

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Committee of the Whole

February 13, 2017

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Groton Board of Education was held on February 13, 2017 in Room 11 of the School Administration Building.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kim Watson, Board Chairperson, at 6:10 p.m.

PRESENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman, Vice Chairperson
Mr. Gary Baker
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Gretchen Newsome
Mrs. Rosemary Robertson
Mrs. Lee White

ABSENT

Mrs. Rita Volkmann
Mr. Jay Weitlauf

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Don Meltabarger, Business Manager
Mr. Larry Croxton, GEA Vice President
Dr. Monica Franzone, Principal, Mary Morrisson School
Mr. Scott Newsome, RTM Member

1. Dr. Graner gave an overview of the press conference held this morning regarding reaction by the district and municipal leaders of Groton, and State Legislators to the significant cuts made in the Governor's budget. **[ATTACHMENT #1]** Dr. Graner reported that a State Representative noted that the proposals for Towns to pay the pension costs for teachers and administrators will hurt every municipality. Dr. Graner noted that if you take \$9,195,526 from the budget you would have to cut:

68 teachers
5 Administrators
40 Paras

A host of secretaries, custodians and maintenance staff

Dr. Graner also noted that the district would have to pay unemployment benefits if these cuts occur. Dr. Graner further noted that the district will see a significant cut to its budget in the final analysis.

2. **Approval of Minutes of January 19, 2017**

MOTION: White, Robertson: To approve the minutes of January 9, 2017.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

Response to homework given to the Administration:

- Unified Sports – Dr. Graner noted that Mr. Meltabarger looked into it and that function line 1549 has funds in it; no specific function code exists for Unified Sports.
- Function Line 1124 Health Occupations – Dr. Graner noted that it referred to the right person in the wrong category; the person will be properly classified in the budget.
- Function Line 1260 Enrichment – Dr. Graner noted that it will be broken out by school.
- Function Line 1320 Adult Education – Dr. Graner noted that line 137 on page 2.4 is the High School Completion program and line 71 is the GED Program.
- Function Line 2220 Educational Media – Dr. Graner noted that line 114 is for Library Assistants and Video Assistant.
- Function Line 2311 Board of Education – Dr. Graner noted that line 810 is for the dues of the Board of Education; the changes represents payment for 2 years of dues and NSBA.
- Function Line 2410 School Administration – Dr. Graner noted that line 107 reflects a position that was removed.
- Function Line 2510 Operations – Dr. Graner noted that line 530 represents the telephone and reduction of the ERate funding.

3. Superintendent's Budget [ATTACHMENTS #2, 3, 4]

Dr. Graner suggested taking an additional \$250,000 from the Health Insurance Reserve in addition to the \$347,290 previously suggested. This would reduce the budget to a 1.22% increase.

Extensive discussion was held on ways to reduce the budget, e.g. cutting of PreK (School Readiness) buses.

Dr. Graner stated that the administration will investigate the feasibility of cutting PreK buses.

Dr. Graner noted that he was comfortable with a 1.67% by the reduction of the P.E. teacher and software only (\$83,006).

A consensus of the Board was conducted as follows:

- 1.67% increase = Baker, Watson
- 1.79% increase = White, Robertson, Fitzgerald
- 2.24% increase = Ackerman, Newsome

4. BOE Strategic Plan

This item was tabled.

5. **Groton 2020**

This item was tabled.

6. **Budget Information Mailer**

This item was tabled.

7. **Update regarding the Joint Town Council/BOE Shared Services Task Force**

This item was tabled.

8. **Adjournment**

MOTION: Ackerman, White: To adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY