Regular Meeting

March 12, 2012

The regular meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on March 12, 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 7:35 p.m.

The first order of business was the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Mr. Larry Croxton.

PRESENT

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

Mr. Paul J. Kadri, Superintendent of Schools
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
Mr. Jaryn Burgis, Student Representative

ABSENT

Mr. Robert Peruzzotti

Mrs. Mary Anne Butler, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Mr. Matthew Buechel, Student Representative

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

NONE

C. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS

NONE

D. STUDENT LIAISON REPORT

The student representative reported:

- That on March 3, 2012, the Junior Class sponsored the Neon-Black Light Dance. Approximately 150 students attended and it was a huge success.
- With one week into the CAPT testing, students are working very hard. The Physical Education Department is providing games and activities for tenth graders before CAPT testing each day. The winning team will have a pizza party and receive T-shirts.
- SATs were held this past Saturday.
- On March 23, 2012, the Faculty/Student Basketball Games will be held. This will be the 2nd Annual games sponsored by the student to student program.
- We are one week away from the start of Spring Sports. Baseball started today for pitchers and catchers.
- The Mr. Falcon Pageant will take place on March 30, 2012.
- Student course selections for next year are complete. Counselors are finishing up with individual students before scheduling begins.
- Indoor Track had four students that competed at the National Championships in New York City.
- The Faculty Talent Show to help raise money for the band/chorus trip to New York City was a success.

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE
III. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM STAFF

NONE

B. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

1. Update on Middle School Consolidation

Mr. Kadri stated that the request for the middle school consolidation has been approved by the Board, Town Council and will go to the RTM on Wednesday.

Mr. Greenleaf reviewed what work has begun at CMS that doesn’t interfere with classes. He noted that he hoped to have 50% of the work done by the end of the school year and finish the rest over the summer.

2. Update on Redistricting

Mr. Kadri stated that he has had several conversations with the State on racial balance, the Board has given the administration some priorities and the administration is ready to reach out to the architects for the next round of calculations.

Dr. Hoyt asked Mr. Kadri to share the context of his conversation with the State on racial balance.

Mr. Kadri stated that the calculation of racial balance is taking the percentage of white and the percentage of non-white students across the grade levels. While there are levels of compliance, to be out of compliance is defined as being 25% above or 25% below that average. Questions were asked if the State would accept efforts such as if we were to have a partnership with another school. The answer from the State was no. It has to be the students that are enrolled in a school in the district. With that limitation, the Board set its priorities. One of them was that perhaps we would have to give up the idea of having direct feeder schools from the elementary to the middle school and that does give a higher level of flexibility that we will see if we can make something work and meet racial diversity and have the opportunity to have direct feeder schools for the elementary.

3. Update on Baseball Field

This item is still in litigation.
IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. District Quality Council:
   Mr. Kadri noted that the DQC committee is being reconstructed, the two leaders of the committee stepped down last year, and trainers were brought to the district who gave committee members an overview.

2. Finance Committee:
   Mr. Zezulka noted the return of the list of warrants. Mr. Zezulka stated that the next Finance Committee meeting will be during the next COW meeting.

3. Communications Committee:
   Mrs. Volkmann stated that the Communications Committee met last week. Mrs. Doyle noted the Community Leaders meeting held on March 9, 2012 which she and Dr. Hoyt attended.

4. Negotiations Committee:
   Mrs. Washington stated that the Negotiations Committee met with the administrators and teachers to discuss their concerns regarding the paraprofessionals.

5. LEARN:
   Mrs. Volkmann stated that LEARN met on March 8, 2012. Mrs. Volkmann noted that Dr. Judy Golden, Superintendent of East Hampton, presented on the Global Education perspectives. Dr. Golden had the opportunity to visit Taiwan and Viet Nam. Mrs. Volkmann further noted that LEARN received a Superintendent’s perspective from Paul Freeman, Superintendent of Guilford, on Budget 101 Web Episode. Lastly, Mrs. Volkmann noted that LEARN received an update on the Marine Science Magnet School that an additional 20 Groton students will attend.

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

8. Curriculum Committee: Mrs. Gianacoplos stated that the Curriculum Committee met and reviewed the middle school electives.

9. Facilities Committee: Dr. Hoyt stated that the Facilities Committee has been concerned with redistricting at the middle school level.

10. Groton Parent Council: Mrs. Gianacoplos stated that the Groton Parent Council met on February 15, 2012, at Cutler Middle School and had a report from the Superintendent. She also noted that there has been network sharing between PTOs. Mrs. Gianacoplos stated that the next meeting of the Groton Parent Council will be April 10, 2012 at Northeast Academy School.

11. Town & City Councils/RTM/BOE Liaison Committee: Dr. Hoyt noted that the Town & City Councils/RTM/BOE Liaison Committee met last week and did a major review of the By-Laws, set some goals and will again the beginning of April.

12. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee: Mr. Zezulka stated that the GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee will meet on Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

13. Committee of the Whole: Dr. Hoyt stated that the Committee of the Whole met and had updates on the middle school consolidation and redistricting as well as curriculum at the middle school level.

14. CABE: Mrs. Washington stated that CABE’s Day on the Hill is March 14, 2012 in Hartford and encouraged Board members to attend.
IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.


V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Special Meetings of February 1 and 11, 2012, the Regular Meeting of February 13, 2012, the Special Meetings of February 15, 22 and March 5, 2012, are hereby accepted and approved.

2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING WARRANTS

RESOLVED, that the Warrants dated March 12, 2012 are hereby accepted and approved.

3. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS

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

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. Second 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
B. OLD 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.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

C. NEW BUSINESS

NONE

VI. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS

1. Mrs. Watson noted:
   a. That she attended the ECC Swim meet held at Avery Point and that Fitch High School came in second.
   b. That a couple of people have come up to her to talk about the Community Leader Conference.
   c. That on March 24, 2012 the Lighthouse Vocational is sponsoring the Grace Curtis Day and they are having three speakers.
   d. That she attended the Dancing with the Stars function sponsored by the Groton Education Foundation and that the senior class raised a lot of funds from this event. She stated that it was absolutely amazing.
   e. That she attended the CABE workshop for Board members held tonight.
A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS – cont.

2. Mrs. Doyle noted:
   a. That she attended the ECC Swim meet.
   b. That she attended the ECC Wrestling meet and that a senior has gone on to the State Finals.
   c. That she attended the CABE workshop for Board members held tonight.

3. Ms. Gianacoplos noted:
   a. That she heard about the success of the Dancing with the Stars function.
   b. That she attended the Town Council meeting on the Board’s supplemental appropriation request. Mrs. Gianacoplos thanked the Town Council for acting on the supplemental appropriation so quickly.
   c. That she attended the CABE workshop for Board members held tonight.

4. Dr. Hoyt noted:
   a. That she attended the Dancing with the Stars function.
   b. That she attended the Community Leaders breakfast.
   c. That she attended the CABE workshop for Board members held tonight.

5. Mr. Zezulka noted:
   a. The Groton Education Foundation Dancing with the Stars and how he felt that the media dropped the ball in their coverage of the event. He noted that in attendance was over 600 people and much money was raised. He stated that the media did not capture what the event was all about. Mr. Zezulka gave high praise to the organizers of the wonderful event.

6. Mrs. Volkmann noted:
   a. That she seconded the comments made by Mr. Zezulka regarding the Groton Education Foundation event.
   b. That she attended the Community Leaders meeting last Friday.
   c. That she has received e-mails on redistricting.
   d. That on March 22, 2012, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Mrs. Catherine Kolnaski will be honored at Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School.

7. Mrs. Washington noted:
   a. That she received an e-mail from Julie Cagle.
   b. That the Groton Education Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held on March 18, 2012 at 1:00 p.m., at the Mystic Hylton. She stated that seven former Groton Public Schools employees will be inducted.

VII. ADVANCE PLANNING

A Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.
B Suggested Agenda Items

Mrs. Washington made a referral to the Policy Committee of doing away with the “D” grade.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Zezulka and seconded by Mrs. Gianacoplos to go into Executive Session at 8:18 p.m., for the purpose of discussing possible litigation on the Baseball Field and to invite Mr. Kadri to attend.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

PRESENT

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

Mr. Paul J. Kadri, Superintendent of Schools

ABSENT

Mr. Robert Peruzzotti

Possible litigation on the Baseball Field was discussed. No action was taken.

A motion was made by Mr. Zezulka and seconded by Mrs. Doyle to return to Open Session at 8:30 p.m.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

A motion was made by Mr. Zezulka and seconded by Mrs. Watson to adjourn at 8:31 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY