

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

(\*Attachments are available upon request from the Superintendent's Office.)

Committee of the Whole

April 20, 2015

A special meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Groton Board of Education was held on April 20, 2015, in Room 11 of the School Administration Building.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kim Watson, Board Chairperson, at 6:09 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson  
Dr. Andrea Ackerman  
Mrs. Patricia Doyle (arrived at 6:12 p.m.)  
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald  
Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos  
Mr. Jay Weitlauf

**ABSENT**

Mrs. Rita Volkmann, Vice Chairperson  
Ms. Mary Kelly  
Mr. Joey Schick

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Michael Emery, Director of Teaching and Learning  
Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds  
Mr. Kevin Lemoi, Director of Technology Services  
Mr. Larry Croxton, GEA Vice President  
Mrs. Christine Dauphinais, AGSA Co-President

**1. Approval of minutes of March 9, 2015**

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of March 9, 2015.

**YES – Watson, Ackerman, Fitzgerald  
ABSTAINED – Gianacoplos, Weitlauf**

**PASSED**

**2. Early Release Proposal for 2015-2016**

Dr. Graner gave an overview of the early release proposal for 2015-2016 noting that he has revised it to 5 early release days for 2015-2016 – Sept 15, Dec. 8, Jan. 12, Feb. 9, and May 10. Dr. Graner further noted that he surveyed other school districts with early release days for 2015-2016 – East Lyme and Stonington have 3; Ledyard has 7 and Montville has 6. Dr. Graner proposed that FHS go from 4 one-hour early release days to 2 two-hour early release days. The elementary and middle school levels will go from 0 to 5 two-hour of early release days.

Mrs. Gianacoplos stated that she is concerned that the elementary level is being short changed – they need more time to meet for equity.

Dr. Graner stated that he would be considering 2 programs:

- 5 early release days (elementary would go from 0 to 2)
- 5 corresponding early release days at FHS (2 a month)

This item will be on the April 27, 2015 for a Board approval.

Mrs. Gianacoplos proposed to go to 7 for K-12 and no additional early release days for the high school.

### **3. Teacher/Administrator Evaluation Update**

Ms. Austin gave an overview of the Teacher/Administrator Evaluation Plan stating that she has been having a group meeting every month. Ms. Austin stated that Groton has to resubmit their plan by May 15, 2015 if there are any changes. Ms. Austin shared a Leadership Framework document from LEARN for administrators. **[ATTACHMENT #1]**

### **4. English Learner (EL) Program data review**

Ms. Austin shared a copy of the letter that was sent home to parents. **[ATTACHMENT #2]** It was noted that there are approximately 80 students in the program. The Board reviewed the letter and suggested minor revisions. Ms. Austin stated that she and Ms. Lozano have been working together and came to the conclusion that a committee should be formed to analyze the action steps in order to create an action plan. Ms. Austin gave an overview of the Groton District Improvement Plan addendum for English Language Learners. **[ATTACHMENT #3]**

### **5. Chrome Book Initiative Update**

Mr. Lemoi stated that 217 Chrome Books are in use at the high school and 51 are yet to be passed out. Mr. Lemoi shared an update on how the Chrome Book is being used; this is a one month report. **[ATTACHMENT #4]** Mr. Lemoi stated that the program is going very well. The Chrome Books will be used by individual 9<sup>th</sup> graders. In addition, Chrome Book carts are now available for all 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms

It was suggested that the Board receive an update on the use of Chrome Books at the end of each month through the Superintendent's report.

### **6. DoD Grant Application overview**

Mr. Emery gave an overview of the DoD Grant Application. **[ATTACHMENT #5]** The submission of grant is due by May 5, 2015.

**7. SBAC update**

Mr. Emery shared the 2015 SBAC Testing Schedule. [ATTACHMENT #6]

**8. Attendance Policy review**

The Board reviewed the Attendance Policy and made several revisions. [ATTACHMENT #7]

**9. Review of Referral List**

The Board reviewed the Referral List.

**10. Update regarding Board of Education support for extra-curricular clubs and teams**

Dr. Graner shared a preliminary list of clubs and teams. [ATTACHMENT #8] It was the consensus of the Board that this list should be reformatted for better clarification.

Mrs. Doyle requested that Boosters and their funding be considered as an addition to this list.

**11. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mrs. Doyle and seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**