GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 8, 2026 @ 6:00 P.M.
GROTON MIDDLE SCHOOL, CAFETERIA/HYBRID

MEMBERS PRESENT: Adrian Johnson – Vice Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman (remote), Sean Corcoran, Jay Weitlauf (remote), Michael Whitney

MEMBERS ABSENT: Beverly Washington – Chairperson, Mitch Shinbrot, Ian Thomas, Jennifer White

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Sam Kilpatrick (remote)

I. Student Recognitions - Principals presented the awards to students and teachers.

Fitch High School
Poet Laureate – Noah Mensi
Young Playwrights Festival – Vera Ross
CABE Student Leadership – Lauren Bullock, Nicholas Donaldson
Friend of Education – Chris Hugo
Support Personnel – Ryan Miller
Substitute Teacher – Greg Lamanna
Outstanding Paraeducator – Amber Cool
Outstanding Educator – Laurel Donovan (also Groton's Teacher of the Year)

Groton Middle School
Young Playwrights – Caitlin Gilmore, Piper Harnois
CABE Student Leadership – Bodie White, Madison Woodhall
Friend of Education – John Silsby
Support Personnel – Christine Greeley
Substitute Teacher – Taylor Craig
Outstanding Paraeducator – Ciara Gordon-Sirois
Outstanding Educator – Chad Fleming

Catherine Kolnaski
Friend of Education – Carissa Gullickson
Support Personnel – Sarah Beebe
Substitute Teacher – Carole Bishop
Outstanding Paraeducator – Ana Ruiz
Outstanding Educator – Lauren Schwab

Charles Barnum
Friend of Education – Jessica Carter
Support Personnel – Dina Tipton
Substitute Teacher – Mackenzie Bentley
Outstanding Paraeducator – Michael Gore
Outstanding Educator – Patricia Wicklund

Northeast Academy
Friend of Education – Christine Coon
Support Personnel – Justin Brinner
Substitute Teacher – Sara King
Outstanding Paraeducator – Cesar Dume Perez
Outstanding Educator – Kimberly Menacho

TRMS
Friend of Education – Shanon Haney
Support Personnel – Victoria Thomas
Substitute Teacher – Diane McCarthy
Outstanding Paraeducator – Melanie Shutt
Outstanding Educator – Jane Potts

MRMS
Friend of Education – Lynn Belanger
Support Personnel – Ronda Dutra
Substitute Teacher – Ava Crispino
Outstanding Paraeducator – Paula Thibodeau (also Groton's Paraeducator of the Year)
Outstanding Educator – Elizabeth Kulich

Kerry Nystrom was honored for her 40 years of service to the school district.

II. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.