

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 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 C.O.W. meeting minutes of November 9, 2020 (Attachment #1)
3. Update re: Budget Planning
4. Review of the Residency Verification Process (Attachment #2)
5. Enrollment Projections for Thames River & Mystic River Magnet Schools
6. Budget Planning for the Three New Elementary Magnet Programs
7. Discussion re: the Three Elementary Schools Scheduled to be Closed June 2021
8. Review of Referral List (Attachment #3)
9. Suggested Future Topics
10. Adjournment

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2020 @ 6:00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Graner, Susan Austin, Sam Kilpatrick

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 19, 2020.
PASSED -UNANIMOUSLY

III. OVERVIEW OF HYBRID/FULL DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM – SURVEY RESULTS AND ACTION PLANS

Ms. Austin stated that the survey results are being analyzed, and the data teams are looking for trends at the school level and the district level. The Principals will review the data with their Data Teams and come up with action plans. Ms. Austin stated that she and Dr. Graner have always said that they wanted the Hybrid Model to be sustainable and if and when we go into full remote, we will be able to do it very smoothly. Dr. Graner noted that the district is at 50% remote learning. Ms. Austin noted that Principals have been making home visits to check on students. Ms. Austin noted that we are doing better at the elementary level and doing less well at the secondary level.

IV. UPDATE RE: STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS (SBAC/SAT/NGSS)

Ms. Austin noted that the State did not do Summative Assessments for SBAC and NGSS last spring. The State has been a great resource with other assessments. Presently, we are field testing IAB (Interim Assessment Blocks). We will be scheduling meetings with each level to figure out what the road map will look like. We will have an SBAC and NGSS assessment in the spring. We just finished our first round of Phonics and Pernel Reading Assessment; just purchased Dyslexia Assessment; SATs will be given and we have rolled out PSAT.

V. UPDATE RE: ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES – (Attachment #1 & 2)

Ms. Austin noted that Groton has a registrar and online registration. Ms. Austin noted the shift with transient and military population Preschool and Pre-K across the State, as well and Kindergarten, has declined. Homeschooling – we have about 100 students; this year 64 students were signed up. Enrollment has declined to 4.8%. Ms. Austin shared the marching orders from the State for taking attendance.

Beth Horler shared how she takes attendance at her school.

VI. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAFF REASSIGNMENT PROCESS

Dr. Graner noted that he has launched the process and with the support of the GEA an agreement was reached regarding teachers' intent to retire. This agreement will help to determine openings as well as allow the Administration to ask teachers their assignment preferences.

VII. REVIEW OF THE REFERRAL LIST

The Board reviewed the Referral List.

R2019-16 Determine where the limits are for having advertising done was removed.

R2020-13 Review of additional elementary neighborhood plans was removed.

ADD R2020-26 Discussion of STEM Residency for Diversity.

Mrs. Porter asked where does the State stand with on the African American and Latin American courses. Dr. Graner responded that Carmita Hodge will be coming to a COW meeting to address these courses.

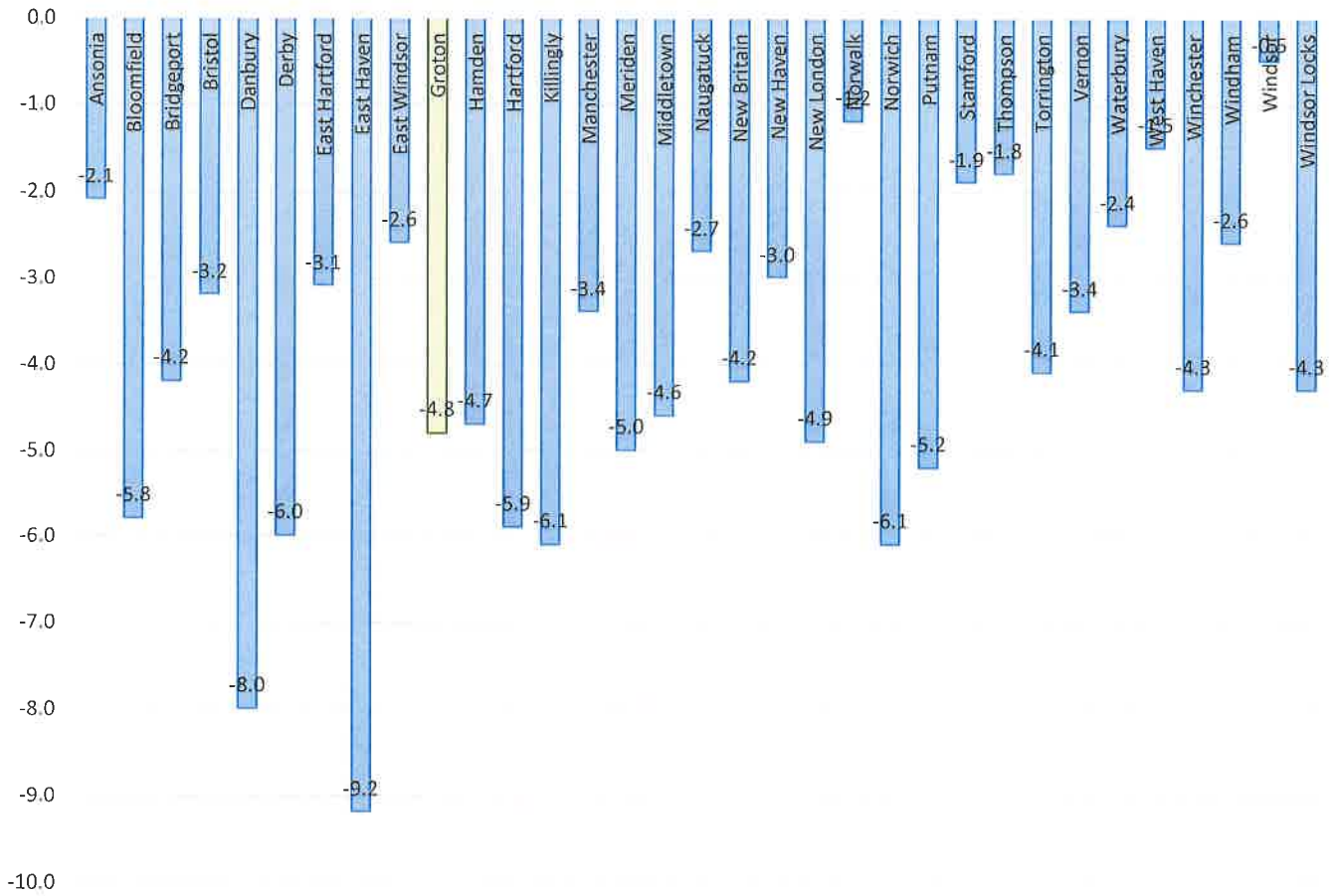
VIII. SUGGESTED FUTURE TOPICS

NONE

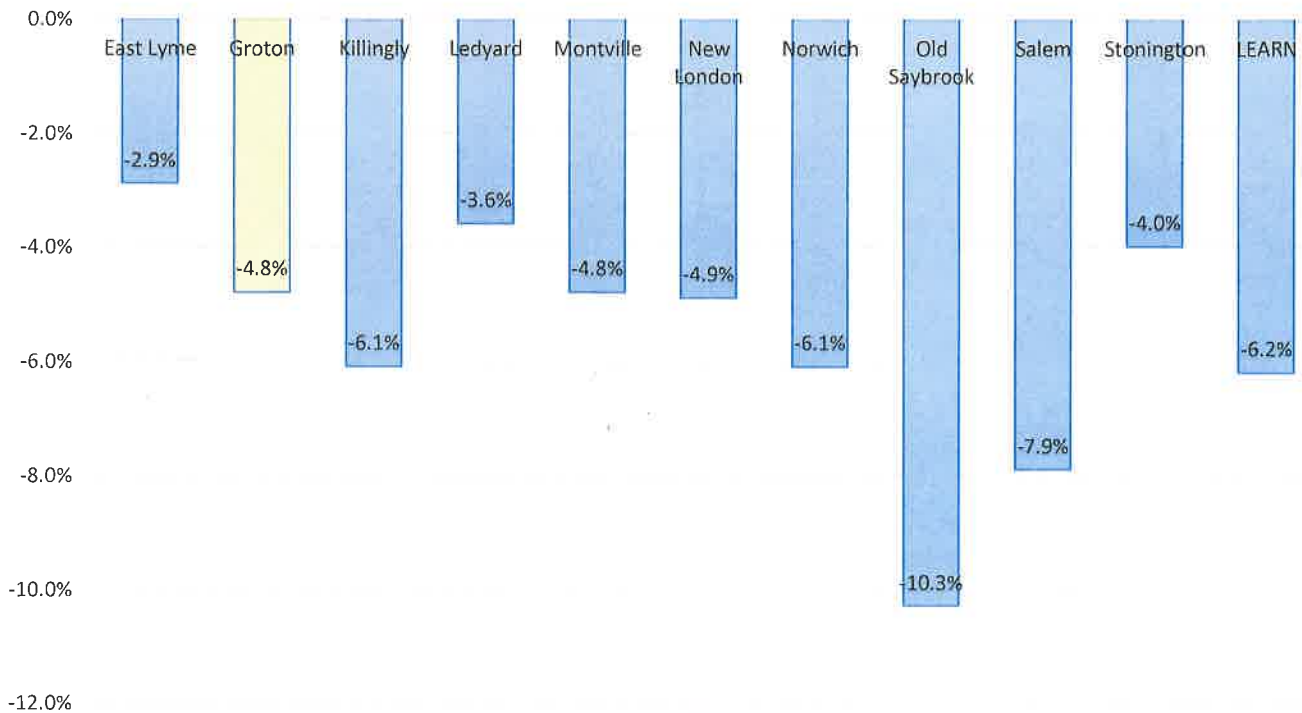
IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Robertson: To adjourn at 7:16 p.m.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Total Enrollment by Alliance District 2019-20 and 2020-21



Total Enrollment by Neighboring Towns 2019-20 and 2020-21



Tracking Daily Attendance on Remote Days in 2020-21



State Board of Education Policy (2008):

“A student is considered to be ‘in attendance’ if present at his/her assigned school, or an activity sponsored by the school (e.g., field trip), for at least half of the regular school day.”

A remote student can be considered as being ‘in attendance’ on a particular day if the total time spent on one or more of the following activities equals at least half the school day.



Synchronous virtual classes are live classes that are streamed real time to students using a videoconferencing platform like Google Meets, Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.

Synchronous virtual meetings may be with a teacher, counselor, social worker, paraprofessional, etc. using a videoconferencing platform or via telephone. They may be homeroom opportunities, daily routine check-ins, or other synchronous conversations.

Time logged in electronic systems can be used to identify *any time over and above the synchronous virtual classes and meetings* that the student may have participated in during the school day.

Assignment submission/completion time can be determined by the teacher by starting with an estimate of time it will take for a typical student to submit/complete that assignment, and using that estimate to gauge the attendance time for the day that should be allotted to each student.

Notes:

- If a student is absent on a given day (either in-person or remote), they cannot make up for that absence on another day.
- Districts should track membership and attendance *separately* for a student’s in-person vs remote days.

P 5112.2

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.

Documents accepted for proof of child's age
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

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

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION - REFERRAL TRACKING SHEET
As of November 16, 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	
R2020-18	9/21/20	Review Student privacy concerns and One Card One Community!	Curriculum	FCM	
R2020-19	9/21/20	Review of Spelling	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
R2020-20	10/6/20	Review policy P 9000 Rules of Procedure	Policy	FCM	
R2020-22	10/19/20	Review policy P 5112.2 Admission Requirements for Resident Students	Policy	FCM	
R2020-24	11/5/20	Review policy P 4118.112 Sexual Harassment (Personnel)	Policy	FCM	1 st reading 11/23/20
R2020-25	11/5/20	Review policy P5145.5 Sexual Harassment (Students/ Personnel)	Policy	FCM	1 st reading 11/23/20
		COW			
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	
R2020-12	6/8/20	Assessment of what went well and what went wrong with distance learning and the inequities	COW	FCM	
R2020-21	10/15/20	Discussion of STEM Masters for Diversity (RV)	COW	FCM	
R2020-23	10/19/20	Discussion and review of the work of the DEI Committee	COW	FCM	ongoing
R2020-26	11/9/20	Discussion of STEM Residency for Diversity (RV)	COW	FCM	
		Facilities			
		Finance			
		Miscellaneous			

FCM = Future Committee Meeting