

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Special Meeting

February 5, 2018

A special meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on February 5, 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 6:04 p.m.

PRESENT

ABSENT

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

Mrs. Rosemary Robertson

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Dennis Colclough, Director of Technology Services
Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Mr. Ken Knight, Business Manager
Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human Resources

Dr. Graner gave an overview of the budget cuts from last year to this year. Last Spring, the FY 18 budget that was approved by the Board was cut by \$2,845,000. To reduce the budget a school was closed, a number of teaching position were eliminated, the paraprofessional account was cut, and the site budgets were reduced. When the \$1,568,000 was restored, the Board was able to reinstate the additional services and personnel, i.e., paraprofessionals and site budgets. This generated a \$1,277,000 cost savings by closing a school.

Mr. Weitlauf noted that when he has been asked about the budget, he states that the reduction was due to the additional buses and expense associated with early retirements. This covered the entire increase to the budget and allowed us to remain at 0% increase.

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

Special Meeting
February 5, 2018
Page 2

Dr. Graner asked Mr. Colclough to give an overview of Object Code 612 Software and 353 Computer Network Services. The following reductions were proposed:

- Infosnap Online Registration Process has been postponed
- Protraxx for CEUs – we will use a different method to keep track of CEUs
- GoGuardian Web Filter which is used for keeping track of Chrome Books – we have alternative ways of doing this
- Barracuda Email Filter – we have a different method for this

Licenses for eFinance, Powerschool, HR Software, Microsoft Software will continue to be funded.

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

- Personnel: elementary – lower class size (Gr. 3) due to retirement
- High School: 1 teacher due to retirement
- Para I: 1 retirement
- Para II: after a careful review of the para budget, found 3 paras less than what in the budget
- K Aides: looked at the proposed budget and did a recalculation

Dr. Graner noted items the Board still need to look at:

- Curtain Contract
- Addition of 4 Magnet School buses that may allow us to cut 1 STA bus
- Additional teacher reductions

Mrs. LePine gave an overview of the Health Reserve stating that we are at 85% of expected claims and last year we were at 83%. She noted that we may end with 1.7 million dollars in the Health Reserve account.

Mrs. Volkmann requested to review class sizes, the Central Office Personnel Organizational Chart, and Special Education staffing.

Mrs. Newsome asked for a list of the class that have been taken away at the high school in the last 3 years.

Agenda items for the next meeting: Object Codes 610/611, class sizes, Central Office Personnel, Nurses.

Mrs. Watson noted that she is working on confirming a tentative meeting with the Town Council on the budget for February 13, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. When this is confirmed, she will inform the Board.

The budget worksession adjourned at 7:45 p.m.