

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

**Special Meeting**

**January 4, 2016**

A special meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on January 4, 2016, in Room 11 of the School Administration Building, for the purpose of conducting a budget Worksession on the proposed 2016-2017 budget.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson of the Board, at 6:03 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson  
Dr. Andrea Ackerman, Vice Chairperson  
Mr. Gary Baker  
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald  
Ms. Mary Kelly  
Mrs. Rita Volkmann  
Mr. Jay Weitlauf

**ABSENT**

Mrs. Gretchen Newsome  
Mrs. Lee White

Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Michael Emery, Director of Teaching and Learning  
Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil Personnel Services  
Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds  
Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human Resources  
Mr. Don Meltabarger, Business Manager

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Meltabarger gave an extensive overview of the proposed 2016-2017 budget. Mr. Meltabarger stated that 53% of the teachers are at the top step.

Ms. Austin stated that Mrs. LePine would be keeping a running list of items the Board would like further detail or clarification.

It was stated that as the offerings in Magnet Schools increase, there will be an increase in tuition costs. Presently, the budget is at a 1.6% increase.

The Site Budgets were reviewed; they are the same as last year.

Mrs. Volkmann stated that she would like to see the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Strings Program returned to the budget. She asked what the cost would be to do so. She also stated that the Highlights noted in the beginning of the proposed budget book needs to be expanded in descriptions and priorities.

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Mrs. Fitzgerald noted that the NEA Magnet School cost should be reflected in the proposed budget.

Ms. Austin stated that the administration would get as many response to the Board's questions to them by the January 11, 2016 COW meeting.

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Ms. Kelly to adjourn at 8:08 p.m.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY