

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

**Regular Meeting**

**November 24, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on November 24, 2014, in CR 1 of the Town Hall Annex.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools, at 6:15 p.m.

The first order of business was the pledge of allegiance to the flag led by Dr. Graner.

**PRESENT**

**ABSENT**

Dr. Andrea Ackerman  
Mrs. Patricia Doyle  
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald  
Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos  
Dr. Kirsten Hoyt  
Ms. Mary Kelly  
Mr. Joey Schick  
Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson  
Mrs. Rita Volkmann

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  
Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human Resources  
Miss Mackenzie Lyon, Student Representative  
Mr. Jamal Neal, Student Representative

Mrs. Carolyn Dickey, Business Manager

Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil  
Personnel Services

Mr. Kevin Lemoi, Director of Technology  
Services

Dr. Graner opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson of the Board.

A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded by Ms. Kelly to nominate Kim Shepardson Watson as Chairperson of the Board.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

Mrs. Watson opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairperson of the Board.

A motion was made by Ms. Kelly and seconded by Dr. Ackerman to nominate Rita Volkmann as Vice Chairperson of the Board.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

**B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS**

1. **Presentation of 99 Restaurant Donation** – The General Manager of the 99 Restaurant presented the Board of Education with a check for \$1,009 in honor of their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
2. **CK Young Explorers Program Presentation** – Mr. Ben Moon and Dr. Syma Ebbin gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Young Explorers Program and the hiking trip students participated in where they visited 7 locations.
3. **Update regarding the Groton Education Foundation Grant Program** – Mrs. Julie Cagle, President of the Groton Education Foundation, shared the list of awardees of grants from the Groton education Foundation. **[ATTACHMENT #1]**
4. **CABE Leadership Award** – Mrs. Watson noted that Groton Public Schools had received the CABE Leadership Award.

**C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

NONE

**D. STUDENT LIAISON REPORT**

The student representatives reported:

- CABE/CAPSS Convention – The Student Representation thanked the Board for making it possible for them to attend the convention and shared the many experiences they had at the convention.
- The Winter Charity Collection in collaboration with Mr. Bousquet in collecting various items. These items will be donated to the sailors at the Subase who are unable to go home for the holidays.
- They noted the Thanksgiving Game;
- Noted that the Choir would be performing on Tuesday at the Senior Center.

**II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

NONE

**III. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

1. **FHS Guidance Update** – Mr. Bousquet, FHS Director of guidance, and Ms. McGuire, FHS Assistant Principal, gave a PowerPoint presentation of grading policies, Advanced Placement, Early College Experience (ECE), College Career Pathways, Career Clusters, Online Options, Groton Police Explorers, and Honors Certified Nursing Program.

**III. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS – cont.**

**2. Summer Curriculum Work Update**

Mr. Emery and Ms. Davis noted:

- 12<sup>th</sup> grade revision – Ms. Davis gave an overview noting the revision of 2 units for the full year.
- 11<sup>th</sup> grade revision – Ms. Davis gave an overview.
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade Freshman Academic Seminar
- Math – This item was tabled until the Board meeting.

**3. Update regarding the Common Core Standards**

Ms. Austin noted the presentation given at the CABE/CAPSS Convention by Bill Dagonet, International Center of Leadership, who addressed the Common Core Standards which she shared with the Board.

**4. Volunteer Data for the month of October**

Dr. Graner stated there were 373 volunteers who generated 2057.20 volunteer hours for the month of October.

**A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF**

**1 Object Code Budget Summary of 2014-2015 [ATTACHMENT #1]**

Dr. Graner reviewed the Object Code Budget Summary.

**2 Director of Buildings and Grounds Report**

Mr. Kilpatrick noted:

- WSM boiler project was complete and is on-line;
- WSM asbestos abatement – negative test resulted at WSM cafeteria; no abatement project will be needed;
- Lockable Foyers – MM is next to be done;
- FHS sign is still not done;
- The Maintenance department is preparing for snow.

**3. Director of Human Resources Report**

Mrs. LePine noted:

- Hiring of Business Manager: They are in the interview process.
- Affordable Care Act: Still working on identifying obligations of the district.
- Reporting of EEO 5 Data: Will build Action Plan from the data generated.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Finance/Facilities Committee:  
Dr. Hoyt stated that the Finance/Facilities Committee met on November 17, 2014 and discussed the budget and other items that were referred to Dr. Graner.
2. Policy Committee:  
Mrs. Doyle stated that the Policy Committee met on November 3, 2014 and the next meeting will be December 1, 2014.
3. Curriculum Committee:  
Mrs. Gianacoplos stated that the Curriculum Committee met on November 17, 2014 and discussed Online courses, partnerships, ECE, course credit was referred to the Policy Committee, Personal Finance, Summer Work, and Project Lead the Way. She noted that the FHS grading pilot is being phased out. The FHS staff is putting together a Task Force of teachers to develop school wide a plan for grading procedures.
4. Negotiations Committee:  
There was not report.
5. LEARN:  
Mrs. Volkmann stated that LEARN met and that Dr. Howley presented the fiscal state of the agency. Mrs. Volkmann noted that she has been invited to attend the National RESC conference on December 3-6, 2014 in San Francisco.
6. Groton Parent Council:  
Mrs. Gianacoplos stated that the Groton Parent Council met on November 18, 2014 where Dr. Graner gave the Superintendent Report, Ms. Bryer reported on Digital Citizenship; the next meeting will be January 13, 2015 at Pleasant Valley School. Under discussion will be Common Core and Magnet Schools.
7. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee:  
It was noted that the Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee met November 5, 2014.
8. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee:  
There was no report.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.**

9. School Facilities Task Force: Mrs. Watson stated that the School Facilities Task Force met November 13, 2014 and discussed proposal D to put the middle school on the Merritt property; had a joint meeting tonight between the Town Council and the Board of Education to go over the plan. The next meeting of the School Facilities Task Force will be December 11, 2014, at the Town Hall Annex.
10. Groton Scholarship: Ms. Kelly stated that the Groton Scholarship will meet again in December.

**V. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the October 27, 2014, and the Special Meetings of October 15 and November 5, 2014, are hereby accepted and approved.

**2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING WARRANTS**

RESOLVED, that the Warrants dated November 14 & 28, 2014, are hereby accepted and approved.

**3. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS**

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

- **Susan and Russell Poe have made a donation of \$150.00 to the Cutler Middle School Hiking Club.**
- **Pfizer United Way Campaign (Everett Wilhelm) has made a donation of \$119.24 to the Fitch High School Robotics Team.**
- **Ohiopyle Prints, Inc. have made a donation of \$17.25 to Fitch High School**

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

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**B. OLD BUSINESS**

1. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE SECOND READING OF POLICY P 4148.1 SCHOOL SECURITY AND SAFETY COMMITTEE [ATTACHMENT #2]**

A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded by Mrs. Volkmann to approve as a second reading policy P 4148.1 School Security and Safety Committee.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

2. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE SECOND READING OF POLICY P 4112.4 PERSONNEL – CERTIFIED/NON-CERTIFIED: HEALTH EXAMINATIONS [ATTACHMENT #3]**

A motion was made by Mr. Schick and seconded by Dr. Hoyt to approve as a second reading policy P 4112.4 Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified: Health Examinations.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

1. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF THE PERSONAL FINANCE CURRICULUM**

A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded by Mrs. Gianacoplos to approve the Personal Finance Curriculum.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

2. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING PROJECT LEAD THE WAY**

A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded by Mrs. Doyle to approve the Project Lead the Way program.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

3. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE FIRST READING OF POLICY P 5131.81 USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES [ATTACHMENT #4]**

A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and second by Ms. Kelly to approve as a first reading policy P 5131.81 Use of Electronic Devices.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.**

4. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE FIRST READING OF REVISION TO POLICY P 9221 VACANCIES ON THE BOARD [ATTACHMENT #5]**

A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and second by Ms. Kelly to approve, as a first reading, revision to policy P 9221 Vacancies on the Board.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

5. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE FIRST READING OF REVISION TO POLICY P9000 RULES OF PROCEDURE: RULE 3.8.C ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS [ATTACHMENT #6]**

A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and second by Mr. Schick to approve, as a first reading, revision to policy P 9000 Rules of Procedures: Rule 3.8.C Electronic Participation at Meetings.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

6. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE FIRST READING OF REVISION TO POLICY P 6141.321 TECHNOLOGY APPROPRIATE USE [ATTACHMENT #7]**

A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and second by Mr. Schick to approve, as a first reading, revision to policy P 6141.321 Technology Appropriate Use.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

7. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE RATIFICATION OF THE AGSA AGREEMENT (Anticipation of Executive Session)**

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

**VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

**A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS**

1. Mr. Schick noted that he attended the WSM Veteran's Day Ceremony.
2. Dr. Hoyt presented the Board of Education her letter of resignation from the Board of Education due to a change in her job assignment.
3. Mrs. Gianacoplos noted a thank you from Catherine Kolnaski's daughter to the Board and Catherine Kolnaski School.

**A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS – cont.**

4. Ms. Kelly noted a need for a brochure regarding the Groton Public Schools.
5. Dr. Ackerman asked the Board how the Common Core Standards was working for them.  
This item was referred to the Curriculum Committee.
6. Mrs. Volkmann noted:
  - a. An invitation to the Board to the December 2, 2014 Robotics competition.
  - b. That she attended the Strings and Choir concert at FHS.

**VII. ADVANCE PLANNING**

**A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items**

As noted in the agenda.

**B. Suggested Agenda Items**

Mrs. Fitzgerald suggested that all handouts from the CABE/CAPSS Convention be compiled for a discussion of the convention at the January COW meeting.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded Mr. Schick  
by to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**