

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 10, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.
GROTON MIDDLE SCHOOL, CAFETERIA**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jay Weitlauf-Chairperson, Beverly Washington-Vice Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman, Dean Antipas, Adrian Johnson, Matthew Shulman, Ian Thomas, Jennifer White, Mike Whitney

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Phil Piazza, Chris Dauphinais, Dan Vanasse, Seth Danner, Christy Post, Steve Wheeler, Shira Sabo, Paul DiPadua, Ryan Chaney, Stephanie Wheeler, Jamie Giordano, Ada Allen, Amber Monahan, Peter Bass, Matt Brown, Carmita Hodge, Sandra Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Weitlauf called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

At this time, Fitch High School Choral & Orchestral Director Sandra Hall led the Honors Chamber Choir in two selections.

2. STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

- a. Poet Laureate – FHS Student Miles Mitchell read his poem “There’s Something In My Eye”
- b. Connecticut Student Writers Contest
 - GMS Student Marielle Denny received a Silver Award for her submission “Navigating Through the Woods of Communication”
 - GMS Student Magdalene Howard received a Silver Award for her submission “Lies of the Blessed”
 - GMS Student Mrunmayi Patil received an Honorable Mention for her submission “What the World Needs to Know”
 - GMS Student Adabelle Turner received a Silver Award for her submission “Aliens Caught”
 - GMS Student Andrew Fake received an Honorable Mention for his submission “Harrison”
- c. Eugene O’Neill Theater Center’s 2024 Young Playwrights Festival
 - GMS Student David Pan - Honorable Mention Guest Playwright
 - GMS Student Hannah Winn - Honorable Mention Guest Playwright
 - GMS Student Natalie Hambidge – Featured Playwright
 - FHS Student Lily Griffin – Guest Playwright
 - FHS Student Mary Ann Maguire – Semi-finalist
 - FHS Student Giovanni Philopena – Semi-finalist
 - FHS Student Andrew Vieu – Semi-finalist
- d. CABE Student Leadership Awards
 - Giovanna Sardelli – GMS Student
 - Janelle Perez – GMS Student
 - David Haugeto – FHS Student
 - Zoë Antipas – FHS Student

3. STAFF & COMMUNITY RECOGNITIONS

a. Friend of Education, Support Personnel, and Substitute Teacher

- Pam Gore – CK Support Personnel
- Gabrielle Bridger – CK Substitute Teacher
- Leeann Burns – CB Friend of Education
- Leslie Schaefer – CB Support Personnel
- Brittany DeVillar – CB Substitute Teacher
- Megan Strand – MRMS Friend of Education
- Allison Pearsall – MRMS Support Personnel
- Maddie Biggins – MRMS Substitute Teacher
- Mark LaPietra – NEA Friend of Education
- Sharon Colburn – NEA Support Personnel
- Aiysha Naqvi – NEA Substitute Teacher
- Ned Sawyer – TRMS Friend of Education
- Kaelan Greene – TRMS Support Personnel
- Carolyn Hogg – TRMS Substitute Teacher
- Kris Lewis – GMS Friend of Education
- Susan Weber – GMS Support Personnel
- Alana Chappelle – GMS Substitute Teacher
- Melissa Vazquez-McCoy – FHS Friend of Education
- Dominique Griffin – FHS Support Personnel
- Evan Rubin – FHS Substitute Teacher

b. Paraeducator of the Year

- Jana Sidlinger – CK
- Terrie Tipple – CB
- Paul Davis – MRMS
- Kylie Fahey – NEA
- Heather Cobb – TRMS
- Ann Sergiy – GMS
- Kristie Lawrence – FHS

c. Teacher of the Year and Outstanding Educators

- Victoria Wold – CK Outstanding Educator
- Jennifer Nowak – CB Outstanding Educator
- Jacqueline Rege – MRMS Outstanding Educator
- Shannon Stevenson – NEA Outstanding Educator
- Alyson Merrill – TRMS Outstanding Educator
- Lola Colette – GMS Outstanding Educator
- Christina Scala – FHS Outstanding Educator & GPS's Teacher of the Year

4. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Antipas, White; To adjourn at 7:40 p.m.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY