

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

**Committee of the Whole**

**May 13, 2019**

A Committee of the Whole of the Groton Board of Education was held on May 13, 2019 in Room 11 of the School Administration Building.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kim Watson, 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. Rita Volkmann  
Mr. Jay Weitlauf  
Mrs. Lee White

Mrs. Rosemary Robertson

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Sam Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds  
Mr. Ken Knight, Business Manager  
Mr. Daniel Gaiewski, Student Representative

**1. Approval of Minutes of April 8, 2019**

**MOTION:** White, Giulini: To approve the minutes of April 8, 2019.  
**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**MOTION:** Ackerman, White: To approve the minutes of April 29, 2019.  
**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

**2. Transition K program proposal [ATTACHMENTS #1, 2]**

Susan Austin and Nadine Macklin, Supervisor of Pupil Personnel Services, gave an overview of the proposed Transition K Program. Also in attendance were Kindergarten teachers, Beth Horler (SBB), Michelle Gaiewski (CB), Cory Mott (MM), Patricia Wicklund (CB), as well as S.E. Preschool teachers Keri Bradanini-Baker (CK) and Rita Mangelinkx (SBB) who shared their perspectives. It was noted that to be eligible for Transition Kindergarten children have to be Kindergarten-eligible in CT, with birthdays after September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, with little/no preschool experience, and who qualify based on the K screening assessment data and the Brigrance. Based on the results from the Spring Kindergarten screening, Parent Questionnaires, and enrollment data, GPS will work with families to enroll our first group of students in the program, reserving highly mobile seats for student who enroll this summer

and participate in August screening. Presently, there are 13 Preschool programs with special needs students and typical-peers ages 3-4 @ SBB, MM, and CC (7 teachers: half day program, 1 extended day). There are 4 PreK programs for 4 year olds in preparation for Kindergarten @ SBB and CK (2 teachers: half day programs without transportation). There is collaboration with Children First Groton and community preschool partnership. The proposal is for one district full-day Transition K Pilot Program next year for student who are eligible and meet the criteria with parent consent. Ms. Austin noted that presently there are 83 students enrolled in Kindergarten with a date of birth after September.

Mrs. Macklin shared the Kindergarten entrance age requirement nationwide. CT is the only State that allow 4 year olds to enter Kindergarten, with a January 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. All other states require students to be 5 to enter Kindergarten.

Mrs. Fitzgerald stated that she was in favor of a full-day PreK Program.

The teachers noted that screening should be completed by June 13, 2019 and Dr. Graner suggested placing further discussion of Transition K on the June 17, 2019 COW agenda to review possible funding sources for the program.

### **3. Collaboration between Grasso Tech and Fitch High School**

Dr. Graner stated that he has been in contact with Patricia Feeney, Principal of Grasso Tech, to discuss the possibility of collaboration with Fitch High School. Ms. Feeney noted that her students are struggling with World Language. Dr. Graner suggested the APEX program as a possible means of collaboration as well as Robotics, some sports, and shared facilities.

It was the consensus of the Board to have Dr. Graner to continue discussions with Grasso Tech.

### **4. Suggested Future Topics**

Mr. Weitlauf suggested setting the graduation day of June 21, 2019: Dr. Graner will place this item on the May 28, 2019 Regular Board agenda for a vote.

Mrs. Fitzgerald suggested discussion of advertisement on the Baseball field.

Mrs. White suggested discussion of the number of Robo calls parents receive.

Mrs. Volkmann suggested discussion of the Next Generation Accountability scores and that IB scores are included and ways to lobby the State for their inclusion.

### **5. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Ackerman, Weitlauf:

To adjourn at 7:48 p.m.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

# Transition Kindergarten

## BOE Presentation May 2019



Preparing our youngest students who are eligible for kindergarten, but aren't ready yet, for a developmentally appropriate beginning to schooling.

How do we best transition them into Kindergarten?

# Research on Early Childhood Development



## Almost every state requires children to be five years old when they enter Kindergarten

- Connecticut is the only state that has a January 1 cut-off date; all others have summer or early fall cut-off dates for entry. In other states, students must be 5 years old to start kindergarten.
- Much of our research on Transition K comes from states who had very young kindergarteners and needed to create a transition K program to meet the needs of their young learners.



# Research:



- Research and Programming: The committee has researched and read many articles regarding Transition K and was impressed with the CA and Ohio models (see links below)
- <https://edsource.org/2017/understanding-transitional-kindergarten-a-quick-guide/585073>
- <https://www.newamerica.org/education-policy/edcentral/taking-look-transitional-kindergarten-california/>
- <https://www.air.org/system/files/downloads/report/Transitional-Kindergarten-Final-Report-June-2017.pdf>

## Early Learning Developmental Standards Transition to Common Core State Standards

- The Early Learning Developmental Standards (ELDS) and the assessments (DOTs) are developmentally appropriate for our youngest learners and include a social emotional learning component.
- The ELDS prepares students for the Connecticut Core Standards or Common Core State Standards.
- We need to provide the developmentally appropriate standards for our youngest learners to support their success in school.

Evidence that we need a Transition K  
to prevent an achievement gap





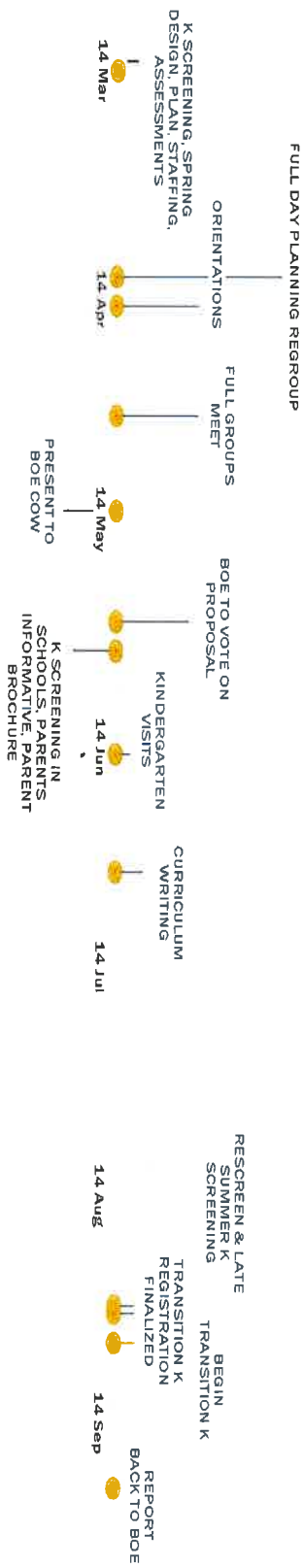
## Results of data over the past several years

- Data shows many students who are 4 years old when they enter kindergarten with fall/winter birthdays, and limited preschool experience, struggle in kindergarten.
- Some parents of young kindergarten-eligible students decide to place children in a private preschool for another year if they feel they aren't ready for kindergarten; not all parents can afford this.
- GPS data also shows that students who fall into this category struggle and often are recommended to repeat kindergarten. Currently we have 25 students repeating K; 18 of the 25 had late birthdays and limited or no preschool.

# First steps: Registration, Kindergarten Orientation, and the magnet lottery

- Register children in Groton Public Schools
- Attend Kindergarten Orientation at home school
- Sign up for Spring K screening in late May, early June
- Communicate to parents and the community

# Transition K Timeline



DATE	MILESTONE
3/14/2019	K Screening, Spring Design, Plan, Staffing, Assessments
4/11/2019	Full Day Planning Regroup
4/15/2019	Orientations
4/30/2019	Full Groups Meet
5/13/2019	Present to BOE COW
5/28/2019	BOE to Vote on Proposal
6/1/2019	K Screening in Schools, Parents Informative, Parent Brochure
6/15/2019	Kindergarten Visits
7/1/2019	Curriculum Writing
8/29/2019	Rescreen & Late Summer K Screening
8/30/2019	Transition K Registration Finalized
9/3/2019	Begin Transition K
9/23/2019	Report Back to BOE

# Kindergarten Screening

- Spring Screening and identification based on criteria
- Fall Screening for new students and students potentially eligible for transition K





# Transition Kindergarten Eligibility

- Criteria: Children who are Kindergarten-eligible in CT, with birthdays after September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, with little/no preschool experience, and who qualify based on the K screening assessment data and the Brigance.
- Collaboration: GPS K teachers, in collaboration with our preschools, PK, Children First Groton, and parents/guardians will collect information on our entering kindergarteners to support their transition,
- Enrollment FY 20: Based on results from the Spring Kindergarten screening, Parent Questionnaires, and enrollment data, GPS will work with families to enroll our first group of students in the program, reserving highly mobile seats for students who enroll this summer and participate in August screening.



## What does Groton Public Schools have in place for K readiness?

- Thirteen Preschool Programs with special needs students and typical-peers ages 3-4 @ SBB, MM, & CC (6 teachers; half day programs, 1 extended day)
- Four Prek programs for 4 year olds in preparation for Kindergarten @ SBB & CK (2 teachers; half day programs without transportation)
- Collaboration with Children First Groton and community preschool partnership.
- Proposal for one district full day Transition K program next year for students who are K eligible and meet the criteria with parent consent.

# Next Steps

- Review data of students currently in K, who are recommended to repeat K; Use Lights Retention scale as additional assessment.
- Screen incoming K students this spring, and newcomers in August.
- Upon Approval of BOE, review data of students potentially eligible for Transition K to make final selection.
- Based on enrollment data, determine where the program will be housed and who will teach it? (from amongst the kindergarten teachers interested)
- Communication Plan to inform parents and students.





# EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES

Your education policy team.

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## State Kindergarten-Through-Third-Grade Policies

### What is the state's kindergarten entrance age?

June 2018

This information was collected from state statutes, rules and regulations. A profile was sent to each state for review and modification, as needed.

	What is the state's kindergarten entrance age?	Citations
Alabama	Age 5 on or before September 1	Ala. Code § 16-28-4
Alaska	Age 5 on or before September 1	AK ST § 14.03.080
Arizona	Age 5 before September 1	Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 15-821
Arkansas	Age 5 on or before August 1	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-207
California	Age 5 on or before September 1	Cal. Educ. Code § 48000
Colorado	Age 5 on or before October 1	Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. §22-32-119; 1 Colo. Code Regs. § 301-39:2254-R-5.00
Connecticut	Age 5 on or before January 1 of the school year	Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 10-15c
Delaware	Age 5 on or before August 31	Del. Code Ann. tit. 14, § 2702
District of Columbia	Age 5 on or before September 30	D.C. Code Ann. § 38-202

	What is the state's kindergarten entrance age?	Citations
Florida	Age 5 on or before September 1	Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1003.21
Georgia	Age 5 by September 1	Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-151
Hawaii	Age 5 on or before July 31	Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 302A-411
Idaho	Age 5 on or before September 1	Idaho Code Ann. § 33-201
Illinois	Age 5 on or before September 1	105 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/10-20.12
Indiana	Age 5 on August 1	Ind. Code Ann. § 20-33-2-7
Iowa	Age 5 by September 15	Iowa Code Ann. § 282.3
Kansas	Age 5 on or before August 31	Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-3118
Kentucky	Age 5 by August 1	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 158.030
Louisiana	Age 5 by September 30	La. Stat. Ann. § 17:151.3; La. Stat. Ann. § 17:222
Maine	Age 5 on or before October 15	Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A, § 5201
Maryland	Age 5 by September 1	Md. Code Regs. 13A.08.01.02
Massachusetts	Each school committee may establish its own minimum permissible age for school attendance.	603 Mass. Code Regs. 8.02
Michigan	Age 5 by September 1	Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 380.1147
Minnesota	Age 5 on or before September 1.	Minn. Stat. Ann. § 120A.20 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 124D.05



	What is the state's kindergarten entrance age?	Citations
	*School boards may adopt an early admissions policy.	
Mississippi	Age 5 on or before September 1	Miss. Code. Ann. § 37-15-9
Missouri	Age 5 before August 1. Metropolitan districts can establish a policy that a child must be 5 on or before any date between August 1 and October 1.	Mo. Ann. Stat. § 160.051; Mo. Ann. Stat. § 160.054
Montana	Age 5 on or before September 10	Mont. Code Ann. § 20-7-117
Nebraska	Age 5 on or before July 31	Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 79-214
Nevada	Age 5 on or before September 30	Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 392.040
New Hampshire	Not specified in statute, rules or regulations.	
New Jersey	LEA: may admit children aged 4 & 5, must admit children aged 5 to 6. The cutoff date must be after October 1.	N.J. Admin. Code § 18A:38-5; N.J. Admin. Code § 18A:38-5.1
New Mexico	Age 5 before September 1	N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-13-3; N.M. Admin. Code 6.30.5.9
New York	LEA decision. Must be between the ages of 4 and 6.	N.Y. Educ. Law § 2514; N.Y. Educ. Law § 1712
North Carolina	Age 5 on or before August 31	N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 115C-364
North Dakota	Age 5 before August 1	N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 15.1-06-01
Ohio		

	What is the state's kindergarten entrance age?	Citations
	Districts may adopt a resolution establishing August 1 as the required date by which students must have attained the specified age, instead of September 30.	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3321.01
Oklahoma	Age 5 on or before September 1	Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70, § 18-108
Oregon	Age 5 on or before September 1	Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 336.092
Pennsylvania	LEA decision: between the age of 4 and 6. Minimum age for kindergarten entrance is 4 years 7 months before the first day of the school year.	24 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 5-503; 22 Pa. Code § 53.1
Rhode Island	Age 5 on or before September 1	16 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 16-2-27
South Carolina	Age 5 on or before September 1	S.C. Code Ann. § 59-63-20; S.C. Code Ann. § 59-65-10
South Dakota	Age 5 on or before September 1	S.D. Codified Laws § 13-28-2
Tennessee	Age 5 on or before August 15	Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-201
Texas	Age 5 on or before September 1	Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 29.151
Utah	Age 5 before September 2	Utah Code Ann. § 53A-3-402
Vermont	Age 5, LEA may require students admitted to kindergarten to attain the age of 5 on or before August 31 and January 1.	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 16, § 1073
Virginia	Age 5 on or before September 30	Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-199
Washington	Age 5 on or before August 31	

	What is the state's kindergarten entrance age?	Citations
		Wash. Admin. Code 392-335-010
West Virginia	Age 5 prior to September 1. In the 2018-2019 school year districts must offer Pre-Kindergarten to all children who are age 4 before July 1.	W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-5-18; W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-5-44
Wisconsin	4-year-old Kindergarten: Age 4 on or before September 1. 5-year-old Kindergarten: Age 5 on or before September 1.	Wis. Stat. Ann. § 118.14
Wyoming	Age 5 on or before September 15	Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-4-302

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