The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on August 22, 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 7:05 p.m.

The first order of business was the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PRESENT

Mr. Brian Shirvell, Chairperson
Mrs. Patricia Doyle
Mr. Robert Peruzzotti
Mrs. Jen Sim
Mrs. Rita Volkman
Mrs. Beverly Washington
Mr. Chaz Zezulka

ABSENT

Dr. Kirsten Hoyt, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos

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

1. Mrs. Anne Bendick, 21 Bolles Lane, expressed her concerns [ATTACHMENT #1] regarding the safety of walkers to Northeast Academy. She noted the lack of sidewalks, crossings and she shared a report of a neighbor who was arrested [ATTACHMENT #2] for the sale of drugs. She further noted the lack of concern on behalf of the administration at Northeast. She requested a permanent transportation for the kids in her neighborhood.

2. Mr. Kevin Trejo, 536 Shennecossett Road, noted item #4 under New Business regarding the extension of the Superintendent’s contract. He asked that the Board not extend the Superintendent’s contract.
B. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS – cont.

3. Mr. Gautam Batra, 195 Clift Street, noted that an AP course is now 1 credit instead of the previous 1.5 credits. He shared data he received from Central Office on 2010-2011 scores in AP. He further noted that an AP course receives 120 hours of instruction and an IB course receives 150 hours of instruction. Mr. Batra gave examples of the inadequate instruction students are receiving in AP courses. Mr. Batra requested that the AP courses be restored to 1.5 credits. Secondly, Mr. Batra addressed the issue of juniors having to take 8 credits over the course of a year. He noted that under the schedules, students are over burdened with work.

C. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS

NONE

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

1. Mr. Shirvell noted:
   - Safety issue – He referred this issue to the Superintendent and the building Principal.
   - AP Credits – He stated that the Board needs to look into it further.

2. Mr. Zezulka noted:
   - He stated that he disagreed with the statement from Mrs. Bendick relative to the Board not being concerned with the safety of the students. He stated that the Board was very concerned with the safety of the students. He urged the Superintendent to look at the bus issue in this neighborhood.
   - Statement by Mr. Trejo – Mr. Zezulka stated that Mr. Trejo was not privy to all the information and everything that the Board does. However, Mr. Zezulka stated that he respected Mr. Trejo’s right to make his statement but he feels Mr. Kadri has done wonderful things for the district and he was going to vote for the extension of his contract.
   - AP Credit – Mr. Zezulka stated that he respected Mr. Batra’s opinion. Mr. Zezulka asked the Superintendent to investigate if Mr. Batra’s comments or opinions are fact and present his findings to the Board ASAP.

3. Mr. Kadri stated that he had been briefed relative to the busing issue at Northeast and noted that there are parameters which defines how the bus routes are established. He further explained what is being done in reviewing and/or resolving this situation.

   Mr. Kadri commented on the districts response to issues of safety of our students.

   Mr. Kadri stated that the AP results are not equal to other results.
II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS – cont.

4. Mrs. Volkmann asked to have the AP Credit issue on the next COW agenda and to invite teachers to attend and share their comments.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM STAFF

1. KSACC Tuition Increase Proposal – Mrs. Dauphinais, Principal of Northeast Academy School, gave an overview of the KSACC Program and rationale for the requested increase. [ATTACHMENT #3]

2. Regional Calendar 2012-13 – Mr. Kadri shared a copy of the proposed 2012-2013 Regional Calendar [ATTACHMENT #4]. Mr. Kadri asked Board members to review it and shared any suggested additions or revision to the calendar.

3. Update on Magnet School Food Service – Mrs. Dickey, Business Manager, stated that she had been contacted in early August by Dr. Nicholas Spear, Director of the new Marine Magnet School, requesting help to set up their Food Service Program. Mrs. Dickey stated that Groton has been working with the Marine Magnet School to set up their Lunch Program. Groton will utilize some of our employees to transport food for the early breakfast program which we will be reimbursed for.

B. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

1. Update on Schedules

Mr. Kadri gave an overview of schedules at:

- Elementary Level – Mr. Kadri stated that all grades will have the same schedule which will enable teachers to collaborate by grade including with the remedial staff. Mr. Kadri noted that this schedule was piloted at CK last year with great success. Mr. Kadri also noted that there is a SRBI block which does not overlap. Mr. Kadri stated that the district is looking to do structured recess as well.

- Middle School Level – Mr. Kadri stated that the new schedule will align grade 6, 7, and 8 math all at the same period in a day. Mr. Kadri noted that the new schedule will allow the 4 core subjects to be taught as normal; however, instead of a Standards based block and an exploratory block, there will be a SRBI Language Arts block and a SRBI Math block. Mr. Kadri stated that the district is exploring a systems engineering class for the upcoming school year. He further noted that the 3 Principals feel this will be a marked improvement over what we presently have.
B. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – cont.

2. Update on Opening of School

Mrs. LePine gave a hiring update. She noted that to date 24 teachers have been hired: 13 elementary teachers, 6 middle school teachers and 5 high school teachers. Mrs. LePine stated that they were in this week for Teacher Academy.

Mr. Greenleaf gave an overview of work done by the Maintenance Department this summer:
- Custodial overhaul of all the buildings
- Contracted and in-house painting
- Refinishing of the wood floors in wood floor gymnasiums
- Fitch High ceiling in the old Main Street
- Administration Building kitchen ceiling
- Mary Morrisson ceilings
- West Side Middle – asbestos floor tile removal
- MM/FHS/SB preventative maintenance on roofing systems
- CL/NEA sun shade system over cafeterias
- FHS – replaced carpet in the Media Center
- Bringing kitchens in the district up-to-date
- FHS – installed protection in case of lightening strikes
- Custodial/Maintenance Training in safety
- CMS – modifications for handicap accessibility
- SB – repaired old boiler and believes it will make it through the winter
- SB – addressed problem with fascia and soffit boards in the gym
- FMS – replace lighting ballasts throughout the building
- FMS – removed walls between rooms A102 and 103 to make it a larger room
- Updated a number of informational memos of information that was shared with the schools

Mrs. Doolittle stated that the Extended Day Special Education Summer School is completed. She noted that 90 students, PreK-12 attended. She also noted that Pamela Porter, Assistant Principal of S. B. Butler School, was the administrator for the Extended Day Special Education Summer School. Mrs. Doolittle further noted that her department is reviewing new students to the district and IEPs; had hired 7 new special education elementary teachers and 1 psychologist, have finalized the Special Education Improvement Plan, have finalized Professional Development for all the related services staff, is working with LEARN on developing measureable goals and objectives, and have finalized assignments for classroom assistants.

Mrs. Butler stated that she and Mr. Kadri had given a presentation to administrations at the Administrative Institute on SRBI and its implementation throughout the grade levels and that it was well received. She also noted that next Monday, the elementary
professional development will be on Fundations for the early grades K-2 and Lead 21 for grades 3-5, both enhancing Tier 1 practices. Mrs. Butler further noted the middle school staff will spend half the day discussing the schedule changes and enrichment opportunities. The Middle School will focus on PBIS the second half of the day. At the High School level, all administrators and several selected teachers were enlisted to present 8 different workshops on strengthening Tier I practices at the high school level. Each teacher will be assigned 2 different mini-courses and will be rotated through all 8 series by the end of the February professional development session. During the second half of the day, curriculum mapping will be the focus within the content areas.

Mrs. Dickey noted:
- She noted that the Food Services point of sales has been done for last year.
- Transportation is interfacing with Powerschool and we are in a good place.
- Inventory has been very busy and has been collaborating with Maintenance and the Curriculum Department.
- Collaboration with Technology Department – The district has had 8 interns who did a very great job. The Interns were loaned out to the schools.
- Lastly, Mrs. Dickey stated that her department has closed the books for last year; opened the books for the New Year, and is getting ready for the Auditors.

Mrs. Washington asked if the district will be returning funds to the Town. Mrs. Dickey stated that the district has encumbered all funds and will not be returning funds to the Town.

3. Racial Diversity Report

Mr. Kadri stated that presently Catherine Kolnaski is out of compliance. He noted that a school cannot dip below 33.9% - CK is at 30.2% which equals 30 students. Mr. Kadri stated that he had to submit a report to the State in lieu of the Phase II Plan. He is waiting to see if the State will offer a subsidy. Mr. Kadri noted that the short-term goal is to begin to shift CK students to PV and part of PV to CB or MM. He further noted that there is no space at PV. Mr. Kadri stated that his recommendation is don’t do all at once; define new catchment areas and insure the least impact to students. However, this will impact busing.

Mr. Kadri also noted that SB and NEA are in pending imbalance.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. District Quality Council: There was no report.

2. Finance Committee: There was no report.
IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

3. Communications Committee: There was no report.

4. Negotiations Committee: Mrs. Volkmann stated that the Negotiations Committee is meeting with the AGSA. The next meeting is Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

5. LEARN: There was no report.

6. Wellness Committee: There was no report.

7. Policy Committee: There was no report.

8. Curriculum Committee: Mrs. Sim stated that the Curriculum Committee met on August 8, 2011 and discussed the DIP. Mrs. Sim stated that the next meeting is September 12, 2011.

9. Facilities Committee: Mr. Peruzzotti stated that the Facilities Committee met tonight and discussed summer projects, asbestos removal in the buildings, roof replacement, CIP items, and security projects, cost estimates of status quo repairs the schools.

10. Groton Parent Council: There was no report.

11. Town & City Councils/RTM/BOE Liaison Committee: Mr. Peruzzotti stated that he had sent letters to both Mayors and the RTM Moderator and have only received a response for the Town Mayor. Mr. Peruzzotti stated that feels it is very important to open a line of communication.

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

13. Committee of the Whole: Mr. Shirvell stated that the Committee of the Whole met two weeks ago.

14. CABE: There was no report.
V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Special Meetings June 22, & 27, 2011 (Supt’s Evaluation), the Regular Meeting of July 24, 2011 and the Special Meetings of July 25 and August 8, 2011 (Supt’s Evaluation), are hereby accepted and approved.

2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING WARRANTS

RESOLVED, that the Warrants dated August 22, 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 Pfizer United Way Campaign (Carlin Okerberg) made a donation in the amount of $66.36 to Fitch High Robotics Club.
- The Stop & Shop A+ Program has made a donation in the amount of $434.78.

4. PERSONNEL REQUEST FOR CHILD-REARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Susan Gwaltney has requested an extended Child-Rearing Leave of Absence from August 29, 2011 to January 3, 2012. It is understood that this extended Child-Rearing Leave of Absence would be without pay, and that the staff member would assume health insurance premiums during this period of time.

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

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

NONE
C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Ratification of Tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Groton School Custodian and Maintenance Association as well as the Computer Techs

   WHEREAS, the collective bargaining agreement between the Groton Board of Education and the Groton School Custodian and Maintenance Association as well as the Computer Techs expired on June 30, 2010, and

   WHEREAS, Connecticut General Statute requires the Board of Education and the Groton School Custodian and Maintenance Association as well as the Computer Techs to negotiate a successor contract, and

   WHEREAS, the Negotiations Committee and the Groton School Custodian and Maintenance Association as well as the Computer Techs have negotiated a tentative successor contract for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014, and

   WHEREAS, the Groton School Custodian and Maintenance Association as well as the Computer Tech membership ratified the collective bargaining agreement on July 20, 2011; therefore be it

   RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Negotiations Committee and the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education ratifies the tentative collective bargaining agreement with the Groton School Custodian and Maintenance Association as well as the Computer Techs for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014.

   A motion was made by Mrs. Volkmann and seconded by Mrs. Washington.

   PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

2. Approval of the KSACC Tuition Increase Proposal

   WHEREAS, the KSACC Program provides before and afterschool services to families with students at Catherine Kolnaski, and

   WHEREAS, the KSACC Program is designed to run with minimal impact to the entire school district budget, and

   WHEREAS, because of increased costs, the Director of the KSACC Program has requested an increase to the weekly fee; therefore, be it
C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, adopts the pay scale agreed upon after receiving the presentation earlier in the meeting.

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

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

3. Approval of the DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2011-2014 (DIP)

WHEREAS, the District Improvement Plan Writing Committee developed the Groton Public Schools District Improvement Plan, 2011-2014, (DIP) and

WHEREAS, an overview of the District Improvement Plan, 2011-2014, (DIP) was first presented to the Board of Education at its Regular Meeting on July 25, 2011, and discussed at the Board of Education Curriculum Committee Meeting on August 8, 2011, and

WHEREAS, the District Improvement Plan, 2011-2014, (DIP) reflects the alignment with the Board of Education’s Goals and Beliefs; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Curriculum Committee and the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the District Improvement Plan, 2011-2014, (DIP) as presented.

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

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

4. Approval of Modification to the Superintendent’s Contract

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has completed its annual review of the Superintendent of Schools, and

WHEREAS, per Section 2B of the Superintendent’s contract, he has requested the Board of Education consider extending his contract to three years, which is the maximum allowable by the State of Connecticut; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, after discussion in Executive Session, approves extending the Superintendent’s contract by one year until June 30, 2014. No other provisions in the contract are changing.
C. **NEW BUSINESS** – cont.

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

**YES** – Doyle, Zezulka, Shirvell, Sim, Peruzzotti  
**NO**  - Volkmann, Washington

PASSED

5. **Approval of Principal Analyst and Grants**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, after discussions with the Superintendent, has determined that expertise on the analysis of data not only will positively impact student achievement, but will also assist in identifying effective and efficient practices, and

WHEREAS, an effective research position will make the district more attractive for competitive grants which would increase revenues in the district, and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent has presented a contract for Amy Semerjian to serve in the position of the Principal Analyst and Grants Investigator, and

WHEREAS, the terms and conditions of her position are stated in the aforementioned contract to be distributed to the Board members; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the contract for the Principal Analyst and Grants Investigator.

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

**YES** – Doyle, Zezulka, Shirvell, Sim, Peruzzotti  
**NO**  - Volkmann, Washington

Mrs. Washington stated that she not against the position of the Principal Analyst and Grants Investigator. However, she was against the salary and perks for the position of the Principal Analyst and Grants Investigator.

PASSED
VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mrs. Volkmann noted that she attended a conference at the end of July, put on by CABE, on Leadership and Trends in Education. Mrs. Volkmann stated that she received a question for a S. B. Butler parent regarding whether Kindergarten attendance is 180 days.

   Mr. Kadri noted that he and Mrs. Doolittle have met with the VNA and the School Physician to review the district medication and first aid policies. Mr. Kadri stated that there will be very minor changes but overall the district was all set.

   Mr. Kadri noted that the elementary level will be starting 5 minutes later and the ending time will be 5 minute later.

   Mrs. Doolittle noted that PreK, entering Preschool and Kindergarten will be starting September 6th to allow for screening. Also, she noted that there will be an Open House on Thursday for Integrated Preschool.

   Mrs. Volkmann stated that in reading the CABE Journal there was an article regarding changes in the regulations in the administration of medication by school personnel, before and after school personnel, etc. She shared this with the Policy Committee.

   Mrs. Volkmann asked for an update on enrollment for the Board to begin to review and discuss class sizes.

2. Mr. Peruzzotti stated that he has heard from some parents regarding the new Central Registrar. The parents stated that this was one of the better improvements the Board has provided in the last couple of years. He also noted that he has heard from the Mayor/BOE/TC Liaison Committee which he will follow-up on.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

   As noted in the agenda.

B. Suggested Agenda Items

   NONE
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Zezulka and seconded by Mrs. Sim to adjourn at 9:25 p.m.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY