

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Regular Meeting

October 27, 2014

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on October 27, 2014, in CR 1 of the Town Hall Annex.

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

The first order of business was the pledge of allegiance to the flag led by Mr. Jamal Neal.

PRESENT

ABSENT

Mrs. Rita Volkmann, Board Chairperson
Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Vice Chairperson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman
Mrs. Patricia Doyle
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos
Ms. Mary Kelly
Mr. Joey Schick

Dr. Kirsten Hoyt

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Mr. Ernie Koschmieder, Director of Food Services
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

Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human
Resources

B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS

NONE

C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

D. STUDENT LIAISON REPORT

The student representatives reported:

- A reminder of the theme “Beyond Definition” – It was noted that it was going great and that teachers were taking it in stride;
- Pep Rally – A new initiative was added of “Teacher Appreciation.” 15-20 teachers were involved;
- A Bond Fire was being planning with power football to follow;
- Senior Fundraising – Seniors are selling wreaths;
- The Junior Class is selling cookie dough;
- Another initiative is to get the 8th grade students involved with the high school – a whole day will be dedicated to them;
- November 6th is Expo Night, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.;
- The AP/IB Programs will be mentioned to 8th graders;
- Tee Shirt Day – November Community support of Tee Shirts where students will wear different types of tee shirts;
- This Thursday is Pink Day for Breast Cancer;
- Blood Drive which is sponsored by the Keyettes;
- The Chamber Choir has been invited to perform at the Carnage Hall on March 27, 2015;
- Band Competition – Fitch placed 2nd in New England. The competition was held in New Britain.

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

III. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Dr. Graner introduced Mike Emery who has been selected at the new Director of Teaching and Learning.

1. 2014 Summer Food Service Program

Mr. Koschmieder stated that the Summer Food Service Program was an extension of the Food Program which was extended through the summer. He noted:

- There were 10 sites for breakfast and lunch with a site opened in Branford Manor; he solicited support from the City who donated picnic tables;
- Groton’s program was the 3rd highest percentage increase in the state with 25,033 meals served;
- The program was at no cost to the Board of Education;
- He solicited from local New England Dairy Farmers for the purchase of a grill and canopy; he was able to have 27 BBQs which included grill veggies and turkey burgers;

III. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS – cont.

- Whittles Farm supported the set-up of a Farmers' Market at WSM selling local items every Friday;
- Groton Utilities supported reward Farmers Market tokens; 2400 tokens were given out to summery feeding students;
- The program was noticed by Congressman Courtney with a visit to Washington Park on July 9, 2014.

2. Briefing regarding Common Core State Standards

Dr. Graner showed a 3 minute video on the Common Core Standards. He noted that the Common Core was not a curriculum, but rather a set of national standards.

3. Comcast Internet Access Program

Dr. Graner shared a flyer that been sent home with all students offering families the Internet for \$10.00 a month.

4. Report on the Martin Luther King Scholarship Dinner

Dr. Graner noted that Jamal Davis Neal had received a \$20,000 Scholarship from the Martin Luther King Fund.

5. Update on the PD Program – Literacy and Math

Ms. Austin noted that the November 4th PD theme is on Student Engagement. Ms. Austin outlined the different activities planned:

- FHS – National Urban Alliance Training
- CK – Scoring and reviewing Language Arts Performance Tasks as well as Math workshop and Performance Tasks
- Middle School – Engagement of classroom and Performance Assessments
- P.M. Activities – to meet with the disciplines: have earned a LEARN grant and will have Nancy Desousa coming who is well trained in Columbia University Writers workshop; have also put in a grant to have units of study in the middle school grants
- Science – Henkle, Bryer and Emery
- Title II Opportunities:
 - Karen Bryer presented at the SECCA workshop on October 21, 2014
 - Andrea Davis will be presenting at the Reading conference
 - Teachers from every level were sent to the Connecticut Reading Association Conference to hear Lucy Calkins
 - Lucy Calkins
 - Reading Conference
 - Susan Austin will be presenting at the December 2, 2014 ATOMIC Conference on Math Promise

III. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS – cont.

6. Update on the Title I and Title II Grants

Mrs. Dauphinais and Mrs. Giordano gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Title I, Title II and Title III grants.

7. Volunteer Data for the month of September

Dr. Graner stated there were 188 volunteers who generated 1000.90 volunteer hours for the month of September.

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 stated that he has been designated the authority in asbestos. This past week, he did a 6 month servalence in asbestos throughout the district.

- WSM cafeteria is the highest priority; to be done ASAP; would like to amend the CIP so that this can be done this summer at an approximate cost of \$10,000; Asbestos testing will be done by Mystic Air on Tuesday;
- FHS Sign Update – Project should be complete in 30 days;
- Lockable Foyers - NEA and CK have already been done; PV is complete; he went around last week and made a plan for the rest of the schools; should have the estimate by the end of the week;
- Boiler at WSM – the boiler will be received by Veterans Day and install by the end of the month.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance/Facilities Committee:

There was no report.

2. Policy Committee:

Mrs. Doyle stated that the Policy Committee met on October 6, 2014 and discussed the two policies on the agenda for approval as well as policies regarding revision to Graduation Requirements, revision to Use of Electronic Devices, revision to Vacancies on the Board, revision to Technology Appropriate Use Guidelines and Procedures, and revision to Advertising and Promotion.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

3. Curriculum Committee: Mrs. Gianacoplos stated that the Curriculum Committee met on October 6, 2014 and discussed Map testing.
4. Negotiations Committee: Dr. Graner stated that the AGSA had not ratified their contract.
5. LEARN: Mrs. Volkmann stated that LEARN met last Thursday. Dr. Paul Friedman, Guilford Superintendent, and their Special Education Director Ms. Brown stated that the district had requested an evaluation from an outside vendor to do a review of their special education program and the results of this new review is they have reached out to their parent community and they have brought back special education students to their district at a savings of 25% of their special education budget. Dr. Friedman stated that he felt that he had a good rapport with the students and parents. Mrs. Volkmann also noted that Dr. Holly had stated that the Groton Fire Marshall said that it was a no go for the rental of a part FMS to the Dual Language School. Dr. Holly is going back to the Town Council to see if they can rent the front part of the building at least for two years. Lastly, Mrs. Volkmann stated that she was on the negotiations committee for teachers at LEARN.
6. Groton Parent Council: Mrs. Gianacoplos stated that the Groton Parent Council would meet on November 18, 2014
7. Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee: It was noted that the Town & City Councils/RTM/Board Liaison Committee would meet next week.
8. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee: Mrs. Gianacoplos stated that the GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee met on October 15, 2014. They discussed communication of Common Core; planning time for all levels; Chrome Book initiative; better communication relative to the budget; substitutes – we are not very competitive in the region; para substitutes.
9. School Facilities Task Force: Mrs. Watson stated that the School Facilities Task Force would meet November 6, 2014, at 6:30 p.m., at the Town Hall Annex.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

10. Groton Scholarship: Ms. Kelly stated that the Groton Scholarship met last week and approved two (2) letters going out - one in November and one in December.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the September 22, 2014, with the correction of the addition of Katrina Fitzgerald as being in attendance and the Special Meeting of September 21, 2014, are hereby accepted and approved.

2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING WARRANTS

RESOLVED, that the Warrants dated October 17 & 31, 2014, are hereby accepted and approved.

3. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS

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

- **Pfizer United Way Campaign (Everett Wilhelm) has made a donation of \$119.24 to the Fitch High School Robotics Team.**

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Mrs. Doyle.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE RATIFICATION OF THE AGSA CONTRACT

This item was tabled due to the non-ratification by the AGSA Association.

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Mr. Schick to approve, as a first reading, Policy P 4148.1 School Security and Safety.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Doyle and seconded by Mrs. Watson to approve as a first reading Policy P 4112.4 Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified: Health Examination.

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

PASSED

Mrs. Doyle left at 8:07 p.m.

4. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR CUTLER MIDDLE SCHOOL**

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Mrs. Watson to approve the educational specifications for Cutler Middle School.

**YES – Watson, Ackerman, Fitzgerald,
Gianacoplos, Kelly, Schick
ABSTAINED –Volkmann**

PASSED

C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR WEST SIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

A motion was made by Mr. Schick and seconded by Mrs. Watson to approve the educational specifications for West Side Middle School.

**YES – Watson, Ackerman, Fitzgerald,
Gianacoplos, Kelly, Schick
ABSTAINED –Volkmann**

PASSED

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mrs. Gianacoplos stated she and Ms. Austin attended the State Council on Educational Opportunities for Military Children on October 17, 2014. The conference discussed the Interstate Commission.
2. Mrs. Volkmann noted:
 - a. She attended along with Ms. Kelly the Groton Education Foundation's Walking Tour;
 - b. She attended along with Dr. Hoyt, Dr. Graner, Dr. Ackerman and Ms. Kelly the Martin Luther King Scholarship Dinner.
3. Dr. Graner shared a letter of concern regarding Technology issues at FHS.

This issue was referred to the Director of Technology.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

Ms. Kelly and Dr. Ackerman stated that they would be attending the CABE Delegate Assembly.

Ms. Kelly and Dr. Ackerman would give an overview of the CABE Delegate Assembly at the November 10, 2014 COW meeting.

B. Suggested Agenda Items

Mrs. Fitzgerald made referrals:

- To the COW regarding an update on the new grading in Math at FHS. Mr. Emery and high school teachers would be invited to attend to give a report to the Board at the next COW meeting.

B. Suggested Agenda Items – cont.

Mrs. Watson made referrals:

- To the COW regarding an update regarding the Flip Classroom.
- To the COW regarding Technology.
- To the COW regarding the Board receiving an education on Magnet Schools.

Board members requested that they receive a copy of the Object Code Summary before any meeting that it will be discussed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Schick and seconded Mrs. Watson by to adjourn at 8:58 p.m.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY