

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MARCH 20, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11

NOTE: This meeting is being held in-person. For those attending via Zoom, please click on the meeting under District Calendar for the Zoom link.

Mission Statement: Our mission is teaching and learning.

Board Goals: In richness of cultures and with a respect for all, (1) Provide Dynamic Rigorous Curriculum, (2) Ensure Effective and Engaging Instruction, and (3) Embrace Excellent Learning Environment

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Review March 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes (Attachment #1)
3. Advanced Courses at FHS
 - IB Diploma Program and IB Courses
 - ECE (UConn)
 - AP (National Math & Science Initiative)
 - What courses do students take if they want an honors level course in grades 11 & 12?
4. CIP Planning Meeting Update
5. Discussion re: Re-instituting the Board PTO Liaison Group
6. Review Referral Tracking Sheet (Attachment #2)
7. Adjournment

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
MARCH 13, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kim Shepardson Watson-Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman-Vice Chairperson, William Horgan, Liz Porter (remote), Matthew Shulman (remote), Rita Volkmann (remote), Beverly Washington (remote), Jay Weitlauf (remote)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dean Antipas

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Phil Piazza, Kathy Wilson, Anne Keefe-Fortobnick, Kate Serio, Ted Keleher, Adam Diskin, Carmita Hodge, Matt Brown

I. CALL TO ORDER - Chairperson Kim Shepardson Watson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. REVIEW OF DECEMBER 5, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Porter, Horgan: To approve the COW minutes of December 5, 2022
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

III. DISCUSSION RE: IB MYP (Grades 6-10), IB Careers Program (Grades 11-12)

Ms. Kathy Wilson noted that the fourth year of the IB MYP has seen great progress even with the pandemic. Ms. Wilson went on to explain the different aspects of the program. An extensive Q & A was held regarding the IB MYP. Ms. Wilson explained that every student will need to do a MYP personnel project (in grade 10) and that this is also a graduation requirement so that they can continue in their junior and senior years.

Dr. Anne Keefe-Fortobnick noted that the Career Program will be launching in the fall and will include pathway programs like Nursing, Project Lead the Way, and Business (through Charter Oak Credit Union). She noted that conversations have started among teachers and students as well as students themselves.

Dr. Keefe-Fortobnick addressed the students in the Global Citizenship class in their second semester year; she noted that she introduced 5 lessons that introduced a personal project that is an IB requirement. She went on to explain the process involved throughout the year.

IV. REVIEW OF GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Mrs. Porter noted her concern with the history requirements – she would like history to be a 3.5 credit requirement. She noted that the other core courses already require 4 credits.

Ms. Kate Serio is coordinating the Seal of Biliteracy and went on to give an overview of the program.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Horgan: To adjourn at 7:23 p.m.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

BOARD OF EDUCATION - REFERRAL TRACKING SHEET

Revised: March 13, 2023

CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION

Referral #	Date Initiated	Subject	Status Report
R2015-37	12/10/18	Review of English Language Arts Curriculum – Grammar/Conventions (AA)	Ongoing
R2022-10	3/22/22	Research aspects of financial literacy in GPS curriculum	February
R2022-16	5/17/22	Review and audit the Program of Studies for GMS & FHS	Ongoing

POLICY

Referral #	Date Initiated	Subject	Status Report
R2018-10	6/4/18	Review policy P 5111.3 - Protection of Undocumented Students	Ongoing
R2018-25	1/7/19	Review policy P 6146.1 - Examination Grading	April 2023
R2020-20	10/6/20	Review policy P 9000 - Rules of Procedure	Ongoing
R2022-15	5/17/22	Review policy P 6146 - Graduation Requirements	2 nd Reading - 3/27/2023
R2023-1	2/14/23	Review policy P 6161.1 - Library Materials Selection	1 st Reading - 3/27/2023
R2023-2	2/14/23	Review policy P 5123 - Promotion/Retention/Graduation	April 2023

COW

Referral #	Date Initiated	Subject	Status Report
R2018-18	12/10/18	Discussion of student achievement by sub groups (KF)	Ongoing
R2020-8	5/18/20	Discussion of a regional approach to Transition Academy and the need for an alternative high school and how to support each; regional program for kids w/ mental health issues (KW)	June
R2020-10	6/8/20	Review of Report Cards – what is being done at each level? (RV) (to be discussed with each new Board)	Future Committee Meeting
R2020-23	10/19/20	Discussion and review of the work of the DEI Committee	Ongoing
R2021-9	9/13/21	Discussion of Educational Rising Club-National Organization (RV)	December 2022 COW
R2021-14	10/13/21	Discussion re: the evaluation of the magnet themes – are they working? (RV & DA)	Summer
R2021-15	10/25/21	Discussion re: Conceptualizing Culturally Responsive Teaching-Jamal Davis (KW)	BOE Regular Meeting
R2021-17	10/25/21	Discussion re: the audit report (KW)	End of April
R2021-19	10/25/21	Discussion re: class sizes – enrollment in AP and IB (KW)	Future Committee Meeting
R2021-23	11/9/21	Discussion re: closing the achievement gap – twice a year (KW)	September/January
R2022-4	2/16/22	Discussion re: Career Pathways – Chelsea Courtright (MS)	Biennial

COW (Cont'd)			
Referral #	Date Initiated	Subject	Status Report
R-2023-3	3/10/23	Discussion re: Attendance data for students and staff	Future Committee Meeting
R-2023-4	3/10/23	Discussion re: Reading Waiver and GPS model reading, writing, and phonics curriculum K-3	Future Committee Meeting
R-2023-5	3/10/23	Discussion re: GPS Report Card 2022 and State Growth data; Getting ready for SBAC, NGSS, SAT 2023	Future Committee Meeting
R-2023-6	3/10/23	Discussion re: International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, AP, ECE, and honors courses	Future Committee Meeting

FINANCE/FACILITIES			
Referral #	Date Initiated	Subject	Status Report
R2021-6	6/14/21	Purchase of vans to transport SpEd students (RV)	Future Committee Meeting
R2021-22	11/9/21	Review Tree House Finances (KW)	Future Committee Meeting
R2021-25	11/23/21	Review the Use of PayPal	Future Committee Meeting
R2022-12	4/11/22	Review Board involvement in obtaining a new bus contract (need feedback from Floyd) (RV)	Future Committee Meeting

COMMUNICATIONS			
Referral #	Date Initiated	Subject	Status Report
R2022-13	4/11/22	Discussion of Mentor Program	Future Committee Meeting