The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on July 25, 2011, in Room 19 of the School Administration Building.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Brian Shirvell, Board Chairperson, at 7:00 p.m.

The first order of business was the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Mrs. Sim.

PRESENT

Mr. Brian Shirvell, Chairperson
Dr. Kirsten Hoyt, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Patricia Doyle
Mr. Robert Peruzzotti
Mrs. Jen Sim
Mrs. Rita Volkmann
Mrs. Beverly Washington
Mr. Chaz Zezulka

ABSENT

Mr. Paul J. Kadri, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human Resource Services
Mrs. Mary Anne Butler, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Mrs. Carolyn Dickey, Business Manager
Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Mr. Wesley Greenleaf, Director of Buildings and Grounds

B. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

C. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS

NONE

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE
III. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM STAFF

NONE

B. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

1. State Test, Data Review [ATTACHMENT #1]

   Mr. Kadri gave an overview of CMT test results for Grades 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, 3-7, 3-7 in Mathematics, Reading and Writing.

2. District Improvement Plan [ATTACHMENT #2]

   Mrs. Butler, with input from Mrs. Doolittle, gave an overview of the District Improvement Plan. She stated that the plan set forth 3 goals:
   
   Goal 1: The percentage of students receiving free and reduced meals who score goal and higher in reading will increase 15 percentage points over a 3 year period as measured by CMT/CAPT while accelerating student achievement for all subgroups.
   
   Goal 2: The percentage of students receiving special education services who score goal or higher in reading will increase by 15 percentage points over a 3 year period as measured by CMT/CAPT (standard and MAS).
   
   Goal 3: As one indicator of improved school climate, the percentage of students referred to administration for discipline will be reduced by 50 percentage points over a 3 year period as measured by school discipline data.

   Mrs. Sim made a referral to the Curriculum Committee to look at special education and what the department is doing.

3. CIP Review [ATTACHMENT #3]

   Mr. Greenleaf shared a list of CIP projects which indicated the decision making criteria for each.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. District Quality Council: There was no report.

2. Finance Committee: There was no report.

3. Communications Committee: There was no report.
IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

4. Negotiations Committee: Mrs. Volkmann stated that the Negotiations Committee has completed the Custodial/Maintenance/Technology negotiations. Ratification of this agreement will be on the next Board agenda.

Mrs. Volkmann stated that the Negotiations Committee will begin negotiations with the AGSA in August.

5. LEARN: There was no report.

6. Wellness Committee: There was no report.

7. Policy Committee: Dr. Hoyt stated that the Policy Committee met and reviewed policies.

8. Curriculum Committee: Dr. Hoyt stated that the Curriculum Committee met and discussed the Curriculum Handbook, the Textbook Policy and the Middle School Schedule.

9. Facilities Committee: There was no report.

10. Groton Parent Council: There was no report.

11. Town & City Councils/RTM/BOE Liaison Committee:
    It was stated that this committee needs to be more structured. Mr. Peruzzotti and Dr. Hoyt volunteered to talk to the moderator and the Mayors about this committee.

12. GEA/AGSA Liaison Committee: There was no report.

13. Committee of the Whole:
    Mr. Shirvell stated that the Committee of the Whole met on June 25, 2011 and discussed the Curriculum Handbook, received an update on the data warehouse and a review of the CIP projects.

14. CABE:
    Mrs. Washington noted the Leadership Conference will be held on Wednesday in Old Saybrook, there are 61 people registered for the Summer Conference, and stated that CABE dues have not increased.
B. OLD BUSINESS

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 27, 2011 and the Special Meetings of July 11, 2011 (Policies and Supt’s Evaluation), are hereby accepted and approved.

2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING WARRANTS

RESOLVED, that the Warrants dated July 25, 2011 are hereby accepted and approved.

3. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby accepts gifts to the Groton Public Schools as follows:

• The Mystic Woman’s Club has made a donation in the amount of $250.00 to purchase books for the libraries in eleven schools.
• The Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program has made a donation of $1,000.00 for the S. B. Butler String Program.
• The Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program has made a donation of $50.00 for the S. B. Butler Band Program.

A motion was made by Mr. Peruzzotti and seconded by Mr. Zezulka.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. SECOND READING – REVISION OF POLICY P1330, Use of School Facilities

WHEREAS, the administration was advised by our insurance advisor to modify recently changed language in Policy P1330 to more accurately reflect conditions, and

WHEREAS, the Policy Committee has reviewed this recommendation and approved it be brought for a first reading to the Board of Education; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee and the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves, as a second reading, the revised language in Policy P1330 as presented.
B. OLD BUSINESS – cont.

A motion was made by Mrs. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Zezulka.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

2. SECOND READING – CREATION OF POLICY P6161, TEXTBOOK ADOPTION

WHEREAS, the administration suggested to the Policy Committee that a Textbook Adoption policy would help coordinate the approval process of textbooks, and

WHEREAS, the Policy Committee has reviewed this recommendation, state statute, and sample language that exists in other districts and has recommended the proposed policy be brought for a first reading to the Board of Education; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee and the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves, as a second reading, the new Policy P6161 as presented.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sim and seconded by Mr. Zezulka.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

3. SECOND READING – REVISION OF POLICIES P1331 (SMOKING IN SCHOOL FACILITIES), P5131.6 (ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND TOBACCO), P5131.8 (OFF-SCHOOL MISCONDUCT), AND P6141.11 (DRUGS AND ALCOHOL)

WHEREAS, the District recently did an extensive review of tobacco prevention efforts as part of a Tobacco Cessation grant it was awarded for the 2010-2011 school year, and

WHEREAS, this review has resulted in recommendations for language modifications in the above state policies, and

WHEREAS, the Policy Committee has reviewed these suggested modifications and recommended it be brought for a first reading to the Board of Education; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of Policy Committee and the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves, as a second reading, the revised language in Policies P1331, P5131.6, P5131.8, and P6141.11 as presented.
B. OLD BUSINESS – cont.

A motion was made by Mr. Zezulka and seconded by Mr. Peruzzotti.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

4. APPROVAL OF CURRICULUM HANDBOOK

WHEREAS, the Curriculum Handbook has been streamlined and revised, and

WHEREAS, the Curriculum Committee has presented it to the Board of Education at its COW meeting on July 11, 2011; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Curriculum Committee and the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the Curriculum Handbook as presented.

A motion was made by Mrs. Volkmann and seconded by Dr. Hoyt.

YES – Shirvell, Hoyt, Doyle, Peruzzotti, Volkmann, Washington, Zezulka

NO - Sim

PASSED

C. NEW BUSINESS

NONE

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mrs. Doyle stated that she received e-mails from parents on a range of issues relative to their children. She also noted that she met a parent who shared concerns relative to their child.

2. Mrs. Volkmann requested a summary of vacancies from Mrs. LePine. Mrs. Volkmann also noted that the Board needed to discuss with the Town where we go relative to facilities.
VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

August 22, 2011
- Facilities Committee, 5:30 p.m., Room 16
- Policy/Communications Committee, 5:30 p.m., Room 19
- Regular BOE Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Room 19

B Suggested Agenda Items
NONE

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Peruzzotti and seconded by Dr. Hoyt to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY