

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Regular Meeting

June 22, 2015

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on June 22, 2015, in CR 1 of the Town Hall Annex.

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Rita Volkmann, Vice Board Chairperson, at 6:05 p.m.

The first order of business was the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Laurie LePine.

PRESENT

Mrs. Rita Volkmann, Vice Chairperson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman
Mrs. Patricia Doyle
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos
Ms. Mary Kelly
Mr. Jay Weitlauf

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

ABSENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson
Mr. Joey Schick

Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil
Personnel Services

Mr. Michael Emery, Director of Teaching and
Learning

Mr. Kevin Lemoi, Director of Technology
Services

B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS

Mrs. Volkmann acknowledged Mr. Larry Croxton, GEA Vice President, and Miranda Chapman, Military Liaison.

C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

III. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

➤ **Update on graduation**

Dr. Graner stated that graduation was very successful.

➤ **Legislative Update**

Dr. Graner noted actions taken by the legislature whose session ended June 5, 3015:

- ECS funding increased but not for Groton;
- There is a little decrease in the transportation grant;
- The new minimum budget law allows Towns with decreased enrollment to reduce their budget by one-half the cost of the per pupil expenditure to account for the decreased expenditure;
- If the free and reduced population is greater than 20%, the budget can be reduced by 1%.

➤ **Update regarding the SBAC Testing**

The administration worked today on the data-assessment calendar. Dr. Graner stated that this item will be discussed in depth at the next COW meeting.

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF

1. Business Manager Report [ATTACHMENTS #1 & 2]

Mr. Meltabarger gave an overview of the Health Insurance Summary.

Mr. Meltabarger and Dr. Graner gave an overview of the End-of-Year Budget Summary.

2. Director of Buildings and Grounds Report

Mr. Kilpatrick reported:

- He has not moved the sign at FHS;
- There have been repairs to sidewalks at FHS at half the projected cost;
- Work has started on the CB asbestos project today; he has finally received the funding letter last week;
- Mr. Kilpatrick and Mrs. Thomas, his Administrative Assistant, have spent the last three weeks looking for information on Fire Code plans;
- Mr. Kilpatrick stated that graduation was a great success and he congratulated Linda Branche, Head Custodian at FHS, for her efforts for its success.

B. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF – cont.

3. Director of Human Resources: Hiring Update

Mrs. LePine gave a hiring update:

- Teachers: 16 retirements; 8 resignations; a small number of transfers plus the position that were added to the budget; have filled 20 of these positions to date;
- Will fill another 5 position by the end of the week;
- Will fill the non-certified positions over the course of the summer.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance/Facilities Committee:

Dr. Ackerman stated that the Finance/Facilities Committee met tonight. The items on the agenda were tabled.

2. Policy Committee:

There was no report.

3. Curriculum Committee:

Mrs. Gianacoplos stated that the Curriculum Committee met on June 1, 2015. The committee discussed the need for support for 9th graders taking college courses because there will no longer be basic course; teachers college workshop; and assessment reduction grant.

4. Negotiations Committee:

There was no report.

5. LEARN:

Mrs. Volkmann stated that LEARN had its final meeting on June 11, 2015. She stated that Dr. Howley stated that although the State budget has passed, LEARN is still uncertain of the impact of the Inter-district grant funding which affects our schools and our collaboration with the New London Schools; the spring session is in the works; Dr. Howley has been invited by the CT Center for Change to be a member of that network - she will be the first RESC Director to be a part of that group; and that LEARN reviewed their goals for next year. LEARN will meet again in August.

6. Groton Parent Council:

There was no report.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

7. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee:
Ms. Kelly stated that the Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee met on June 3, 2015. She stated that the Town Council will accept the \$303,000 from the Board of Education; the School Facilities Task Force presentation was taped; action committee will start up shortly; New London wants to send students to Groton's IB Program; and even though CK was a Magnet School, the focus was not as clear as it could have been and she feels that it should be revisited.

The next meeting of the Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee will be September 2, 2015.
8. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee:
Mrs. Gianacoplos stated that the GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee will meet on May 27, 2015, at 4:30 p.m. They discussed School Security/Safety Plans; substitutes and how they affect students – this item was referred to the Referral List (COW); the number of assessments in the Assessment Grant; high school classes and what support they will need; SBAC testing regarding performance rates; IT concerns
9. School Facilities Task Force:
Dr. Ackerman stated that the School Facilities Task Force has held 2 public meetings; the survey is being conducted; the consultants will be at the next meeting to speak to the survey.
10. Groton Scholarship:
Ms. Kelly stated that the Groton Scholarship Fund has new officers that have not been voted in.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the May 26, 2015, are hereby accepted and approved with corrections to Page 3 regarding the Costa Rica trip – Karen should be Kristen and the removal of the last sentence; and page 8, item 2.d of the addition of Mr. Weitlauf's attendance to the NEA Science Day.

2. **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING WARRANTS**

RESOLVED, that the Warrants #22 & 23, are hereby accepted and approved.

3. **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS**

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

- **Kelsey S. Harrington Foundation, Inc. has made a donation of \$2,000.00 to the Fitch High School Unified Sports for Uniforms and Supplies.**

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

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A SECOND READING OF REVISION TO POLICY P 1330 USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES [ATTACHMENT #3]**

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Mrs. Doyle to approve as a second reading the revision to policy P 1330 Use of School Facilities.

**YES – Ackerman, Doyle, Fitzgerald, Gianacoplos, Kelly
NO - Volkmann, Weitlauf**

PASSED

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. DISUCSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING RETURNING FUNDS TO THE TOWN

It was determined that this item was already approved at the May 26, 2015 meeting.

2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL OF THE BOARD HANDBOOK

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Ms. Kelly to approve the Board Handbook with the noted revisions.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

The Board Handbook will be placed on the district web site.

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE 2015-2016 SALARIES AND WAGES FOR NON-UNION PERSONNEL [ATTACHMENT #4]

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Ms. Kelly to approve the non-union rates with the exclusion of substitutes.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Dr. Ackerman to the Central Office non-union personnel, with the exception of the Superintendent, with a 2% increase effective as of June 1, 2015 as proposed in the narrative.

A motion was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mrs. Doyle to amend the motion to exclude self-funding programs.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED:

YES – Kelly, Weitlauf, Ackerman, Gianacoplos

NO - Volkmann

ABSTAINED – Fitzgerald

PASSED

Mrs. Doyle was out of the room for this vote.

Further discussion of this item will be held at the COW meeting.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WAGES OF ENTERPRISE FUNDING PERSONNEL

This item was tabled.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING TUITION RATES FOR THE TREE HOUSE PROGRAM [ATTACHMENT #5]

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to approve the tuition rates for the Tree House Program per attachment #5.

**YES – Weitlauf, Ackerman, Volkmann, Gianacoplos, Doyle
Fitzgerald**

NO - Kelly

PASSED

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING FHS SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM FEES [ATTACHMENT #6]

A motion was made by Mrs. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mrs. Gianacoplos to approve the FHS Summer School Program fees.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mrs. Fitzgerald noted:
 - a. That she attended the School Facilities Task Force meeting on May 28, 2015
 - b. That she attended the Town & City Councils/RTM/BOE Liaison Committee meeting on June 3, 2015;
 - c. That she attended promotions at WSM and NEA;
2. Mrs. Gianacoplos noted that she attended the Retirement Ceremony.
3. Mrs. Volkmann noted:
 - a. That she attended the Retirement Ceremony and thanked the people who put it together;
 - b. She thanked Jeri DeSantis for the Amphora;
 - c. She thanked the graduates.
4. Dr. Ackerman stated that she attended the same activities as other Board members; received the Amphora; she also attended the Retirement Benefit for Monson Lane that was held at the Coast Guard Academy.
5. Ms. Kelly noted that she attended graduation and received a copy of the Amphora.
6. Mr. Weitlauf noted that he attended the Celebration of the Arts at NEA and the 50th Anniversary of CB.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

B. Suggested Agenda Items

Mrs. Fitzgerald made a referral to the COW to have a presentation of MBR

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Kelly and seconded by Dr. Ackerman to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY