Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on February 13, 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 7:05 p.m.

The first order of business was the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Mr. Ian Holiday, Mystic River Press.

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 Volkmann
Mrs. Beverly Washington
Mr. Chaz Zezulka

ABSENT

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
Ms. Amy Semerjian, Principal Analyst & Grants Investigator
Mr. Jaryn Burgis, Student Representative

Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human Resource Services
Mr. Matthew Buechel, Student Representative

Dr. Hoyt read the Board Mission Statement.
B. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

1. Mrs. Julie Cagle, 40 Woodrow, gave an overview of the Groton Education Fundation and noted that in order to raise fund they have to put on events. One event planned is the Groton Dancing with the Stars. She noted that Chaz and Marie Zezulka, Monica and Joseph Franzone, Robert and Diane Beaulieu, Deb and Rob Jenkins, Alicia Bessett and an Engineer from E. B. will be contestants. Mrs. Volkmann will be a community judge and Mark Denno from the Subase and Susette Teves will be DJ’s. Mrs. Cagle extended an invitation to other Board members to participate. She stated that the Groton Education Foundation is sharing this benefit with the Fitch High School Drug and Alcohol Free Graduation Party whereby they will be selling raffles and food. This event will occur on March 9, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at Fitch High School. The doors will open at 6:00 p.m. for the sale of raffles and food.

2. Mrs. Beth Horler, GEA President, addressed the proposed 2012-2013 regional school calendar and asked that after the approval of the regional calendar the Board sit down with the GEA and have a discussion before have a second approval by the Board. She also addressed the Board Goals and asked the under Community, first item, that the Board amend it to include faculty and staff.

3. Ms. Siohban Brayley, 42 Windgate Circle, asked the Board to add an additional first grade teacher at Northeast Academy School. She also read a letter from Jeff and Erica Chandler, 35 Waterhouse Lane, in support of the additional teacher.

C. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS

NONE

D. STUDENT LIAISON REPORT

The student representative reported:

- The junior class is sponsoring a “Neon Glow” dance on March 3, 2012 to raise funds for their class.
- CAPT testing starts on March 6, 2012 for sophomores, juniors and seniors who need to take them.
- Wrestling has placed 11th this past Friday at the ECC tournament.
- Winter Sports are about to end and the spring sports are about to begin.
- As we speak, the Indoor Track is at the State Championship at Hill House.
- Mid Terms are done and report cards have been sent out.
D. **STUDENT LIAISON REPORT** – cont.

- On Feb. 9, 2012 Fitch High School leaders met with the Central Office and got positive feedback.

II. **RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

1. Dr. Hoyt responded to the questions regarding the NEA first grade. She stated that at the time the Board had their budget, 15 students from NEA were housed at SB and that has been corrected in the budget.
2. Dr. Hoyt responded to request from citizens that the Board budget have a 0% increase. She stated that the Board has done that.
3. Dr. Hoyt noted comments regarding the schedule change at the middle school level. She stated that she investigated this and found that the change was in the specialty areas (electives). This was a natural change that would have occurred anyway.

III. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

A. **REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM STAFF**

1. **Fitch Reads! Presentation by Sean McKenna**

   Mr. Arcarese and Mr. McKenna gave an overview of the Fitch Reads! Program [ATTACHMENT #1] at Fitch High School.

2. **Systems Thinking Presentation by Kathy Wilson**

   Mrs. Gianacoplos noted the resolution for the approval of the Thinking for the 21st Century curriculum on the Agenda which is an anchor course for middle school. She stated that the Curriculum Committee had a lot of questions which were answered and that she and Mrs. Butler felt a presentation was necessary for the full Board before approval of the curriculum could occur.

   Mrs. Butler noted the chart regarding the 21st Century and gave an overview.

   Mr. Danner explained the proposed schedule of a 7th grader [ATTACHMENT #2].

   Ms. Kathy Wilson and Mr. Marty Brennauer addressed the effect this program has had on their respective classes e.g. Computer and Tech Education and how it uses problem solving to come to a solution.
B. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Middle School Consolidation

Changes to the Buildings

Mr. Greenleaf reviewed projects his department will be working on in preparing CMS and WSM relative to the middle school consolidation. [ATTACHMENTS #3 & 4]

It was the consensus of the Board to go ahead with the changes to CMS and WSM up to a maximum of 1.4 million dollars.

Initial Redistricting Data

Mr. Kadri addressed:

- The need to be in racial compliance with the state,
- The need to maintain an equal distribution of middle school students between the two buildings because we have to maintain two teams per grade level,
- To have elementary schools feed into the middle schools in some logical framework in the hope of maintaining neighborhoods.

One option is to have 4 elementary schools feed into WSM: CB, PV, MM, CK. The administration is working out the logistics and if this doesn’t work, they would look at Option 1 which sends CB, NEA, SB and half of CC to CMS and MM, PV, CK, and half of CC to WSM.

The Board concurred that the administration was heading in the right direction.

Update on Other Consolidation Plans

Mr. Kadri noted that today, tomorrow and Wednesday, the HR staff was meeting with staff on their preferences. He further noted that two drafts of the schedules. It was suggested that we go to a 10 day A/B rotation.

Mr. Kadri noted that in early March, the first meeting of a student panel will be held. They will meet with the administration on a regular basis as they go forward.

Budget

Mr. Kadri shared responses to questions raised.
B. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – cont.

One question asked by Mrs. Volkmann was the cost to Vo Ag (32 students), Multicultural Magnet School (91 students), Dual Language (41 students), and Marine Science (32 students with 18 students for next year) in the amount of $510,000.

Mr. Kadri noted other changes to the budget.

Good News

Dr. Hoyt stated that she met with Principals and asked them to share items/events of interest with Board members assigned to their schools.

Reading Challenge at CB (was written up in the Groton Patch)

Mr. Kadri noted that CB raised over $500.00 which will be used for the Groton Animal Shelter, heat during the winter for needy families, and children books.

Winter Showcase at CMS

Cutler’s Winter Showcase was held on February 3, 2012. The audience was surrounded by the five music ensembles (Chorus, Band, Strings, Cutler Singers, and Jazz Band), allowing non-music students and staff to hear the musical accomplishments of the Cutler students.

After School Science Program at WSM

Carrie Ryall, 8th grade science teacher at West Side, is arranging an after school science program where students will build solar cars and compete.

CMS Math Counts Team Competes in Regional Competition

Cutler Math Counts successfully competed in the Regional Competition on February 4, 2012. After an extensive two week preparation, Cutler’s Math Counts math team finished 9th out of 27 schools in the regional competition. Seven students participated:

- Sixth graders Derek Labasi and Nigel Mills
- Seventh grader Emma Sammons
- Eighth graders Jacob Carlson, Emma Dishpande, Vineela Kanagala and Bella Vice-Van Heyde
B. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – cont.

All students finished in the upper 40% of 212 Mathletes, which consisted mostly of 8th graders. Five of the seven students qualified for State as individuals. The team was led by parent Zonda Mills.

Other

Mr. Kadri noted the January Volunteer data: there were 510 volunteers who generated 2478 volunteer hours.

Mrs. Volkmann noted that per Mrs. Giordano, Principal of Claude Chester, CC has held its “Principal of the Day” and that 5 Claude Chester students have served.

CC’s SIP has updated its Web site.

A fifth grader has finished the entire Lexia Program.

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.

4. Negotiations Committee: There was no report.

5. LEARN:

Mrs. Volkmann stated that LEARN met last Thursday and that LEARN is trying to get together a group of districts that provide transportation to the Vocational school and also special education students and the Magnet Schools. LEARN has established a data base that the group will be looking at so districts could share transportation cost. She also noted the Education Perspective from the Education Transformation Project from CAPSS: students have been notified who have been accepted at the Marine Science School and they are waiting to hear back from the students.
IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

There are 70 slots. They hope to have a final count by the end of the week.

6. Wellness Committee:

Mrs. Doyle stated that the Wellness Committee will meet on Thursday at 4:00 p.m., at the Central Office.

7. Policy Committee:

Mrs. Doyle stated that the Policy Committee met tonight and discussed the Out of District Tuition for Seniors’, Social Networking Policy and Minority Recruitment policy.

8. Curriculum Committee:

Mrs. Gianacoplos stated that the Curriculum Committee met and reviewed the curriculum for Thinking for the 21st Century and the Program of Study at Fitch High School.

9. Facilities Committee:

There was no report.

10. Groton Parent Council:

Mrs. Gianacoplos stated that the Groton Parent Council would meet on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m., at Cutler Middle School.

11. Town & City Councils/RTM/BOE Liaison Committee:

Dr. Hoyt noted that the Town & City Councils/RTM/BOE Liaison Committee have met several times.

12. GEA/AGSA Liaison Committee:

There was no report.

13. Committee of the Whole:

There was no report.
IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

14. CABE:

Mrs. Washington stated that a group from CABE went to Washington, D.C. and attended Federal Networking workshops. There were two days of workshops and one day of going to the capital and talked with congress people. The agenda was the reauthorization of Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The feeling was that not much was going to happen this year. She noted that with the President’s offer of a waiver relative NCLB (10 states have receive it), the Connecticut Commissioner of Education is in the process of putting together a waiver regarding NCLB which is very comprehensive. Mrs. Washington noted that they talked about increase federal funding for Title I and IDEA. Mrs. Washington talked about Impact Aid and DOD funds because it affects our district. She stated that they don’t see any increase in that funding, but certainly no decrease. They also talked about flexibility to local school Boards and providing federal programs. She stated that the teachers are teaching to the test and that is eliminating the flexibility and creativity and that we need to get that back into the classroom. Mrs. Washington stated that the CABE Day on the Hill will be held in March

15. Ad Hoc Board Handbook:

Mrs. Volkmann stated that the Ad Hoc Board Handbook Committee met on Feb. 1, 2012 and will meet again on this Wednesday.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 23, 2011, the Special Meetings of January 26, 2011, two meetings on January 30, two meetings on February 6, and February 8, 2012, are hereby accepted and approved.
2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING WARRANTS

RESOLVED, that the Warrants dated February 13, 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.

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

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. 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

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 Mr. Peruzzotti and seconded by Mr. Zezulka.

It was noted that item #9 of the policy was changed.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of the 2012-2013 Regional Calendar [Attachment #5]

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Region of Connecticut has established a regional calendar for the 2012-2013 school year for the purpose of regional cost savings and improved professional development opportunities, and

WHEREAS, an overwhelming number of districts in Southeastern Connecticut has already approved or committed to approving the calendar, and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent has reviewed the regional calendar with the Board of Education and recommends the Board of Education adopt the regional calendar for the Groton Public Schools; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the regional calendar, as per the exhibit, for Groton Public Schools for the 2012-2013 school years.

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

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY
C. **NEW BUSINESS** – cont.

2. **Approval of the Board of Education Goals for January 2012 through June 2013**

   WHEREAS, the Board of Education has established the attached Board goals; therefore, be it

   RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the Board Goals for the 2012-2013 school year as presented.

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

   A motion was made to amend the motion to include, under Community, faculty and staff.

   **PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

   **MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED:**

   **YES** – Watson, Doyle, Gianacoplos, Zezulka, Hoyt, Volkmann, Peruzzotti, Gardner

   **ABSTAINED** – Washington

   **PASSED**

3. **Approval of the Superintendent’s Proposed 2012-2013 Budget**

   WHEREAS, the Board of Education has received the Superintendent’s proposed budget for the 2012-13 school year, and

   WHEREAS, the Superintendent’s Budget was submitted with a zero percent increase from the current year, and

   WHEREAS, the Board of Education has completed its review of this proposal at previous meetings and is satisfied with adopting it as amended; therefore, be it

   RESOLVED, that after a thorough review of the Superintendents’ 2012-13 proposed budget, the Board of Education adopts a budget in the amount of $72,645,500 for the 2012-13 school year, and directs the Superintendent of Schools to forward this budget, which represents a 0% increase, to the Town Manager for review by the Town Council.
C. **NEW BUSINESS** – cont.

A motion was made by Mr. Zezulka and seconded by Dr. Hoyt.

Mrs. Gianacoplos thanked the Superintendent for presenting the Board with a 0% increase budget.

Mr. Zezulka stated that this was the third year that there was a 0% increase in the budget. However, the Board is not meeting the needs of the students.

A motion was made by Mrs. Volkmann and seconded by Mrs. Gardner to table this item until February 27, 2012.

**YES** – Washington, Volkmann, Gardner

**NO** - Watson, Doyle, Gianacoplos, Hoyt, Zezulka

**ABSTAINED** – Peruzzotti

**DEFEATED**

**VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:**

**YES** – Watson, Doyle, Gianacoplos, Zezulka, Hoyt, Volkmann, Peruzzotti

**NO** - Washington, Gardner

**PASSED**

4. **Approval of the Thinking for the 21st Century Curriculum**

WHEREAS, the district Thinking for the 21st Century Anchor Courses Committee developed the “Thinking for the 21st Century” anchor courses for the 2011-2012 school year, and

WHEREAS, the district Thinking for the 21st Century Anchor Courses Committee presented the overview of the “Thinking for the 21st Century” anchor courses to the Board of Education Curriculum Committee on January 23, 2012, and

WHEREAS, the “Thinking for the 21st Century” anchor courses will be implemented during the 2011-2012 school year, and
C. **NEW BUSINESS** – cont.

WHEREAS, the cost of all supplementary materials are included in the 2011-2012 budget; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Board of Education Curriculum Committee and the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the “Thinking for the 21st Century” anchor courses, as presented.

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

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

5. **Approval by the Board of Education for a Sixteen Year Old Fitch High School Student to Attend the Town of Groton Adult Education Program**

WHEREAS, under State law, a student who is both sixteen years old and a mother, may be enrolled in the adult education program with a simple majority vote of the Board of Education, and

WHEREAS, the administration has identified a student of which this path for education is the only available option; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the eligibility for the student (whose name has been withheld) to attend the Groton Adult Education Program.

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

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

VI. **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

**A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS**

1. Mrs. Watson noted that she found the Board Retreat to be a wonderful experience.
2. Mrs. Doyle noted e-mails on the Social Networking policy and that she attended the Wrestling match and congratulated the team.
3. Mrs. Gianacoplos noted e-mails on the Video position. Mrs. Gianacoplos also thanked Dr. Hoyt and the Mayor on putting the Board Retreat together.

4. Mrs. Washington read a position of a letter regarding the staffing at the two middle schools.

5. Mr. Peruzzotti noted the same e-mails and that he had visited four schools.

6. Mrs. Volkmann noted that she had visited NEA, WSM, CK, and SB and had received the same e-mails. Mrs. Volkmann noted a Community Leadership meeting at the Marriott on March 9, 2012.

7. Mr. Zezulka noted:
   - The Board’s vote on the Video position and asked why it didn’t happen.
   - That he was unable to attend the Board Retreat.
   - That he visited schools to show support to staff and the school.
   - That he was invited to participate in the Dancing with the Stars event.

8. Dr. Hoyt noted the same e-mails and the Board Retreat which she hoped will be a new positive venture between the Board and the Town.

9. Mr. Kadri thanked the Cabinet on their efforts regarding the proposed budget. He noted that he attended a dinner with student leaders.

10. Dr. Hoyt echoed her thanks to the Cabinet for their efforts on the proposed budget.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

B Suggested Agenda Items

It was requested that the meeting with legislators be referred to the COW.

Mrs. Washington requested discussion on the following:
   - SIT Teams at the next COW meeting
   - Advertising was referred to the Policy Committee
   - Parent Training was referred to the COW

Mrs. Volkmann asked that the review of AP on the Referral List include IB.

Mrs. Volkmann referred the Middle School Civics Course to the Curriculum Committee.
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Peruzzotti and seconded by Mr. Zezulka to adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY