

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Special Meeting

February 6, 2017

A special meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on February 6, 2017, in Room 11 of the School Administration Building, for the purpose of conducting a budget worksession.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT

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

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Don Meltabarger, Business Manager
Mr. Jim Evans, RTM Member
Mrs. Kathleen Neugent, RTM Member
Mr. Scott Newsome, RTM Member

ABSENT

Mr. Gary Baker
Mrs. Rita Volkmann

Mr. Dennis Colclough, Director of Technology Services

Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human Resources

Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds

BUDGET:

The budget workshop began with the Superintendent noting the changes to the revised FY 18 Proposed Budget vs. FT 17 Budget and FY 16 Actual document. He noted that the budget is still at a 1.79% increase; however, line items have been redistributed. He and Mr. Meltabarger reviewed the additions and reductions to the budget:

Para – 1 per school
P.E. Teacher – cut half at each middle
school; elementary through attrition
Software
Reduction of 4 elementary teachers above
the 19 retirements
Health Reserve Account

An extensive discussion of the health insurance reserve account took place. The consensus of the Board is to leave the health insurance reserve account at the appropriate level.

Response to homework given to the Administration:

- Dr. Graner gave an overview of the P.E. situation. He noted that he had met with Mr. Jones and Mr. Bass who agreed to cut their P.E. positions to half-time.
- Dr. Granter noted that Ms. Austin is reviewing the software in the district for possible savings.
- Dr. Graner gave an overview of the request for a full-time Athletic Director (AD). Presently, the AD works 40% as a teacher and 60% as AD. A full-time AD would oversee the programs at the high school, middle schools and elementary schools. Presently his salary with a stipend is approximately \$100,000, the AD is in the teachers bargaining union. As a full-time AD his salary would be approximately \$118,000 and he would be in the Administrators bargaining union. Dr. Graner noted that the job descriptions would have to be updated for a full-time position.

Mrs. Fitzgerald asked questions:

- Is there a Unified Sports line (Function 1549)
- Function line 1124
- Function line 1260 Enrichment – why isn't supplies broken out
- Function 1320 Adult Education – why isn't there any change; Mr. Meltabarger noted that the funds come from the State
- Function line 2220 Educational Media Service – lines 103, 111, 114, 144
- Function line 2311 Board of Education Service – lines 582, 628, 810
- Function line 2410 School Administration – line 107
- Function line 2510 Operation and Maintenance – line 530

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Dr. Ackerman noted the Legislative Breakfast on February 15, 2017, at 7:45 a.m., at Fitch High School.

Mrs. White noted a Mass for Mary Kelly on February 18, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., at Sacred Heart Church.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Ackerman, Weitlauf: To adjourn at 8:34 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY