

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 26, 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, Addie Clark, Zavion Quito

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Kim Shepardson Watson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

MOTION: Newsome, White: To add the Comments from Citizens section to the agenda.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

II. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION OF VISITORS AND DELEGATIONS

III. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – Addie Clark and Zavion Quito reported that the freshmen have been asking students in their class to provide pictures of family members who are essential workers and are recognizing them on their class Instagram account; the Junior class will crown their quarantine King and Queen; Seniors – last Friday, May 22, 2020 the faculty went to students homes to put up a sign congratulating them and gave them their caps and gowns; noted the drive-in movie graduation at Electric Boat’s M Lot which is across from Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School, graduation will begin at 8:30 p.m. – car registration is required by June 1, 2020 – Mr. Keleher will be emailing students and families shortly with protocol to be followed at the event and other information about graduation – The Class of 2020 officers are also making a video to put on our class Instagram to address student concerns and get people excited for the graduation; the Senior Class Instagram requested pictures of themselves regarding the college students would be attending or after graduation plans; students completed AP exams during the last two weeks, however, there was a technological issues across the world when students were submitting their tests online, so some students will be taking the AP exam in June.

V. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

1. Superintendent Report

a. Return to School Road Map Planning - Dr. Graner stated that tomorrow will be an orientation session of the committee.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS – cont.

- b. Fitch High School Graduation Planning – Mr. Keleher stated that Matt Brown is working on getting parking lot registrations for those who will be attending graduation; a video of the decorations is being planned; and the high school administration is working on how students will get their diploma.
- c. Review of the Proposed Job Description for the Student Services Facilitator – Dr. Graner stated that the title for the position has been changed, and he highlighted that the main responsibility will be the coordination of PPTs and Section 504 meeting schedule based on compliance requirements, parent requests, and student needs.
- d. Update re: Humanities Curriculum Coordinator – Dr. Graner stated that this position will mainly deal with History and World Language.
- e. Update re: High School Literacy Specialist – Dr. Graner stated that the funding for this position will be with the elimination of 2 paraprofessional positions at the high school in order to make this a full time position.

MOTION: Porter, Giulini: To add the approval of this position to the agenda.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

2. Reports and Information from the Staff

1. Assistant Superintendent
 - Update re: FY 20 Alliance Funding – Ms. Austin stated that funding has been received and that PD funds have been moved to the Tech Plan.
 - Orientation to the DoDEA 2020 Career Pathways Grant – Ms. Austin stated that Shannon Weigle had done extensive research for the grant along with all the teachers and administrators who worked on the grant (Val Nelson, Carol Marsiglio, Anne Keefe-Forbotnick, Shelly O’Neal-Kegler, Ted Keleher, Jeff Kotecki); the district submitted the application for the grant valued at \$750,000 for the next 5 years.
 - Survey – Ms. Austin encouraged parents, students, Board members to fill out the survey on Magnet Themes.
2. Business Manager Report
 - Object Code Summary – Ken Knight stated that this evening’s object code summary was prepared on May 20, 2020 and shows a balance of \$90,716.
 - Health Insurance Report – Ken Knight reviewed the Health Insurance Report for the month of April; the report showed health insurance claims for the month are significantly lower than last year.
3. Director of Buildings and Grounds
 - Groton 2020 – Update re: Middle School Packing and Moving Preparation - Sam Kilpatrick stated that Groton Middle School packing and moving is continuing to progress. Middle School teachers have been coming in 5-6 teachers a day. The next step is to move the material to the new Middle School.
 - Update re: Construction Projects
 - Groton Middle School is moving along.
 - Elementary School at Cutler site – Sam Kilpatrick noted that footing will be pour soon.
 - Elementary School at West Side site – Sam Kilpatrick noted that excavation continues; this Friday will be the last day for Food Services Department to use the site before moving to Branford Manor.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Policy – Lee White stated that the Policy Committee will meet on Monday, June 1, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.
- B. Curriculum – Andrea Ackermann stated that the Curriculum Committee will meet on Monday, June 1, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.
- C. Finance/Facilities – Jay Weitlauf reported that Finance/Facilities Committee met on May 5, 2020 and received an update on the STA/Curtin contract. The Finance/Facilities Committee will meet next week
- D. Negotiations – Kim Shepardson Watson noted that there is a motion on the Custodian and Maintenance contract on the agenda.
- E. LEARN– Rita Volkmann reported that the new Principal for the Marine Science High School is Tara Amatrudo; in addition, Mariana Reyes, who has served as the interim principal at RMMS for the past year, was named the permanent principal there; the Dual Language School will be moving to East Hartford; the Executive Director’s evaluation will be done differently and suggested that Groton use this method in evaluation Dr. Graner; Mike Belden discussed his budget; and they discussed graduations in the area Towns.
- F. BoE/TCC/RTM Liaison – Kim Shepardson Watson reported that the BoE/TCC/RTM Liaison Committee will meet next week.
- G. BoE/AGSA/GEA Liaison – Kim Shepardson Watson reported that the BoE/AGSA/GEA Liaison Committee will meet on May 27, 2020, at 4:30 p.m.
- H. Trails Liaison – no report was given.
- I. Groton Scholarship – no report was given.

V. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Consent Agenda – all matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. Points of clarification will be allowed.

MOTION: White, Porter: To approve the Regular Meeting minutes of April 27, 2020.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- B. Old Business

- 1. Discussion and possible action regarding a second reading of policy P 4118.13 Conflict of Interest

MOTION: White, Porter: To approve as a second reading of policy P 4118.13 Conflict of Interest.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

V. ACTION ITEMS – cont.

A. Old Business

2. Discussion and possible action regarding a second reading of policy P 5141.27 Use of Automatic External Defibrillators

MOTION: Giulini, White: To approve as a second reading of P 5141.27 Use of Automatic External Defibrillators.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

B. New Business

1. Discussion and possible action regarding a first reading of policy P 3230.1 Federal Grant Procurement and regulations for policy R 3230.1 Federal Grant Procurement Checklist and R 3230.1 Federal Grant Procurement

MOTION: Porter, White: To approve as a first reading of policy P 3230.1 Federal Grant Procurement and regulations for policy R 3230.1 Federal Grant Procurement Checklist and R 3230.1 Federal Grant Procurement.
YES – Watson, White, Weitlauf, Volkmann, Giulini, Porter
NO – Newsome
ABSTAINED – Ackerman
PASSED

2. Discussion and possible action regarding a first reading of policy P 3323 Bidding and regulations for policy R 3323 Bidding Chick list and R 3323 Bidding Regulations

MOTION: Volkmann, Porter: To approve as a first reading of policy P 3323 Bidding and regulations for policy R 3323 Bidding Chick list and R 3323 Bidding Regulations.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

3. Discussion and possible action regarding a first reading of policy P 4118.7 Good Samaritan

MOTION: Weitlauf, Volkmann: To approve as a first reading of policy P 4118.7 Good Samaritan.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

4. Discussion and possible action regarding a first reading of policy P 1230 Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs

MOTION: Newsome, Volkmann: To approve as a first reading of policy P 1230 Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs.

This item was tabled.

C. New Business (cont'd)

5. Discussion and possible action regarding the proposed funding of the Tree House Summer Program

MOTION: Porter, White: To approve the proposed funding of the Tree House Summer Program.

MOTION: Watson, Volkmann: To approve the proposed funding of the Tree House Summer Program up to a maximum of \$34,000.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

6. Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of a one-year contract extension for the Groton Schools Custodian and Maintenance Association bargaining unit for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

MOTION: Giulini, White: To approve a one-year contract extension for the Groton Schools Custodian and Maintenance Association bargaining unit for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

7. Discussion and possible action regarding the proposed Schedule C stipends for Groton Middle School for the 2020-21 school year

MOTION: White, Porter: To approve the proposed Schedule C stipends for Groton Middle School for the 2020-21 school year.

This item was tabled.

8. Discussion and possible action regarding the adoption of the revised FY21 Board of Education Budget

MOTION: Volkmann, Porter: To approve the adoption of the revised FY21 Board of Education Budget.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

9. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the proposed technology equipment plan

MOTION: Weitlauf, Porter: To approve the proposed technology equipment plan.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

10. MOTION: Watson, Porter: To approve the full time High School Literacy Specialist position.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS (Non-Action Items)

- A. Letters, communications, and comments by Board members on meeting items and any other items in their jurisdiction.
- Elizabeth Porter stated that 2 groups from CMS placed in the History Day competition; one group landed in category #5; that she was asked if the Tennis Courts at the high school is opened to the public.
 - Jane Giulini stated that she attended in Board Committee meetings; that she has been directing her grandchildren and children in her neighborhood and that they were all doing well.
 - Rita Volkmann noted a request from parents that kids go back to school at the end of August; she commended the high school staff for going to students homes; that the NEA video was amazing; she asked if the Athletic Director has been hired.
 - Jay Weitlauf stated that he attended the Senior Parade; that he was asked about the 12 feet separation required for cars at graduation.
 - Gretchen Newsome asked with the fence at CMS, are they putting the playgrounds back.
 - Rita Volkmann asked if the Teachers of the Year and Retirees will be honored at the June 22, 2020 meeting. Dr. Graner responded that they would be honored.
 - Kim Watson asked if the reopening of the Chelsea Bank at the high school be included in Board discussions; that the Mayor and the Moderator has noted that they will not be doing their meetings in person any time soon.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

- A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items for Board Attention

As noted in the agenda.

- B. Suggested Agenda Items

NONE

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – Ackerman, White:

To adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY