

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Special Meeting

February 1, 2016

A special meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on February 1, 2016, in the Main Room of the Senior Center, for the purpose of conducting a Public Hearing of 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 6:05 p.m.

PRESENT

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

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Don Meltabarger, Business Manager

ABSENT

Ms. Mary Kelly

Mr. Dennis Colclough, Director of Technology Services

Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Mr. Michael Emery, Director of Teaching and Learning

Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds

Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human Resources

Dr. Graner gave a PowerPoint Presentation [ATTACHMENTS #1] of the proposed 2016-2017 budget. Dr. Graner noted the changes made with the help of Mr. Meltabarger to group appropriate object codes together to better reflect actual accounts. Dr. Graner also noted savings and increases to the budget.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

1. Mr. Ed Ettinger, Cedar Road, addressed the grant revenue at 2.8% and asked how does it work? How much is the Board going to ask the Town to support of the 77.8 million dollars?
2. Mrs. Irene Ritter, Cushman Drive, stated that she was not in favor of the Chrome Book; the needs of her son were not being met in Math; special education costs shocks her; the changed to HSA was a great step to take; and asked why there were not grants for the other end of the spectrum. She further asked why the Board was not advertising the IB Program.
3. Mr. Scott Aument, 127 Rogers Road, shared comments on the proposed budget and suggested a .75% or 1% increase to the budget. **[ATTACHMENT #2]**
4. Mrs. Betty Smith, Neptune Drive, stated that she has background in Corporate America and was a College recruiter. She asked that the Board not reduce STEM and not to include the arts into it.

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to adjourn at 7:05 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY