

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 2020 @ 6:00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rosemary Robertson, Rita Volkmann

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Graner, Susan Austin, Sam Kilpatrick, Ken Knight

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Kim Watson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. BOE REGULAR BUSINESS

MOTION: White, Porter: To approve the COW meeting minutes of November 9, 2020.
PASSED -UNANIMOUSLY

III. UPDATE RE: BUDGET PLANNING

Dr. Graner stated that he, Susan, Ken and Laurie have been working through the budget book. Dr. Graner gave an overview of the budget schedule. Mr. Knight gave the status of the Health Reserve account.

IV. REVIEW OF THE RESIDENCY VERIFICATION PROCESS

Ms. Austin explained the three prong process for residency verification – 1. Policy review; 2. PowerSchool annual review; and 3. Special Education out placement monitoring.

V. ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS FOR THAMES RIVER AND MYSTIC RIVER MAGNET SCHOOLS.

Ms. Austin noted that there will 604 students in each Magnet School. Ms. Austin noted that she is reaching out to Mr. Zuba for the data that he developed for the two new elementary schools.

VI. BUDGET PLANNING FOR THE THREE NEW ELEMENTARY MAGNET PROGRAMS

Dr. Graner noted;

- that there will be a lottery in mid to late April;
- we will do reverse planning for the three Themes;
- beginning in December we will be working on curriculum with possible stipends for teachers;
- we will be spreading the Magnet School funds over 5 schools;
- we will begin to allocate the personnel for the three schools.

MOTION: Watson, Antipas: To add an update on the districts COVID response to the agenda.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

VII. DISCUSSION RE: THE THREE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS SCHEDULED TO BE CLOSED JUNE 2021

Dr. Graner noted that the three schools to close June 2021 are CC, SBB, and MM. Dr. Graner noted that he and Mr. Kilpatrick will be looking at each school and noted items of concern:

- the roof at SBB;
- temp space for Robotics
- swing space potential for the future
- MM could house Robotics
- Early Childhood Center at MM potential for the future

It was noted that keeping MM will be forwarded to the November 23, 2020 Regular Board agenda for use by Robotics and/or swing space in the future; CC and SBB will be recommended for turnover to the Town after the 2020-2021 school year.

VIII. UPDATE RE: COVID RESPONSE

Dr. Graner stated that he is in contact with Steve Mansfield from Ledge Light who spoke with the Department of Public Health regarding holiday travel. Dr. Graner stated that there are no substitute teachers available and that if there is another case that schools will have to close. Dr. Graner noted that he is considering closing school for a week after Thanksgiving, from November 24 through December 7 or from November 24 through December 14. The Christmas break is a 12 day break. Dr. Graner stated that the schools are doing a great job and that mitigation strategies are working well. Dr. Graner noted that over 200 contacts have been tested and none have been positive.

Dr. Ackerman expressed her opinion that the district should go to full remote learning for the rest of this year.

IX. REVIEW OF THE REFERRAL LIST

The Board reviewed the Referral List.

VIII. SUGGESTED FUTURE TOPICS

NONE

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Robertson: To adjourn at 7:20 p.m.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY