

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MARCH 17, 2025 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11/HYBRID**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Beverly Washington – Chairperson, Adrian Johnson – Vice Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman (remote), Dean Antipas, Matthew Shulman (remote), Ian Thomas (remote), Jennifer White, Michael Whitney

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jay Weitlauf

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Anne Marie Mancini, Clint Kennedy, Lauren Casini, Denise Doolittle

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mrs. Beverly Washington – Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. REVIEW OF MARCH 10, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Antipas, White: To approve the March 10, 2025, meeting minutes.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

III. AI PRESENTATION BY CLINT KENNEDY (Attachment #1)

Dr. Kennedy gave an overview of the PowerPoint presentation of AI. Dr. Kennedy noted how he does PD with the teachers.

IV. EARLY CHILDHOOD/SPECIAL EDUCATION PRESENTATION (Attachment #2)

Mrs. Doolittle gave an overview of the Early Childhood/Special Education program.

V. REVIEW OF THE REFERRAL TRACKING SHEET

The Board reviewed the Referral Tracking Sheet.

- R2024-4 Discussion re: the development of Board Goals – A suggested date for a Board Retreat at 5:00 p.m. was April 30, 2025.
- R2024-11 Full review of the state testing date and state report card – A suggested time was in April.
- REMOVE R2024-32 Discussion re: what the Board would like the State legislature to consider.
- RENAME R2024-27 to Discussion re: transplant map with the addition of bus routes and summer school.

Superintendent Austin stated the need for adoption of the graduation date: possibly June 12 or 13, 2025.

Mike Whitney made a referral for discussion of an Early Childhood Center.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Whitney: To adjourn at 8:23 p.m.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY



Generative AI and Education

03/17/25

GOALS

01 Provide a baseline understanding of generative AI and its relevance to education.

Differentiate between foundational AI models, educational AI tools, and traditional EdTech tools with AI features.

Encourage exploration and critical thinking
03 about the integration of AI in teaching.

Terms Defined

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI)

Artificial General Intelligence (AGI)

Large Language Models (LLM)

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Machines simulating human intelligence to learn, reason, and solve problems.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI)

AI systems that create new content or data, such as text, images, or music, based on patterns learned from existing data.

Artificial General Intelligence (AGI)

Theoretical form of AI that possesses the ability to understand, learn, and apply knowledge across a wide range of tasks equivalent to human intelligence.

AGI would have the capability to perform any intellectual task that a human can do, with cognitive flexibility and adaptability.

Large Language Models (LLMs)

AI model that is trained on vast amounts of text data, enabling it to understand, generate, and manipulate human language.

LLMs can perform a wide range of language-related tasks, such as translation, summarization, and conversation.

3 Areas

Foundational Models

New EdTech AI Tools

Traditional EdTech Tools w/AI Features

Foundational Models (LLM + product)

OpenAI: ChatGPT (GPT-4.5)

Google: Gemini (Pro 2.0)

Anthropic: Claude (3.7 Sonnet)

Meta: Llama (3.3)

Deepseek: R1 and V3



New AI EdTech Tools

MagicSchool.ai
Brisk Teaching
SchoolAI
EduAide.AI
Khanmigo



Traditional EdTech Tools w/ AI Features

Canva

Duolingo

Quizlet

EdPuzzle

Adobe CS

GPS PRE-K (TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN) PROGRAM UPDATE



March 2025



EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

ORIGINAL PROPOSAL/FUTURE VISION

FOR 25-26 SY



ECAT & Speech Services

- Continue Current Programming
- Remain at Mary Morrison (MM)

Integrated Preschool:

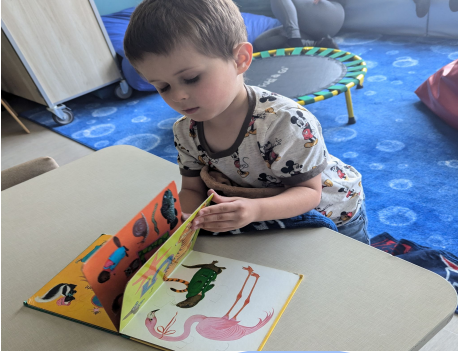
- Continue Current Programming
- Move to MM

Early Otters:

- Continue Current Programming
- Move to MM

Pre-K (Transition to Kindergarten):

- Merging Pre-K/TK programs
- 5 Classrooms (Full Day Sessions)
- 18 Students per session
- Move to MM



EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

UPDATED PROPOSAL FOR 25-26 SY

ECAT & Speech Services

- Continue Current Programming
- Remain at Mary Morrison (MM)

Integrated Preschool:

- Continue 6 classrooms
- Remain at TRMS & MRMS
- 92 peer slots

Early Otters:

- Continue 1 classroom
- Remain at MRMS

Pre-K (Transition to Kindergarten):

- Merging Pre-K/TK programs
- 3 Classrooms (Full Day Sessions)
- 18 students per class or 54 slots available
- 2 Classes at TRMS
- 1 Class at MRMS

STUDENTS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR PRE-K (TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN)

Current Pre-K Students

- Turn 5 between September 2, 2025 and September 1, 2026

Integrated PreSchool Students

- Turn 5 between September 2, 2025 and September 1, 2026

New Parent Referrals

- Invited to a Screening
- Turn 5 between September 2, 2025 and September 1, 2026

*All students may be eligible for EE K Waiver based on results of the kindergarten readiness assessment

BENEFITS OF FULL DAY PROGRAMMING



- BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN
- 54 SLOTS AVAILABLE- 18 STUDENTS PER CLASS
- BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONAL KNOWLEDGE THAT WILL HELP STUDENTS SUCCEED IN KINDERGARTEN WHICH INCLUDES:
 - SPECIALS
 - LUNCH
 - DEEPER DIVE CURRICULUM
 - A PLAY BASED APPROACH
 - SOCIAL AND SELF-REGULATION SKILLS
 - PRE-LITERACY AND PRE-MATH SKILLS
 - EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENTAL AND BEGINNING CT CORE STANDARDS

K-5 PROGRAMMING

Special Education

- Resource Support provided to K-5 students in all elementary schools
 - Academy Classrooms located at TRMS and CB
 - Autism Classrooms located at MRMS
 - Multiple Disabilities classroom located at CKMS
-

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHING STAFF

K-5

- CB- 5 FTEs (includes ECAT)
- CKMS- 4 FTEs
- MRMS-8.5 FTEs
- NEA- 3 FTEs
- TRMS-6.5 FTEs
- District-wide Teacher of the Deaf 1.0 FTE

RELATED SERVICE STAFF

K-5

- 11 Speech and Language Pathologists
- 6 School Psychologists
- 7 School Social Workers
- 1.5 BCBA

THANK YOU!
QUESTIONS?
