

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 @ 6:00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING**

NOTE: This meeting is being held remotely due to the Coronavirus concern. Members of the public may view or listen to the meeting by following the below steps:

- 1) Using Google Chrome browser, go to www.grotonschools.org
- 2) Hover your mouse over "About Us" and click on Board of Education
- 3) The link to the meeting will be posted prominently on the Board of Education page

Mission Statement: Our mission is teaching and learning.

Board Goals: (1) Provide Dynamic Rigorous Curriculum, (2) Ensure Effective and Engaging Instruction,
(3) Embrace Excellent Learning Environment

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. BoE Regular Business
 - a. Approval of the COW meeting minutes of August 17, 2020 (Attachment #1)
3. Update re: Groton Middle School
4. DEI Committee Report
5. School Opening Report
6. Discussion of Board Statement re: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
7. Review of Referral List (Attachment #2)
8. Suggested Future Topics
9. Adjournment

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
AUGUST 17, 2020 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rita Volkmann

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Graner, Susan Austin, Sam Kilpatrick, Ken Knight, Denise Doolittle,

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Kim Watson called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

II. BOE REGULAR BUSINESS

MOTION: Porter, White: To approve the COW meeting minutes of July 13, 2020.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION: White, Giuliani: To approve the COW Special meeting minutes of August 3, 2020.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

III. Discussion of the revised student and staff calendar for 2020-21

- Dr. Graner reviewed the 2020-2021 calendar:
 - First day of school for students will be September 8;
 - Convocation for staff will be on August 27 in the morning and building meetings in the afternoon;
 - PD for staff will be August 28 through September 4;
 - Kindergarten screening will be September 8-11;
 - First day for Kindergarten/PreK/Preschool will be September 14.

Ms. Austin noted that TLI days are cancelled in September, October, and December and noted that the last day of school will be June 15, 2021.

Dr. Graner stated that the district can shift to online learning at any time.

IV. Update re: Groton Middle School opening

- Mr. Bass, Groton Middle School Principal, gave an update on the Groton Middle School opening:
 - Construction has reached the final stage;
 - Tammy Hamelin says we are going through inspections with Fire Marshalls and Town Building Inspectors;
 - Unpacking by teachers will begin on Tuesday;
 - Mr. Bass hopes for good news from the Fire Marshall tomorrow;
 - Secretaries and Counselors can begin on August 27 in the building;
 - They will return to working on the safety plans, i.e. mask, hand washing, disinfection process;
 - Mr. Bass noted that he is working with the IT Department.

V. Discussion of health and safety protocols

- Leah Hendricks, VNA Director, gave an overview of Addendum 5 document that was put out by the State. (Attachment #1) Ms. Hendricks noted that Addendum 5 is a guideline of what to do in different scenarios.
- Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, noted that there are 5 mitigation strategies. Mrs. Doolittle stated that she and Dr. Graner have been attending DPH webinars with a 3rd one to be held on Tuesday.
 - Masks – the district has ordered a supply of masks; Mrs. Doolittle noted those masks that are not recommended for use at school; Mrs. Doolittle noted that all staff and students are required to use a mask.
 - FAQ that was released by the State urging the use of masks. There will be mask breaks during the day to be held outside as well as in the classroom. Kindergarten students are not required to wear masks but it is highly recommended.
 - Social Distancing.
 - Hand washing prevents the spread of germs.
 - Ventilation system recommissioning.
 - Cohorting to the maximum extent possible. Students will be confined to a limited group while in school.
- Dr. Graner reported that approximately 75% of the students will be coming back to school on the Hybrid Model and 25% will be doing remote learning.
- Mrs. Doolittle noted that they had a trial run with Summer School for special education students at SBB and for regular education students at the high school. Mrs. Doolittle reported that there have not been any diagnosed cases this summer.

VI. Discussion of the FY 21 budget regarding addition of COVID-related expenses

- Mr. Ken Knight reviewed the additional COVID related expenses. (Attachment #2)

VII. Update re: ongoing parent focus groups

- Dr. Graner noted that principals have identified focus groups and questions have been provided to the groups. Next week there will be discussion regarding distance learning.

V. REVIEW OF THE REFERRAL LIST

The Board reviewed the Referral List.

VI. SUGGESTED FUTURE TOPICS

NONE

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Newsome: To adjourn at 7:25 p.m.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Addendum 5

Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together

Connecticut State Department of Education



CONNECTICUT STATE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Interim Guidance for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in Connecticut School Districts

August 6, 2020



The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and State Department of Public Health (DPH) have collaborated to provide school districts with guidance and protocols for responding to specific COVID-19 scenarios that may occur with school reopening for the 2020–21 school year. This guidance complements the Containment Plan (p. 23) requirement of [Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together](#), which instructs school districts to develop written protocols for containment and immediate response related to symptoms of, diagnosis of, or exposure to the virus. Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) informs the specific scenarios and actions that follow. CDC guidance and public health data are evolving and therefore, this guidance may be updated accordingly.

This document addresses issues when a student or staff person has or develops: possible signs and symptoms of COVID-19; a diagnosis of COVID-19; or exposure to a person diagnosed with COVID-19. It describes immediate actions for removing an individual from the school setting and when to safely return them to school. School district leaders are encouraged to use this as a guide, in consultation with public health experts, including school nurses, school medical advisors, local health directors and in consideration of all specific circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

Event	Location of Event	Testing Result	Isolation/Quarantine
<p>Individual has COVID-19 symptoms¹ but has NOT had close contact² to a person diagnosed with COVID-19</p>	<p>If at home: stay home, notify the school immediately (do not wait until the beginning of the next school day), and get tested.</p> <p>If at school: students should remain masked, adhere to strict physical distancing, be assessed by the school nurse or school medical advisor (if available), stay in the isolation room (with adult supervision), until picked up to go home, consult a healthcare provider, and get tested. If symptoms arise on the bus, students should remain masked and follow the remaining measures listed above upon arrival to school. They must not be sent home on the bus.</p> <p>If at school: staff members should remain masked, adhere to strict physical distancing, immediately contact leadership (per district protocols), go home, consult a healthcare provider, and get tested.</p> <p>If a staff or student is ill enough to require transport to a healthcare facility, notify EMS that COVID-19 is a concern.</p>	<p>Individual tests³ negative</p> <p>Individual tests positive</p> <p>Individual is not tested</p>	<p>Return to school once there are no symptoms for 24 hours.</p> <p>Remain home (except to get medical care), monitor symptoms, notify the school immediately, notify personal close contacts, assist the school in contact tracing efforts⁴, and answer phone calls from public health officials/contact tracing staff.</p> <p>Stay in self-isolation⁵ for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever⁶ (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other COVID-19 symptoms.</p> <p>Stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other symptoms.</p> <p>Can return to school earlier if obtains note from healthcare provider with alternate diagnosis.</p>

Event	Location of Event	Testing Result	Isolation/Quarantine
<p>Individual has COVID-19 symptoms¹ AND had close contact² to a person diagnosed with COVID-19</p>	<p>If at home: stay home, notify the school immediately (do not wait until the beginning of the next school day), and get tested.</p> <p>If at school: students should remain masked, adhere to strict physical distancing, be assessed by the school nurse or school medical advisor (if available), stay in the isolation room (with adult supervision), until picked up to go home, consult a healthcare provider, and get tested. If symptoms arise on the bus, students should remain masked and follow the remaining measures listed above upon arrival to school. They must not be sent home on the bus.</p> <p>If at school: staff members should remain masked, adhere to strict physical distancing, immediately contact leadership (per district protocols), go home, consult a healthcare provider, and get tested.</p> <p>If a staff or student is ill enough to require transport to a healthcare facility, notify EMS that COVID-19 is a concern.</p>	<p>Individual tests negative</p> <p>Individual tests positive</p> <p>Individual is not tested</p>	<p>Isolation = when you are experiencing symptoms or have a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19</p> <p>Quarantine = when you have been exposed but you are not experiencing symptoms</p> <p>Stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other symptoms.</p> <p>Remain home (except to get medical care), monitor symptoms, notify the school, notify personal close contacts, assist public health and the school in contact tracing efforts.</p> <p>Stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other symptoms.</p> <p>Stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other symptoms.</p>

Addendum 5: Interim Guidance for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in Connecticut School Districts

Event	Location of Event	Testing Result	Isolation/Quarantine
<p>Individual <i>does not</i> have COVID-19 symptoms BUT had close contact² to someone diagnosed with COVID-19</p>	<p>If at home: stay home, notify the school immediately (do not wait until the beginning of the next school day), and get tested.</p> <p>If at school: students should remain masked, adhere to strict physical distancing, be assessed by the school nurse or school medical advisor (if available), be picked up to go home, consult a health care provider, and get tested. Students who do not have symptoms may remain in the health room until they are picked up, they do not have to be sent to the isolation room. They must not be sent home on the bus.</p> <p>If at school: staff members should remain masked, adhere to strict physical distancing, immediately contact leadership (per district protocols), go home, consult a healthcare provider, and get tested.</p>	<p>Individual tests negative</p> <hr/> <p>Individual tests positive</p>	<p>Isolation = when you have symptoms or have a COVID-19 test result that is positive Quarantine = when you are not experiencing symptoms</p> <p>Remain home in : days from last exposed to diagnosed with COVID-19</p> <hr/> <p>Remain home (ex care), monitor symptoms, notify per school, assist public health contact tracing efforts Stay home until 14 days since date of the test.</p>
<p>Individual <i>is not</i> tested</p>	<p>Individual is not tested</p>	<p>Individual is not tested</p>	<p>Remain home in : days from last exposed to diagnosed with COVID-19</p>

Addendum 5: Interim Guidance for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in Connecticut School Districts

End-notes

- 1 **Key COVID-19 signs and symptoms are:** feeling feverish, measured temp 100.4 F or more, chills, uncontrolled new cough, difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell. There are other more nonspecific signs and symptoms. For a full list, see [CDC Web page: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html)
- 2 **Close contact:** Spending at least 15 minutes within 6 feet of a person with confirmed COVID-19, or a direct exposure to saliva or nasal mucus (e.g., begin sneezed or coughed on in the face). See CDC web page at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html>.
- 3 **COVID-19 test for school/work attendance:** This is a viral test, NOT an antibody test. (see CDC information on COVID-19 test: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html>).
- 4 **Contact tracing:** A public health intervention in which the contacts of a person with a communicable disease are identified, quarantined or isolated to interrupt the transmission of the virus in a population. <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Contact-Tracing>
- 5 **Self-Isolation:** Individual with signs or symptoms of COVID-19, or a positive test, stays home until no longer infectious for at the onset of symptoms **and** until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without fever-reducing medications) and with COVID-19 symptoms. See CDC web page at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html>
- 6 **Fever:** Measured temperature of 100.4 F or higher
- 7 **Self-Quarantine:** Individual without symptoms stays home for 14 days since last exposure to someone who was diagnosed with COVID-19 during the incubation period of the virus). See CDC web page <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

Attachment #2

Groton Public Schools
 CARES Act - ESSER funds budget
 As of 08.05.20

Salaries & Benefits

Social Worker (SBB, NEA, MM)		75,000
Curriculum/Instruction planning fo reentry		75,000
Substitute Teachers		
Sub Rate		
Number of Subs	40	
Rate per Day	\$ 100	
Number of Days	40	160,000
Bachelor step 1		
Number of Subs	40	
Rate per Day	\$ 271	
Number of Days	140	1,517,600
Substitute Paras		
Number of Subs	19	
Rate per Day	\$ 83	
Number of Days	180	283,860
Add'l custodial help (4 hrs per day)		
Number of extra	10	
Rate per Day	\$ 66	
Number of Days	180	118,800

Food Service 113,081

Anticipated add'l salary & benefits 2,343,341

Supplies

Personal Protective Equipment		
Desk Shields		54,440
Add'l PPE		40,000

At home school supplies (tool kits)

Elementary School		
Cost per school	5,000	
Number of schools	6	30,000

Secondary School (Middle & High)		
Cost per school	10,000	
Number of schools	2	<u>20,000</u>

Anticipated add'l supplies 144,440

Total anticipated additional costs 2,487,781

CARES Act - ESSER funds	686,882
Amount allocated to Sacred Heart	<u>20,000</u>
ESSER funds allocated to GPS	666,882

Anticipated shortfall 1,820,899

BOARD OF EDUCATION - REFERRAL TRACKING SHEET
As of September 14, 2020

FCM = Future Committee Meeting

Referral #	Date Initiated	Subject	Referred to	Action	Status Report
R2015-37	12/10/18	Curriculum/Instruction Review the assessment of grammar (A.A)	Curriculum	FCM	
R2018-14	12/10/18	Review of spelling and cursive writing	Curriculum	FCM	
		Policy Development			
R2017-6	3/6/17	Review policy P 3520.11 Electronic Information Security	Policy	FCM	ongoing
R2017-7	3/6/17	Review policy P 3543.31 Electronic Communication Use and Retention	Policy	FCM	ongoing
R2018-10	6/4/18	Review policy P 5111.3 Protection of Undocumented Students	Policy	FCM	ongoing
R2018-25	1/7/19	Review policy P 6146.1 Examination Grading	Policy	FCM	ongoing
R2019-16	9/9/19	Determine where the limits are for having advertising done	Policy	FCM	
R2020-9	5/20/20	Review policy P 1230 Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs	Policy	FCM	2 nd reading 9/28/20
		COW			
R2018-17	12/10/18	Investigation of racial bias (Retreat) (KF) (imbedded in the DEI work plan)	COW	FCM	ongoing
R2018-18	12/10/18	Discussion of student achievement by sub groups (KF)	COW	FCM	ongoing
R2020-8	5/18/20	Discussion of a regional approach to Transition Academy and the need for an alternative high school and how to support each	COW	FCM	ongoing
R2020-10	6/8/20	Review of Report Cards	COW	FCM	
R2020-11	6/8/20	Review of the fields in the district	COW	FCM	
R2020-12	6/8/20	Assessment of what went well and what went wrong with distance learning	COW	FCM	
R2020-13	6/15/20	Review of additional elementary neighborhood plans	COW	FCM	
		Facilities			
		Finance			
		Miscellaneous			