The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on January 23, 2012, in Community Room 1 of the Town Hall Annex.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Kirsten Hoyt, Board Chairperson, at 7:09 p.m.

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

**PRESENT**

Dr. Kirsten Hoyt, Chairperson  
Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos, Vice Chairperson  
Mrs. Patricia Doyle  
Ms. Shelley Gardner  
Mr. Robert Peruzzotti  
Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson  
Mrs. Rita Volkman  
Mr. Chaz Zezulka  

Mr. Paul J. Kadri, Superintendent of Schools  
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  
Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human Resource Services  
Ms. Amy Semerjian, Principal Analyst & Grants Investigator

**ABSENT**

Mrs. Beverly Washington  

Mr. Matthew Buechel, Student Representative  

Mr. Jaryn Burgis, Student Representative

**B. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

1. Mr. Kevin Trejo, 536 Shennecossett Parkway, addressed the middle school consolidation and asked what does the school buildings offer the community in light of the Board’s vote to close FMS. He also asked if the Board can save money by closing an elementary (PV) school and keeping Fitch Middle open. He noted that this would open the door
B. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS – cont.

for making CK a PK-2 school and WSM a 3-5 school.

2. Mr. Scott Aument, 127 Rogers road, asked for the status [ATTACHMENT #1] of his questions from previous meetings.

C. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS

Dr. Hoyt and Mr. Kadri presented a plaque and a Panera Bread gift certificate to Sean McKenna, Steven Small and Elfriede Stoebe-Janacek for their leadership regarding the NEASC Committee at the High School.

D. STUDENT LIAISON REPORT

NONE

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

1. Dr. Hoyt responded to the questions asked by Mr. Aument.
   - Dr. Hoyt stated that a response to still owed on the list of Grants.
   - Dr. Hoyt stated that the Baseball vendors have been paid.
   - Dr. Hoyt stated that the district has contacted the ball field with regards to negotiating the funds that are outstanding. This item is in litigation, so no further comment will be made on it at this time.
   - Regarding the Spreadsheet by Mr. Kadri which had columns labeled A-B-C-D – Dr. Hoyt noted that one of the columns talked to unfunded grants. She stated that this was the jobs fund; this was a onetime grant that came from the Federal government.
   - Dr. Hoyt stated that budget discussions will be held on January 30, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall Annex.
   - Dr. Hoyt stated that the Board will hold a second Joint Meeting with the Town Council on Jan. 30, 2012, at 5:30 p.m., at the Town Hall Annex.
   - Dr. Hoyt stated that the Mayor had contacted her regarding the Vision Committee Future Report and how to move that forward.
   - Dr. Hoyt stated that Mr. Parrella had visited with the Board during the last meeting regarding his FOI request. She noted that she and Mr. Kadri met with Mr. Parrella last week to narrow in on what he is looking for so that the district can provide the correct information to him.
III. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM STAFF

1. Phase I Grant Reimbursement

   Mr. Greenleaf gave an overview of the Phase I Grant Reimbursement. [ATTACHMENT #2]. He noted that Groton has received additional grant funding of approximately six million dollars for the Phase I project. The additional funding has reduced the amount in bonding for this project.

B. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

   1. Good News

      Mr. Kadri noted the December Volunteer data: there were 655 volunteers who generated 2756 volunteer hours.

      Dr. Hoyt noted that he was informed by LEARN that two SB teachers were involved in an Interdistrict Grant on a project entitled Magical Mystical Tour with a sister school in Norwich. The students are learning to write mysteries inside their elementary schools.

   2. Budget Process

      Mr. Kadri noted that the Board will hold its first Budget Meeting on January 30, 2012 where the public will be able to comment on the proposed budget. He explained that this budget had been crafted over the last two years. Mr. Kadri further noted that he and Mr. Greenleaf are in the process of doing a walk-through of the two middle schools (CMS/WSM) taking measurements. He stated that the district has contracted with architects (McKissick) to develop student numbers and that the administration is in discussions with the leaders of the unions.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

   1. District Quality Council: There was no report.

   2. Finance Committee:

      Mr. Zezulka stated that the Finance Committee met December 12, 2012. Mr. Zezulka stated that Mrs. Dickey, Business manager, informed the Committee about the State Food Service Audit that will occur at the end of January for three of our schools (FHS, WSM, SB). Mrs. Dickey also
IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

informed the Committee about the new State requirements regarding sick time. The new requirements began January 1st of this year. There is now a public act that requires employers to provide paid sick leave annually to its employees – one hour of sick leave for each 40 hours they work up to a maximum of 40 hours per calendar week. Mrs. Dickey stated that the district is providing paraprofessional testing that will involve about 20 paraprofessionals. And lastly, Mrs. Dickey explained the new Medicaid reimbursement changes.

3. Communications Committee:

Mrs. Doyle stated that the Communications Committee met January 9, 2012 and discussed the results of the survey regarding the closing of a middle school and putting Channel 19 on the Website.

4. Negotiations Committee:

There was no report.

5. LEARN:

Mrs. Volkmann stated that LEARN met and reported that Dr. Seccombe will be retiring in November. She also stated that LEARN received a presentation from Stonington Special Education Department on a community classroom.

6. Wellness Committee:

Mrs. Doyle stated that the Wellness Committee met on January 19, 2012 and received a presentation for FHS Parent Council regarding a program about distracted driving which will happen in April; Healthy Challenge for staff where they will be “Walking to Orlando” via the internet; National Biking to School Day on May 9th; noted that health care cost have gone down for the second year in a row.
IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

7. Policy Committee: Mrs. Gianacoplos stated that the Policy Committee met January 9, 2012 and discussed the Out of District Tuition for Seniors’, Minority Recruitment Pan and Verifying Attendance.

8. Curriculum Committee: Mrs. Gianacoplos stated that the Curriculum Committee met tonight and reviewed the curriculum for Thinking for the 21st Century Anchor course at the high school for next year. The Curriculum Committee agreed to send this course to the full Board for approval. The Curriculum Committee discussed the Program of Studies at FHS. She noted that Mr. Arcarese presented five or six new courses that have interest from students. Lastly, the Curriculum Committee received IB statistics.

9. Facilities Committee: There was no report

10. Groton Parent Council: Mrs. Gianacoplos stated that the Groton Parent Council would meet on January 10, 2012 at CC and discussed and shared ideas for fundraisers and discussed the middle school consolidation.

11. Town & City Councils/RTM/BOE Liaison Committee: Dr. Hoyt noted that the Town & City Councils/RTM/BOE Liaison Committee will hold a joint meeting on January 30, 2012, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex.

12. GEA/AGSA Liaison Committee: Mrs. Gianacoplos noted that the GEA/AGSA Liaison Committee met on January 11, 2012 and discussed the facilitation between the Board/AGSA/GEA regarding the Climate Survey; substitutes in classrooms; classes without curriculum, budget implications, and the middle school consolidation.
IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

13. Committee of the Whole:

   Dr. Hoyt stated that the Committee of the Whole met and discussed the SAT/CMT/CAPT scores, middle school 21st Century electives, had an update on the middle school consolidation, and the Phase I Reimbursement.

14. CABE:

   There was no report.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES

   RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 12, 2011, the Special Meetings of December 12, 2011, two meetings on January 19, January 8, and January 9, 2012, are hereby accepted and approved.

2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING WARRANTS

   RESOLVED, that the Warrants dated January 23, 2012 are hereby accepted and approved.

3. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS

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

   • Pfizer United Way Campaign (Carlin Okerberg) made a donation in the amount of $66.36 to the Fitch High School Robotics Team.
   • Pfizer Foundation Volunteer Program (John Holroyde) made a donation in the amount of $1,000.00 to the Fitch High School Robotics Club.
   • Box Tops for Education made a donation of $539.90 to S. B. Butler School.
   • Barbara Palm donated a piano to S. B. Butler School.
   • The Rotary Club of Mystic made a donation of $500.00 to the Fitch High School Robotics Team.
   • The American Chemical Society made a donation of $500.00 to Alison Cochrane at Cutler Middle School.
A. CONSENT CALENDAR – cont.

- Radiation Protection Systems made a donation of $500.00 to the Fitch High School Robotics Club.

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

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of Board of Education Meeting Schedule 2012
   [ATTACHMENT #3]

   WHEREAS, the Board of Education establishes a meeting schedule for every fourth Monday of each month during the school year, and

   WHEREAS, if holidays occur on Mondays, the Board meets on Tuesday, and

   WHEREAS, approval of this schedule is necessary by January of each year; therefore, be it

   RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the schedule of Board of Education meetings for the 2011-2012 school year as presented.

   A motion was made by Mr. Zezulka and seconded by Mrs. Doyle to remove this item from the agenda.

   PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Suspension of Policy 9000 (Rules of Procedure)

   WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to increase the efficiency and effectiveness in how it manages its responsibilities to the school district, and

   WHEREAS, the Board of Education would like to pilot a new way to manage the business of its committees through the month of August 2012, and
C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

WHEREAS, since such changes would require modifications to Policy 9000, which the Board does not want to make until it reviews the effectiveness of those changes; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education suspends the sections of Policy 9000 related to standing committees and meeting schedule.

A motion was made by Mrs. Doyle and seconded by Mrs. Gianacoplos.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

2. Approval of Changes to Board of Education Meeting Times Related to the Pilot Initiative to Streamline Board Business

WHEREAS, under Section 3, Meetings in Policy 9000, Regular Board Meetings are identified as being on the fourth Monday of each month, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education believes that by holding those meetings on the second Monday of each month (moved to Tuesday when Monday is a holiday or in conflict with a community event), it provides for greater continuity especially for the months of December and June; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that given the temporary suspension of Policy 9000, the Board of Education wishes to approve the meeting schedule with the changes identified in the attachment.

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

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

3. Approval of Changes to the Board of Education Standing Committees

WHEREAS, under Section 1 of Policy 9000, a series of standing committees are listed, and

WHEREAS, while the Board of Education recognizes that the business of these committees remains important, the process of having information first presented to a standing committee and then the Committee of the Whole presents an inefficiency, and
C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education would like to pilot having the chairs of these committees remain in place, but present the information at the Committee of Whole for discussion, and

WHEREAS, the only exception is the Policy Committee, which will remain a standing committee that will meet within the defined framework of Policy 9000; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the changes to the standing committee schedule under the temporary suspension of Policy 9000 as presented at the meeting.

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

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

4. Appointment of Board Parliamentarian

WHEREAS, under Section 3 of Policy 9000, the Board of Education shall select a parliamentarian from its membership; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoints Kim Watson to be Board Parliamentarian for the Board meetings during the year 2012.

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

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

5. First Reading – Out of District Policy – P5118

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is aware that extraordinary circumstances happen to families that pose a great hardship to the students within the family, and

WHEREAS, while the District already has provisions to accommodate hardships, it does not have a provision that would impact a student who is about to enter or is currently in their senior year, and
C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education recognizes that being so close to graduation results in a unique circumstance, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education recognizes that being a military and mobile community makes the possibility of this condition more prevalent, directed the administration to present a proposal for a discount to the yearly tuition for students who meet that condition; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education adopts the percentage schedule which would be applied to the yearly established tuition for a senior at Fitch High. It should be noted that additional costs, such as special education costs, would be added where appropriate.

A motion was made by Mrs. Doyle and seconded by Mrs. Gianacoplos.

A motion was made by Mr. Zezulka and seconded by Mrs. Volkmann to table this item to the next Regular Board Meeting.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

6. Formation of Ad Hoc Committee for Development of Board Handbook by the Board Chairperson

Dr. Hoyt noted the need to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to draft a Board Handbook. She stated that Mrs. Volkmann has volunteered to Chair this committee and asked if there were other Board members interested in serving on this committee. Mr. Gianacoplos and Mrs. Gardner volunteered to serve on this committee. Dr. Hoyt reminded the Board members that they needed to post their meetings as well provide minutes of their meetings.

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mrs. Watson noted:
   - That she was invited to participate in Mentor Week
   - That she went to the CK Winter Concert and it was outstanding
   - That she received an updated from WSM and CK.
2. Mrs. Doyle noted e-mails regarding speakers at schools.
3. Mrs. Gianacoplos noted the same e-mails.
4. Mrs. Volkmann noted a concern from a parent regarding the bus route book not being on the bus.
A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS – cont.

5. Mr. Zezulka noted:
   - That he attended and judged an Adult Spelling Bee
   - That he has received calls from Real Estate Agents relative to marketing Groton to their clients.
   - That he would like to make a referral to the Curriculum Committee regarding what the State says about the Boards responsibility in dealing with curriculum.

6. Dr. Hoyt noted:
   - That she attended the Legislative Breakfast this morning
   - That she received several e-mails regarding high school student
   - That she has had a conversation with Mayor Bond relative February 4 and 11, 2012
   - That there will be a Joint Meeting between the Board and the Town Council on January 30, 2012
   - That she attended the High School Combined Concert and that it was outstanding.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

B. Suggested Agenda Items

Mrs. Gardner made a referral to the Policy Committee to revisit policy P1250.

Mrs. Volkmann requested that the Central Office provide an update report on the Virtual Learning Program.

Mrs. Watson asked questions regarding the following:
   - The Joint Meeting on Jan. 30, 2012
   - If the State Legislators would be invited to the Joint Meeting
   - Why did Phase II fail
   - The need for an Ad Hoc Rules Committee
   - That she wants more detail information on the Agenda regarding the Middle School Consolidation and from Cabinet Members.
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Peruzzotti and seconded by Mr. Zezulka to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY