

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

(\*Attachments are available upon request from the Superintendent's Office.)

**Special Meeting**

**January 29, 2018**

A special meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on January 29, 2018 in Room 11 of the School Administration Building, for the purpose of conducting a budget worksession.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Kim Shepardson Watson, Board Chairperson, at 6:00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

**ABSENT**

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson  
Dr. Andrea Ackerman, Vice Chairperson  
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald  
Mrs. Jane Giulini  
Mrs. Rosemary Robertson  
Mrs. Rita Volkmann  
Mr. Jay Weitlauf  
Mrs. Lee White

Mrs. Gretchen Newsome

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds  
Mr. Ken Knight, Business Manager  
Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human Resources  
Mrs. Portia Bordelon, RTM Member  
Mrs. Rachel Franco, Town Council Member

Mr. Knight presented the Board with new pages for their budget.

Dr. Graner gave an overview of the budget as presented at the last meeting. He noted that he is hopeful of presenting a 2% budget by the February 26, 2018 Board meeting.

- Recommended that the Board review the 200 series – Benefits
- He noted that the pensions and actual has an increase
- Mrs. LePine gave an overview of the latest Health Insurance Report **[ATTACHMENT #1, 2]**
- Dr. Graner reviewed the proposed budget reductions **[ATTACHMENT #3]**

It was the consensus of the Board to cut CAFE by \$20,000, reduced the funds to the elementary Magnet Schools from \$90,000 to \$30,000, and reduce the high school site budget by \$30,000 of the funds allocated for A.P. tests.

Mrs. LePine noted that \$9,000 could be cut from EAP.

The Board discussed a variety of other possible areas that could be reduced, e.g. software.

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The Board requested clarification of what dues are included in the 800 series.

Dr. Graner and the Board discussed the suggested cuts to date that brings down the budget to a 3% increase. Dr. Graner noted that by not filling several vacancies due to retirements, he believes that he can bring the budget down to a 2.5% increase.

For the next budget worksession:

- 500 series
- 612 series relate to licenses
- Software and the 100 series will be reviewed at the February 5, 2018 budget meeting

**MOTION:** Ackerman, White: To go into Executive Session to discuss the bus contract extension and to invite Dr. Graner, Ms. Austin, Mr. Kilpatrick, and Mr. Knight to attend at 7:45 p.m. **PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

The bus contract extension was discussed. No action was taken.

**MOTION:** Ackerman, Weitlauf: To return to Open Session at 7:59 p.m.  
**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**MOTION:** Giulini, White: To accept the STA 5-year contract extension (years 1, 2, and 3 at 2% and years 4 and 5 at 3%).  
**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

**MOTION:** White, Fitzgerald: To adjourn at 8:04 p.m.  
**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**