

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JUNE 8, 2020 @ 6:00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rosemary Robertson,

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Graner, Susan Austin, Sam Kilpatrick, Ken Knight, Dennis Colclough, Denise Doolittle, Addie Clark

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Kim Watson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. BOE REGULAR BUSINESS

MOTION: Porter, White: To approve the COW meeting minutes of May 18, 2020.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

III. UPDATE RE: RETURN TO SCHOOL ROAD MAP COMMITTEE

- Dr. Graner noted that there are seven committees.
- Report from Governance – Dr. Graner stated that the Governance Committee organizes the whole process and has set up a regular schedule of meetings.
- Report from Instruction/Technology Committee – Susan Austin stated that she and Dennis Colclough are directing this committee. There are 35 teachers, parents, administrators; the committee will focus on software, Learning Management Systems, and online texts. The committee will discuss the different platforms at their next meeting on Tuesday. They will also discuss equity and how we support our staff. Susan Austin stated that the committee has been using the Center for School Change Roadmap for re-entry as a guideline.
- Report from Wellness Committee – Denise Doolittle stated that the committee met and separated into small groups to conduct a wellness audit. They have asked themselves what do we have in place and what do we need in place. Denise Doolittle gave an outline of the process the committee is utilizing.
- Report from Post-Secondary Committee – Dr. Graner noted that Ted Keleher, Erin McGuire, and Liz Porter are heading this committee. They met last Friday focusing on rescheduling the opportunities for juniors who missed college fairs and other planning events this spring.

Dr. Graner stated that there will reports from the Operations Committee, Facilities Committee, and Diversity/Equity and Inclusion Committee.

IV. UPDATE RE: NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- Magnet Theme Survey Results – Susan Austin gave an overview of the Google Doc Survey results. Susan Austin stated that 395 responses were received. Susan stated that the next step is to put the results on a spreadsheet and do the math.
- Recommendation from Naming Committee – Susan Austin noted that high interest was noted on the naming committee to name the new elementary schools Mystic River or Thames River with the selected theme for the schools. Also noted was the naming of different sections of the building for noted people from the Towns history and/or former employees of the district.

The Naming Committee was asked to reconvene and come up with other names for consideration by the Board.

V. UPDATE RE: GROTON MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

- Team Assignment – Susan Austin stated that teacher know their assignments.
- Class Schedule Development – Susan Austin stated that students and parents will be informed of their team assignment and class schedule very soon.
- Magnet Theme Instruction – Susan Austin noted that STEAM was the selected theme for the Groton Middle School; as a result, both the STEM theme from West Side and the Arts/Humanities theme from Cutler will continue at the new middle school.

VI. UPDATE RE: SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- Extended School Year - Denise Doolittle stated that parents will be offered in-person services for the extended school year program for special education students. Denise noted that there are 60 students who would qualify for the in-person services program. Parents will be asked two questions – do they want to participate in the in-person services program and are they willing to transport the students to the program. This survey will be sent out on Tuesday to parents. Denise stated that the next step is to look at paraprofessional support need for the students to determine the size of the classes. Masks and shields have been ordered. However, when they will be delivered is in question.
- Middle School/High School Summer Classes – Susan Austin stated that the Curriculum Committee and Policy Committee met this past week. Adam Diskin has determined the cost with the need for additional teachers for the summer classes. The Summer Classes will start with core academic areas. There are 50 students from Cutler Middle School and 50 students from West Side Middle School and 50 students from Fitch High School. The students will be meeting 2 days a week in school and 2 days per week via distance learning.

VII. REVIEW OF THE REFERRAL LIST

The Board reviewed the Referral List.

VIII. SUGGESTED FUTURE TOPICS

Rita Volkmann asked for discussion regarding Report Cards and the fields.

Jay Weitlauf noted referral R2018-17 Investigation of racial bias and the e-mail received by Board members from Jemal Davis regarding the first meeting of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

Elizabeth Porter asked for an assessment of our distance learning program from this spring.

Andrea Ackerman noted that an Ad Hoc Committee to conduct the Superintendent's evaluation has been appointed by the Chairman and will meet this summer to review the evaluation process.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Ackerman, White:

To adjourn at 7:44 p.m.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY