

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MARCH 21, 2022 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kim Shepardson Watson-Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman, Dean Antipas, Katrina Fitzgerald-Vice Chairperson, Liz Porter, Matt Shulman, Rita Volkmann, Beverly Washington, Jay Weitlauf

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Philip Piazza, Sam Kilpatrick, Rebecca Beyus

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Shepardson Watson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. BOE REGULAR BUSINESS

MOTION: Shulman, Ackerman: To approve the COW minutes of March 14, 2022, with Correction under Suggested Future Topics, item 1 – ECC should be ECE.

PASSED -UNANIMOUSLY

III. Communications Update (**ATTACHMENT #1**)

- Dr. Piazza noted that the Communications Committee held their first meeting.
 - Setting of regular meeting date/time; 4th Monday of the month at 5:00 p.m.
 - Development of the Statement of Purpose.
 - Review of minutes from previous Communications Committee meetings, going back as far as 2000 and 2016.
 - Review of the “Groton Public Schools Community Communications Plan, 2014-2016.”
 - Communication Plan Development – The August 2016 Communication Plan will serve as a working plan to be updated.
 - Next Steps.
- Mrs. Beyus presented communication highlights:
 - Social Media – description of the rollout of Facebook
 - K-5 Magnet School (CK was highlighted in presentation) - only positive posts have been received to date
 - Read Across American Week
 - Other Partners – cross promotion with Parks and Recreation as well as Summer Camp hiring
 - Student Recruitment – recruitment for Kindergarten, Early Childhood Screening, and K-5 Magnet Schools.
 - Community Events – Open Houses, Community Service Fair, Internet Safety Parent Seminar, and DEI Hiring Brochure.

IV. Discussion regarding the Solar Panel Purchase Agreement

Mr. Weitlauf noted that Mr. Kilpatrick had done reference checks on prior projects that CT Green Bank has worked on. Mr. Weitlauf stated that the Board Attorney will review the Purchase Agreement. Mr. Weitlauf also shared that the Board Attorney suggested that the Town Attorney should also review it.

Mr. Weitlauf gave an overview of the Finance/Facilities Committee meeting:

- Mr. Kilpatrick stated that he did the reference checks at Manchester, Newtown, and Union. They all provided positive feedback. The input from these districts was not to install during school hours and the need for snow guards due to snow fall of the roof. Two members of the Groton Resiliency and Sustainability Task Force spoke in favor of the project. The committee discussed putting a panel at ground level for educational purposes. Also discussed was putting the energy monitor in an area accessible to students. Mr. Weitlauf asked about the long-term impact of disposing the solar panels upon termination of the contract. Members of CT Green Bank stated they would take possession of the panels at the end of the contract, but there have been no end-of-life projects to date. CT Green Bank confirmed that the rates would be fixed for term of the 20-year contract.

Mr. Kilpatrick stated that Ledyard is purchasing their Solar Panels.

V. Discussion regarding the Tree House Tuition Rate Increases

Mr. Weitlauf noted that Mr. Knight stated that at the current rates the Board would have to subsidize the Tree House Program at the end of the school year. Mr. Knight had purposed a modest minimum increase of \$10.00 weekly. This would cause Tree House to barely break even at the end of the year.

X. SUGGESTED FUTURE TOPICS

- Mrs. Volkmann requested discussion if the Board should institute Mask wearing should the new wave of Omicron occurs.
- Mrs. Washington requested a review of the CIP budget and to push it up to prior to 2024 regarding the Culinary Arts project.
- Mrs. Washington requested discussion of class sizes at FHS.
- Mrs. Washington requested discussion of diversifying our staff.
- Mrs. Washington requested discussion of the needs for new school projects.
- Mrs. Fitzgerald requested a review of the Board's Referral List and the Board Meeting Template.
- Mr. Shulman noted that he had requested at the Committee of the Whole meeting there be discussion of bringing Financial Literacy and off campus tutoring. Mrs. Porter responded that Financial Literacy has been discussed at the Curriculum Committee meeting today and that it will be added to the Referral List.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Porter:

To adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Groton Public Schools



Communication Highlights - February - March 2022

Social Media - Facebook



Groton Public Schools

March 7

Congrats to the Fitch Culinary Team for their 3rd place finish at the CT Pro Start with their Farm/Sea to Table Menu - a sizzling performance for this first year team who also won taste and flavor challenges. 15 student teams across the state competed at this culinary and restaurant industry event in Hartford and we're so proud of our Fish Falcon team. We're hungry now, too after looking at these amazing dishes. #prostart



Performance for your post

0 People Reached

72 Reactions, Comments & Shares

69 Likes On Post 24 On Shares

20 Love On Post 4 On Shares

1 Wow On Post 1 On Shares

2 Comments On Post 0 On Shares

9 Shares On Post 0 On Shares

0 Post Clicks

0 Photo views Link clicks Other clicks

0 Hide post 0 Hide all posts

0 Report as spam 0 Unlike Page

Facebook may not collect some information on this

Social Media - Facebook

Town of Groton Parks and Recreation



Community Share: Our friends at Groton Public Schools have a new Facebook Page and are sharing great news and information for the 2022-2023 School Year about Kindergarten Registration, Magnet Schools and Early Childhood Opportunities for 3 and 4 year olds and more!



Groton Public Schools

Published by Rebecca Rejus · 45m

Community Share: Town of Groton Parks and Recreation will be holding a Camp Showcase hiring event tomorrow, Saturday, March 19th, from 11am-1pm, at the Groton Community Center! Teens interested in Camp Counselor or Leaders-in-Training positions can learn more, meet the leadership team, and apply in-person.



Student Recruitment - Kindergarten



GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Kindergarten Registration

Children who are 5 on or before January 1, 2023
may begin Kindergarten in September.

Register online by **APRIL 1, 2022** at
www.grotonschools.org

Register early to be sure you
receive information about our spring
Getting Ready for Kindergarten events
and magnet elementary school lottery.



escuelas públicas de groton
Registration de kinder

Los niños que tienen 5 años a partir del 1 de
enero de 2023 o antes pueden comenzar
el kinder en septiembre.

Regístrate en línea antes del 1 de abril de 2022
en **www.grotonschools.org**

Regístrate temprano para asegurarte de
recibir información sobre nuestros eventos
de preparación para el kinder y
la lotería de la escuela primaria magnet.

Student Recruitment - Early Childhood



GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR 3 & 4 YEAR OLDS
2022-2023 School Year

Preschool and
Pre-K for 3 & 4
Year Olds

Screenings
to be held
May 9-13

Learn more and sign-up at
www.grotonschools.org/earlychildhood

Screenings are by appointment only. Children must be at least 3 years old to be screened

Student Recruitment - K-5 Magnet Schools

TRMS - K-5 Magnet Elementary Schools

Thames River Magnet School

Theme: Environmental and Marine Sciences



“Thames River Magnet School provides hands-on experiences inside and outside of the classroom as we dig deep in the earth and sea!”

- Jamie Giordano, Principal of Thames River Magnet School

We at Thames River Magnet School:

Student Recruitment - K-5 Magnet Schools

Mystic River Magnet School

Theme: Active Exploration - Play and Ingenuity



Our Mission Statement

Mystic River Magnet School, where you are inspired to take charge of your journey. Everyday, you can find the joy in learning by exploring your imagination, through play and ingenuity!

“The power of play motivates students to connect with, actively explore, and joyfully engage with their surrounding world.”

- Steve Wheeler, Principal of Mystic River Magnet School

Student Recruitment - K-5 Magnet Schools

NEA K-5 Magnet Elementary Schools

NORTHEAST ACADEMY ARTS MAGNET SCHOOL

Theme: Arts (Fine, Visual, Performing and Multimedia)



NEA - Arts Program Highlights:

Our students have opportunities to explore their talents and skills in:

- Vocal and Instrumental Music
- Visual Arts
- Multi-Media Productions

Examples include our:

- 1st grade performing arts play
- 2nd grade art: snow
- 4th and 5th grade band
- 3rd, 4th and 5th grade strings program
- 2nd - 5th grade chorus program
- 4th and 5th grade drama program, each with their own cast and production
- Annual Celebrate the Arts Festival
- Clubs, field trip and enrichment activities focused on the arts

“Northeast Academy Arts Magnet School strongly values the arts as an integral part of our children’s education. We develop the interests and talents of our students through a blended approach by pairing the arts with core academics.”

- Ryan Chaney, Principal of Northeast Academy Arts Magnet School

Student Recruitment - K-5 Magnet Schools

CKMS - K-5 Magnet Elementary Schools

Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School

Theme: **STEM + Arts = STEAM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math)



CKMS - STEAM Program Highlights

By providing students opportunities in STEAM we believe our school will help develop the next generation of innovators and creative thinkers. In activating the creative and innovative parts of the brain, students become creators, collaborators, and problem solvers. Our entire community embraces a STEAM approach that promotes student creativity and curiosity by emphasizing project-based and hands-on minds-on learning.

All K-5 students have guaranteed experiences in:

- Science
- Engineering
- Computer Science/Coding
- Robotics
- Makerspace

Additional experiences include:

- Science Fair
- Invention Convention
- Computer Assisted Design Lab (3D

“CKMS provides engaging learning opportunities in STEM with technology and arts integration. We value creativity and innovation while helping all students to discover passions and develop a life long love of learning.”

- Christine Dauphinais, Principal of Catherine Kolnaski STEAM Magnet School

Student Recruitment - K-5 Magnet Schools

CBMS K-5 Magnet Elementary Schools

CHARLES BARNUM MAGNET SCHOOL

Theme: *Discovery, Nurturing Creativity and Curiosity*



“ We encourage all our students to share their voice and explore their interests, while also figuring out how they like to learn and express themselves. By nurturing their creativity and curiosity we’ve helping our students build a lifelong passion for learning.”

- Seth Donner, Principal of Charles Barnum Magnet School

Community Events

SAVE THE DATES!

Wednesday, March 30
4:30 - 6:30 PM
All Elementary Schools

Thursday, March 31
5:00 - 7:00 PM
Groton Middle School

Join Us! Elementary & Middle School Open Houses Groton Public Schools

Tour Our Schools, Meet Our
Community and Magnet Theme Partners!



Catherine Kolnaski
STEAM Magnet School



Charles Barnum
Discovery Magnet School



Mystic River Active
Exploration Magnet School



Northeast Academy
Arts Magnet School



Thames River Environmental &
Marine Science Magnet School



Groton Middle School (6-8)
STEAM and IB MYP

click here to
RSVP

www.grotonschools.org

Follow Us On Facebook



Community Events



**Thames Valley Council
for Community Action, Inc.**



Community Events

Internet Safety Parent Seminar

Robert E. Fitch High School

March 24

6:30 - 8 PM

This program is for adults



Presentation by Scott Driscoll
Internet Safety Concepts



DEI Hiring Brochure

Groton Public Schools — Who We Are and Strive to Be
 Groton Public Schools embraces policies and practices that ensure that all people have equitable opportunities.

As educators, we recognize that we have the power to dismantle the practices, policies, and systems that perpetuate inequalities. Thus, an integral component of Groton Public Schools' mission is to cultivate an environment of diversity, equity, and inclusiveness.

We strive to foster culturally responsive teaching and learning practices to ensure ALL groups feel valued, actively engaged, and empowered.

A diverse, equitable community of teachers and learners - educators, students and staff



WORK, LIVE & PLAY with us!

Explore GPS & Join Our Community!

Our Schools

A Region of Opportunity Awaits

Central Region
 37500 Pagan School
 Charles Barnum
 Discover Magnet
 School

Northwest Academy
 4120 Magna Street

Thomas River
 Environmental &
 Marine Science
 Magnet School

Robert E. Bush
 High School (9-12)

Southwest Region
 16-81



Join Us!

Apply online at

www.grotonschools.org

Groton Public Schools

Located between the Thames and Mystic

In a richness of cultures and with a respect for all.

✓ Provide Dynamic & Rigorous Curriculum

✓ Ensure Effective and Engaging Instruction

✓ Build Excellence & Learning Expectations

Our Mission is Teaching and Learning.



"I love that there are people from all over the world and all over the country who live here"

"Our students are amazing. Our staff are caring and well-trained and our course offerings are diverse and exciting to teach."

WORK in our community.

Be part of the growth and change at Groton Public Schools.

Our students, new schools, exciting curricular opportunities and partnerships provide options for your personal and professional success!

LIVE in our community.

Nestled between the Thames and Mystic Rivers, Groton has many options for you to call home. We're home to a US Naval Base, colleges and an abundance of community organizations, resources and lifestyle amenities.

PLAY in our community.

Take a train ride to NYC or Boston, hit the slopes or beaches, hike in the hills, see the hottest concert, enjoy culinary treats from our coast or around the world, take in our history, shop in our villages or malls, celebrate at our festivals and parades and much more!



Apply Online at www.grotonschools.org

"When I have a question I would have had to go to the parking lot to get to it. It's a gem. Why do we have technology in our classrooms? I can't think of it."

WORK, LIVE & PLAY with us!

Upcoming News Highlights

- Grant Funding
- K-5 Magnet Schools
- IB MYP Authorization