

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
OCTOBER 19, 2020 @ 6:00 P.M.  
REMOTE MEETING

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Graner, Susan Austin, Sam Kilpatrick, Laurie LePine

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Kim Watson called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

II. BOE REGULAR BUSINESS

MOTION: Porter, Robertson: To approve the COW meeting minutes of October 13, 2020.  
YES – Watson, Ackerman, Giulini, Porter, Robertson, Volkmann, Weitlauf, White  
ABSTAINED - Antipas  
PASSED

III. DISCUSSION RE: NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- Naming Committee – Susan Austin discussed the timeline; she noted that the survey deadline is the end of the day on Wednesday. At that time, the suggested names will be compiled and then forwarded to the naming committee. The committee may make recommendations and Dr. Graner will include those recommendations in the Board Notes and include the item on the October 26 agenda.
- Theme Selection – Susan Austin noted the top three choices and that the deadline for the survey is the end of the day on Wednesday. At that time, the top selections will be compiled and then forwarded to the Board for consideration.
- Staffing:
  - Administrators – Dr. Graner noted that Jamie Giordano will be assigned as the principal of the new elementary at the West Side site and Steve Wheeler will be assigned as the principal at the Cutler site. Dr. Graner noted that Kathy Miner has informed him that she plans to retire in June 2021. Dr. Graner also noted that the Academy program will be placed at the West Side site and the ABA program will be placed at the Cutler site.

Dr. Graner recommended that three assistant principals, Ada Allen, Megan Bibby, and Pam Porter, be assigned to the two new elementary schools. One assistant principal will support special education at both schools.

Ms. Austin noted that the Preschool/Pre-Kindergarten Center will be at both schools.

- Certified Staff Reassignment Process – Mrs. Laurie LePine noted that teachers are being asked to provide their preferred assignments. This will assist Mrs. LePine in making the final assignments for next year.

IV. REVIEW OF PREFERRED CLASS SIZE CHART (REVISED) (Attachment #1)

The Board reviewed the revised Preferred Class Size Chart. The Preferred Class Size Guidelines will be forwarded to the regular agenda on October 26, 2020.

V. DISCUSSION RE: DEI STATEMENT/COURAGEOUS CONVERSATION SERIES – (Attachment #2)

Mr. Jemal Davis gave an overview of the proposed DEI Statement.

Mr. Weitlauf suggested a revision to the third Board Goal to include reference to DEI.

Mrs. Porter suggested adding the DEI Statement to all Agenda documents.

Mr. Davis noted that the committee has developed a Critical Conversation Series that will begin in October 2020. Mr. Davis also noted that presentations will be given in November and February.

VI. REVIEW OF POLICY P 5112.2 – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENT STUDENTS – (Attachment #3)

Ms. Austin gave an overview of policy P 5112.2 Admission Requirements for Resident Students.

VII. REVIEW OF THE REFERRAL LIST

The Board reviewed the Referral List.

R2018-17 Investigation of racial bias will be removed.

R2020-22 Discussion and review of the work of the DEI will be added.

II. SUGGESTED FUTURE TOPICS

NONE

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, White: To adjourn at 7:14 p.m.  
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

## PREFERRED MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE GUIDELINES

<u>ACADEMIC</u>	<u>PREFERRED MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE</u>
Kindergarten-1	20
Grades 2-3	23
Grades 4-12	25
Remedial Self-Contained 6-12	14
Remedial Individual/Small Group	40 (total teacher load)
<u>SPECIAL AREAS</u>	
Technology Education (9-12)	20
Culinary Arts (9-12)	16
General Music (K-12)	25
Art (9-12)	20
Physical Education	30
<u>PUPIL – TEACHER RATIOS FOR SUPPORT PERSONNEL</u>	
Guidance Counselors	200:1
Library/Media Specialist	500:1
Special Education:	
Self-contained	12:1
Resource Room	20:1

## **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement**

Groton Public Schools embraces policies and practices that ensure that all people—especially those who have been historically marginalized based on race/ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender, age, socioeconomic status, immigrant status, educational status, or religion—have equitable opportunities. We acknowledge that systems of racial and economic injustice exist in our nation and community; however, as educators, we too recognize that we have the power to dismantle the practices, policies, and systems that perpetuate inequalities. Thus, an integral component of Groton Public Schools’ mission is to cultivate an environment of diversity, equity, and inclusiveness. As a response, we strive to foster culturally responsive teaching and learning practices to ensure ALL groups feel valued, actively engaged, and empowered.

## Students

### Admission Requirements for Resident Students

Each child entering Groton Public Schools for the first time must present legal evidence of age, as well as proof of a recent health assessment and required immunizations, except for those students classified as homeless in accordance with Federal law. If the parents or guardians of any children are unable to pay for required immunizations or health assessments, the Board shall provide the required immunizations and/or health assessments without charge.

<b>Documents accepted for proof of child's age</b>
Hospital, Physician or Religious Certificate showing date of birth
Adoption Record
Birth Certificate
Previously verified school records

The Department of Children and Families and the Judicial Department shall provide to the Superintendent any educational records within their custody of a child seeking to enter, or to return to the District, from a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, or any other residential placement, prior to the child's entry or return. However, receipt of the educational records shall not delay a child from enrolling in school. The Superintendent shall provide such information to the principal at the school the child will be attending. The principal shall disclose such information to staff members as is appropriate.

### Residency Requirements

Groton Public Schools provides educational services to students who are residents of Groton and to those out-of-town students for whom the district has entered into an agreement with either their parent(s)/guardian(s) or their home Board of Education. Students who are not residents of Groton, except as mentioned above, may not attend Groton Public Schools. The Board may take legal action to recoup the cost of educating students found to have been illegally attending schools in the District. A student's parents/guardians are required to notify the principal when they are no longer residents of Groton. In exceptional situations, the Superintendent may allow the student to complete the school year.

The student's parent/guardian must present proof of residency upon initial registration in Groton Public Schools and whenever requested by the principal.

### Proof of Residency

Proof of residency can be verified by submitting:

- (a) one document from column A **OR**
- (b) two documents from column B.

Only those items listed on the Documents for Proof of Residency table in this policy will be accepted as proof of residency. Each document submitted must specify the physical address of where the student lives; post office box addresses are not acceptable.

Students

Admission Requirements for Resident Students - continued

<b>Documents for Proof of Residency</b>	
Column A	Column B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rental or lease agreement</li> <li>• Purchase or escrow agreement</li> <li>• Letter of Intent for residency</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dated within past 30 days</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utility bill (gas, electric, telephone, cable TV, etc.)</li> <li>• Letter from an approved government agency (assisted housing, food stamps, unemployment payment, etc.)</li> <li>• Payroll stub</li> <li>• Bank or credit card statement</li> <li>• Valid Connecticut driver’s license</li> <li>• Current vehicle registration or insurance</li> <li>• Medical billing or insurance information</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dated within the past year</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property tax bill</li> </ul>

If the student’s family is living with another family in Groton, then: (1) they must provide a notarized statement from the person they are living with stating that they and their children live there, the address, and for what period of time; (2) documents showing that the person they are living with resides within district and school boundaries (as specified above); and one of the documents from column B; above; showing that they live at the location. If the living situation is temporary, then once they have moved into their own residence, they will need to bring in proof of residency for their new address.

**Placement**

Children who apply for initial admission to the District’s schools by transfer from nonpublic schools, or from schools outside the District, will be placed at the grade they would have reached elsewhere pending observation and evaluation by classroom teachers, guidance personnel, or the school principal. After such observations and evaluations have been completed, the principal will determine the final grade placement of the children.

## Students

### Admission Requirements – continued

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes:

10-15c. Discrimination in public schools prohibited. School attendance by five-year-olds.

10-76a. Definitions.

10-76d. Duties and powers of boards of education to provide special education programs and services. Determination of eligibility for Medicaid. State agency placements, apportionment of costs. Relationship of insurance to special education costs.

10-186. Duties of local and regional boards of education re: school attendance. Hearings. Appeals to state board. Establishment of hearing board. (As amended by Public Act 11-115 – An Act Concerning Juvenile Re-Entry and Education)

10-204a. Required immunizations.

10-226. Health assessments.

10-206a. Free health assessments.

10-220. Duties of boards of education.

10-233a. Definitions.

Policy Adopted: June 23, 2014

Revised: June 24, 2019

GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Groton, Connecticut