

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 21, 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 September 14, 2020 (Attachment #1)
3. Update re: Hybrid and Distance Learning Program
 - Technology Devices
 - Live Streaming Procedures
4. Update re: Fall Athletics
5. Discussion of the three elementary schools (CC, SBB, & MM) scheduled to be closed in June 2021
6. Finance-related Issues
 - Overview of COVID-related Finances and Resources
 - Discussion of the Budget Timeline
 - Alliance District Funding for FY21
7. Review of Referral List (Attachment #2)
8. Suggested Future Topics
9. Adjournment

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kim Shepardson Watson-Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman-Vice Chairperson, Jane Giulini, Liz Porter, Rosemary Robertson, Rita Volkmann, Jay Weitlauf, Lee White

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Graner, Susan Austin

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Kim Watson called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

II. BOE REGULAR BUSINESS

MOTION: White, Robertson: To approve the COW meeting minutes of August 17, 2020.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION: White, Volkmann: To add an item to the agenda regarding discussion of a lawsuit relative to the MSAP grant with Lambda Legal as co-counsel.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

III. UPDATE RE: GROTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Rick Norris noted:
 - The conditional certificate of occupancy has been received; the final certificate of occupancy is expected in mid-October
 - Several items have not been completed:
 - Science rooms are without counter tops
 - Gym floor was delayed due to the lack of material – expect completion in mid-October
 - Softball and the all-purpose fields
 - A special education driveway has been requested; work is in process
 - Field Hockey line striping is being done on the synthetic surface field
 - The RTM and Town Council will go on a tour of Groton Middle School on Thursday, September 17, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. The signing of the beam to be placed at the elementary school at the Cutler site will occur at 5:30 p.m.
 - Mr. Norris gave a brief update on the elementary school construction at the Cutler and West Side sites

IV. SCHOOL OPENING REPORT

- Dr. Graner stated that he and Ms. Austin have visited classrooms and were very impressed. Dr. Graner noted that more and more students are attending in-person; he will make sure that every child is connecting with school staff. Dr. Graner noted that the drop off at Groton Middle School in the morning went well; however, the pick-up in the afternoon is still being addressed. Dr. Graner was asked about the class sizes at the high school and he responded that they have been kept under 12.

V. DEI COMMITTEE REPORT

Jemal Davis began his report on the DEI Committee by stated that there were over 100 members representing the district. Mr. Davis noted that there were two crises: COVID-19 and racial inequality and justice. Mr. Davis noted that in June the committee developed initiatives and he went on to highlight them. Mr. Davis shared that there were 8 subcommittees. As a result, a 5 year Strategic Plan was developed. Mr. Davis highlighted the DEI Data Report (Attachment #1). Mr. Davis shared the DEI Mission Statement and requested that the Board consider adopting it.

Nadine Macklin gave a report of the Education Subcommittee. Mrs. Macklin noted that the committee is requesting that the Board provide resources and to include the Mission Statement of the DEI Committee on the district website.

Ada Allen gave a report on the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee. Ms. Allen noted that the committee is requesting continued Professional Development, recruitment hiring and retention as well as evaluation of the recruitment and hiring and bias training.

VI. DISCUSSION OF BOARD STATEMENT RE: DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

The Board held an extensive discussion regarding the event of last week and the importance of combining the DEI Mission Statement with the Board's Mission Statement. Some Board members felt that this discussion should occur during a Board Retreat. Mrs. Volkmann suggested that Dr. Ackerman word smith the Mission Statement. Dr. Ackerman volunteered to do so.

VII. DISCUSSION OF THE LAWSUIT REGARDING THE MSAP GRANT

Dr. Graner noted that he received a call in early August regarding female transgender athletes. The U. S. Department of Education's Civil Rights Office determined that Groton was in violation of Title IX. Funding distribution is scheduled to occur in October. The case is now in Federal Court. Groton may be denied the MSAP grant (in the amount of \$704,000 for this year and \$704,000 for next year).

VIII. REVIEW OF THE REFERRAL LIST

The Board reviewed the Referral List.

IX. SUGGESTED FUTURE TOPICS

Mr. Weitlauf made a referral to the Policy Committee to determine what the district's procedure is for verifying residencies.

A question was asked regarding how to handle snow days. Dr. Graner stated that he will report to the Board on snow days.

Mrs. Porter asked how attendance for teachers is being handled when their child is sick but they Zoom to their class while at home. Is this counted as an absence for the teacher?

Committee of the Whole

September 14, 2020

Page 3

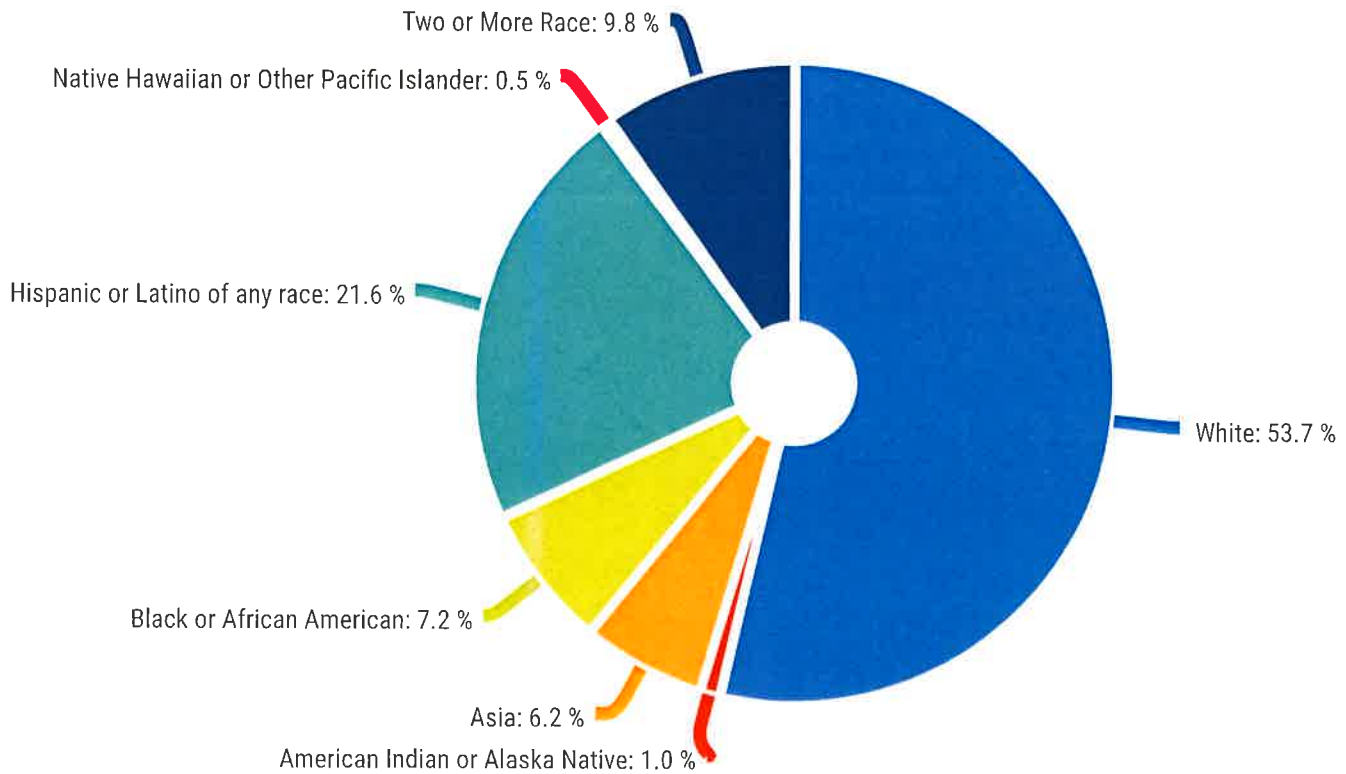
X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Porter: To adjourn at 8:13 p.m.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY



2020 DEI DATA REPORT

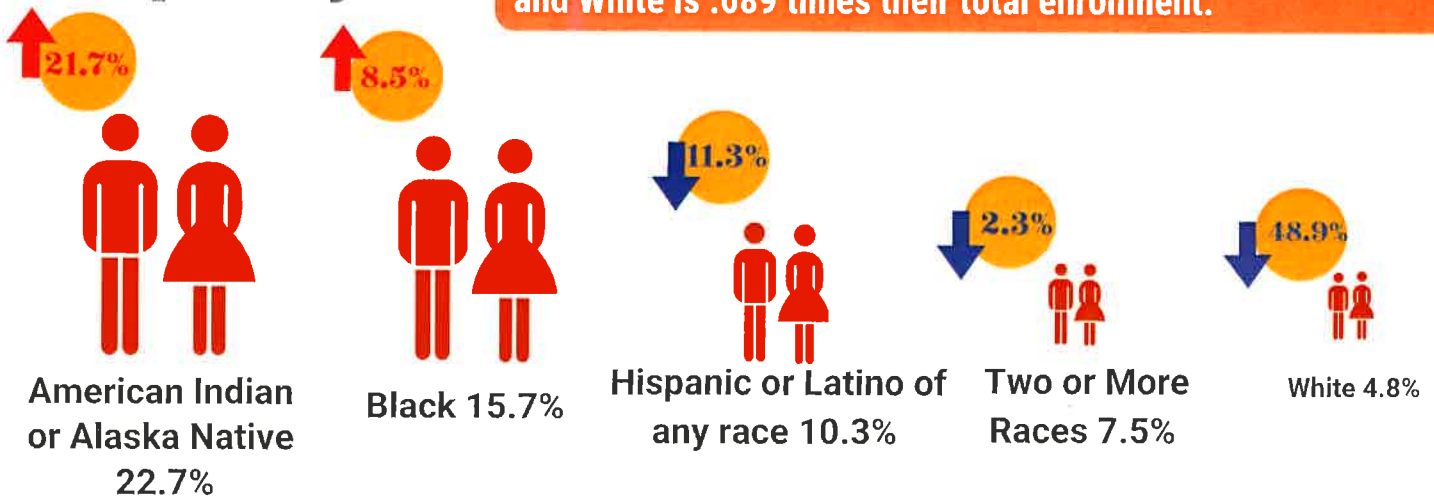
GPS Enrollment



Comparison of Racial Representation Among Enrolled and Disciplined Students
2018-2019 CSDE Edsight Database

Discipline Disparity

American Indian or Alaska Native and Black disciplined compositions are 21.7 times and 2.2 times that of their total enrollment, respectively. Whereas Hispanic or Latino composition is .476 times, Two or More Races is .76 times, and White is .089 times their total enrollment.

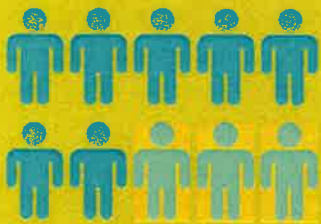


Achievement Disparity

ELA % At or Above Level 3 (SBAC)

White

69.2%



Hispanic or Latino

42.7%



Black

39.6%



Asian

74.3%



MATH % At or Above Level 3 (SBAC)

White

56.7%



Hispanic or Latino

33.5%



Black

29.0%



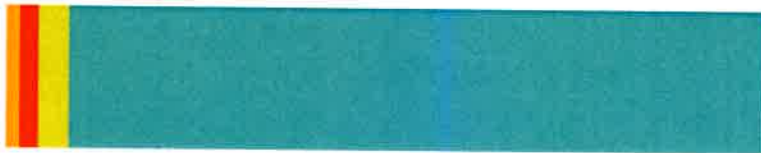
Asian

67.6%

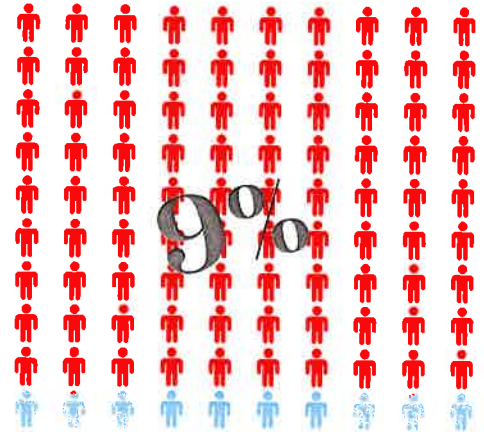


Educator to Student Disparity

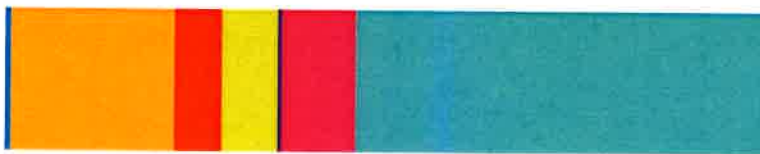
GPS Educator Race/Ethnicity



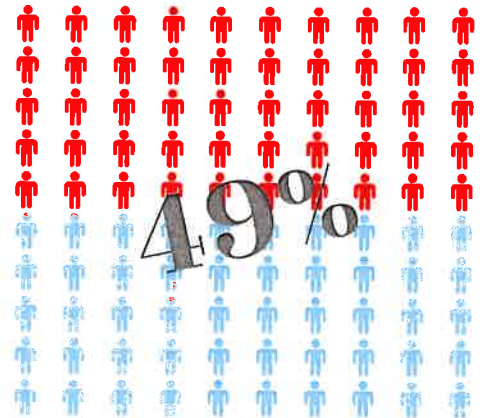
- American Indian
- White
- Hispanic or Latino
- Asian
- Black



GPS Student Race/Ethnicity



- American Indian
- Native Hawaiian
- Hispanic or Latino
- Two or More Races
- Asian
- White
- Black



BOARD OF EDUCATION - REFERRAL TRACKING SHEET
As of September 21, 2020

Referral #	Date Initiated	Subject	Referred to	Action	Status Report
		Curriculum/Instruction			
R2015-37	12/10/18	Review the assessment of grammar (AA)	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
R2020-14	9/14/20	Review policy P 6172.6 Distance Education	Policy	FCM	2 nd reading 9/28/20
R2020-15	9/14/20	Review policy P 6114.81 Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness	Policy	FCM	2 nd reading 9/28/20
R2020-16	9/14/20	Review policy P 4118.237/5141.8 Face Masks/Coverings	Policy	FCM	1 st reading 9/28/20
R2020-17	9/14/20	Determine the district's procedure for verifying residencies (JW)	Policy	FCM	
		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			

FCM = Future Committee Meeting