

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 23, 2022 @ 5:00 P.M.  
REMOTE MEETING VIA ZOOM**

**Members Present:** Liz Porter, Matt Shulman

**Also Present:** Phil Piazza, Rebecca Beyus, Clint Kennedy

**Liz Porter called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM.**

**1. Review Minutes from April 25, 2022 Communications Committee Meeting**

Approval of the minutes from the April 25, 2022 Special Communications Committee Meeting was tabled as only one member who attended that meeting is present.

**2. Discuss Communications Technology**

Clint Kennedy, Groton Public Schools Director of Technology provided an update on technology pertaining to communications.

The laptop refresh is nearing completion with all laptops in-house and the security setup on all devices complete. New laptops will be issued prior to the end of the school year so all teachers have reliable technology for the summer and to communicate with families if desired. Support and training will be provided if needed.

Turned-in laptops will be refurbished and reissued to students in September to increase the 1:1 student ratio. IT is looking at sustainability particularly after ESSER funding is no longer available.

The communications and IT team are strategically looking at more mobile-centric communications, which it believes the results of the communications survey will support. This includes introducing a GPS mobile app that will provide families with a unified portal for district and school communications.

The group discussed streaming capabilities and video on demand and transitioning to more digital format

M. Shulman shared that GMTV (Groton Municipal TV (GMTV) may have airtime available for GPS programming.

C. Kennedy shared an update on the One card partnership with the Groton Public Library.

**3. Review and Finalize Draft of Communications Survey**

The survey is electronic and will be shared with families electronically. Families will be notified by phone and email.

M. Shulman requested paper copies of the survey be made available to families if needed.

The following edits were requested:

- Add non-athletic competitions to questions that reference different types of events.
- Add Twitch among the streaming platform options.
- Allow survey respondents to rank preferences if survey functionality allows.
- Number questions if survey functionality allows.
- Ensure respondents can provide open-ended feedback.
- Include GPS Channel 19 among communication choices.

Once the survey is revised to reflect the suggested edits, it will be shared with the members for final review.

Target distribution to parents is the first week of June with the survey closing by the end of the school year.

#### **4. Update Regarding Community Mentoring Program**

R. Beyus shared that this program is not currently active at pre-pandemic levels.

This program will be discussed in more detail at a future meeting.

#### **5. Next Steps: Next Meeting Monday, June 27, 2022**

**Liz Porter adjourned the meeting at 5:58 PM.**