

GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

approved 4/10/13

High School Library
Business Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2013

PRESENT:

Mr. Luis DeLoureiro, Secretary
Mr. Jim Frey
Mr. John Giger, Vice-chair
Ms Leslie Lathrop
Ms Alison Manugian, Chair
Mr. Jon Sjoberg

ADMINISTRATION:

Dr. Anthony Bent, Superintendent
Ms Kerry Clery, Director of Teaching, Learning and Accountability
Ms Jeanne Mitchell, Human Resources Manager

STAFF, PRESS, OTHERS: P. Comtois, Groton Landmark; P. McLaughlin, G. Arighi, C. O'Neill, J. Sweeney, K. Sweeney

I. Call to Order:

The GDRSC Meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by the chair, A. Manugian.

II. Pledge of Allegiance - High School Students

Student Council members Peter McLaughlin and Gabrielle Arighi led the Pledge of Allegiance. Gabby is vice-president of her junior class and president of the Women's History Club Committee. March is Women's History month and the first female astronaut will be their guest speaker at tomorrow's event. Student Council members will be passing out candy at lunch to celebrate St Patrick's Day. Her classes include Honors English, AP History, French 3 and Chamber. Gabby said she really enjoys school and being active in all the events. She plans to attend a liberal arts college, probably in New England.

Peter is a freshman and said he loves school. His classes include the new writing/grammar course, English, math and biology. He is a candidate for a black belt.

Gabby and Peter will come to future meetings when they have news to share or have topics they would like to discuss.

III. Announcements

Clare O'Neill, from the Groton-Dunstable Educators Association, invited everyone to attend the variety show on Friday night at 7:00 p.m. at the PAC where they will see their educators in a whole new light. All proceeds from ticket sales and raffles are used to provide scholarships for Groton-Dunstable students.

A. Manugian announced kindergarten registration starts tomorrow night with an information session at each elementary school.

IV. Approval of Minutes

J. FREY MOVED TO APPROVE THE BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 27, 2013.
SECONDED BY J. SJOBERG
SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

V. Vote to Accept Warrant Articles

J. FREY MOVED THEY ACCEPT PAYROLL WARRANTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$828,786.73 AND VENDOR WARRANTS TOTALING \$522,479.21. SECONDED BY J. SJOBERG
SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

VI. Questions and Comments from the Public

None

VII. Presentations

None

VIII. Reports

A. Subcommittees

Policy Subcommittee - L. Lathrop reported they will be meeting with MASC at Prescott on Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. to continue reviewing the policy manual. They will complete Section B and begin Sections C & D.

Budget & Finance Subcommittee - J. Frey reported they met with town officials to review the budget as discussed at the February 27th school committee meeting. The school committee met on March 8th to adopt the proposed operating budget of \$35,200,000. Their next meeting is on March 28, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. at Prescott .

B. Superintendent

Safety and Security in the Schools- Dr. Bent reported a meeting with a representative from Dee Bus Company, the principals, assistant principals, some Central Office members, the Groton and Dunstable police chiefs and Groton and Dunstable fire chiefs was held to discuss the responses the principals received from parent groups and faculty members on what should be done differently relative to safety and security in the schools. A general discussion was then held on what they should do and what is reasonable to do. He said they need to pay attention to a culture of awareness and seriousness about this issue and they need to sharpen the existing procedures they have such as following through with asking if they can help individuals they do know who are in the buildings and not wearing a badge.

He noted there is terrific inter-agency cooperation and they will meet again before the end of the year. The police and fire chiefs will have tours of the buildings over the summer.

Follow-up - Letter from Griffin Elliott - Griffin Elliott, a fourth grader at Florence Roche, wrote a letter to the school committee sharing his concerns about the standards-based report cards. Dr. Bent and Ms Clery visited Griffin's classroom this week and asked the students to share their thoughts. K. Clery said they were incredibly impressed at how articulate and respectful the students were and they not only shared their concerns but offered solutions such as having more of a range in terms of the rating. The students were assured their feedback would be given to the committee that convenes around the standards-based report cards and will be part of the information collected in order to make appropriate tweaks for next year.

She thanked Griffin for his thoughtfulness and respect and thanked Mr. Coronis. She and Dr. Bent said it was the highlight of their day.

C. Director of Business and Finance - No report

D. Advisory Committees - No report

E. Chair

Waiver - A. Manugian reported the waiver to have Dr. Bent for a second year has been sent in and she and Dr. Bent are ready to sign the contract pending approval of the waiver.

Nomination Papers - Three individuals have turned in nomination papers for the three openings for the Groton school committee seats.

Meeting with Groton Board of Selectmen - Groton school committee members will meet with the Groton Board of Selectmen to appoint the representative, and alternate, to the Nashoba Tech School Committee. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 1st at 7:15 p.m. Kevin Mackenzie is interested in being reappointed as their representative and they are looking for someone to serve as an alternate.

IX. Discussions

1. Technology Warrant

Dr. Bent said Mr. Haddad suggested a descriptive paragraph be included with the warrant article and Dr. Bent shared what he wrote. This will also be sent to Dunstable.

J. Frey explained the total request of the article is \$562,055 and will be used to improve technology infrastructure (\$164,225) and technology for teaching and learning (\$397,830). Resources for teaching and learning will include laptop carts, laptops for teachers, additional document cameras, replacing LCD projectors and a one time infrastructure upgrade/refresh of the language lab at the high school. The infrastructure portion is mostly comprised of setting up wireless access at the other campuses and some air conditioning units will be needed to keep the new technology at the proper operating temperature.

Details of each of the line items, as well as the training plan and what the technology plan is for the future will be made available through the website and other communication avenues. Funding is available in the current year budget, and next year's budget, to address the bandwidth upgrades.

A. Manugian said Groton will likely be able to absorb their portion under the levy limit and Dunstable will be going for a one time exclusion.

**J. FREY MOVED THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO SEE IF THE TOWN OF GROTON WILL VOTE TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE, TRANSFER FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS, AND/OR BORROW A SUM OR SUMS OF MONEY, TO PAY THE TOWN OF GROTON'S SHARE OF THE PROPOSED GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT'S TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENT PLAN, AS ADOPTED BY THE GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ON MARCH 13, 2013, AND ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED AND RELATED THERETO, OR TAKE ANY OTHER ACTION RELATIVE THERETO. SECONDED BY L. LATHROP
SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY**

**J. FREY MOVED THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO SEE IF THE TOWN OF DUNSTABLE WILL VOTE TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE, TRANSFER FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS, AND/OR BORROW A SUM OR SUMS OF MONEY, TO PAY THE TOWN OF DUNSTABLE'S SHARE OF THE PROPOSED GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT'S TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENT PLAN, AS ADOPTED BY THE GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ON MARCH 13, 2013, AND ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED AND RELATED THERETO, OR TAKE ANY OTHER ACTION RELATIVE THERETO. SECONDED BY J. SJOBERG
SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY**

J. FREY MOVED THEY ADOPT A PLAN FOR TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENT FOR THE SCHOOLS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 TOTALING \$562,055. SECONDED BY J. SJOBERG
SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL

X. New Business

None

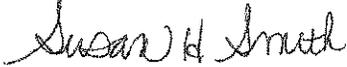
XI. Adjournment

J. SJOBERG MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:38 P.M., NOT TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION, FOR THE PURPOSE TO CONDUCT STRATEGY SESSIONS IN PREPARATION FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH NONUNION PERSONNEL AND/OR TO CONDUCT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SESSIONS OR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH NONUNION PERSONNEL IN ACCORDANCE WITH M.G.L. CH.30A, SECTION 21 a-2. SECONDED BY J. FREY

SO VOTED BY ROLL CALL

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

Respectfully submitted,



Susan H. Smith
Recording Secretary