

GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TOWN & CITY COUNCILS/RTM/BOARD OF EDUCATION LIAISON COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
December 2, 2020 @ 5:30 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING

Central Office – Michael Graner, Susan Austin
BOE –Andrea Ackerman, Lee White,
Town Council – Patrice Granatosky, Juliette Parker
City Council – Reginald Stanford
RTM –Kathy Chase, Michael Whitney

1. Call to Order – Dr. Andrea Ackerman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. Review of November 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes – The minutes were approved as presented.
3. Board of Education Report
 - Superintendent – there were 18 applications received for this position. Five to six were interviewed. The result is Susan Austin was chosen to be the next Superintendent because of her background and knowledge of the district. Susan will start her new position on January 1, 2021.
 - There is a problem with staffing at some buildings. Twenty-seven staff at the high school and 24 staff at the middle school were out just before Thanksgiving. There were 325 contacts in the buildings but all tested negative.
 - Middle school and high school will continue distance learning for ten days following the Thanksgiving holiday. Hybrid learning will start back December 14th.
 - All interscholastic sports have been put on hold until January 19th.
 - The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee has started a book club. The book being read is “So You Want to Talk about Race.” The next meeting is December 15th.
 - A topping off ceremony was held at the new Thames River Magnet School on the site of the old West Side Middle School. In two weeks, the whole building will be encased. The Mystic River Magnet School on the site of the old Cutler Middle School is about two weeks ahead of this.
 - The budget for the FY22 is in good shape in anticipation of Dr. Graner’s retirement.
 - There were sixteen \$20,000 Martin Luther King scholarships distributed this year with five of those going to Fitch students.
 - They are in the planning stage for having students that really need to be in school to maybe come back in school four days a week in January.
4. Town Council Report
 - Alterations to River Road were approved.
 - Amendments to the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) plan was made.
 - The Town Manager signed a short-term tax agreement for the Mystic Education Center property.
 - A public hearing was scheduled regarding the Groton Heights School sale for December 1st.
 - A short-term fixed assessment agreement was approved for the William Seely School property.
 - An open space parcel in the Bridgeview subdivision was accepted.
 - A public hearing was set for January 5, 2021 for the purpose of selling excess property on Gold Star Highway.
 - A public hearing was scheduled for February 2, 2021 for purposes of selling the Colonel Ledyard School.
 - An Economic Assistance Fund grant was approved for 3 Water Street.

5. City Council Report

- The City Council is in the process of losing a Council member and electing a new member.
- A new Planning and Zoning department head and Economic Development department head have been hired.

6. RTM Report

- No meeting was held in November.

7. New Business – no new business was discussed

8. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.