

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING  
September 14, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m. *REMOTE MEETING*

**Members Present:** Andrea Ackerman, Liz Porter

**Members Absent:** Gretchen Newsome

**Also Present:** Jane Giulini, Susan Austin, Amy McKenna, Linda Powaleny, Karen Rollins, Jessica Franco, Jennifer Miele (Groton Public Library)

Ackerman called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. Review of Minutes:

MOTION: Giulini, Porter to approve the minutes of August 10, 2020.  
**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

2. Old Business

The inclusion of instruction in cursive writing at the elementary level was discussed by the committee. A third grade teacher talked about the need to teach typing due to state testing and the writing process, where publication needs to be legible by print, cursive or typed. A primary teacher spoke about letter formation and print as an essential skill for children PK, K, and 1; there has been a recommendation to use a program used by OT's in district that aligns with TCRWP phonics – *Handwriting without Tears*.

The committee discussed how spelling, conventions, and grammar are taught as part of the writing process; some schools use a program called *Words Their Way*, but it has been inconsistent. One primary teacher said that the new phonics program and writing program from Teacher's College K-2 has a component of spelling in the "Word Detective Unit" as does *Handwriting without Tears*. From the secondary perspective, since so much work is done on chrome books, students have spell-check. Susan said she would bring this topic up with the Literacy Specialists to ensure consistency.

3. New Business

One Card, One Community! September is library card month. McKenna, Franco and Miele spoke about a program that would encourage all students to get a library card and engage them in accessing print and online resources from the library. Student privacy will be explored.

4. Future Meeting Topics

Updates on handwriting, cursive and typing.  
Student privacy concerns and One Card One Community!

5. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 4:55 p.m.