

GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

High School Library
Business Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2011

APPROVED 11/29/11

PRESENT:

Mr. Erik Dichter, Secretary
Ms Berta Erickson
Mr. Jim Frey, Chair
Mr. John Giger
Ms Leslie Lathrop
Ms Alison Manugian, Vice-chair
Mr. Jon Sjoberg

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Joseph Mastrocola, Superintendent
Mr. Gerald Martin, Director of Business and Finance

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Ariana Cho and Gabrielle Arrighi (left at 8:08 p.m.)

STAFF, PRESS, OTHERS: P. Comtois, Groton Landmark; C. Lindemer, Groton Herald;
See attached sign-in sheet

I. Call to Order:

a. Vote to Enter Executive Session

The GDRSC Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. The committee voted to adjourn to Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21a-2, for the purpose to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel for the purpose of Unit A personnel.

b. Reconvene in Regular Session

The GDRSC Meeting reconvened in open session at 7:18 p.m. and was called to order by the chair, J. Frey.

II. Pledge of Allegiance - Students from Middle School (Grades 5-6)

Sixth grader Nicole Bozhurt and fifth grader James Phelps led the Pledge of Allegiance. Nicole's favorite subjects are science and English language arts and lunch is her favorite part of the day. James likes gym and science and enjoys playing soccer and following the Bruins.

III. Announcements

J. Mastrocola wished good luck to Coach Wisby and the boys soccer team as they participate in the state tournament tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. at Lunenburg High School.

J. Mastrocola thanked John Giger and Principal Mastrullo for organizing the first Veterans Day ceremony to be held at the high school. Mr. Giger was the featured speaker.

IV. Approval of Minutes

J. GIGER MOVED TO APPROVE THE BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 25, 2011.
SECONDED BY A. MANUGIAN

In Favor: J. Sjoberg, B. Erickson, J. Frey, A. Manugian, L. Lathrop, J. Giger

Abstention: E. Dichter

V. Vote to Accept Warrant Articles

A. MANUGIAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE REPORT OF ONE PAYROLL WARRANT DATED NOVEMBER 3, 2011 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$790,430.14 AND VARIOUS VENDOR WARRANTS TOTALING \$1,151,734.13. SECONDED BY J. GIGER
SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

VI. Questions and Comments from the Public

None

VII. Presentations

A. Girls Basketball Trip - Coach Mark Hennelly explained the girls varsity basketball team will be traveling to Hyannis on December 2nd and returning on December 4th. The cost per student is \$125 which is about \$50 more than last year due to Dee Bus providing the transportation. He noted team bonding is a large part of this trip.

B. ERICKSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL TRIP TO CAPE COD FROM DECEMBER 2, 2011 THROUGH DECEMBER 4, 2011. SECONDED BY L. LATHROP
SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

B. Boys Basketball Trip - Coach Woods explained the boys varsity basketball team will be traveling to Harwich on December 2nd and returning on December 4th. The cost per student is \$150 and this is double last year's cost due to Dee Bus providing the transportation. Fundraising will occur next year to help offset the increased cost.

J. GIGER MOVED TO APPROVE THE BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL TRIP TO CAPE COD FROM DECEMBER 2, 2011 THROUGH DECEMBER 4, 2011. SECONDED BY B. ERICKSON
SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

C. London, England Field Trip - T. Savoy - The GDRHS Chamber Chorus has been invited to represent the USA at the August 2012 Summer Olympics in London and J. Mastrocola said this is a unique trip for the district, the state and the country. T. Savoy explained the Chamber Chorus has won every first place competition they have entered for three consecutive years. They have also won every Best Solo and Best Section award. They changed to a higher division level for the 2010 competitions so they are now competing with much larger schools and they still win everything they enter. He said this invitation is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the students and they would be performing at three major Olympic events in front of 50,000 people and at three or four minor events for 15,000 people. Mr. Savoy introduced Oliver Scofield, president of KI Concerts, who flew in from London for tonight's meeting.

O. Scofield said performing at the Olympics will provide a world stage and a world environment and the students will have the chance to sing on a number of stages in London, from Hyde Park, to outside the Tower of London, to a Cathedral setting. Between performances, students will have a sightseeing itinerary on a dedicated bus with dedicated tour guides. With respect to security, he stated the Olympics is one of the most policed events in the world. Student accommodations will be outside the city. KI Concerts is a small company and has been in existence for 10 years and they only do international tours. Mr. Scofield said he will be doing the planning for this trip and travel insurance is included in the cost.

B. Erickson asked if a nurse will be going on the trip and T. Savoy said Ms Ireland will be on the trip. B. Erickson said she would like to see their experiences tied into the curriculum and suggested the students write papers. She would also like them to come to a school committee meeting to talk about their experiences.

J. Frey asked about their fundraising plans. T. Savoy said their goal is to raise the total cost of the trip and a parent email group has been formed to discuss costs. They all ready have two commitments from companies

and fundraising will begin with earnest after the committee approves the trip. He said they will be working with corporate sponsors.

L. Lathrop asked if the students will be able to collaborate with other students. O. Scofield said working with the English is easy but it is hard to plan in advance with others.

J. Giger asked the policy around graduates who will be on the trip. Should there be any discipline problems, R. Arena said the student would be sent home at the parents expense and a letter would also be sent to the college the student would be attending. He said they do not anticipate any problems but they do have a contingency plan. He noted graduates can sign up independently and would fall under the umbrella of KI Concerts. T. Savoy said they have a signed contract from each parent that states the risks.

**L. LATHROP MOVED THEY APPROVE THE GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMBER CHORUS LONDON SUMMER GAMES 2012 TRIP. SECONDED BY B. ERICKSON
SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY**

D. Ice Hockey Trip - Coach Mike McCaffrey explained the team will leave for Hyannis on December 2nd and return on December 4th. The cost per student is \$150 and approximately \$50 of the cost is for the bus. They will participate in three scrimmages. Fundraising is done during the year for equipment.

L. LATHROP MOVED THEY APPROVE THE ICE HOCKEY TRIP TO HYANNIS FROM DECEMBER 2ND THROUGH DECEMBER 4TH CONTINGENT ON THE PROPER PAPERWORK BEING SUBMITTED TO, AND APPROVED BY, THE SUPERINTENDENT BEFORE THANKSGIVING. SECONDED BY B. ERICKSON
In Favor: J. Sjoberg, B. Erickson, E. Dichter, J. Frey, L. Lathrop, J. Giger
Abstention: A. Manugian

VIII. Reports

A. Subcommittees

Personnel and Negotiations - J. Sjoberg reported they met to work on the superintendent's evaluation form and the new format encourages more comments and has gone to a scale of 5. A copy of the evaluation instrument was distributed and he asked members to send him any corrections. He said the process will be the same as last year's and done publicly. Their next meeting is scheduled for December 20th.

Policy Subcommittee - L. Lathrop reported they hope to meet next week but their next scheduled meeting is December 6th. The snowstorm forced the cancellation of their November 1st meeting.

Budget & Finance Subcommittee - A. Manugian reported they will meet at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday at the MSS library. Town officials will be in attendance to participate in the budget process.

Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee - No report

B. Superintendent

1. John and Abigail Adams Scholarship - The John and Abigail Adams Scholarship provides a tuition waiver for eight semesters of undergraduate education at a Massachusetts state college or university. Massachusetts public high school students are eligible for the scholarship when they earn a score of Advanced on the ELA or Mathematics test and a score of Proficient or higher on the second test and have a combined score that places them in the top 25% of the graduating class in their district. Members were provided with a list of the sixty-three Groton-Dunstable students who are eligible for the scholarship.

2. AP Honors - Press Release - The Groton-Dunstable Regional School District is one of fewer than 400 public school districts in the nation being honored by the College Board with a place on the 2nd Annual AP® Honor Roll, for simultaneously increasing access to Advanced Placement coursework while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP exams. Achieving both of these goals is the ideal scenario for a district's Advanced Placement program, because it indicates that the district is

successfully identifying motivated, academically-prepared students who are likely to benefit most from AP coursework.

J. Mastrocola said he will present the letter and certificate from the College Board to Principal Mastrullo tomorrow.

3. Donations

a. Somatron Vibrotactile Tubby Ball Pool - Jill Twigg would like to donate their Somatron Vibrotactile Tubby Ball Pool to the Boutwell School Occupational and Physical Therapy Department on behalf of Olivia Twigg. The tubby ball pool is valued at \$1800. B. Erickson said this is an outstanding donation and a great benefit to autistic children.

B. ERICKSON MOVED TO ACCEPT THE DONATION OF THE SOMATRON VIBROTACTILE TUBBY BALL POOL FOR THE BOUTWELL SCHOOL OCCUPATIONAL AND PHYSICAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT.
SECONDED BY A. MANUGIAN
SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

b. BAE Systems - Thanks to the good work of Mr. Lathrop and Mr. Babin, the district has received a generous donation of 30 Dell laptops and 30 Dell workstations from BAE Systems In Nashua. This is the second donation from them and J. Mastrocola said they will recognize BAE Systems at a future school committee meeting.

L. LATHROP MOVED THEY ACCEPT THE 30 DELL LAPTOPS AND 30 DELL WORKSTATIONS FROM BAE SYSTEMS. SECONDED BY B. ERICKSON
SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

c. Fidelity Charitable Grants - Swallow Union - \$400 made possible through the generosity and recommendation of the St Lawrence Family Fund.

High School Chamber Chorus - \$15,000 made possible through the generosity and recommendation of the Pollard Family Fund. J. Mastrocola advised the funds will be earmarked for the London trip.

J. Giger pointed out the wording in the letter that says the grant may only "support purposes deemed to be 100% tax deductible" and asked if the trip is eligible. Mr. Mastrocola and Mr. Martin will look into it.

J. SJOBERG MOVED TO ACCEPT THE \$400 DONATION FROM THE ST LAWRENCE FAMILY FUND.
SECONDED BY A. MANUGIAN
SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

A. MANUGIAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE \$15,000 DONATION FROM THE POLLARD FAMILY FUND.
SECONDED BY J. GIGER
SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

d. Donation to Swallow Union - Min Hu and Jian Ren have donated \$1000 to Swallow Union. J. Mastrocola advised the funds will be used for technology.

A. MANUGIAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE \$1000 TO SWALLOW UNION FROM MIN HU AND JIAN REN.
SECONDED BY J. GIGER
SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

J. Frey said the district appreciates all these generous donations.

C. Director of Business and Finance

1. Motion for Groton-Dunstable MS Roof Replacement - J. Martin explained a vote is needed to get the Statement of Interest form into MSBA. He said there is no guarantee they will approve the funding. L. Lathrop asked if this would be the time to look at an energy saving roof. J. Mastrocola said he does not believe those types of projects are included in this Statement of Interest.

J. Sjoberg motioned to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated November 15, 2011 for the Groton-Dunstable Regional Middle School South located at 344 Main Street, Groton, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future to replace the 1989 original roof of 77,000sf. This roof and constant leaks can no longer be repaired or patched. Leaks are a constant disruption to classroom instruction and create safety hazards; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Seconded by A. Manugian

At a cost of \$10 to \$12 a square foot, G. Martin said the roof replacement will cost about \$800,000. The district would need to pay the engineer approximately 4% to 5% of the costs.

SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

2. Motion for Swallow Union Building Boiler Replacement - The cost is \$60,000 to \$70,000.

A. Manugian motioned to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated November 15, 2011 for the Swallow Union Elementary School located at 522 Main Street, Dunstable, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future to replace the 1986 original boiler in the Union Building. This aging steam boiler can not support gas conversion in this building and is not energy efficient as it is over 24 years old. In addition, the oil tank is over 20 years old. Thus this aging system may create safety hazards; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Seconded by J. Sjoberg

A. Manugian asked if additional grants and rebates are available from National Grid and J. Martin said yes.

SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY**D. Advisory Committees**

Tarbell Advisory Committee - B. Erickson reported Brookview Landscape has been awarded the contract to do the septic system at a cost of \$23,500. The new owner is expected to close on the property by December 31st.

Prescott Advisory Committee - B. Erickson reported they met with the architect to take the first steps to change the use. The site is being looked at again for the possible use as a fire station.

Due in part to the administration's work in lowering the high school debt, B. Erickson said Groton's tax rate has gone down.

E. Chair - No report

IX. Discussions

None

X. New Business

Overview of MASC Conference - A. Manugian reported all the Resolutions passed the way the school committee had voted. With respect to workshops, she was interested in the educator evaluations and got some great information on approaches to collective bargaining. She said the district needs to identify and support military students and their families.

L. Lathrop attended sessions that dealt with policies and procedures and talked with members of other school committees about policies.

J. Giger highlighted the sessions he attended and said he brought information back for Personnel and Negotiations.

XI. Adjournment

A. MANUGIAN MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:55 P.M. SECONDED BY B. ERICKSON
SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Smith
Recording Secretary