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

Special Meeting
February 4, 2013

A special meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on February 4, 2013, in CR 1 of the Town Hall Annex, for the purpose of discussing the proposed 2013-2014 budget.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Kirsten Hoyt, Chairperson of the Board, at 7:03 p.m.

PRESENT
Dr. Kirsten Hoyt, Chairperson
Mrs. Patricia Doyle
Mrs. Shelley Gardner
Mr. Robert Peruzzotti
Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson
Mrs. Beverly Washington
Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Rita Volkmann
Mr. Chaz Zezulka

ABSENT
Dr. John Ramos, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Carolyn Dickey, Business Manager
Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Sean McKenna, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. William Robarge, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Mr. Paul Sikorski, Director of Technology Services
Mr. Joseph Arcarese, Principal, Fitch High School
Mrs. Christine Dauphinais, Principal, Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School
Mrs. Jamie Giordano, Principal, Claude Chester School
Mr. John Jones, Principal, West Side Middle School


NONE

2. Introduction of the new Food Service Director.

Mrs. Laurie LePine introduced Mr. Ernie Koschmieder, the new Food Service Director. Mr. Koschmieder gave an overview of his background and a few of the plans for the food service program in Groton.

3. Discussion of the proposed 2013-2014 calendars for students and staff.

Mr. McKenna reviewed the proposed 2013-2014 calendars for students and staff. He stated that it was based on the regional calendar with modifications pertinent to Groton. Mr. McKenna also stated that this item will be placed on the next Regular Board of Education agenda for adoption.
4. **Achievement Gap** – Defining the gap and some initial steps we are taking in Groton.  
   **NOTE:** This is part 1 of a multiple part series to be continued at additional COW meetings.

Dr. Ramos made opening remarks regarding the achievement gap.

Mr. McKenna gave a PowerPoint presentation on the achievement gap.

[ATTACHEMENT #1] The following administrators addressed portions of the presentation:

- Mrs. Giordano addressed steps that Groton is taking to address the achievement gap.
- Mrs. Dauphinais addressed the work being done at Catherine Kolnaski relative to the achievement gap. She also addressed the efforts being done by the National Urban Alliance and its CEO Dr. Yvette Jackson.
- Mr. Jones addressed PBIS and steps being done relative to positive schools and advisories.
- Mr. Arcarese addressed the steps the high school is undertaking.
- Mr. McKenna gave an overview of efforts towards the achievement gap as well as intervention and ST MATH.

5. **Review of the Transportation Contract.**

Mrs. Dickey noted that next year will be the district’s option year of their contract with the bus company and will be looking at a $100,000 increase.

Mr. Peruzzotti made a referral of this item to the Finance Committee.

6. **Discussion of the educational specifications for the removal of ACM floor tile at Charles Barnum.**

Mr. Robarge reviewed the educational specifications for the removal of ACM floor tile at Charles Barnum. He stated that this item will be on the next Regular Board of Education agenda for approval.

7. **Review of the proposed 2013-2014 budget.**

Dr. Ramos gave an overview of the last three budgets which came in with a 0% increase. He explained the process used to possibly reach a 0% increase as well as explained the list of additions to the budget in the amount of 4 million dollars.

Mrs. Dickey gave an brief overview of the budget set up, the different sections of the budget and pointed out those items that no longer exist in the budget and why.
Dr. Ramos reviewed the list of possible savings in the amount of 4.8 million dollars. [ATTACHMENT #2] Dr. Ramos stated that discussions were held with administrators and all Unions in reviewing the budget for possible savings/reductions. He noted that the items in red were taken off the table; the items in yellow were still under discussion; and the items in green were actual items for possible reduction.

A motion was made by Mr. Peruzzotti and seconded by Mrs. Doyle to adjourn at 8:58 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY