

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

**Regular Meeting**

**September 22, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on September 22, 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 6:10 p.m.

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

**PRESENT**

**ABSENT**

Mrs. Rita Volkmann, Board Chairperson  
Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Vice Chairperson  
Dr. Andrea Ackerman  
Mrs. Patricia Doyle  
Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos  
Dr. Kirsten Hoyt  
Ms. Mary Kelly

Mr. Joey Schick

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent  
Mrs. Carolyn Dickey, Business Manager  
Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds  
Mr. Kevin Lemoi, Director of Technology Services  
Miss Mackenzie Lyon, Student Representative  
Mr. Jamal Davis Neal, Student Representative

Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil  
Personnel Services

Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human  
Resource Services

A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded by Mrs. Watson to add discussion and possible adoption of the Board Mission Statement to the agenda.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded by Mrs. Watson to add discussion and possible adoption of the revised Board Goals to the agenda.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

The Board held a moment of silence in remembrance of Catherine Kolnaski.

Ms. Austin gave an overview of all the things being done in the district in remembrance of Catherine Kolnaski, i.e. a quilt and a scholarship.

**B. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS**

Dr. Ackerman acknowledged Jamal Davis Neal as one of six winners of the Martin Luther King Scholarship in the amount of \$20,000.

**C. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

NONE

**D. STUDENT LIAISON REPORT**

The Student Representatives reported:

- That the initiative “Beyond Differentiation” is being initiated and it is hoped that it will give students a sense of unity;
- That there will be changes to Homecoming i.e., music – greatest hits, dances; Spirit Week and Pep Rally with the Marching Band, Student Band, Student Performances concluding with a Club and Sports Picnic. There is talk of having a Spring Pep Rally.

**II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

NONE

**III. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

➤ **Presentation of 5<sup>th</sup> Grade CMT Data (ATTACHMENT #1)**

Mrs. Franzone and Mrs. Miner gave a PowerPoint present of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade CMT data for the district.

➤ **Update regarding Director of Teaching and Learning**

Ms. Austin stated that there is an 11 member committee reviewing the 30 applications received. She noted that Dr. Graner spoke to the qualifications and that the committee

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

reviewed the job description. She further stated that interviews will be held next Monday and Tuesday. There are 3 internal applicants and 21 external applicants.

Ms. Austin gave an overview of class sizes (**ATTACHMENT #2**) stating that we have gain 46 students since the start of school.

➤ **Update regarding Board Retreat**

Dr. Graner stated that the Board Retreat was a huge success and resulted in the addition of 2 items to the agenda. Dr. Graner also thanked Dr. Ackerman for the wonderful meal she provided to the Board and to the Nautilus Museum where the Retreat was held.

➤ **Technology Upgrade Report (ATTACHMENT #3)**

Mr. Lemoi gave a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed technology upgrades which consist of three parts, Infrastructure, Teacher Technology and Student Technology. The total cost for the upgrade would be \$398,059.00.

**A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM STAFF**

**1. Business Manager Report**

Dr. Graner gave an overview of the Object Code Summary of the 2014-2015 budget [**ATTACHMENT #4**].

Mrs. Dickey stated that the auditors will be in the district for next couple of weeks.

**2. Director of Buildings and Grounds Report**

- **FMS Update** – Mr. Kilpatrick stated that FMS will be turned over to the Town effective October 1, 2014;
- **FHS Sign** – Mr. Kilpatrick stated that the Zoning Board application has been submitted; the electrical line and will be connected as soon as possible;
- **CMS Traffic Situation** – Mr. Kilpatrick stated that he and Mr. Martinez have been directing traffic since the start of school and there have been no incidents.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Finance Committee:

Dr. Hoyt stated that the Finance/Facilities Committee met and discussed the CIP proposal; Object Code Summary; FMS School and FHS Signs; the committee denied a tuition waiver; Technology upgrade proposal; and the purchase of science equipment for FHS out of DOD funds.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.**

2. Policy Committee:

There was no report. The next meeting of the Policy Committee will be October 6, 2014.

3. Curriculum Committee:

There was no report.

4. Negotiations Committee:

Dr. Ackerman stated that the Negotiations Committee has been meeting regularly.

5. LEARN:

Mrs. Volkmann noted that LEARN met last Thursday and Dr. Peter Cumming, the new Associate Director, who presented on LEARN's opening day; the Teacher of Year for LEARN Schools is Linda Ladonna. Mrs. Volkmann noted that the Executive Board will be meeting Friday morning and she will be part of LEARN's negotiations for teachers which will begin in October.

6. Groton Parent Council:

Mrs. Gianacoplos stated that the Groton Parent Council met September 9, 2014 at the Central Office. She noted that the Superintendent reported on the opening of school and the new hires. She further noted that there was a meet and greet with Board members and school updates from WSM, MM, CMS, CK. The next meeting of the Groton Parent Council will be November 18, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

7. Town & City Councils/RTM/BOE Liaison Committee:

Dr. Hoyt stated that the Town & City Councils/RTM/BOE Liaison Committee met on September 3, 2014 at Pleasant Valley School. The committee discussed Playing Fields, received an update on FMS, Shared Services, Negotiations update, and Dr. Graner gave an overview of the budget. The next meeting of the Town & City Councils/RTM/BOE Liaison Committee will be October 1, 2014 at 5:30 p.m., at Northeast Academy School.

8. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee:

The first meeting of the GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee will be October 15, 2014, at 4:30 p.m., at the Central Office.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.**

9. School Facilities Task Force:

Mrs. Watson stated that the School Facilities Task Force has not been meeting because they are gathering information. The next meeting of the School Facilities Task Force will be October 30, 2014, at 6:30 p.m., at the Town Hall Annex.

10. Groton Scholarship:

Ms. Kelly stated that the Groton Scholarship Awards met. However, she was unable to attend.

**V. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Regular meeting of August 25, 2014, are hereby accepted and approved.

**2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING WARRANTS**

RESOLVED, that the Warrants dated September 26, 2014, are hereby accepted and approved.

**3. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS**

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

- **Pfizer United Way Campaign (Everett Wilhelm) has made a donation of \$119.24 to Fitch High School.**
- **David and Tessa Castleberry have made a donation of a Hoffman Prelude, ¾ size Student Violin to the Groton Public Schools.**

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

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**B. OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE CIP PROPOSAL (ATTACHMENT #5)**

A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded by Ms. Kelly to approve the CIP proposal as well as the HVAC for 2016.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE BOARD HANDBOOK**

A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded by Ms. Kelly to approve the Board Handbook.

A friendly amendment was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos to remove the Adopt-A-School program from the Handbook.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE BOARD MISSION STATEMENT**

A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded by Ms. Kelly to approve the Board Mission Statement that states “Our Mission is teaching and Learning.”

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE 2014-2016 BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

A motion was made by Mrs. Gianacoplos and seconded by Dr. Hoyt to approve the 2014-2016 Board of Education Goals and Objectives which are:

1. Provide Dynamic Rigorous Curriculum
2. Ensure Effective and Engaging Instruction
3. Embrace Excellent Learning Environment

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

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

1. Ms. Kelly reminded the administration of her concern regarding handicap accessibility at FHS and stated that the Board still has to decide what they would like to do in remembrance of Catherine Kolnaski.
2. Dr. Ackerman noted a call from a parent wanting to register her child. She stated that she tried to call the parent back but found she had the wrong number.
3. Mrs. Watson noted:
  - a. Calls and e-mails regarding bus routes;
  - b. The Marching Band competition this weekend;
  - c. The Martin Luther King Dinner on October 16, 2014, at 6:00 p.m., at the Mystic Marriott.
4. Mrs. Gianacoplos noted her concerns regarding the class sizes at MM and CC.
5. Dr. Hoyt noted calls regarding registering children.
6. Mrs. Volkmann noted:
  - a. E-mail from a citizens concerned that the Board should look at the whole child not technology;
  - b. That she visited S. B. Butler School.

**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 Finance/Facilities Committee regarding a budget information mailer.

Mrs. Watson made a referral for an update on Special Education programs, etc.

Dr. Hoyt made a referral for discussion of conferences for Board members.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mrs. Doyle and seconded by Dr. Hoyt to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**