

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 6, 2020 @ 6:00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kim Shepardson Watson-Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman-Vice Chairperson, Jane Giuliani, Gretchen Newsome, Liz Porter, Rosemary Robertson, Rita Volkmann, Jay Weitlauf, Lee White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Graner, Susan Austin, Sam Kilpatrick, Ken Knight, Addie Clark, Xavion Quito

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Kim Shepardson Watson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
- II. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – Addie Clark reported that she and Xavion are collecting student concerns; they have reached out to the high school administration to address these concerns; they are thinking about developing a blog on social media; she and Xavion will be meeting with the Class Councils and the high school administration at noon on Wednesday. Some concerns noted by students are:
- Questions from Seniors regarding activities and caps and gowns;
 - How Distance Learning is going;
 - Other options other than Schoology.
- III. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS
- A. Superintendent Report
1. Presentation re: Groton Middle School Technology Plan
 - Amy Samuelson gave an overview of the Groton Middle School Technology Plan. She described the process for the selection of the different components in the Technology Plan; working with the Dennis Colclough, they developed the following list of items:
 - Promethean Boards
 - Telephone
 - Active Panels
 - Display Panels
 - Charging Stations

Amy stated that the cost estimate for the project was within budget. She noted that she will be taking the plans to the State on April 15, 2020.
 2. Update on COVID-19 Response Plan
 - Start of Distance Learning – Dr. Graner has had 2 meetings with administrators that went very well.
 - Today was the first day for parents to opt out of live meetings.
 - Google Voice account has been purchased.
 - Will send out a survey to get feedback from parents.
 - Things are settling down per students.
 3. Updates from the Commissioner of Education
Dr. Graner noted that in all likelihood the extension of the school year may happen.

B. Reports and Information from the Staff

1. Assistant Superintendent

- Distance Learning Update - Susan Austin stated that it is all about balance. She noted there are 3 phases starting with supplemental learning; the District Plan then shifts to online learning both prerecorded and live class meetings.
- The district is getting support from Teachers College.

Miranda Chapman shared that there are exceptions to the move/stop of families. This was in response to a question regarding registration of new families, in particular military families, for the new school year.

2. Business Manager Report

- Update re: Bus Contract - Ken Knight stated that he has received some guidance on how to handle the bus contract. He noted that STA will have to attest to restoring those employees that were laid off. STA will have to provide actual data.

3. Director of Buildings and Grounds

- Update re: Groton Middle School – Sam Kilpatrick stated that he took a tour on Friday at WSM; the work force is down due to child care; anyone wanting a tour has to fill out a form regarding their health; there is a limit of the number of people who go on the tours; project is moving along; elementary sites are moving along; Rick Norris noted some challenges in getting delivery of materials; Rick Norris noted that they are still looking to complete the project on time.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. New Business

1. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the Groton Middle School Technology Plan.

MOTION: Watson, Robertson:
To approve the Groton Middle School Technology Plans, Specifications, and budget.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

2. Discussion and possible action regarding inclusion of the Tree House director and assistant director's salary in the Board of Education budget for the fourth quarter of FY20.

MOTION: Watson, Ackerman:
To approve the inclusion of the Tree House director and assistant director's salary in the Board of Education budget for the fourth quarter of FY20.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

A. New Business – cont.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of an elementary school redistricting plan by Milone and MacBroom, Inc.

MOTION: Watson, White:
To approve an elementary school redistricting plan by Milone and MacBroom, Inc.

Volkman, Ackerman:

A motion was made to amend the motion to approve the development of an elementary school redistricting plan by Milone and MacBroom, Inc. not to exceed a cost of \$15,000.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

V. ADJOURNMENT

Ackerman, Newsome:

To adjourn at 7:28 p.m.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY