

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MAY 10, 2021 @ 6:00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rita Volkmann

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Philip Piazza, Sam Kilpatrick, Laurie LePine

I. CALL TO ORDER – Vice Chairperson Andrea Ackerman called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. BOE REGULAR BUSINESS

MOTION: Rosemary, White: To approve the COW minutes of April 19, 2021.
PASSED -UNANIMOUSLY

III. GMS/FHS Campus Update

Mr. Peter Bass noted the end of the year activities at Groton Middle School:

- 8th grade field trip to Lake Compound on June 10, 2021
- 8th grade promotion on the Turf Field on June 15, 2021; it will be a live ceremony
- 8th grade trip to Ocean Beach on June 14, 2021
- 6th grade field day on June 2, 2021
- 7th grade field day on June 9, 2021.

Mr. Keleher noted the end of the year activities at Fitch High School:

- National Honors Society Ceremony on May 11, 2021 @5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- Senior Class Cookout and Movie on May 28, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- Under Classman Awards on June 1, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m. (virtual)
- Junior Beach Bash on June 2, 2021 @ 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at Esker Point
- Athletic Awards on June 3, 2021, @ 6:30 p.m.
- Honor Chords, Senior Awards, and Scholarship Night on June 9, 2021
- Senior Formal Dinner at Filominas on June 11, 2021 @ 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- (June 13th is a rain date for Senior Prom)
- No final exams this year – shift to A and B days
 - B day on June 11, 2021
 - A day on June 14, 2021
 - B day on June 15, 2021
 - A day (half day with 10:10 a.m. dismissal)
 - B day (half day – make up day/Senior Day)
- Graduation on June 18, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. (tentative rain day is Saturday, June 19, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.)
- Graduation party on June 18, 2021 @ Subbase.

IV. DEI Presentation/Minority Recruitment

Mrs. Laurie LePine addressed the minority recruitment initiative:

- Expanded the Grow Out Own program for those who want to become teachers
- Added the teacher and resident initiative that is run by CREC; there will be 2 slots for Groton next year
- Collaborating at the High School to include students who want to become educators
- Continuing to participate in recruitment events (virtually)
- Have awarded 2 scholarships through grants
- DEI committees doing outreach to colleges
- Support of the Troop to Teachers initiatives
- Have reviewed the hiring practices to make it inclusive
- Soliciting for feedback on the process
- Asking questions on the retention of teachers to determine why employees leave
- Mr. Davis stated he will be sharing with the DEI Committee data from the Alliance Group he is working with
- Mr. Davis stated that Groton has become a model for other districts
- Mr. Davis noted the DEI Statement that was presented to the Board and approved by the Board in phase one of a multi-phase commitment
- Mr. Davis noted Unconscious Bias Training and the offering of PD re: structure qualities in white privilege
- Mr. Davis noted that the DEI Committee offered a book club, i.e. race, racism, white privilege, micro aggression
- Mr. Davis noted that a group is currently working on PD with New York Leadership Practices
- Mr. Davis noted that Carmita Hodge has ensured the establishment of the African American and Puerto Rican studies at the high school
- Mr. Davis noted Ms. Austin has purchased books for the Book Club
- Mr. Davis noted that the DEI Committee partnered with the Town of Groton DEI Committee to promote the importance of vaccinations
- Mr. Davis noted that he working with Dr. Litchmore from Connecticut College on how we can improve as we consolidate our schools.

V. Review of the FY 22 Calendar

Ms. Austin noted that the 2021-2022 calendar proposes:

- Start date of September 7, 2021
- Spring break April 18-22, 2022
- Last day of school on June 17, 2021
- Snow days turned into remote learning days
- Explained the need for the Teaching and Learning days.

Mrs. Porter urged starting school in August for this calendar year and/or the next calendar year to allow the AP and IB students more instructional time before taking their AP and IB test in May.

VI. REVIEW OF REFERRAL LIST

The Board reviewed the Referral List.

REMOVED – R2021-4 Discussion of the number of students coming from new housing construction around town and how it will impact schools

Mr. Weitlauf asked if the Town Manager could inform the Board on a quarterly basis of any new housing construction around town.

VII. SUGGESTED FUTURE TOPICS

Mrs. Porter requested a status report on MYP.

Mrs. Porter requested the formation of a Board committee to revise the Board Handbook. Mrs. Watson requested volunteers to serve on this committee. Mrs. Porter, Dr. Ackerman, Mrs. White, and Mrs. Robertson volunteered to service on this committee.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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