

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
APRIL 19, 2021 @ 6:00 P.M.  
REMOTE MEETING

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kim Shepardson Watson-Chairperson, Jay Weitlauf

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Philip Piazza, Sam Kilpatrick, Denise Doolittle

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Kim Watson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. BOE REGULAR BUSINESS

MOTION: White, Porter: To approve the COW minutes of March 15, 2021.  
PASSED -UNANIMOUSLY

III. INTRODUCTION OF PHILIP PIAZZA, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Ms. Austin introduced Dr. Philip Piazza, Groton Public School's new Assistant Superintendent of Schools beginning April 19, 2021. Phil has been an educator at all levels, most recently as Principal of an elementary school; taking on the position so that he would have a solid understanding of students at all levels, as well as curriculum, instruction, and assessment PK-12.

Mr. Piazza stated that he was happy to be in the Groton Public Schools and that he looked forward to working with everyone. Mr. Piazza looks forward to getting into the schools and meeting administrators, teachers, and students.

IV. SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Ms. Austin noted that the Summer Learning Opportunities to be addressed:

- Credit Recovery for FHS students
- APEX 6-12 with teacher support in-person and remotely
- Summer Camps, half day/4-5 days a week (K-8)
- All program will be funded by ESSER Grant

APEX 6-12: Mr. Keleher introduced Adam Diskin who would discuss Summer School. Mr. Diskin thanked the Department Heads and staff for their feedback. Mr. Diskin noted that seniors and juniors have been identified who may not have passed courses. These students can start now instead of waiting until the end of the year. Credit recovery can be provided to students. Enrichment opportunities will be available. Will continue using the APEX program (in person as well as tutorial). The program will run for 6 weeks, 4 days a week.

Middle School Opportunities: Mr. Bass noted that Math and Language Arts will be focused on. There will be a Groton Middle School STEAM Summer Camp (workshop model). It will be intergraded and have hands on activities as well as team building activities. Mr. Bass stated that 10-15% of the population has been identified. The program will run for 4 weeks in July. Mr. Bass noted that students will be fed and transportation will be provided.

The Treehouse Program will be operating out of Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School.

Mrs. Doolittle noted that the program for students with significant disabilities will be held at Northeast Academy. The program will run for 4 week and 6 week sessions. This program will help students maintain skills they have learned. Eighteen 4 year olds are being added to the program. There will be 1 teacher and 2 paraprofessionals for this class. The program will have in person and remote learners. Camp Button will be located at Northeast Academy as well and will provide opportunities for socialization.

Ms. Austin noted that at the elementary level there will be camps for STEM, Math, and Literacy as well as other summer learning for elementary school activities.

V. TRANSITION K

Meg Walker, Transition K Teacher, noted that curriculum has been developed and that the kids love to be in school. The program is located at Thymes River Magnet School. Ms. Walker gave an overview of the Transition K class experiences with the students this year.

VI. UPDATE RE: ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOTTERY

Ms. Austin stated that the deadline for the lottery is April 23, 2021. Ms. Austin noted that they did various outreach and communications with families and that they have approximately 300 applications. There will be a second lottery in the summer.

VII. REVIEW OF REFERRAL LIST

The Board reviewed the Referral List.

REMOVED – R2021-5 Discussion of the reentry plan

Mrs. Volkmann requested a discussion regarding vaccination of children with the VNA nurses at the end of the year/summer.

Mrs. Volkmann requested a discussion of how many of the staff has been vaccinated. Ms. Austin responded that that question cannot be asked per FERPA.

VIII. SUGGESTED FUTURE TOPICS

Mrs. Volkmann requested a review of the DEI committee and a discussion of the proposed calendar changes.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Volkmann, Robertson: To adjourn at 6:57 p.m.  
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY