

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 25, 2021 @ 6:00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andrea Ackerman, Dean Antipas, Jane Giuliani, Liz Porter, Rosemary Robertson, Rita Volkmann, Jay Weitlauf, Lee White

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kim Shepardson Watson

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Denise Doolittle, Sam Kilpatrick, Ken Knight,

I. CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Ackerman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

The first order of business was the pledge of allegiance to the flag led by Xavion Quito.

II. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION OF VISITORS AND DELEGATIONS

A. Martin Luther King Scholarship Recipients – Dr. Ackerman stated that there were 16 scholars receiving the Martin Luther King Scholarships. There were five from Fitch High School: Xavion Quito, Fatimah Mansoor, Tristin Cleetus, Zoe Costello, and Deja Driscoll Smith. Each of the Fitch Scholars introduced each other and noted that individual’s accomplishments and future plans.

III. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

1. Thomas Frickman, 61 Warren Avenue, shared comments regarding the closure of schools, asked a host of questions of the Board. **(ATTACHMENT #1)** Ms. Austin responded that she was putting together a FAQ and encouraged other parents with questions to forward them to her.
2. Christine Cabral, 66 Lathrop Street, shared additional concerns relative Mr. Frickman’s comments.
3. Andrea Frickman, 61 Warren Avenue, shared comments regarding attendance, changing the model used, more in-person time for students, and that the core subjects be reviewed. **(ATTACHMENT #2)**

IV. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

V. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

NONE

VI. SUPERINENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

A. Superintendent Report

- a. African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies – Ms. Austin introduced Carmita Hodge who gave a PowerPoint presentation of the course. Ms. Hodge also noted that there is a video that she encouraged the Board to view. **(ATTACHMENT #3)**

II. SUPERINENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS cont.

B. Business Manager

- a. Object Code Summary (**ATTACHMENT #4**) – Mr. Knight reviewed the Object Code Summary dated December 21, 2020 that shows an unexpended balance of \$294,161.
- b. Health Insurance Report – Mr. Knight reviewed the Health Insurance Report for the month of November (**ATTACHMENT #5**).

C. Director of Buildings and Grounds

- a. Presentation by Rick Norris re: Furniture, Fixtures, & Equipment at the New Elementary Schools (**ATTACHMENTS #6a, 6b, 6c**). Rick Norris and Joe Banks, Project Manager, gave a presentation of the furniture, fixtures, and equipment for the new elementary schools. Mr. Banks stated that this the first of two approvals coming to the Board. Mr. Banks gave a brief outline of the approval process.
- b. Air Quality in the Schools (Fuss & O'Neill report posted on the website) – Mr. Kilpatrick gave an overview of the Fuss & O'Neill report and will be posting it on the website.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Policy – Mrs. White noted that the Policy Committee met and noted the second reading of policies on the agenda.
- B. Curriculum – There was no report.
- C. Finance/Facilities – Mr. Weitlauf noted that the Finance/Facilities Committee will meet next month.
- D. LEARN – Mrs. Volkmann noted that LEARN met this month and Michael Beldon, Financial Officer, gave a presentation of the fiscal state of the agency; discussion of the Teacher Regency Program; noted the renovation and extension of the Ocean Avenue Learning Academy; report on all school nursing staff receiving vaccinations and hopefully teacher will get their vaccination by March.
- E. BoE/TCC/RTM Liaison – Dr. Ackerman noted that the BoE/TCC/RTM Liaison Committee met and received two reports from the RTM – one was on the purchase of land for the Groton Sail Foundation and the other was that they were thinking of bringing on a Student Liaison to the committee.
- F. BoE/AGSA/GEA Liaison – Dr. Ackerman noted that the BoE/AGSA/GEA Liaison Committee met and had a lengthy discussion of the condition that we find out self in and what are we going to do about it. Mrs. Horler noted that there is another meeting of the BoE/AGSA/GEA Liaison Committee on January 27, 2021.
- G. Groton Scholarship – Mrs. White noted that the Groton Scholarship Fund met and is beginning to read applications.
- H. Athletic Fields – Mr. Weitlauf noted that the committee will met and that the Athletic Task Force has handed in their report to the Town Council. Mr. Weitlauf noted that he would be sending copies of the report to the Board. Mr. Weitlauf noted that the Board has 2 CIPs going to the Council for lights on the Groton Middle School Field. Mr. Norris explained that the State would not fund light for the field.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Consent Agenda

MOTION: Weitlauf, Porter: To approve the Consent Agenda.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

B. Old Business

1. Discussion and possible action regarding a second reading of policy P 4118.112 Sexual Harassment (Personnel) (Attachment #7).

MOTION: Porter, Volkmann: To approve policy P 4118.112 Sexual Harassment as a second reading.
YES – Ackerman, Giulini, Porter, Robertson, Volkmann, Weitlauf, White
NO – Antipas
PASSED

2. Discussion and possible action regarding a second reading of policy P 5145.5 Sexual Harassment (Students) (Attachment #8).

MOTION: Volkmann, Robertson: To approve policy P 5145.5 Sexual Harassment as a second reading.
YES – Ackerman, Giulini, Porter, Robertson, Volkmann, Weitlauf, White
NO – Antipas
PASSED

C. New Business

1. Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of Susan Austin as an authorized signer of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs and to sign claims for reimbursement.

MOTION: White, Porter: To approve Susan Austin as an authorized signer of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs and to sign claims for reimbursement.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of the One Card-One Community initiative.

MOTION: Volkmann, Porter: To approve the One Card-One Community initiative.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

3. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies Course.

MOTION: Porter, Volkmann: To approve the African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies Course.
YES – Ackerman, Giulini, Porter, Robertson, Volkmann, Weitlauf, White
NO – Antipas
PASSED

C. New Business – cont.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding a revision to the Board of Education goal statement (Attachment #9).

MOTION: Weitlauf, Robertson: To approve the revision to the Board of Education goal statement.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

5. Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of the budget plans, and manual for furniture, fixtures, and equipment for Cutler (Mystic River Magnet School).

MOTION: Weitlauf, Porter: To approve the budget plans, and manual for furniture, fixtures, and equipment for Cutler site known as the Mystic River Magnet School.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

6. Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of the budget plans, and manual for furniture, fixtures, and equipment for West Side (Thames River Magnet School).

MOTION: Weitlauf, Volkmann: To approve the budget plans, and manual for furniture, fixtures, and equipment for West Side site known as the Thames River Magnet School.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

IX. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

- A. Letters, communications, and comments by Board members on meeting items and any other items in their jurisdiction.

- Mrs. Volkmann noted:
 - Acknowledged the Senator Murphy’s Martin Luther King Essay contest winner who was 9th grader Ciera Bass;
 - How much she enjoyed the Martin Luther King Ecumenical Service;
 - She shared her appreciations for the letters from the public.
- Mrs. Porter acknowledged Ms. Hodge for taking a chance with her student’s participation in the History Day Contest.
- Mr. Weitlauf noted how much he enjoyed the Martin Luther King Ecumenical Service.
- Mrs. White noted:
 - How much she enjoyed the Martin Luther King Ecumenical Service;
 - That she viewed the video related to the African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies Course.
- Mrs. Robertson noted:
 - How much she enjoyed the Martin Luther King Ecumenical Service;
 - She attended a Sound Community Committee meeting;
 - She attended a GASP meeting.

IX. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – cont.

- Mrs. Giulini gave kudos to everyone, Board, Teachers, Families regarding what we are going through at this time in the nation.
- Dr. Ackerman echoed comments made by Board members.
- Mr. Weitlauf acknowledged Dr. Ackerman for her role with the Martin Luther King Scholarship Program. Dr. Ackerman thanked Mr. Weitlauf and Board members for their comments and noted that it was actual due to the efforts of herself, Ms. Carmita Hodge, and former scholar Rachel Ackins.

X. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items for Board Attention

As noted in the agenda.

B. Suggested Agenda Items

NONE

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: White, Robertson:

To adjourn at 7:57 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY