle stated that the next meeting will be March 4, 2015 at 5:30 p.m., at PV.
8. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee:
There was no report.
9. School Facilities Task Force: Mrs. Watson stated that the School Facilities Task Force has been meeting consistently and are in the last phase. She noted an article on the cost of the project was published in the *The Day*. The next meeting will be February 26, 2016.
10. Groton Scholarship: Ms. Kelly stated that the Groton Scholarship met on January 20, 2015. She stated that the second mailing for donations will be done in February and the donations are due March 1, 2015; applications for students was available on February 27, 2015 online at the Career Center and the return due date is March 6, 2015.

Mrs. Watson acknowledged the contributions of Dr. Kirsten Hoyt to the district and community who has taken a new job in Arizona and wished her well.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. CONSENT CALENDAR – cont.

1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the December 15, 2014 and the Special Meeting of February 5, 2015, are hereby accepted and approved.

2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING WARRANTS

RESOLVED, that the Warrant dated December 26, 2014, January 16, 30, and February 13, 2015 are hereby accepted and approved.

3. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS

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

- **Peter and Patricia Halvordson have made a donation of \$2000.00 to the Fitch High School Robotics Team.**
- **Pfizer United Way Campaign (Everett Wilhelm) has made a donation of \$238.48 to the Fitch High School Robotics Team.**
- **Target Field Trips Grant Sponsored by Target has made a donation of \$700.00 to Grade 2 at Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School for Science Field Trips.**

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

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL CALENDAR [ATTACHMENT #1]

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Ms. Kelly to approve as the 2015-2016 School Calendar.

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

B. OLD BUSINESS – cont.

NO – Volkmann

PASSED

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE 2014-2015 TUITION RATES [ATTACHMENT #2]

A motion was made by Mrs. Doyle and seconded by Dr. Ackerman to approve the 2014-2015 Tuition Rates.

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

NO – Volkmann

PASSED

2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPLYING FOR THE 2014-2015 DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES TO SUPPORT TRANSITION TO THE NEW STANDARDS GRANT

A motion was made by Mrs. Volkmann and seconded by Mrs. Doyle to approve applying for the 2014-2015 District Technology upgrades to support transition to the new standards grant.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF THE CLOSEOUT OF THE CUTLER MIDDLE SCHOOL PORTABLE PROJECT

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Mrs. Volkmann to approve the closeout of the Cutler Middle School Portable Project.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF THE FITCH HIGH SCHOOL ROOF PROJECT

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Dr. Ackerman to approve the close of the Fitch High School Roof Project.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A TEACHER SABBATICAL REQUEST

A motion was made by Mrs. Doyle and seconded by Mrs. Gianacoplos to approval of a teacher Sabbatical request.

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

NO – Volkmann

PASSED

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Ms. Kelly noted the flyer regarding Read Across America and stated that she would be reading at CK on Friday.
2. Mrs. Volkmann noted that she had been contacted by Seth Danner regarding the Hiking Club's Flap Jack fundraiser at Applebee's on March 7, 2015, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.
3. Mrs. Watson noted that she has referred any correspondence regarding the School Facilities Task Force to Jon Heller. Mrs. Watson also noted that the Trail Coordinating Liaison Committee was in need of Board representation. This committee will be meeting on February 26, 2015, at 4:30 p.m., at the Senior Center.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

B. Suggested Agenda Items

Mrs. Gianacoplos noted that the Graduation Requirement Policy has had a first reading on September 15, 2014 and should be placed on the next Board agenda for a second reading.

Mrs. Fitzgerald made the following referrals:

- > Reading specialist assignment to the COW
- > Math Interventionist assignment to the COW
- > How large are the class sizes with paraprofessionals to the COW

Ms. Kelly made a referral to the Policy Committee for review of a Head Trauma policy.

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF THE 2015-2016 BUDGET [ATTACHMENTS #3, 4, 5]

A motion was made by Mrs. Doyle and seconded by Mrs. Gianacoplos to approve the 2015-2016 budget in the amount of \$77,130,239 which represents a 2.7% increase.

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

PASSED

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

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. Gianacoplos to go into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m., for the purpose of discussion the AGSA Agreement and to invite Dr. Graner to attend.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

The AGSA Agreement was discussed. No action was taken.

A motion was made by Ms. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Doyle to return to Open Session at 9:02 p.m.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

C. _____ NEW BUSINESS – cont.

A motion was made by Ms. Kelly and seconded by Dr. Ackerman to ratify the AGSA Agreement.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

A motion was made by Ms. Kelly and seconded by Dr. Ackerman to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY