

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Committee of the Whole

May 11, 2015

A Committee of the Whole meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on May 11, 2015, in the Band Room of Fitch High School.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kim Watson, Board Chairperson, at 6:08 p.m.

PRESENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman
Mrs. Patricia Doyle
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Ms. Mary Kelly
Mr. Jay Weitlauf

ABSENT

Mrs. Rita Volkmann, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos
Mr. Joey Schick

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. Joseph Arcarese, Principal, Fitch High School
Mr. Paul Esposito, Principal, Northeast Academy School
Mrs. Christine Dauphinais, AGSA Co-President
Mrs. Beth Horler, GEA President

1. Approval of minutes of April 20, 2015

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. Doyle to approve the minutes of April 20, 2015.

**YES – Watson, Ackerman, Fitzgerald, Weitlauf, Doyle
ABSTAINED – Kelly**

PASSED

2. Update regarding Aquarion Water Tower Project

Mr. Kilpatrick introduced Skokoofeh Rezazadeh, Project Manager, and John McClellan, Design Engineer at Aquarion, who explained the proposed project to install a new water tower at NEA property. They stated that the current tower is in need of replacement and that the tower was an issue since the school was constructed. The Board shared several issues of concern and asked that Aquarion give them consideration before going forward.

3. Discussion of the MCEC Conference

Dr. Graner stated that the MCEC Conference would be on June 30, 31, 2015; one member's fees are paid for; and he outlined the costs involved. Dr. Graner queried the Board as to who would like to attend. He stated that he and Ms. Austin are considering attending.

Ms. Kelly, Mrs. Watson and Dr. Ackerman stated that they were interested in attending.

4. Quarter Expulsion Report

Dr. Graner gave an overview of the quarterly Expulsion Report and the process involved in expulsions.

5. Update regarding the revised Educators Evaluation Plan

Ms. Austin stated that the revised Evaluation Plan is due to the state by May 15, 2015; she is trying to get an extension; will word smith the document; and she explained the overall changes. Ms. Austin stated that the State has to approve the revised document before it will come back to the Board for their approval. Every year the State and the Board has to approve the document.

6. Update on the Special Education Department: Vocational Program – redesign and budget [ATTACHMENT #1]

Mrs. Doolittle stated that her department has been working with the High School Special Education Department on efforts to provide the best services to students. She gave an overview of her handout.

7. Discussion regarding the location of the 2016 COW meetings

Mrs. Watson shared the concerns expressed with holding Board meetings in the schools.

8. Discussion regarding the presentation of data to the BOE [ATTACHMENT #2]

Ms. Austin and Mr. Emery gave an overview of the Data Presentation handout.

9. Update regarding the Extra Curricular Activities Chart

Dr. Graner gave an overview of the Extra Curricular Activities Chart. He stated that the charts would be updated as we move forward.

10. Discussion of Board participation in special projects

Mrs. Watson encouraged Board members to share any special interest topics for discussion with the Superintendent.

11. Discussion regarding Intra-district Magnet Schools

Dr. Graner asked the Board what specifically would they want to know about Magnet Schools? He proposed having a presentation of what is available.

Questions from Board members:

- What is a Magnet School?
- How is it funded?
- What is difference between Magnet Schools and Choice Schools?
- What can be done to retain students in our district?
- How do Magnet Schools affect the district?

Dr. Graner suggested having a presentation by Doreen Marvin to answer most of these questions.

12. Update regarding the proposed Department Chairs at FHS [ATTACHMENTS #3 & 4]

Mr. Arcarese gave an overview of what has been in existence; what is in existence; and what he would like to see in existence in the future. He stated that his proposal would be:

- A free period per day
- 092 certification would not be necessary
- Dept. Chairs would not do evaluations
- Dept. Chairs would still be the Teachers' Union

Mr. Arcarese shared a draft Department Head Job Description. He also shared the proposed reconfiguration of the different departments that would allow for Department Chairs.

This item will be placed on the May 26, 2015 BOE agenda for approval.

13. Review of Referral List

The Board reviewed the Referral List.

Mrs. Fitzgerald made a referral to the COW on how Boosters do their financial and how it is working.

14. Adjournment

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

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY