

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
JUNE 15, 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, Laurie LePine, Addie Clark, Xavion Quito

I. CALL TO ORDER – Vice Chairperson Andrea Ackerman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. BOE REGULAR BUSINESS

MOTION: White, Porter: To approve the COW meeting minutes of June 8, 2020.  
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

III. PRESENTATION RE: SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION BY THE CT GREEN BANK

- Rick Norris gave an overview of installation process. Mr. Norris introduced Emily Basham and Mackey Dykes from CT Green Bank program; they gave a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed installation of solar panels at Cutler and the Groton Middle School.
- They highlighted:
  - Solar Municipal Assistance Program
  - Use of the solar panels is to make clean energy
  - Board would have to sign a Power Purchase agreement regarding the funding
  - Allen Sabins, CSW, addressed the Technical side of the process
  - CT Green Banks has worked with other Towns in the State
  - CT Green Banks and its private partner would provide financing to cover 100% of the costs of the project
  - Car ports with solar panels are proposed at both schools
  - Tax benefits would help reduce the Board's cost of the fixed electricity costs over 20 years
  - CT Green Banks is responsible for maintenance of the solar panels
  - Next steps and timeline: determine the cost savings and update the Board of Education

- Mackey Dykes noted that construction would start in 2021.

IV. DRAFT OF PROPOSED 2021-22 NEIGHBORHOOD AREA FOR THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FOR CUTLER AND WEST SIDE SITES

- Mike Zuba and Pat Gallagher, from Milone and MacBroom, gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Groton 2020 Elementary Plan to re-establish neighborhood catchment zone for the three elementary schools to be closed in 2021.

Mr. Weitlauf and Mrs. Volkmann requested other options for consideration.

Dr. Ackerman noted her concern with the division of Ring Drive.

V. UPDATE RE: RETURN TO SCHOOL ROAD MAP COMMITTEE

- Report from Facilities – Mr. Kilpatrick stated that the committee has met twice and is a 15 member committee. Last week the committee discussed what they have heard regarding coming back to school. Their next meeting is this Wednesday, June 17, 2020.
- Report from Operations – Laurie LePine stated that the committee has met and laid out the foundation; they went through an assessment of lessons learned, things that were complimentary. Their next meeting is June 24, 2020.
- Report from Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Elizabeth Porter stated that they had their first meeting and is a 65 member committee. They committee is committed to have diversity, equity and inclusion for all students. Mrs. Porter noted that first they have to identify and define the 3 terms. She stated that “intersectionality” is a new term and they want to reduce racial isolation. Their next meeting is Thursday, June 18, 2020. Mrs. Porter also noted that CABE is available for resources.

VI. UPDATE RE: TREE HOUSE ENROLLMENT AND ASSOCIATED EXPENSES

- Dr. Graner stated that he was informed by Jake Tedeschi that Tree House did not get the enrollment anticipated. They anticipate 30 children at the CK program and 40 children at NEA. Since there are fewer enrollments, the expected deficit will be approximately \$15,300.

VII. REVIEW OF THE REFERRAL LIST

The Board reviewed the Referral List.

Mr. Weitlauf requested additional elementary neighborhood plans for consideration at a COW meeting.

VIII. SUGGESTED FUTURE TOPICS

Mrs. Volkman, Mrs. Porter, and Dr. Ackerman requested to join the Naming Committee.

- IX. ADJOURNMENT – Ackerman, Porter: To adjourn at 8:10 p.m.  
**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**