

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Committee of the Whole

November 10, 2014

A Committee of the Whole meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on November 10, 2014, in multi-purpose room of Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT

Mrs. Rita Volkmann, Chairperson
Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Vice Chairperson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman
Mrs. Patricia Doyle (arrived at 6:25 p.m.)
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Dr. Kirsten E. Hoyt
Ms. Mary Kelly
Mr. Joey Schick

ABSENT

Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos

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

Mrs. Dauphinais, Principal of Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School, shared the activities planned to honor Mrs. Catherine Kolnaski. She noted that students will be writing bios of Mrs. Kolnaski and that a special activity will be planned for Memorial Day.

1. Approval of minutes of October 14, 2014

A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded by Mrs. Watson to approve the minutes of October 14, 2014.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

2. Presentation of Groton's Adult Education Program – Mr. Guy Patalano, Co-Director of Adult Education, gave an overview of Groton's Adult Education Programs.

- a. The program runs from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., three nights a week;
- b. He noted the teachers and the subject they teach for each night;
- c. He also noted the academic support who assist all teachers as well as the Guidance Counselors;
- d. He stated that the Groton program was under the Norwich program; Groton's program is a credit diploma program;

- e. He stated that the population for Adult Education has gone down;
- f. He noted that every staff member has to have a #106 Certification to teach in the Adult Education Program;
- g. He shared a pamphlet of the program with Board members
[ATTACHMENT #1]
- h. He noted that the operating budget was \$89,000.

3. Review of the Groton Yardstick and discussion of the Master Calendar of Performance Indicators – Dr. Graner handed out a copy of the proposed Master Calendar of Performance Indicators **[ATTACHMENT #2]**. He noted the 10 indicators:

1. Personal Finance
2. Character Development/Self-Discipline
3. Healthy Life Style, Physical Fitness, Nutrition
4. Preparation for a Competitive World Economy
5. Self-Advocacy
6. Creativity
7. Versatility
8. Good Citizenship
9. Respect for Diversity
10. Problem Solving

Dr. Graner reviewed the proposed Master Calendar of Performance Indicators with the Board. It was noted that some of the indicators may need to be updated.

Ms. Austin suggested that the SIT review the Yardstick and make updates as necessary to the document. She noted that they will be meeting in December.

Dr. Graner suggested that he will compile the data indicated in the document and present it to the Board at the end of each school year.

4. Review of the WestEd Report – Mrs. Doolittle gave an overview of the WestEd Report. She stated that an update to the report was made. **[ATTACHMENT #3]**

Dr. Graner suggested that the Conclusions and Recommendations in the WestEd Report should be updated and the administration will come up with an Action Plan.

5. Update regarding Magnet School enrollment – Dr. Graner stated that the District is looking at 2.4 million dollars in tuition for Magnet School enrollments. This figure includes special education costs and will involve more than 400 students. He noted that Mr. Lovetere is working on a report regarding Magnet School enrollment. He further noted that LEARN has 4 Magnet Schools:

- a. Multicultural School in New London
- b. Dual Language
- c. Marine Science
- d. Three Rivers Middle College

Dr. Graner stated that the Magnet Schools are open enrollment which goes into an electronic lottery; the state provides \$7,900 subsidizing for students who attend; the district provides \$5,500 for high school Magnet Schools and approximately \$3,000 per student for the elementary level; special education costs is 50% tuition and 50% special education services.

Dr. Graner stated that he would bring back to the Board at the next COW the enrollment numbers and costs.

6. Review of the Referral List – The Board reviewed the Referral List.

REMOVED – R2014-16 – Discussion of special Education programs, i.e. vocational program

R2014-22 – Review of the WestEd Report

ADDED – R2014-24 – Discussion of Magnet Schools, i.e. what is the draw

R2014-25 – What is the special education identification process

7. Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded by Ms. Kelly to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY