Special Meeting

A special meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on April 2, 2012, in Room 11 of the School Administration Building.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Kirsten Hoyt, Board Chairperson, at 7:07 p.m.

The first order of business was the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Matthew Buechel.

**PRESENT**

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

**ABSENT**

Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos, Vice Chairperson
Mr. Robert Peruzzotti

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
Mr. Matthew Buechel, Student Representative
Miss Jaryn Burgis, Student Representative

Dr. Hoyt read the Board Mission Statement.

**B. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

1. Mrs. Debra Frank, 29 Cheesebrough Farm Road, addressed the safety of children who were requested to put paper towels in their mouths by a teacher at Northeast School. Upon mentioning the name of the teacher involved, the Board Chairperson explained that this was a personnel matter and should be referred to the Personnel Department. She asked Mrs. Frank if she would like a meeting with the Personnel Department and Mrs. Frank stated yes she would. Mrs. Frank presented the Board with a petition regarding this matter.
C. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND DELEGATIONS

Mr. Kadri introduced Mr. Arcaresse who gave an overview of the Governor’s Scholars Award recipient, Erika Mayer, an eleventh grader at Fitch High School. Erika was one of 150 juniors who participated for this award. Mr. Arcaresse noted that Erika was required to write an essay which was on social networking and its effect. Mr. Arcaresse stated that Erika will attend a luncheon in Southington on May 17, 2012.

D. STUDENT LIAISON REPORT

The student representatives reported:

- That the CAPT testing was over and that students worked very hard to do their very best.
- That spring sports teams will begin their regular season this week.
- That the Boys Indoor Track Team broke the school record in the 200 meter relay with a time of 1 minutes 10 seconds.
- That the third quarter just ended and report cards should be mailed this week.
- That the Mr. Falcon Contest was held this past Saturday night. It was a great night for everyone by showcasing the tremendous talent we have at Fitch High School. Winners were:
  - Matt Lewis, Mr. Falcon
  - Kyle Perry, Mr. Spirit
  - Garrett Hodgden, Mr. Congeniality
  - Ben Brochu, Mr. Talent
- That AP and IB testing begins on May 2, 2012.
- That the Robotics Team finished second in this past weekend’s competition in Hartford. The Aluminum Falcons are considered nationally as one of the best teams.
- That April is Autism Awareness Month.
- That Spring break begins Thursday.

II. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Zuzulka and seconded by Mrs. Watson to go into Executive Session at 7:20 p.m., for the purpose of discussing personnel issues regarding an administrator and to invite Mr. Kadri and Mrs. Dickey to attend.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY
EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ABSENT
Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos, Vice Chairperson
Mr. Robert Peruzzotti

Mr. Paul J. Kadri, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Carolyn Dickey, Business Manager

Personnel issues regarding an administrator were discussed. No action was taken.

A motion was made by Dr. Hoyt and seconded by Mrs. Doyle to return to Open Session at 8:05 p.m.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

III. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM STAFF

NONE

B. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

1. Update on Redistricting

Mr. Kadri stated that at the last Board meeting, Option 7 was the run that the Board was most interested in. Mr. Kadri stated that he met with the Transportation Coordinator regarding Option 7. He noted that the Transportation Coordinator felt there were only two places that had to be moved.

- Kings Bonnie Circle and Maple to Claude Chester from Mary Morrisson.
- The west side of Meridian Street to Pleasant Valley and Meridian Street Extension (East side) to Claude Chester.
- The third area the Transportation Coordinator would like the Board to explore is Ensign Drive going to S. B. Butler.
B. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – cont.

Mr. Kadri stated that he would be meeting on Thursday with the architects to make final tweaks to the plan. Mr. Kadri stated that it does not look like he will be able to move anymore students from Catherine Kolnaski. The Transportation Coordinator did not feel there was any way she could do so. Mr. Kadri noted that we are two weeks away from having a final run.

Mr. Kadri noted that all of Midway Oval will go to Claude Chester and Ring Drive will go to S. B. Butler.

2. Update on Wireless

Mr. Kadri noted that under the consolidation supplemental CIP there was $102,000 to put wireless technology in two middle schools. He also noted that the Technology Department through a Federal funded E-Rate, received an extra grant tied to CK which allows for wireless technology to be subsidized to two other elementary schools. This left three remaining elementary schools to be finished and there is Technology funds set aside for this from last year. So, the District is at the point where all buildings will be wireless with the exception of a small section of the high school. Lastly, the District is presently putting air conditioners in the last elementary schools.

Mr. Kadri noted recent security issues:

- On Friday a suspicious package showed up at the high school which was found to have just a Teddy Bear in it. Mr. Kadri stated that the administration takes security very seriously. He expressed his thanks to the Police, Fire Department, State Police and the Navy all of whom were involved in some way in this incident and helped to resolve the situation in a very short period of time.
- Incidents at the middle school and the high school. Mr. Kadri thanked the student because some lockers were searched.

3. Good News!

- Volunteer Data for the month of February:  613 Volunteers who generated 2712 volunteer hours.
- S. B. Butler had a huge turnout for their annual Family Fun and Fitness night on March 22, 2012. Families were treated to eye and ear screenings and blood pressure screening. They were able to participate in Zumba and step classes. They took safe bike classes, reviewed the Groton dogs in action, were served healthy snacks, had Parks and Rec and Mystic Fire Department personnel on hand and had the children run an obstacle course.
B. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – cont.

- West Side Middle had their Multi-cultural Dinner last week. There was live entertainment. Students did a French-Latin Hip Hop Dance and music was provided from a Jazz Band and Folk Singer. There was lots of cultural foods and 267 attended.
- This Wednesday at Claude Chester, they will have the first after school Run Like a Girl Club. It will be held every Wednesday through May for girls in grades 3, 4, and 5. Cassie Rasmussen, Third Grade Teacher at Claude Chester with the help of a few other teachers, have organized the club. The purpose of this club is to provide students the opportunity to build their physical endurance through running or walking, develop healthy self-esteem and build positive relationships.
- Catherine Kolnaski raised over $200 for the Groton Food Locker and collected over 100 food items at their Souper Supper. Two teachers are starting a running club at Branford Avenue and fifth graders visited the Coast Guard Academy for the Young Persons Concern and they received feedback on that.
- There was an Open House for the Robotics Club just before their competition this weekend. Mr. Kadri had the opportunity to get a tour. He inquired about Scholarship money and found out that Scholarship money is readily available.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. District Quality Council:
   
   There was no report.

2. Finance Committee:
   
   There was no report.

3. Communications Committee:
   
   Mrs. Volkmann stated that the Communications Committee met last week.

4. Negotiations Committee:
   
   Mrs. Washington stated that the Negotiations Committee met and discussed the Robotics stipends.

5. LEARN:
   
   Mrs. Volkmann stated that LEARN will meet on April 12 2012.
IV. COMMITTEE REPORT – cont.

6. Wellness Committee:

Mrs. Doyle stated that the Wellness Committee met on March 25, 2012. Mr. Kadri stated that the Committee had a discussion of an Adult Fitness Program for staff members and a request was made that the elementary schedule include a 10 minutes fitness break.

7. Policy Committee:

Mrs. Doyle stated that the Policy Committee met tonight and discussed the Social Networking Policy and Adult Education Program – the number of credits and the number of hours.

8. Curriculum Committee:

Mrs. Butler stated that the Curriculum Committee met and reviewed:

- The first draft of middle school Math curriculum for 6, 7, and Pre-Algebra. It’s complete and waiting for her review as well as being posted on Sharepoint.
- That they are positing for the Algebra curriculum writers and are looking for middle school and high school representatives. It should be complete by the end of May.
- That the elementary level is still working on writing. They need a couple of more days. They are finding some difficulties in the consistencies in their writing regarding sight words.
- That the L. A. middle school team are meeting in grades 6-7-8. They should wrap up this week. They expect their final revisions to be done on May 10, 2012.
- Computer Anchor Courses for grades 6-7-8 are complete. They are waiting for her review and will be posted on Sharepoint.
- Personal fitness for 6-7-8 is also complete and posted on Sharepoint.
- The World Language staff got together and drafted what they are calling French and Spanish 1.5. This is for students who have taken everyday language this year.
IV. COMMITTEE REPORT – cont.

There may be some textbook implications that they are discussing. They do need to get together and clean up the document and design some common assessments.

9. Facilities Committee:

Mr. Greenleaf stated that the Town Council met to consider the three resolutions for each of the grants. The Town Council will meet on Tuesday and will vote. The resolutions will include:

- Forming a Resolution Committee
- Giving the Board permission to apply for a grant from the State
- Developing plans and specifications

As far as the project goes, they are getting close to having the plans completed so that we can draw permits. We should be ready to go to bid for the portable in about six weeks. We’re being held up a little bit by the State. Mr. Greenleaf visited the State with the architect last week to discuss the process they require and there is a number of new steps that we’re required to do that we weren’t aware of. But they can’t schedule the final review of the plans until May 28th which is a little bit late for us. They are looking for another date to fit in that is a little earlier.

10. Groton Parent Council:

There was no report

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

Dr. Hoyt noted that the Town & City Councils/RTM/BOE Liaison Committee will meet on Wednesday.

12. GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee:

Dr. Hoyt stated that the GEA/AGSA/BOE Liaison Committee has met and discussed the climate in the district. Dr. Hoyt noted that three additional meetings have been scheduled to continue to discuss the climate in the district.
IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

13. Committee of the Whole:

Dr. Hoyt stated that the Committee of the Whole met and had updates on Facilities, Communications, Initiatives, Twenty-First Century Skills, Redistricting, and Governor Malloy’s Education Reform Bill.

14. CABE:

Mrs. Washington stated that CABE met last Thursday and discussed SB24 Bill. Mrs. Washington noted that CABE was unhappy with the changes to the bill. Mrs. Washington gave an overview of the bill and the proposed changes. Mrs. Washington noted that a Press Conference will be held on April 10, 2012 at the Legislative Offices.

Mrs. Washington noted that she went to the Convention meeting. She stated that the next Convention will be November 16, 17, 2012 at the Mystic Marriott.

15. Ad Hoc Board Handbook:

Mrs. Volkmann stated that the Ad Hoc Board Handbook Committee will meet on April 4, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. Mrs. Volkmann stated that Mr. Zezulka is proofing the document.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Special Meetings of March 7, 12, 26, 2012, and the Regular Meeting of March 12, 2012, are hereby accepted and approved.

2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING WARRANTS

RESOLVED, that the Warrants dated April 2, 2012 are hereby accepted and approved.
3. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS

   • Pfizer United Way Campaign (Glen Fitzmorris) made a donation of $72.30 to the Groton Public Schools.

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

   PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. NATIONAL SCHOOL NURSES’ DAY

   WHEREAS, May 6, 2012 has been designated as School Nurses’ Day, and

   WHEREAS, school nurses provide the services mandated by the State of Connecticut, and

   WHEREAS, school nurses provide nursing care to students with asthma, diabetes, life threatening allergies and neurological cardiovascular problems, and

   WHEREAS, school nurses give preventative and acute care to students and staff, health education, medication management and supportive counseling daily, and

   WHEREAS, school nurses actively collaborate with staff, families and medical providers to building student capacity for self-management, self-advocacy and learning, and

   WHEREAS, the Board of Education acknowledges that May 6, 2012 has been designated as School Nurses’ Day, and

   WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to express its appreciation and gratitude to all school nurses for the unique contributions they make every day toward improving the health and well-being of children in the Groton Public Schools; therefore, be it
C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education and Paul J. Kadri, Superintendent of Schools, thank all school nurses for their commitment and dedication to the children of Groton Public Schools.

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

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

2. ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS’ DAY AND WEEK

WHEREAS, Wednesday, April 25, 2012 has been designated as Administrative Professionals’ Day and April 22-28, 2012 has been designated as Administrative Professionals’ Week, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to express its appreciation and gratitude to all administrative professionals/secretaries who serve the Groton Public Schools; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education and Paul J. Kadri, Superintendent of Schools, recognizes their many contributions to the children of the district and their important role in assuring the orderly and efficient operation of all district programs.

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

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

3. APPROVAL OF ROBOTICS COACH STIPENDS

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has previously voted to establish Robotics Coach stipends at Fitch High School, and

WHEREAS, a recommendation is being made to establish the following coaching stipend positions: for the 2011-2012 school year, the Head Coach stipend of $4,100/$4,500, and for the 2012-2013 school year, the Head Coach stipend of $4,182/$4,590 and Assistant Coach stipend of $3,075/$3,375; therefore be it
C. NEW BUSINESS – cont.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and with the agreement of the Groton Education Association, the Board of Education approves the stipends as additions to Schedule C.

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

Mrs. Washington explained the reasons for this request.

- He starts in September and goes until June.
- The first 13 weeks is the design phase.
- He meets once a week for 3 hour meetings.
- The first week of January and February is the intensive build phase where the robot is built and tested.
- There is up to 3 meetings per week that may last 5 hours per meeting.
- The competition phase lasts from March until June with 6 competitions. Two are 3 day events with one involving an overnight stay in New York and the other is an all-day event. Each are 12 hour events.
- There is also an organizational time component which involves fundraising. The robotics club gets no funding from the Board. Every dollar they get, the Coach has to fundraise for.
- Cooperate sponsorship visits, outreach and community service, registering for events, travel plans, contacting suppliers, etc. He does 100 hours of work throughout the year.
- He has about 30 students and about 20 volunteers.
- This year the Negotiations Committee is asking for his stipend retroactive for the whole year and next year they will be asking for the addition of an Assistant Coach.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

4. APPROVAL OF MODIFICATIONS TO IDENTIFIED CENTRAL OFFICE PERSONNEL CONTRACTS

WHEREAS, the Board of Education met in an executive session on April 2, 2012 to consider a recommendation by the Superintendent to make modifications to employment contracts for certain Central Office personnel, and

WHEREAS, based on that discussion, certain recommendations are being made which will be detailed at this meeting; therefore be it
C. **NEW BUSINESS** – cont.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the stated modifications.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gardner and seconded by Mrs. Volkmann to table this motion until the next Regular Board of Education.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gardner and seconded by Dr. Hoyt to amend the motion to table the resolution until the next Regular Board of Education meeting on May 14, 2012.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:**

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

**VOTE ON MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED:**

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

VI. **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

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

1. Mrs. Watson noted:
   a. That she received communications by the speaker this evening.
   b. That she attended the Governors’ Forum in New London.
   c. That she attended the Mr. Falcon Talent Show.
   d. That she visited CK and WSM where she attended an SRBI block.
   e. That she was concerned that the Fitch High School Softball team was not mentioned in the newspaper.

2. Mrs. Doyle noted:
   a. That she received an e-mail regarding a personnel issue.
   b. That she attended the Mr. Falcon Talent Show.

3. Mr. Zezulka noted:
   a. That he attended the Forum Bill SB 24 and was a speaker.
   b. That he was a judge for S. B. Butler’s Intervention/Convention.
   c. That he had three calls from parents regarding a safe environment at a particular school.

4. Mrs. Volkmann noted:
   a. That she attended the Governors’ Forum.
A. LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMENTS – cont.

b. That she attend the Groton Educations Hall of Fame Ceremony.
c. That she attended the Appreciation Ceremony for Mrs. Catherine Kolnaski at Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School.
d. That she read to students at NEA in Mrs. Shettes’ class for St. Patrick’s Day.
e. That she attended first grade music classes.
f. That she will be attending National School Board Conference on April 21-23, 2012 in Boston, MA.

5. Mrs. Gardner noted:
a. That she will be attending the National School Board Conference on April 21-23, 2012 in Boston, MA.
b. That she attended the Governors’ Forum.

6. Mrs. Washington noted:
a. That she attended the Governors’ Forum.
b. That she attended the Groton Educations Hall of Fame Ceremony.
c. That she attended the Appreciation Ceremony for Mrs. Catherine Kolnaski at Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School.
d. That she received a letter from a WSM parent praising the staff for raising his child. The student was a Martin Luther King recipient and was Mr. Falcon.

7. Mrs. Volkmann shared her Good News! From Claude Chester School. Mrs. Giordano, Principal of Claude Chester, stated that she gave away 1254 CMT Success Tickets to students for their excellent efforts during CMTs. Incentive prizes given were an iPod Shuffle and Gift Card.

8. Dr. Hoyt noted the same e-mails as other Board members received.

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 COW for a discussion on whether the Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School is working as a Magnet School as it was designed to. Also she would the Board during this discussion to consider whether it should be changed to a Charter School.

Mrs. Volkmann requested that the Board meet again with Mr. Hennick on the FOI Act.
B  Suggested Agenda Items – cont.

Mrs. Watson made a referral to the COW to review the Policy on Board Travel. Mrs. Watson made a referral to the COW for discussion regarding where we are going with the future of the schools.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Zezulka and seconded by Mrs. Doyle to adjourn at 8:58 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY