

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MAY 9, 2022 @ 6:00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING

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

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Phil Piazza, Ken Knight, Sam Kilpatrick

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

II. BOE REGULAR BUSINESS

MOTION: Porter, Shulman: To approve the COW minutes of April 11, 2022.

MOTION: Shulman, Weitlauf: To amend the motion with the addition of the following sentence to III. GPS Mentoring Program Update, “The Board members asked numerous questions about re-energizing the Mentoring Program and reached informal consensus on the wisdom of moving forward.”

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**VOTE ON MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED:
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION: Weitlauf, Shulman: To add discussion of the loss of ½ credit for students participating in Marching Band.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

Superintendent Austin stated that she directed Mr. Keleher to provide credit as it was intended to students for participation in the Marching Band. The Superintendent stated that going forward credit would be given to students participating in Marching Band after school.

The Board held an extensive discussion on the issue.

Mrs. Watson stated that the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent would look for the curriculum for the .5 Marching Band credit and forward it to the Curriculum Committee for review.

III. HIGH SCHOOL COURSES – PROGRESSION OF HONORS TO AP TO IB TO UCONN

- Program of Studies – Dr. Piazza gave a PowerPoint presentation focusing on similarities of Honors, AP, IB and UCONN courses in English. Dr. Piazza explained each course, grade by grade. (ATTACHMENT #1)

Mr. Antipas left at 7:00 p.m.

IV. ALLIANCE STATUS

Superintendent Austin gave an overview of the Alliance status starting with her sharing testimony at the state level and reaching out to Representative Conley and Senator Somers who worked diligently for Groton. A decision was made at the state that there would be an additional 3 districts added to the Alliance program; making room for 36 districts, including Groton. The state bill was being signed by Gov. Lamont. Superintendent Austin stated that Groton will be part of the Alliance program for the next 5 years, the Town will receive \$500,000 as a Tier 1 pilot, and the ECS would remain the same. Superintendent Austin also noted that the district would continue to receive \$200,000 from the Alliance Grant.

V. COST SAVINGS AND AVOIDANCES - (ATTACHMENT #2)

Mr. Knight gave an overview of the cost savings and avoidances.

VI. NAMING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Mrs. Watson gave an overview of the purpose of having the Naming Committee policy under discussion. It was the consensus of the Board that the policy needs to be reviewed/revised.

Mrs. Watson noted that there was a need for a small Ad Hoc Committee from the Board to ID areas of the new schools to be named and to determine persons to name the spaces. Mrs. Watson noted that Mrs. Washington and Dr. Ackerman had stated interest to be on the proposed Ad Hoc Committee.

VII. SUGGESTED FUTURE TOPICS

- Course Study Booklet
- Credit for Marching Band
- FHS Career Pathways
- Mrs. Fitzgerald asked for an accounting for 1.7 million balance in DoD supplemental Impact Aid funds
- Mr. Shulman asked for discussion of outside tutoring
- Mr. Weitlauf asked for an update on the partnership with the Groton Public Library
- Mrs. Fitzgerald asked for discussion on the continuation of having free lunches.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Porter:

To adjourn at 8:07 p.m.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

**Progressions of Honors to AP to IB to
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SPECIAL PROGRAMS

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) PROGRAM

AP is a college level curriculum offered at the high school and designed to prepare students to take an AP Exam at the conclusion of the course. Passing the AP Exam allows colleges to consider awarding college credit.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) PROGRAM

This program was designed in the late 1960s for international schools that have a common international curriculum. This program allows students the opportunity to earn college credits. To earn the diploma students must complete all the goals of the IB Program.

EARLY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE (ECE) PROGRAM-Through The University of Connecticut

ECE is an opportunity for students to take UConn courses while still in high school. Every UConn ECE course is equivalent to the same course at the University of Connecticut. Courses are taught on the high school campus by high school instructors who have been certified as adjunct faculty members by the University of Connecticut.

UConn ECE students benefit by taking college courses in a familiar setting with an instructor they know. Courses offered through UConn ECE are approximately one-tenth of the cost in comparison to taking the same course on a UConn campus.

COLLEGE CAREER PATHWAYS (CCP) PROGRAM

This program is in partnership with Three Rivers Community College (TRCC). CCP provides opportunities for seniors to earn college credits during their 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade years. If the student earns a C or better in the courses, they will earn college credit.

GP (College Prep) English 9 (1 Credit)

This course is designed for those students who are reading at grade level and have demonstrated competency in language skills. This course is part of the MYP program; students inquire into a wide range of issues and ideas of global significance in order to promote an understanding of human experience across cultures. Units of study include: Using Evidence, Theme, Characterization, Perspective and Point of View, Argument/Analytical Writing, Informative/Explanatory Writing, Creative/Narrative Writing, Research Writing. In working through these eight units, students will engage in close reading and academic writing as well as build vocabulary and grammar skills. There is a summer reading assignment.

HONORS ENGLISH 9 (1 Credit)

This course is designed for those students with high levels of skill, motivation, and achievement in reading and writing. This course is part of the MYP program; students inquire into a wide range of issues and ideas of global significance in order to promote an understanding of human experience across cultures. Units of study include: Using Evidence, Theme, Characterization, Perspective and Point of View, Argument/Analytical Writing, Informative/Explanatory Writing, Creative/Narrative Writing, Research Writing. In working through these eight units, students will engage in close reading and academic writing as well as build vocabulary and grammar skills. There is a summer reading assignment.

GP English 10 (1 Credit)

This course is for those students who are reading at grade level and who have demonstrated competency in language skills. This course is part of the MYP program; students inquire into a wide range of issues and ideas of global significance in order to promote an understanding of human experience across cultures. Units of study include: Argument, Theme and Evidence; Complex Characters; Structure of a Text; Perspective and Point of View; Argument/Analytical Writing; Informative/Explanatory Writing; Creative/Narrative Writing; Research Writing. In working through these eight units, students will engage in close reading and academic writing as well as build vocabulary and grammar skills. There is a summer reading assignment.

HONORS ENGLISH 10 (1 Credit)

This course is designed for those students with high levels of skill, motivation, and achievement in English. This course is part of the MYP program; students inquire into a wide range of issues and ideas of global significance in order to promote an understanding of human experience across cultures. Units of study include: Argument, Theme and Evidence; Complex Characters; Structure of a Text; Perspective and Point of View; Argument/Analytical Writing; Informative/Explanatory Writing; Creative/Narrative Writing; Research Writing. In working through these eight units, students will engage in close reading and academic writing as well as build vocabulary and grammar skills. There is a summer reading assignment.

CP English 11 (1 Credit)

This course is designed for those students who are reading at grade level and who have demonstrated competency in language skills. Units of study include: Theme and Supporting Analysis with Evidence; Author's Choice: Setting, Plot and Characters; Style: Word Choice, Meaning and Tone; Style: Structure and Point of View; Argument/Analytical Writing; Informative/Explanatory Writing; Creative/Narrative Writing; Research Writing. In working through these eight units, students will engage in close reading and academic writing as well as build vocabulary and grammar skills. There is a focus on themes in American literature. There is a summer reading assignment.

AP-UConn Eng 11/ECE English 1004: Introduction to Academic Writing (1 Credit)

UConn English 1004 is a dual enrollment course designed for highly motivated juniors ready for a rigorous and supportive writing program. Students earn Fitch credit and upon successful completion, students also earn 4 UConn credits for ENGL 1004: Introduction to Academic Writing; students will have a UConn transcript after completing this course. Course content focuses on the development of the reading and writing skills essential to university work. This course incorporates material to help prepare students for the Advanced Placement Exam in English Language and Composition. There is a summer reading assignment. **There is a registration fee for this UConn course for all students choosing to earn the UConn credit for the class.**

IB ENGLISH 11 HL (1 Credit)

The IB English 11 High Level course is designed for all International Baccalaureate Diploma candidates or non Diploma students, who have demonstrated high levels of skill, motivation, and achievement in English. Students will engage in extensive reading, analysis, and writing to prepare for the IB internal and external assessments. Most of the IB reading focuses on contemporary authors. Students will explore contemporary world literature written in translation, as well as 20th and 21st century fiction and poetry. IB texts include drama, non-fiction, fiction, and poetry. IB students may also sit for the AP English Language and Literature Exam. Summer reading and writing assignment required.

GP English 12 (1 Credit)

This course is for those students who are reading at grade level and who have demonstrated competency in language skills. Units of study include Themes and Word Choice; Author's Choice: Structure and Characters; Multiple Interpretations of a Literary Work; Inquiry and Point of View; Argument/Analytical Writing; Informative/Explanatory Writing; Creative/Narrative Writing; Research Writing. In working through these eight units, students will engage in close reading and academic writing as well as build vocabulary and grammar skills. There is a summer reading assignment.

AP-UCONN ENG 12/ECE English 1011: Seminar in Academic Writing through Literature (1 Credit)

This course is a dual enrollment course. Students who enroll in this course can earn 4 UConn credits and will have a UConn transcript after completing this course, UConn English 1011: Seminar in Academic Writing through Literature. This course satisfies the Freshman English Composition Requirement at any university or college that accepts UConn transfer credits. This course is designed for those students with high levels of skill, motivation and achievement in English. Students will engage in extensive reading, analysis, and academic writing based on themes in literature from a variety of genre and cultures. This course incorporates material to help prepare students for the Advanced Placement Exam in English Literature and Composition. There is a summer reading assignment. **There is a registration fee for this UConn course.**

IB ENGLISH 12 HL (1 Credit)

This course is a continuation of IB English 11 High Level, and successful completion of IB English 11 HL is a prerequisite for continuing in IB English 12 High Level. IB English 12 High Level is designed for all International Baccalaureate Diploma (or certificate) candidates who have demonstrated high levels of skill, motivation, and achievement in English. Students will engage in extensive reading, analysis, and writing to prepare for the IB internal and external assessments. IB students may also sit for the AP English Literature and Composition Exam. There is a summer reading and writing assignment.

Attachment #2

Groton Public Schools
Positions Eliminated through Groton 2020 plan

FTE Positions Eliminated				
	PV Closure	Middle School Consolidation	Magnet School Consolidation	Total
Principial*	1.0	-	-	1.0
Teacher	4.0	11.0	2.0	17.0
Custodian	2.0	1.0	1.0	4.0
Secretary*	1.0	-	-	1.0
Total	8.0	12.0	3.0	23.0

Annual Costs Avoided**				
	PV Closure	Middle School Consolidation	Magnet School Consolidation	Total
Principal	\$ 159,562	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 159,562
Teacher	\$ 251,348	\$ 691,208	\$ 125,674	\$ 1,068,231
Custodian	\$ 114,419	\$ 57,210	\$ 57,210	\$ 228,838
Secretary	\$ 38,173	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,173
Total	\$ 563,502	\$ 748,418	\$ 182,884	\$ 1,494,803

Cumulative Costs Saved/Avoided***				
	PV Closure	Middle School Consolidation	Magnet School Consolidation	Total
	June-17	June-20	June-21	
Principal	\$ 911,349	\$ -	\$ 156,281	\$ 1,067,629
Teacher	\$ 1,484,315	\$ 2,061,628	\$ 250,724	\$ 3,796,667
Custodian	\$ 655,122	\$ 168,427	\$ 113,299	\$ 936,848
Secretary	\$ 218,492	\$ -	\$ 37,430	\$ 255,922
Total	\$ 3,269,277	\$ 2,230,055	\$ 557,734	\$ 6,057,066

- * 1.0 FTE position initially eliminated during magnet school consolidation for FY22, determined not sustainable FY23
- ** Based on FY23 salary rates (Masters step 5 used for teachers)
- *** Through FY23 (based on average rates for each year)