

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
OCTOBER 12, 2021 @ 6:00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rosemary Robertson

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Philip Piazza, Sam Kilpatrick

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 September 20, 2021.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

III. DISCUSSION RE: ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MAGNET THEMES

Ms. Austin introduced the Principal of the five Magnet Schools who addressed the themes in their schools:

CK

- The theme is Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math;
- Partnership with the Connecticut Science Center, NESS, Project O, and the Boston Museum;
- They have Mako labs in art and math;
- Will continue to have Lego League teams;

NEA

- The theme is Arts Magnet;
- They have interdisciplinary projects at each grade level
- Partners with the Mystic Museum of Arts;
- Visits from Cardi and the Coast Guard Band;
- Plans to have a drama production as well as a Celebration of the Arts;
- Collaboration with special and regular education teachers;

CB

- The theme is Discovery; Nurturing Creativity and Curiosity;
- Partnership with Life is Good;
- Participation in enrichment clusters
- Participation at confratute/UCONN;

MRM School

- The theme is Ingenuity and Play
- Embedded play and ingenuity in the curriculum
- Partnership with Life is Good and Childrens Museum
- Enrichment programming during the day and after school

TRM School

- The theme is Environmental Marine Science;
- Partnership with Project O and NESS;
- Students participate in Marine Science, Art, and Media enrichment
- Future plans to design their own gardens and green house

Mrs. Volkmann and Mr. Antipas suggested discussion re: evaluation of the Magnet Themes.

IV. DISCUSSION RE: THE NUMBER OF BOARD MEETINGS/DATES/TIMES

Discussion occurred relative to going back to one COW meeting a month. Mrs. White, Mrs. Porter, and Mrs. Watson were not in favor of one COW a month. Dr. Ackerman and Mrs. Volkmann were in favor of having one COW meeting in July, August, and December. Mr. Antipas suggested scheduling 2 COW meeting with the understanding that one may not be used.

Mrs. Giulini left at 7:00 p.m.

V. UPDATE RE: TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Kilpatrick noted:

- Three drivers will have their license within the month;
- Transportation has improved;
- Ms. Austin and the transportation team meet regularly with the STA management;
- Efforts to improve GMS dismissal process;
- The main concern is the driver shortage;
- Traffic is also an area of concern

Ms. Austin noted that she received a phone call from Mr. Schofeld, the transportation task force coordinator at the State level, offering help with obtaining drivers.

VI. DISCUSSION RE: CLASS SIZE

The Board reviewed the proposed class sizes. Mrs. Volkmann noted that the Board should get class sizes at all levels sometime in December.

VII. REVIEW OF REFERRAL LIST

The Board reviewed the Referral List.

VIII. SUGGESTED FUTURE TOPICS

Discussion of Guidance Counselor's responsibilities
Discussion of closing a school

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Weitlauf:

To adjourn at 7:58 p.m.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY