

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Regular Meeting

May 26, 2015

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on May 26, 2015, in the Band Room of Fitch High School.

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kim Watson, Board Chairperson, at 6:10 p.m.

The first order of business was the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Beth Horler.

PRESENT

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

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
Ms. Don Meltabarger, Business Manager
Miss Mackenzie Lyon, Student Representative

ABSENT

Mrs. Rita Volkmann, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Patricia Doyle
Mr. Joey Schick

Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil
Personnel Services

Mr. Kevin Lemoi, Director of Technology
Services

Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human
Resources

Mr. Jamal Neal, Student Representative

B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS

Mrs. Watson and Dr. Graner presented awards to the Student Liaisons, Mackenzie Lyon and Jamal Neal Davis, for their service to the Groton Public Schools during the 2014-2016 school year.

Mrs. Watson and Dr. Graner presented awards to the Friends of Education and Support Personnel.

B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS – cont.

Friends of Education Awards

Michele Kravath, CC
Micki Clark, CMS
Everett Wilhelm, FHS
Loretta Albanese, MM
Michelle Gustavson, NEA
Heidi Beauchamp, PV
Miranda Cahill, SB

Support Personnel Awards

Tianah Clinton, CK
Ernie Koschmieder, FHS/C.O.
Heather Pearson, CB
Jennifer Carrol, CC
Deborah Lau, CMS
William Harris, Custodial
Kevin, Lundy, Maintenance
Damien Deck, MM
Susan Chappel, NEA
Julia Allen, PV
Lisa Donnel, SB
Sean Arcarese, WSM

Mrs. Watson and Dr. Graner presented the 2016 Teacher of the Year Awards to the following:

Emily Corona, CC
Lee Ann Olsen, CB
Elena Lockett, PV
Jennifer Faniola, NEA
Audrey Trabucchi, CMS
Kate Comment, CK
Carmita Hodge, FHS
Sue Gwaltney, SB
Laura Irace, WSM

Kate Comment, Groton Teacher of the Year

C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

D. STUDENT LIAISON REPORT

The student representative reported:

- Student Council elections will be held on June 3, 4, and 5, 2015. The Student Council is still looking for advisors.
- On Tuesday, FHS will be hosting a forum entitled, Student Climate in the Community.

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

III. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- **Update regarding the CMS proposed field trip to Costa Rica [ATTACHMENT #1]**
Karen Widham gave an overview of the proposed trip to Costa Rica scheduled for April 16-24, 2016 for grade 8 students. She stated that school personnel will not have to pay anything. Also, the first informational meeting will held on July 3, 2015 for incoming 8th graders. The students can earn .5 credit for participating.
- **Update regarding the FHS Music Department field trip to Virginia Beach**
Andrew Lefebvre gave an overview of the proposed trip to Virginia Beach scheduled for April 14-17, 2016. Participants will include all choirs who will be enrolled to attend the Festival of Music. It is hoped that there will be 100-140 students participating that will necessitate 8-10 chaperones.
- **Update regarding the SBAC Testing**
Dr. Graner gave an update on Impact Aid. He also stated that the SBAC testing in process; testing is being held at FHS; and 93 out of 285 students have opted out of taking the SBAC test. [ATTACHMENT #2]

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF

1. Business Manager Report

Dr. Graner addressed the savings in Fuel Oil in the amount of \$160,000 and Maintenance Supplies in the amount of \$143,000. Dr. Graner recommended that the Board return the \$303,000 to the Town.

Mr. Meltabarger gave an overview of enrollment for the end of April. [ATTACHMENT #2] Mr. Meltabarger also gave a status update regarding Buses. He also noted that we are the recipient of a \$3,000 Arby's School's Out, Food's In Summer Meals Program Grant.

2. Director of Buildings and Grounds Report

Mr. Kilpatrick reported:

- CB asbestos abatement is on track; still waiting for the funding letter;
- Maintenance Department is working on a project list;
- Aquarion was not able to attend tonight's meeting; they are working on test pouring; they will attend the next Board meeting;
- He is working with Mr. Zuba; the next information meeting will be May 28, 2015, at 6:30 p.m., at the Town Hall Annex;
- His department has been working on the current budget to come up with a list of savings;
- He has been named to a new committee entitled, Market Analysis Focus Group.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance/Facilities Committee:
Mrs. Fitzgerald stated that the Finance/Facilities Committee met on May 18, 2015. They discussed the budget, Impact Aid, technology issues, facilities, the naming of the athletic field at FHS, snow removal bill, roof repair, asbestos, and CB removal project.
2. Policy Committee:
Ms. Kelly stated that the Policy Committee met on May 4, 2015. They discussed policies regarding advertising and the renting of school facilities.
3. Curriculum Committee:
Mrs. Gianacoplos stated that the Curriculum Committee met on May 4, 2015. The committee received data on the recent graduates, college bound student in remedial courses. They also discussed teachers Colleges, grammar, and the assessment grant.
4. Negotiations Committee:
There was no report.
5. LEARN:
There was no report.
6. Groton Parent Council:
Mrs. Fitzgerald stated that the Groton Parent Council met on May 12, 2015. The Superintendent reviewed several items: the budget process and its status; School Facilities Task Force; Magnet Schools (Intra and Inter Districts) options; 3 additional teacher retirements; and Math and Literacy specialists. Mrs. Fitzgerald stated that the secretary of the Groton Parent Council will be leaving but the present Chairperson will be staying for next year.
7. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee:
Ms. Kelly stated that the Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee met and discussed the cost of the new schools and fields for various sports. Mrs. Fitzgerald stated that the committee discussed the reimbursement for the Security Grant and Navy Social Workers at MM, CB, and PV.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

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.
9. School Facilities Task Force: Mrs. Watson stated that the second community forum will be held on Thursday, at 6:30 p.m., at the Town Hall Annex. It is hoped that more parents will be in attendance.
10. Groton Scholarship: Ms. Kelly stated that Scholarships will be presented on June 18, 2015

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the April 27, 2015, are hereby accepted and approved.

2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING WARRANTS

RESOLVED, that the Warrants #20 & 21, are hereby accepted and approved.

3. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS

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

- **Marlene Meers has made a donation of \$100.00 to the Cutler Middle School Drama Club.**
- **Ledge Light Health District has made a donation of \$500.00 through a mini-grant to the Outdoor Edible School Garden at Fitch High School.**
- **Ledge Light Health District has made a donation of \$500.00 through a mini-grant to the Outdoor Edible School Garden at Mary Morrisson School.**

A. CONSENT CALENDAR – cont.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Ms. Kelly.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A SECOND READING OF REVISION TO POLICY P 6162.51 SURVEY OF STUDENTS (Enclosure)

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Ms. Kelly to approve as a second reading the revision to policy P 6162.51 Survey of Students.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A SECOND READING OF REVISION TO POLICY P 6153 FIELD TRIPS (Enclosure)

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Ms. Kelly to approve as a second reading the revision to policy P 6153 Field trips and to include the transportation statement on the form.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. AUTHORIZATION OF SIGNATURE FOR ED 099 AGREEMENT FOR CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut requires local boards of education to authorize signatures for the ED 099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools, to sign the ED 099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs.

A motion was made by Mr. Weitlauf and seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL OF THE AQUARION WATER TOWER PROJECT

This item was tabled until the June meeting.

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A FIRST READING OF REVISION TO POLICY P 1330 USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES (Enclosure)

A motion was made by Ms. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to approve as a first reading revision to policy P 1330 Use of School Facilities.

PASSED – UNIMOUSLY

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE FHS DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to approve the proposed FHS Department Chairs as presented.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

Mrs. Watson stated that she would like to receive an update on the Department chairs in May of 2016.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING FY15 UNEXPENDED BALANCE

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to approved the return of \$303,000 of identified savings from the Energy account and Maintenance and Supplies account to the Town General Fund.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mr. Weitlauf noted:
 - a. An e-mail regarding NEA as a Magnet School;
 - b. That he attended last Friday the Willy Wonka Musical.

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS – cont.

2. Mrs. Fitzgerald noted:
 - a. The same e-mail regarding having NEA as a Magnet School;
 - b. That she, Dr. Ackerman and Mr. Weitlauf toured the FHS Video Production Room;
 - c. That she went to NEA to walk the playground and she saw the site of the water tower;
 - d. That she and Dr. Ackerman went to NEA Science Day.

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 discuss the loss of an Assistant Principal at FHS.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Ms. Kelly to adjourn at 8:52 p.m.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY