

# GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

High School Library

Business Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2006      Approved July 26, 2006

## **PRESENT:**

Ms Cindy Barrett, Secretary  
Ms Berta Erickson  
Dr. Paul Funch  
Ms Karen Lofgren  
Mr. Chuck McKinney, Chair  
Mr. Frank O'Connell, Vice-Chair  
Mr. Alan Vervaeke

## **ADMINISTRATION:**

Dr. Alan Genovese, Superintendent  
Mr. Craig Young, Business Administrator (left at 7:48 p.m.)  
Dr. Susan Rubel, Director of Curriculum/Staff Development

**STAFF, PRESS, OTHERS:** J. Kulesz, Groton Herald; P. Comtois, Groton Landmark;  
J. Dillon, P. Hartvigsen, B. Raucci, D. Ng, J. Simmons, K. Riggert, P. Hommeyer, C. VanderLinden,  
S. Prendergast, R. Vickery, J. Robinson

## **CALL TO ORDER:**

C. McKinney announced the GDRSC Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and adjourned to executive session for the purpose of litigation and discussion on the purchase of land. The meeting reconvened in open session at 7:05 p.m. and was called to order by the chair, C. McKinney.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members read the prepared announcements and a copy is attached to these minutes.

K. Lofgren announced she attended the Memorial Day parades in Dunstable and Groton and it was nice to see the high school band and chorus participate in Dunstable's celebration. She showed a picture of Mr. Gaudette at the parade.

## **REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES**

**Building Committee - Final Report** - Building Committee Chairman Steve Prendergast said he counts their successes by the number of hugs and pats on the back Principal Dillon received at Sunday's graduation and felt these were a tribute to Mr. Dillon and the district. Members had received a copy of the final building report in their packets. S. Prendergast noted Mr. Ahern's name was missing from the membership list. The Building Committee served for eight years and he stated they are sitting in a successful and beautiful building. He thanked everyone they worked with and noted the difficult part was for Ms Riggert and Ms Hartvigsen having to go before the taxpayers to ask for the money.

**Building Committee Recognition** - C. McKinney acknowledged everyone's hard work and thanked each member for their sacrifice of time, energy and effort to make this work. He noted Ms Riggert had presented each member with a Memory Book a couple of weeks ago. Mr. Prendergast, Ms Riggert and Principal Dillon were presented with the framed article and pictures from the architectural engineering design award the district received. Dr. Genovese also presented one to Mr. Young.

## **VOTE: To Dissolve Building Committee**

A. VERVAEKE MOVED THE GROTON DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE OFFICIALLY DISSOLVE THE GROTON DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE.

SECONDED BY C. BARRETT

**SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY**

C. Young stated this was the longest Building Committee he had ever served on and that it was multi-faceted and the most harmonious group he ever worked with. He credited all the members for all the time they spent and, as an administrator and not a member of the communities, he stated he was

always treated with utmost respect.

K. Riggert stated she appreciates the gift and the words of kindness and noted Groton and Dunstable were patient and ultimately came together with an investment that will take them for a long ride.

**Policy** - K. Lofgren reported they reviewed Policy GBEA, Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest and Policy GBAE, Nepotism. They reviewed Policy BBBC, School Committee Resignation and are exploring legal protocols to address its implementation and identifying the legal definitions of the term "move out".

Their next meeting is at Tarbell on June 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**Budget and Finance** - F. O'Connell reported they will be meeting in the MSN library on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 p.m. C. McKinney reported he appointed Dr. Funch to the Committee.

**Report of the Chair** - C. McKinney reported he is proposing a summer schedule with meeting dates of July 26<sup>th</sup> and August 23<sup>rd</sup> with a workshop date to be determined. He asked members to let him know their availability or if they would like to propose different dates.

C. McKinney reported the Groton Town Study Committee has started preliminary research and discussion about whether any changes would be prudent with respect to the structure of how they govern themselves. Any member interested in serving as a liaison can let him know.

C. McKinney reported the Groton Board of Selectmen requested a School Committee member attend their June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss overlapping use of Tarbell's playground. C. Barrett and K. Lofgren stated they will attend the meeting.

**Report of the Superintendent** - Dr. Genovese reported they were approached by a cell tower company to locate a tower somewhere on the high school site. He stated they listened to the proposal but made no overtures that they would like to pursue this at this time. Should this come up again, he stated it would be a thoughtful process with the Committee discussing it as well as having public forums to involve the communities. He stated he does not anticipate anything for quite a while.

Dr. Genovese reported the Business Administrator search was put back out and they are looking at some applicants. Depending on how the pool of candidates looks, he asked members to think about how they will approach this. He stated he may make a recommendation to appoint an acting Business Administrator for a year if they feel they do not find the person they could commit to for a three year contract. He noted that person could apply for the position.

Dr. Genovese recognized Mr. Byrne, the custodial staff and the police for their organized plan getting the cars in and out for graduation.

Dr. Genovese reported there are two items not in the FY07 budget he will likely ask the Committee to address at their last meeting. One is for Connect-Ed survey and the other is for a technology position.

**Report of the Business Administrator** - C. Young reported the year-end forecast is still in the range of \$66,000 for an unexpended balance. They should be able to reserve about \$300,000 toward next year's debt assessment.

With respect to the FY07 budget, he stated there has been no change at the state level. They are still at the Senate's May 26<sup>th</sup> numbers. The budget is in Conference Committee at this time.

C. Young reported their audit review with SBA has been scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. in Boston. He distributed copies of the letter and advised members there is an allotted 30 minute time period to make their presentation. Members wishing to attend can let him know.

With respect to the high school water, C. Young reported the last round of tests showed they were making no progress and in fact, are going in the wrong direction. He distributed copies of his letter to their Project Managers, Turner Construction Company, asking for advice on how they should continue. Mr. Stirgwort has suggested they look at some other engineering firm or water specialists to see if there are

other courses of action. C. Young concurs and recommends they do so. The cost to have experts review the situation and come up with some alternatives will be about \$20,000. It was agreed Mr. Stirgwold will be asked to attend their June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

### **MINUTES**

C. BARRETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 17, 2006.  
SECONDED BY A. VERVAEKE  
**SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY**

C. BARRETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 13, 2006.  
SECONDED BY B. ERICKSON  
**In Favor:** C. Barrett, C. McKinney, B. Erickson, F. O'Connell  
**Abstention:** P. Funch, A. Vervaeke, K. Lofgren

C. BARRETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 3, 2006. SECONDED BY K. LOFGREN  
**In Favor:** C. Barrett, C. McKinney, B. Erickson, F. O'Connell, K. Lofgren  
**Abstention:** P. Funch, A. Vervaeke

C. BARRETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 17, 2006, AS AMENDED. SECONDED BY A. VERVAEKE  
**In Favor:** C. Barrett, C. McKinney, B. Erickson, F. O'Connell, P. Funch, A. Vervaeke  
**Abstention:** K. Lofgren

### **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

A. Vervaeke stated he represented the Committee to propose their Resolution to the MASC's Regional Committee and the Regional Committee voted 11:1 to support the Resolution as written and to recommend it to the Executive Committee of the MASC for possible inclusion in the Delegate Assembly in the fall. He has been invited to address the Mass Association of Regional Schools (MARS) on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. but he will not be able to attend. K. Lofgren stated she may be able to attend.

### **PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION**

#### **Review of School Improvement Plan: Middle School**

Principal Beth Raucci recognized members of the School Council. She stated they are in the second year of their goals which are in a three to five year cycle.

**Goal 1: In mathematics, we will clarify expectations and create an environment where students are actively building mathematical understanding, resulting in measurable growth in student learning.** B. Raucci stated they are in the infancy stages of a new math program. Title 1 math teacher and TOA, David Ng has been instrumental in pulling together the math teachers as well as the SPED staff.

D. Ng said they are implementing Connected Math 2 in grades 6-8 and Investigations in grade 5. They are looking to make their assessments standards-based and use them to drive their decision making and instruction. They are looking at how they can better support their students and are looking to improve their communications with the communities. A big priority has been to rollout the standards-based programs and they are doing a three year implementation. This year they implemented three of the eight units in each grade level.

He stated they provide a lot of professional development and teachers receive a full day of training for each unit and this has opened communication between regular classroom teachers and the SPED teachers. They realized they needed standards in their assessments and they are working on setting different performance levels for each assessment they administer. In the future the assessments will be used to monitor student progress.

With respect to communications and community involvement, D. Ng said they are putting together a committee of teachers to look at how they can share what they are doing. B. Raucci said a letter is going out to parents on Friday. They have been working toward eliminating the leveling at grade 7, feeling it is too early. They do not want to shut the door on any student that may be ready for algebra once their development catches up.

**Goal 2: We will continue to create a school community, which promotes respectful and responsible actions by all in an enthusiastic, engaging environment.** B. Raucci stated many of their community related projects are becoming embedded in the school culture and while they will maintain those projects, it is time to move onto new ideas. They had a successful Project Mitten and the entire school came to the aid of the Paul Solis Elementary School in Louisiana as they recovered from Hurricane Katrina. Grade 8 began the collection of a million pennies in an effort to understand the devastation of the Holocaust and grade 8 teachers were instrumental in bringing the documentary *Paper Clips* to Groton. As of today, the eighth graders have collected a quarter of a million pennies. Students are well on their way to creating the largest book about world peace. The MSPO efforts had a successful food drive for Loaves and Fishes and they plan to expand the group for parents. Based on grade level themes, students decided team names. B. Raucci said they pursue a theme they can talk with them about throughout the year that ultimately promotes respect.

B. Raucci said bus behavior contracts will continue and they just adopted the Social Competency program and they will plan strategies for its implementation. She stated they would like to start a “dads group” and they have a few projects in mind. They will be forming a group to research the need for an Advisor/Advisee program. She stated the sense of community at the middle school is very important.

K. Lofgren said she appreciates the focus on collaboration between regular education and SPED and stated this will build a good foundation.

Understanding that curriculum is fluid and constantly needs to be improved, B. Erickson wonders how you fill in the holes for what is missing from the program and asked what they were doing before and what they would like to keep that was working.

B. Raucci said you keep renewing what you are doing based on the data in front of you and stated they did not let go of everything they had. She said they do not have holes, they are just slowly incorporating a new program. B. Erickson hopes something new does not come along and they have to start over again.

D. Ny said they implemented three units because logistically, it wasn't fully published at the time and it would have been difficult financially. More importantly, they wanted to implement and adjust as they went. Three units have been implemented, with trainings, and teachers were able to take experiences from the first unit they implemented and get more focused. It is a big shift from what they are doing and they are aware that it took longer to teach them than it should but the staff felt it was a valuable change.

Dr. Rubel said Mr. Ny, with the assistance of the math staff, have created a detailed in-depth plan for combining the implementation of CMP2 and the current traditional math program. They also created a timeline for its implementation. The reason they implemented this program after an in-depth year long process was because they felt the existing traditional math program was not raising the bar high enough for the middle school students. She stated they are raising the bar in a methodical and logistically thoughtful way. D. Ny said some of the teachers experimented with using some of the units in their pre-algebra classes.

A. Vervaeke asked if this goal addresses peer pressure, especially for girls, in the fifth and sixth grades. B. Raucci said they have a sensitive and thoughtful guidance staff that does deal with students going through a divorce and difficult home situations. There are also friendship groups to help kids through the whole middle school process. She noted GDAY has led many parent groups and offers a wide variety of areas to talk about issues. She and Dr. Robinson will be discussing how they will use the Social Competency program throughout the middle school without focusing on just a phys ed class or a guidance group because they want kids to learn that good decision making is good decision making whether in the presence of adults or when they are alone. He asked if the programs and newsletters are on the website since some students are in multi-home situations and information is not always shared. B. Raucci said yes and they want parents to call if they are not getting information. R. Vickery said teachers are aware of peer pressure and deal weekly with guidance.

C. Barrett asked if the differentiating instruction can start earlier. D. Ny said the three units implemented this year are so new that they are focused on the middle student and teachers want to do more with the lower and higher students but they are not quite ready for that. It is addressed when they do their trainings. He stated learning a new unit in one day and then teaching it is really demanding and until they

have taught it for a year or two, they are not ready to start thinking about how they can differentiate. Dr. Rubel stated they did make this an integral part of the training with the consultant. Once teachers are more familiar with the operations of the new program, they will focus on differentiating instruction and continue with the consultant so they can strengthen that part of the program. The consultant will address different entry points into every unit so that she is helping teachers understand how to challenge the strong student and support the struggling student. She stated the differentiated instruction is one of the strengths of this program. B. Raucci said SPED instructors offer differentiated viewpoints when it comes to entry points for struggling math students.

C. Barrett asked for an implementation table for grade 5. D. Ny said a new version of Investigations is coming out in January 2007 so they need to talk with the consultant about what makes the most sense. He said they do have a working plan. With respect to the Advisor/Advisee program, C. Barrett said they have a good program at the high school. B. Raucci said they want to make sure they address the need and that it is solid with the proper financial backing and that staff members have the proper development.

C. Barrett asked if there is a schedule when a DRA is done. R. Vickery said they are done at the elementary level in the spring and a second assessment is done when they are a middle school student.

C. Barrett asked if the writing samples are yearly for every student. B. Raucci said yes except for grade seven since they have the writing prompt for MCAS. R. Vickery said teachers often get a spreadsheet of where their students are on specific areas in a rubric.

C. McKinney said the middle school and high school math departments have worked hard to study and see how "their pipes line up" and what improvements can be made. He stated it is important to set expectations early in their eighth grade year so they understand what is required of them so when assessments are done in the fall, they are not surprised the last of the foundation was the work from September to December.

With respect to goals one and three, F. O'Connell asked how they are tracking achievement, when they measure it and if it is a three goal and something they will see in three years. D. Ny said part of their goal is to develop district-wide assessments they will be using but at the moment they mostly use MCAS results along with a common mid-term exam. With respect to reading, R. Vickery said they will have assessments over time and with the writing, from the district-wide writing prompts. They also have the DRA reading assessment and the annual MCAS reading test.

B. Raucci said it has been easier getting the reading and writing assessments in place and they will create the math assessments themselves. She noted MCAS is a small snippet of a student's life within a school year. Dr. Rubel said MCAS is based on state standards and tied to grade level expectations. There are also science assessments in every grade span and there will be ones in social studies as well. Mr. Ny has disaggregated MCAS results and showed trends over time dependent on the kinds of service students have been receiving. She stated Ms McCarthy was instrumental in developing a three-tiered process of assessing students in the area of literacy and they are hoping to get their curriculum out to the public this summer.

Dr. Rubel said they have targeted certain assessments for different elements of reading at the elementary and middle school levels and students are assessed as deemed necessary dependent upon their weak areas. R. Vickery said their students are good readers but they found their reading was falling apart in the content area and the program is tweaked based on data results. B. Raucci stated every teacher is a reading teacher and it is not about just ELA.

Dr. Funch asked if the plan is to have a single math level in grade seven and was advised they are trying to do away with leveling and the two levels. D. Ny said they will have two levels in grade 8. Dr. Funch said he would like to see competency standards on the ELA side.

**Goal 3: In English Language Arts we will clarify and re-define expectations for learning and create an environment where students are actively building literacy skills resulting in measurable growth in student learning.** R. Vickery reviewed the objectives to reach this goal as well as what has been accomplished. She stated a curriculum document was developed by the curriculum coordinator and teachers, including SPED teachers. Teachers are trained in administering DRA's (Developmental

Reading Assessment) and assessments were administered to ten students in each class. While this sounds like they are not doing everyone, she stated these are also being done at the elementary level and those will rollup to the middle school. Writing samples are also assessed and analyzed as part of the district-wide initiative giving teachers more information regarding literacy levels of students.

R. Vickery stated a lot of professional development was done and **I Read It, but I don't Get It: Comprehension Strategies for Adolescent Readers** was used as a guide. A literacy library has been established in both MSN and MSN and provides valuable resources for teachers so they can meet the needs of all learners. A fifth grade team received a grant to purchase independent books for classroom libraries and the Rebecca Sitton spelling program was implemented at all grade levels.

They will continue professional development work around exemplary literacy instruction and will continue to improve data analysis to further improve instructional practices. Curriculum coordinator K. McCarthy will work in the classrooms, modeling instructional best practices around reading in content areas. In FY07 they will sustain all new practices and will have a renewed focus on writing.

C. McKinney congratulated Ms Vickery on her new position.

C. Barrett asked the name of the social competency program and Dr. Robinson said it is Second Step. It is a research based social competency curricula.

### **GDAY Presentation**

Coordinator Dr. Judy Robinson provided a brief history of GDAY. The Groton Dunstable Alliance for Youth was established in 2001 in response to the Youth At Risk survey done with Emerson Hospital. There was a need to do something with that information and required the communities, families and schools working in partnership. Prevention science tells them this is the approach that has the most promise. Their focus points, which have not necessarily shifted, were alcohol, tobacco, other drug use, bullying and suicide ideation. She stated they have seen some progress in these areas and GDAY now comes at them with different angles and new approaches.

A Steering Committee was formed and they continue to hold community-wide meetings to engage the communities. Penny Hommeyer said the Steering Committee is a coalition of parents, students, community members and school personnel and meet monthly. They revised their Mission Statement this year to reflect the natural evolution of GDAY.

P. Hommeyer reviewed the various programs. The Community Reading Day was dropped from the budget so a partnership was formed with many of the parent organizations. The organizations organize the readers and GDAY adopted the theme of respect and civility for the books. The books were provided by GDEF and are in the schools. Other programs include Rainbow Players, Community Circle series and the Safe Prom and Graduation campaign. P. Hommeyer said they will be working to facilitate an all night after prom party. They will continue to distribute Red Flags and Resources to fifth graders.

Dr. Robinson reviewed some of the initiatives and networks they have started. The Parent-to Parent Network was created in response to parents wanting to connect and share ideas and resources. Book discussions were held in the fall and spring. Parent socials are scheduled to coincide with the middle school dances. They are looking at doing this as a "meet and greet" with school staff and other community people in an informal setting. The Icenogle's have an online Parent Forum and it is hoped this will grow next year. The March on Madness calendar provided a tool for parents to reconnect and suggested many ideas.

Dr. Robinson stated the Half-Day Network was established last year in response to safety issues, with the target audience being middle school students. Their goal was to raise awareness that there are issues on a half-day. The Groton Public Library always has an open door on half days and the police have sponsored programs. As the program has continued, other needs have arisen which include transportation, scheduling and liability and safety concerns.

She stated they have started talking about how they can broaden their capacity with other organizations and noted there is the possibility of the Peter Twomey Youth Center if they can expand a middle school

program.

The Positive Youth Development Initiative is from the Search Institute in Oregon where they do research on Developmental Assets (internal and external). GDAY wanted to look at how the community responds to the needs of children. Their goal is to infuse the Developmental Assets and positive youth approach throughout the district and community. This year they did a focus group with the high school Leadership Team and had a fabulous discussion. They plan to continue meeting with different student groups next year to hear about common themes and trends. The meetings will include non-public school students. They plan to meet with community leaders to share information and then plan how to infuse the positive youth approach throughout the community. They hope to have a Community Leaders meeting in April 2007 where they will bring everyone together to talk about the next steps. Dr. Robinson said Developmental Assets is not so much a program but much more a way of being.

P. Hommeyer said GDAY is a non-profit and not part of the school budget. Fundraising efforts include the Battle of the Bands, the Brick Courtyard at the high school, private donations, community partners campaign and grants from GDEF and the Groton Commissioner Trust Funds. With the exception of the coordinator's stipend, everything else is done by volunteers. Over the past five years, more than \$40,000 has been contributed to the schools.

After they receive the 2006 Youth at Risk survey results, Dr. Robinson said they plan to revise their strategic plan. They will continue their fundraising efforts and applying for grants and will continue the Networks and Initiatives now in place. A new initiative is on teen alcohol use. About thirty-eight percent of the students have said they have been in a home in their district where teens have been allowed to use alcohol. GDAY has met with the police chiefs, parents, students, coaches, administrators and the athletic director to talk about what they are currently doing individually and where they can move to in the future.

Dr. Robinson said the amount of time and energy the volunteers have put into GDAY has been tremendous and she has thoroughly enjoyed working with everyone. She stated it is encouraging to see the commitment to the students in their two towns.

K. Lofgren said her family enjoyed the March Madness activity. Dr. Funch said what GDAY is doing is great and to keep up the good work. C. Barrett liked the way the data was presented and asked if the Youth at Risk Behavior survey would have questions in it that would allow them to pull out the type of developmental assets and develop the data for their own students. Dr. Robinson said the Research Institute would say no; they have their own survey but it is cost prohibitive. The Developmental Asset survey does address risk behavior but comes at it from a slightly different vantage point. She stated the YRBS survey speaks to specific individual student behavior choices.

C. Barrett asked if the group at Emerson Hospital could add a group of twenty personality questions so they could get this type of information. Dr. Robinson said they struggle every year with what to add. The survey matches the CDC's (Centers for Disease Control) version of the survey and the state's so they do not change the questions. They have added some of their own questions but the dilemma becomes the length of the survey. She stated GDAY can look to see if there is a way they can collect this information in tandem with the YRBS.

A. Vervaeke stated the other communities have to agree to the questions as well. He said the group has settled into a groove and appreciates Dr. Robinson's skills and guidance. He noted Dunstable may have some trust funds GDAY can take advantage of.

B. Erickson said there is a lack of men on the Steering Committee and feels the kids need men for different needs and different stages. She suggested they include a "dinner with dad" in their calendar and try to include the father image, with a Big Brother for those who may not have a father. Dr. Robinson said they do anticipate some openings on the committee.

Dr. Funch feels it is important to find out what programs increase competencies in particular areas. C. Barrett said they would need to do the survey over time to see a trend in the results to show the programs are successful.

Dr. Rubel thanked Dr. Robinson for her leadership, and the entire GDAY organization. She stated they have made a tremendous impact on the communities. She respects the fact they respond to suggestions

with concrete actions and is confident they will act on the suggestions heard tonight.

Dr. Funch noted it is not, in all cases, students doing risky behaviors but it is the parents' risky behaviors with bad consequences. Dr. Robinson said they are not trying to tell people how to parent but rather to think about the decisions they are making on behalf of the children. Dr. Funch stated networks among parents that trust each other are very valuable. P. Hommeyer stated they often hear "GDAY will fix the problem" and said it takes everyone to fix it.

### **Policy: Preview of Advertising & Partnerships Policy**

K. Lofgren read the draft of Policy KGD. While she realizes they need the revenue, B. Erickson stated she is against this policy and feels they should be going away from advertising in the schools. She believes there is the perception of product endorsement with the logo and/or company name in the building. She feels they are entering a "slippery slope" when they do this and there would be lessening of the rules and regulations in future years as they get more desperate for money. She would give consideration to utility companies and a company everyone depends on. K. Lofgren said Ms Erickson's concerns helped the committee keep their focus on the parameters and hopes she feels her voice is echoed in the policy. Ms Erickson appreciates them accommodating her strong position.

When you think about the breadth of what advertising and acknowledging partnerships means in its entirety, C. McKinney feels the policy sets acceptable parameters. He gave an example of Dee Bus Company and noted the Robotics Team gets support through corporate sponsorship. A. Vervaeke feels the policy provides the ability to have other avenues and options for the educational experience for the students. Dr. Funch feels the policy leaves the door "too wide open" and thinks there are things they would clearly not want to see advertising on or about and they could have language to identify that. C. McKinney noted the School Committee would agree to a specific contract since they authorize acceptance of revenue. Dr. Genovese stated the policy tried to reign in how to have something that is not intrusive

B. Erickson stated they are not receiving money from the bus company or Connect-Ed because they voluntarily buy the product/service. She would not object to advertising in the playing fields because it is away from where the learning is going on.

C. Barrett suggested "local laws" be added after "federal and state laws" in the second paragraph. She suggested "site-based fund raising activities be added after "state and local revenues" in the first paragraph. A. Vervaeke said they are not trying to discourage GDEF or GDAY from giving them funds but since they do not get all the funding they need from state and federal funding, they are looking for other revenue sources. Dr. Genovese stated they are looking at how to open the door to allow partnerships that would support the district in terms of their mission and collaboration. Schools that are successful have parents that are engaged and have business alliances supporting education.

C. Barrett said she does not agree with the use of the funds to "sustain quality learning opportunities". She agrees they should be used as a boost to enhance student achievement and enrich educational or extra-curricular experiences. She asked if there would be a revolving account to track the funds and Dr. Genovese said yes. She asked that the other policies referenced in the original policy be reviewed for consistency.

A. Vervaeke feels they would consider any money coming in as being like a grant and they could use it where it made sense in the district. Limiting themselves to specifically where and when they could use this money is counter to the purpose of the policy, which is to give them a different source of revenue to be used within the district. Dr. Funch said he would like to avoid having any outside corporate funds go into the operating budget and be depended on from year to year. A. Vervaeke said they cannot depend on the grants and Chapter 70 funding. Dr. Funch said he has an issue with the permanence of the advertising. He does not want to see any advertising signs around the schools. C. McKinney stated the "devil is in the details"

B. Erickson stated these are public schools and they are asking for support with private money. She questioned where their philosophy of public schools fits into this. She feels once they do it, there will be no end and is cheapening what they do as a public group.

F. O'Connell shares everyone's concern and does not want to see advertising banners when he walks in

the door. He would have a hard time saying no to a company wanting to help them launch the football team, sponsor a computer lab or do something for the students. He would like to see the “guardrails” tightened up. Dr. Funch said they do not want to have the permanent sense of the money. K. Lofgren said the committee tried to contain the guardrails and have clear outlines.

A. Vervaeke noted the Box Tops for Education program endorses specific products.

### **Policy - Executive Session Minutes Review and Release**

K. Lofgren read Policy BECD. A. Vervaeke stated minutes can only be approved in a scheduled public meeting and noted there would never be a substantive discussion about executive session minutes at a public meeting. He stated this policy follows the rules and guidelines from the DA’s office and is pretty airtight.

With respect to the second paragraph, Dr. Funch said it misses the reason for the first phrase and feels it should include “to discuss recommended changes”. Dr. Genovese said they could add “and if necessary, the minutes would be modified or amended.” Dr. Funch said he did not understand the distinction between the third and fourth paragraphs. Dr. Genovese said the Committee does not have to approve minutes for them to be made public and if they were no longer under executive privilege, even though they have not been approved, he has to release them within ten days of a request.

C. Barrett suggested the word “public” be added before “meeting” in the last sentence of the first paragraph.

### **Evaluation of Superintendent:**

C. McKinney provided a summary of the six Principle Accountabilities used for Dr. Genovese’s evaluation.

**Relationship with School Committee** - Dr. Genovese did an outstanding job of meeting School Committee expectations. He provides timely communications, recommendations are based on data and he is open to new ideas and constructive criticism.

**Educational Leadership** - The district is on firm ground and Dr. Genovese understands the curriculum and implementation strategies and structure. He has excellent visibility in the classrooms and provides leadership on evaluation and mentoring procedures for the district. The Committee supports his intention to spend more time in this area next year.

**General Management** - Dr. Genovese is organized and determined to complete tasks in a timely manner. He is appropriately working within the current mission/vision and an extraordinary effort has been made to learn all aspects of school operations.

**Budget Management** - Dr. Genovese built immediate and effective relationships with the Boards of Selectmen, FinComs and Town Accountants and utilized staff expertise to develop solutions to tough questions. His communication strategy for all stakeholders was well thought out and executed. The Committee would like to see a three year financial plan as they move forward.

**Personnel Management** - Dr. Genovese’s effort to create an atmosphere of respect for everyone is apparent and he wants to know everyone professionally and personally. He proactively addresses personnel or contract issues before they become larger problems.

**Communications/Public Relations** - This was perhaps the strongest area of performance. Dr. Genovese spent lots of time with parent organizations and community groups and is always looking for ways to increase or improve community involvement. His proposal for Connect-Ed was a great enhancement.

**Superintendent Goals** - Dr. Genovese either met his goal or made a good start.

**Summary** - It is the consensus of the School Committee that Dr. Genovese had a great year and his perceived strengths (communication, being open and accessible and having a creative and energetic approach) were validated.

Dr. Genovese thanked the members for the evaluation and stated he enjoyed his first year. He stated the best feedback is what he gets from having everyday, individual conversations. He stated this is a great district with talented people and he wants to motivate that talent.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **VOTE: To Dissolve Building Committee**

See earlier vote

#### **VOTE: To Approve and Submit School Committee Resolution**

K. Lofgren stated the Resolution has been modified to change the date, to include Dr. Funch's name and to include the paragraph "Now therefore be it resolved that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees file legislation which would have the effect of fair, equitable and adequate funding for Pre-K - 12 Public Education". The required cover letter will be sent by the chair.

K. LOFGREN MOVED THAT THE GROTON DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO SUPPORT AND SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION TO THE MASS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEES FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION AT THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY WHICH IS TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER 2006 ON CAPE COD. SECONDED BY P. FUNCH  
**SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **VOTE: To Approve School Choice Openings**

Dr. Genovese reviewed the twenty-two School Choice openings for 2006-2007.

F. O'CONNELL MOVED TO ACCEPT THE SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION OF SCHOOL CHOICE OPENINGS FOR 2006-2007. SECONDED BY A. VERVAEKE

After hearing the high school's SIP, C. Barrett asked if 10 is too high a number for grade 9. Dr. Genovese said no since they would not all be in the same classes.

**SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **VOTE: To Appoint School Attorney**

A. VERVAEKE MOVED THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE RE-APPOINT HOWARD GREENSPAN AS THE SCHOOL ATTORNEY FOR THE 2006-2007 SCHOOL YEAR. SECONDED BY B. ERICKSON  
**SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY**

### **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Dr. Genovese asked members to give him any comments they had with respect to the meeting calendar they had received in their packets.

C. Barrett announced the Block Scheduling meeting is tomorrow night. Dr. Genovese said a Connect-Ed announcement went out.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

B. ERICKSON MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 11:20 P.M. SECONDED BY A. VERVAEKE  
**SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Smith  
Recording Secretary

With attachments

BOUTWELL

A Father's Day barbeque will be held, rain or shine, on Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.