

GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Business Meeting Minutes
High School Library
September 27, 2011 – 7:00 PM

Approved 10.11.11

Present: Jim Frey, Berta Erickson, Leslie Lathrop, Jon Sjoberg, Alison Manugian, Erik Dichter, John Giger, Joe Mastrocola, Jerry Martin, Ariana Cho

I. Call to Order

- J. Frey called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- FloRo students Ashley Siciliano and Amanda Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Announcements

- J. Giger: GDEF presents Oktoberfest 5K Road Race on October 2 at Larter Field.
- J. Giger: GDAY presents “Understanding Teen Barriers” panel on October 19 at 7pm in the Black Box.

IV. Approval of Minutes

- J. Sjoberg moved to approve the minutes of the September 13 meeting, and A. Manugian seconded. Motion passed 6-0 (B. Erickson abstained).

V. Vote to Accept Warrant Articles

- J. Martin presented one payroll warrant for \$782,889.24 and three vendor warrants totaling \$725,074.08. A. Manugian moved to approve the warrants, and J. Giger seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

VI. Questions and Comments from the Public

- None

VII. Presentations

- None.

VIII. Reports

A. Subcommittees

- P&N: Draft document of Superintendent goals and evaluation instrument will be discussed at their October meeting. All SC members are invited to attend.
- Policy: Committee is attempting to separate policies and regulations. Next policies to review address concussions and acceptable use of social networks.
- B&F: No update since last meeting.

B. Superintendent

- Senior Rochelle Shen is a National Merit Scholarship semi-finalist.
- Thanks to Pam Patnode, Crusader Café is open at the HS providing healthy snacks from 2:15-3:00pm. Also, there is wi-fi in the HS lobby from 2:15-3:15pm. Berta also thanked Pam for her role in the Garden-to-Table initiative.

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- An athletic field exploratory committee has been formed to consider a synthetic turf field at the HS. Dunstable parent Tim Sheehan will lead, and the committee will report back in early 2012. Leslie would like to revisit minutes from SC meetings surrounding creation of football program. Berta says field was not originally designed for football, which adds much more wear and tear.
- Tech update: Gary Babin and his team were very busy over the summer acquiring new hardware for HS and MS use; repurposing equipment for FloRo, SU, and MS; and enhancing software and infrastructure. These improvements are aligned with the “G-D 21 Plan” (Superintendent goal). Jim brings attention to SNAP software and BAE donation. Alison asked if I-parent can eventually replace welcome packets. John asked if non-parents can get guest logins for I-Parent. Leslie suggested enlisting community helpers when deploying wireless network at HS.
- Joe announced “Fireside Chats” at 9:30am on Sep 28 at Prescott and 6:00pm on Oct 4 at MS-South cafeteria, and “Tea with Joe” at 3:30pm on Oct 4 at Prescott.

C. Director of Budget and Finance

- HS refunding went through as planned.

D. Advisory Committees

- Tarbell: There is a Town Meeting warrant to approve \$30K for a septic system.
- Prescott: Committee is working on responses to 8 RFP’s.

E. Chair

- There will be an Executive Session immediately after the General Meeting for an update on Unit A negotiations.
- 2012 MASC conference attendees will be Leslie, Alison, and John.
- Mark Hennelly has requested a memorial naming of the HS gymnasium. Joe and Jim will create an ad hoc committee to review the request per policies FF and FFA.

IX. Discussions

- School Committee goals: Joe provided input on the six SC goals and objectives. John said that Joe’s input is excellent because his wording adds detail and clarity to the goals. Leslie moved to accept Joe’s wording on goals except “risk/liability” goal, and Alison seconded. Jim amended Joe’s 6th goal by adding “academic performance”, and Jon seconded. Jim’s motion passed 7-0. Leslie’s motion passed 7-0.
- SC is not in a position to take action regarding private vs. State-run Collaborative issues. If we are to take action or make a position statement, it must happen soon. Berta said it may be sufficient to simply enforce the rules that are already in place, and John agrees.

X. New Business

- Berta said that the State is considering mandating physical education in schools. She will present the issue at a Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee meeting.
- Leslie would like to see more after-school activities (e.g. intramural sports), and she proposed a fee-based late bus program.

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- John would like to discuss NEASC Coordinated Review at a future meeting. Joe will add to the agenda. ELL is one area that requires significant attention.
- Alison would like to improve community communication (possibly via SC workshop). A lot has changed since the last community survey. Alison will query MASC listserv and follow up at conference.
- Jim: Staff is looking at 2011 MCAS results, and they will present at next SC meeting.
- State Commissioner Chester will apply for waiver for AYP requirements (No Child Left Behind).

XI. Adjournment

- Jon moved to adjourn at to Executive Session (with no intention of returning to General Meeting) at 8:30pm, and Alison seconded. John objected to Executive Session because it wasn't posted in advance. Motion passed 5-2 (John and Alison against).

Respectfully Submitted,
Erik Dichter