

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
MAY 11, 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

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

I. CALL TO ORDER – Vice Chairperson Andrea Ackerman called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

II. BoE REGULAR BUSINESS

MOTION: Porter, Volkmann:

To approve the COW minutes of March 9, March 31, April 13, and 20, 2020.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

III. UPDATE RE: PLANS FOR REOPENING SCHOOLS

Dr. Graner noted that the Governor’s Re-Opening Task Force on education held a round table today that was very eye opening. The round table indicated that they have to be flexible re: testing, social distancing, wearing of masks, summer camps; have to do it right so that it does not have to be done again. They discussed a Return to School Roadmap that consists of 7 parts. Dr. Graner discussed the different aspects of the Road Map.

IV. DISCUSSION OF THE FULL YEAR ELECTIVE COURSE ON AFRICAN AMERICAN AND LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY/STUDIES

Carmita Hodge stated that she has been in constant contact with Stephen Armstrong, the CSDE Social Studies consultant, asking questions and getting pertinent information for the African American and Latin American History/Studies course. Ms. Hodge noted that SERC has taken charge of the development of the curriculum. Ms. Hodge noted that FHS does not have to implement the course until the 2022 school year. The SERC course has to be implemented without any modifications. The course can be taught by Social Studies or Language Arts teacher and can be counted as a Humanities course.

The Board can vote to approve the African American and Latin American History Studies course in the fall of 2020 for inclusion in the FHS Program of Studies for the 2021-2022 school year.

V. UPDATE RE FITCH HIGH SCHOOL

- a. Proposed Changes to Athletic Eligibility Requirements – Mr. Keleher reviewed the Athletic Eligibility Requirements as developed by a FHS committee charged with reviewing eligibility requirements.
- b. Update re: Proposed Bell Schedule for 2020-21 School Year – Mr. Keleher reviewed the proposed bell schedule for the 2020-21 school year. Mr. Keleher explained the process used to eliminate the early release day and stated that the bell schedule will be the same every day.
- c. Update re: Graduation Planning – Mr. Keleher stated that the graduation ceremony will be held on June 19, 2020. It will be held as a drive-in movie event in the EB Parking Lot M; 1 car per family will be allowed.

- d. Grading – Mr. Keleher stated that he feels that the high school is in a good place with distance learning. Teachers are identifying students who are having trouble with distance learning and offering support. Teachers will be using the same grades as before (letter grades).

Mrs. Porter made a referral to the Policy Committee to address what the eligibility standards are for extra- curricular activities.

Mrs. Watson made a referral to the Policy regarding grading for the high school.

VI. UPDATE RE: SUMMER SCHOOL

Dr. Graner stated that the State Board of Education has not issued its guidance regarding summer school. Dr. Graner noted that summer school will be run through APEX.

VII. UPDATE RE: FY 20 ALLIANCE FUNDING

Ms. Austin gave an overview of Alliance funding noting that staffing had to be shifted. Ms. Austin stated that she has received authorization to spend the funds.

VIII. UPDATE RE: DISTANCE LEARNING

- a. Instructional Technology Devices – Dr. Graner noted the need to refresh the reentry plan.

III. SUGGESTED FUTURE TOPICS

Mrs. Porter made a referral for further discussion of the Special Education Curriculum Coordinator position.

Mrs. Volkmann asked the Superintendent to provide further information on the funds for the Food Services and CARE Act.

- IX. ADJOURNMENT – Ackerman, Porter: To adjourn at 7:45 p.m.  
**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**