

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES  
MARCH 20, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.  
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kim Shepardson Watson-Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman-Vice Chairperson, Dean Antipas, William Horgan, Liz Porter (remote), Matthew Shulman (remote), Beverly Washington (remote), Jay Weitlauf (remote)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rita Volkmann

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Phil Piazza, Clint Kennedy, Sam Kilpatrick, Ted Keleher, Matt Brown, Jordan Panucci, Carmita Hodge, Amy McKenna

I. CALL TO ORDER - Chairperson Kim Shepardson Watson called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

II. REVIEW OF MARCH 13, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Ackerman, Horgan: To approve the COW minutes of March 13, 2022 with correction under item IV – “she would like history to be a 4 credit requirement, however, she would be willing to discuss 3.5 credits.”

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

III. ADVANCED COURSES AT FHS

IB Diploma Program and IB Courses – Mr. Keleher stated that families need to know more about IB. He noted that Kelly Donovan is working very hard to identify students for IB courses and that the next piece is to start educating the faculty. This is all about educating the families, students and staff. Mr. Keleher noted that he asked the question of how many parents went to a school with advanced placement courses at the Program of Studies night and very few raised their hand in response. Matt Brown shared his experience over the years in teaching the AP and IB courses. Jordan Panucci shared his experience in teaching sociology in his IB and AP courses and noted the differences between IB and AP courses. Carmita Hodge addressed the scheduling piece and Amy McKenna addressed the English piece.

IV. CIP PLANNING MEETING UPDATE

Mr. Kilpatrick stated that last Monday, he and Dr. Kennedy met with the Planning Commission to review the 3 CIP items-Security Cameras, Mutualink, and FHS Sewer repair, put forth by the Town Manager. Dr. Kennedy gave an overview of the items. Mr. Kilpatrick talked briefly before the meeting to the Planning Commission about the Culinary Arts project but it wasn't on the list, so it wouldn't come up for discussion. After that discussion he was very confident that the 3 items will move forward. Mr. Kilpatrick received an email from John Burt stating that the Board can bring the Culinary Arts project up for consideration when they meet with the Town Council. If the Board is expecting to have the Culinary Arts project in the CIP, they need to bring it up at the Town Council meeting.

It was the consensus of the Board to follow the Town Manager's suggestion to ask the Town Council to put the Culinary Arts project back into the CIP.

V. DISCUSSION RE: RE-INSTITUTING THE BOARD PTO LIAISON GROUP

Mr. Shulman discussed the Communication Committee’s interest in holding a hybrid meeting with the PTO and Booster Club officers to discuss the utility of re-instituting the Board PTO Liaison group.

Noting that all PTOs/Booster Clubs share the identical mission of providing enrichment activities for our students, he suggested that such a meeting would give PTOs/Booster Clubs the opportunity to “weigh-in” on the utility of:

- Coordinating PTO/Booster Club activity dates to avoid scheduling conflicts;
- Cross-pollinating ideas about activities that have proven successful (or unsuccessful);
- Discussing strategies to boost parental engagement as active PTO/Booster Club members;
- Determining PTO/Booster Club interest in re-instituting a Board: PTO/Booster Club Liaison group that would hold 3-to-4 hybrid (Zoom/in-person) meetings per academic year; and
- Sharing whatever other community engagement communications issues that PTOs/Booster Clubs may have.

VI. REVIEW REFERRAL TRACKING SHEET

The Board reviewed the Referral Tracking Sheet.

R2022-10      Change to Review financial literacy curriculum  
R2022-16      Change to Review Program of Studies for GMS and FHS

REMOVE:

R2021-9      Discussion of Educational Rising Club – National Organization  
R2023-6      Discussion re: International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, AP, ECE, and honors courses  
R2022-12      Review Board involvement in obtaining a new bus contract

ADD:

R2023-7      Discussion of PTO/Booster Clubs outreach – Communications (Matt Shulman)  
R2023-8      Discussion of the Communication Plan – Communications (Matt Shulman)  
R2023-9      Review and support updates for high school curricula in Science, PE, Health, Social Studies, and others as determined by department leaders – Curriculum (Liz Porter)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Porter:

To adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**