GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT
(*Attachments are available upon request in the Superintendent’s Office.)

Special Meeting

April 1, 2013

A special meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on April 1, 2013, in Room 19 of the School Administration Building, for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent Search process and Magnet School busing.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Kirsten Hoyt, Chairperson of the Board, at 7:04 p.m.

PRESENT

Dr. Kirsten Hoyt, Chairperson
Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Patricia Doyle
Mr. Robert Peruzzotti
Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson
Mrs. Rita Volkman
Mrs. Beverly Washington

ABSENT

Mr. Chaz Žezulka
Mrs. Shelley Gardner

Dr. John Ramos, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Sean McKenna, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Hoyt welcomes everyone and asked to switch the order of agenda items and thus begin with the Magnet School Busing.

1. Discussion of the Magnet School Busing

Dr. Hoyt explained that there is a grant that supports transporting Magnet School students and, albeit we cannot officially vote, we could come to consensus around the issue.

Mr. Peruzzotti said there are three options:
   1. We add it back to the budget.
   2. We have the Town Council add to the increased budget proposal.
   3. We have a line item in the Town budget.

Mrs. Washington asked if $1,300 covered the cost.

Mrs. Gianacoplos mentioned and emphasized that we are clear and that there is 100% reimbursement. Mr. Peruzzotti said that the reimbursement did not show on the Board’s revenues.

Mrs. Washington mentioned that she would vote to put the money back in to support the Magnet School transportation.
Dr. Hoyt mentioned that if we have consensus tonight to move a resolution to request an extra $100,000, should the Town Council increase the Board funding by $100,000, the money would be appropriated for Magnet School transportation exclusively because the State would reimburse the money to the town.

Dr. Hoyt reaffirmed that there was consensus among the Board members in attendance.

Dr. Hoyt said that we would get it on the agenda for the next Board agenda.

2. **Discussion of the Superintendent Search process**

First, Dr. Hoyt sent a two page list of firms that conduct Superintendent’s Searches and disseminated the RFP. Five RFPs have been received.

Dr. Hoyt emphasized that the original RFP went out to all Board members; this RFP was sent to 5 firms. Dr. Hoyt stated that the list she shared with the Superintendent’s secretary had a range of 26 firms from New York, Illinois, Iowa, North Carolina, etc.

Mrs. Washington suggested that a RFP be placed in the New York Times, Education Week and the Hartford Courant.

Mrs. Gianacoplos started by asking if we want to go New England or Nationwide: if we want a national search, then we would have to have a national search. This might determine which search firm the Board would hire.

Mrs. Volkmann emphasized that we might have to go national because there are so many towns in Connecticut looking for a Superintendent. Out of 169 towns, there are quite a few towns looking for Superintendents. Thus, Mrs. Volkmann believes that we have to be broad in our search.

Mrs. Doyle mentioned that the New York Times is very expensive.

Mrs. Washington asked Dr. Ramos what publications do people read: AASA has a publication, CAPSS has a publication, etc.

Dr. Hoyt said that they would advertise in the New York Times, Education Week, Hartford Courant, AASA, and CAPSS.

Mrs. Watson and Mrs. Gianacoplos expressed concern about the timeline. Dr. Hoyt confirmed that this would be another 2 weeks or so.

Mrs. Volkmann said that we should contact a few more search firms, send a proposal, etc.

Dr. Hoyt agreed to contact firms in Connecticut or Rhode Island; many agreed.

On the list that the Superintendent’s secretary produced, there are 4 local firms.
Mrs. Gianacoplos suggests that we pick 4 or 5 for the RFP. Tell the firms that the proposal has to be here by Friday, April 5. Next Monday, the Board will meet to select which ones they will interview.

There will be a meeting to decide which search firms will be extended an interview on April 9, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.

There was discussion about the kind of interview committee the Board would have. There was a discussion about whether or not there would be 1 or 2 interview committees.

There was discussion about being sensitive to the needs of the candidates. Discussion ensued about the composition of the committee. The concern was the larger the group you have, the more problems you have with confidentiality.

There was continued discussion of the composition of the search committee and who should be included.

A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded by Mrs. Volkmann to go into Executive Session at 8:31 p.m. for the purpose of conducting the Interim Superintendent’s evaluation and to invite Dr. Ramos to attend.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

EXECUTIVE SESSION

PRESENT
Dr. Kirsten Hoyt, Chairperson
Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Patricia Doyle
Mr. Robert Peruzzotti
Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson
Mrs. Rita Volkmann

ABSENT
Mrs. Shelley Gardner
Mr. Chaz Zezulka
Mrs. Beverly Washington

Dr. John Ramos, Interim Superintendent of Schools

Discussion of the Interim Superintendent’s evaluation was held. No action was taken.

A motion was made by Mr. Peruzzotti and seconded by Dr. Hoyt to return to Open Session at 9:14 p.m.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

A motion was made by Mr. Peruzzotti and seconded by Dr. Hoyt to adjourn at 9:14 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY