

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gretchen Newsome

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?

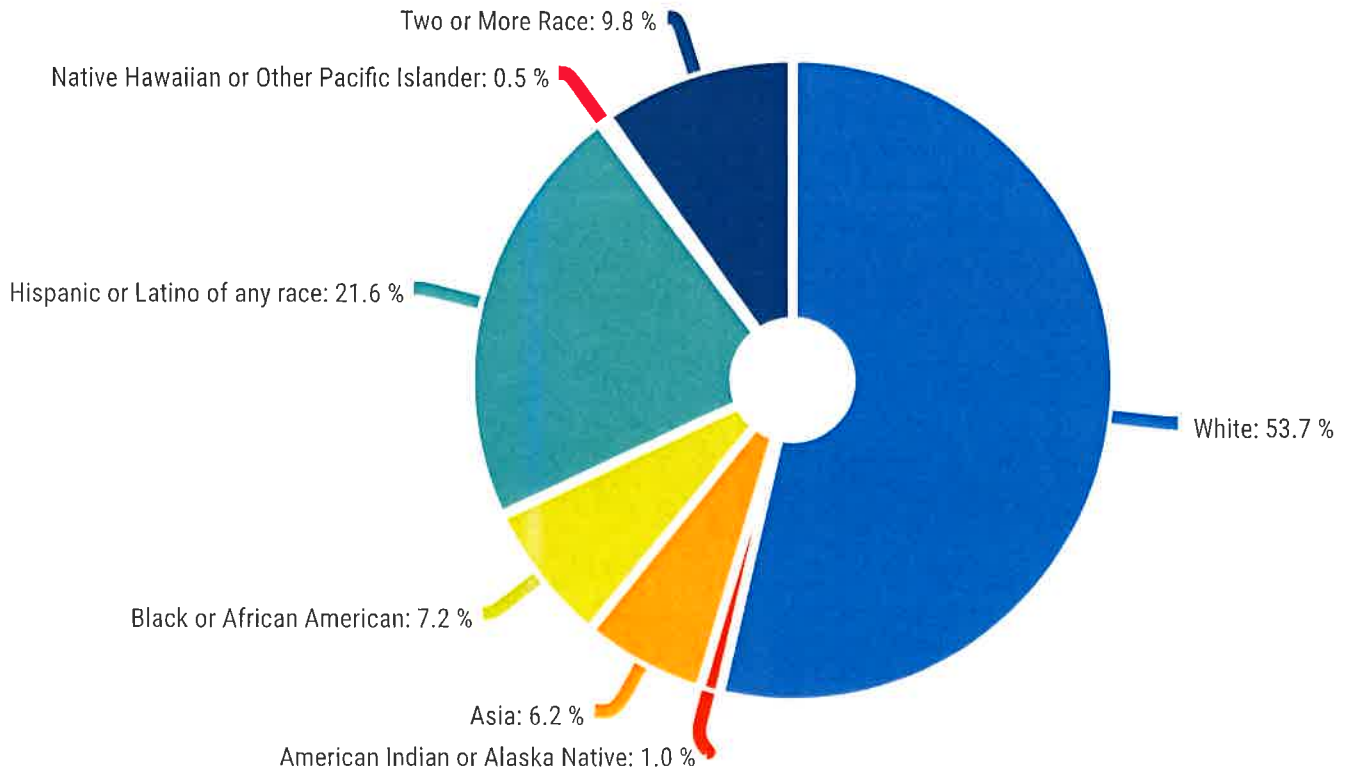
X. ADJOURNMENT

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



2020 DEI DATA REPORT

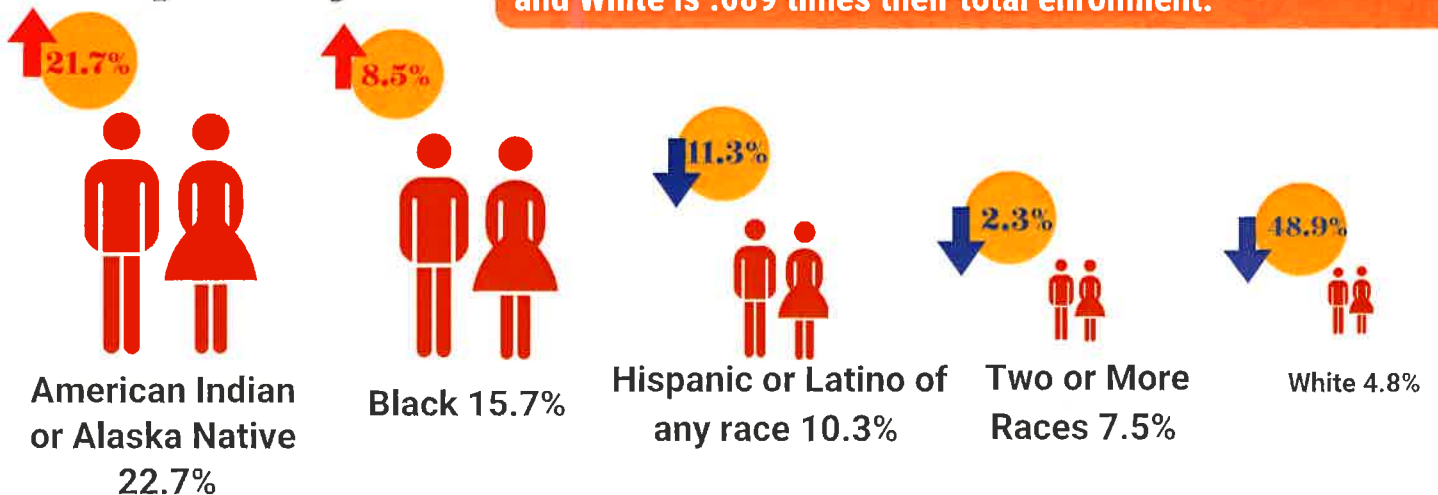
GPS Enrollment



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%

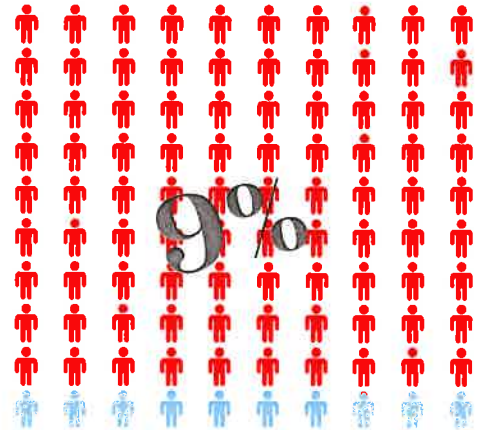


Educator to Student Disparity

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
- Black
- White

