

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Special Meeting

January 30, 2018

A special meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on January 30, 2018 in the Main Room of the Senior Center, for the purpose of conducting a Public Hearing on the Budget and 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. Jane Giulini
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome
Mrs. Rosemary Robertson
Mrs. Rita Volkmann
Mr. Jay Weitlauf
Mrs. Lee White (left at 7:08 p.m.)

Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald

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

Dr. Graner gave an overview of the budget. **[ATTACHMENT #1]**

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Mrs. Portia Bordelon, 159 Shennecossett Parkway, shared her concerns:
 - a. Site budget – she is concern with relying on DOD funds;
 - b. Travel for Administration and Travel for Conferences;
 - c. Overtime for Maintenance – suggested putting a freeze on overtime;
 - d. Taking from lower level students relative to the Alliance;
 - e. High School relative to Title I funds for Reading and Math – what percentage is going for support;
 - f. She stated that Magnet Schools need to be fully funded.

2. Mr. Ian Thomas, 159 Shennecossett Parkway, shared his concerns:
 - a. Object Codes 582/584 – Travel for Administration and Travel for Conferences;
 - b. Feels the district is top heavy, i.e. administrators.

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3. Mrs. Kate Richards, 78 Algonquin Drive, shared her concerns:
 - a. Alliance District relative to attendance;
 - b. Students with medical concerns;
 - c. Inconsistency.

4. Mr. Bruce Flax, 632 Noank Road, shared his concerns:
 - a. Highlights presented – how do they relate to the budget;
 - b. How did the school closing affect the budget;
 - c. Alliance – the reasons for being an Alliance District should be addressed;
 - d. Town and City efficiencies should be continued.

5. Mrs. Lian Obrey, 8 Vista Point Road, shared her concerns:
 - a. She was disappointed with the small turn out for the Public Hearing;
 - b. She would like the budget to come in lower.

6. Mrs. Michelle Gaiewski, 136 Ocean View Avenue, shared:
 - a. She thanked the Board for their hard work on the budget thus far;
 - b. She stated that it was nice to recognize the savings in the closing of PV and that SBB is doing great with the added students from PV.

7. Mr. Michael Whitney, 112 Deerfield Drive, shared his concerns:
 - a. Level budget last year and this year;
 - b. If there is an increase to the budget, it is due to restoring the budget with the funds that had been taken away

8. Mr. Andrew Mierla, 11 Carol Court, stated that the Board should look at what the effect will be to the kids.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

BUDGET WORKSESSION

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

Dr. Graner explained how we got to a 3% increase.

Mr. Knight and Dr. Graner gave an overview of Object Code 811 General Administration Dues.
[ATTACHMENT #2]

Object Code 612 Software – Ms. Austin reviewed the software account and noted that she was able to reduce this account to \$70,000. It was noted that Mr. Colclough will be invited to the budget meeting on February 5, 2018.

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Dr. Graner reviewed the 500 series.

Concerns from Board members:

- Transportation – investigate the cost of transportation by LEARN versus Curtin as well other companies.
- Economize on software.
- Object Code 582 – Travel for Administration
- Object Code 584 – Travel for Conferences account was reviewed; Ms. Austin reported that \$15,000 would be reduced from the Central Office travel account (Object Code 582/Function Code 2210) **[ATTACHMENT #3]**
- WSM Site Budget

Items for the next agenda (February 5, 2018):

- Object Code 612 Software
- 300 Series
- 100 Series
- Title I Budget re: personnel increases, case loads

MOTION: Robertson, Weitlauf: To adjourn at 8:28 p.m.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY