

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Committee of the Whole

February 11, 2019

A Committee of the Whole of the Groton Board of Education was held on February 11, 2019 in Room 11 of the School Administration Building.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT

ABSENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Jane Giulini
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome
Mrs. Rosemary Robertson
Mrs. Rita Volkmann
Mr. Jay Weitlauf
Mrs. Lee White

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Dennis Colclough, Director of Technology Services
Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Mr. Sam Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Mr. Ken Knight, Business Manager
Miss Addie Clark, Student Representative

1. Approval of Minutes of January 14, 2019

MOTION: Ackerman, Volkmann: To approve the minutes of January 14, 2019.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

Budget worksession

Dr. Graner reviewed the following sections of the proposed budget:

Pages 5-90 to 5-92	2510 Operation and Maintenance
Pages 5-94 & 5-95	2520 Pupil Transportation
Pages 5-96 & 5-97	2540 Computer Support Services – Mr. Colclough noted that the technicians in his department handle approximately 10,000 pieces.

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Pages 5-98 & 5-99	2560 Health Services Staff
Pages 5-100 & 5-101	3710 Non Public Pupil Transportation
Pages 5-102 & 5-103	4100 Tuition

Dr. Graner shared the answers to questions raised at previous meetings regarding the number of coaches in each program that are paid by the Board.

Mrs. Doolittle shared the updated narratives regarding the Blind – this position is shared with the Waterford Public Schools and the Hearing Impaired – this teacher teaches American Sign Language as an elective.

Ms. Austin noted the need for Social Workers; there are 6 Social Workers currently in 9 schools:

- 1 each at WSM, CK, and CC out of the Title budget
- 2 at the primary level at CC and 1 at CB in the Academy Programs
- 1 at FHS

Through the funds of Title IV, a part time Social Worker position has been budgeted; however, because of the lateness of year we will be hiring someone as full time for the rest of the year.

Ms. Austin noted that if the Alliance Grant passes, it would allow for more Social Worker Services support, more Remedial support, Technology, and Textbooks.

There is presently a Task Force meeting regarding Kindergarten Readiness looking at a possibility of a Transition Kindergarten Program and spring screening process for Kindergarten, followed by the August screening.

Mrs. Fitzgerald asked if the Board could look at having a Social Worker at each of the school outside of the Alliance Grant.

Mr. Weitlauf asked if someone could reach out to the Recreation Department to co-sponsor the CIP Plan.

The Board tasked the Superintendent to show what the budget would look like with:

- 0% increase
- 1% increase
- 1.5% increase
- 2% increase

2. Suggested Future Topics

Dr. Ackerman asked what the Board's respond will be to the RTM insisting that the Superintendent attend all their meetings.

Mrs. Watson stated that the Superintendent is an employee of the Board of Education. However, if there is a topic that the RTM would like the Superintendent to address, he would be available to do so as has been done in the past.

Mrs. Watson stated that there was a need for an Emergency Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

MOTION: Watson, Robertson: To add an Emergency Executive Session at the conclusion of the meeting and to invite Dr. Graner and Ms. Austin to attend.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

3. Adjournment

MOTION: Ackerman, Volkmann: To adjourn at 8:27 p.m.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE SESSION

A personnel matter was discussed. No action was taken.

MOTION: White, Robertson: To return to Open Session at 8:35 p.m.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION: Ackerman, Giulini: To adjourn at 8:37 p.m.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY