

**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 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 7:15 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  
Mr. Jay Weitlauf  
Mrs. Lee White

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

**ABSENT**

Ms. Mary Kelly

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

Mr. Dennis Colclough, Director of Technology Services

Mrs. Watson asked Board members for their concerns:

- Mrs. Fitzgerald asked why the 0% noted under the budget history; clarification of Title I funds under the BOE Grants Revenue; and the status of the reserve account;

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- Mrs. Volkmann asked for clarification of Administrator's salaries, Curriculum Coordinators location in the budget, Central Office participation in HSA and what the reduction would be, the increase in paraprofessionals is over the top – why, the number of students that are counted in DOD, and how is the reimbursement for these students reflected in the budget;
- Mr. Weitlauf asked how many Curriculum Coordinators are there and what do they do; at what point does the Board consider non-certified employees raises;
- Mrs. Newsome asked for the definitions of the acronyms in the budget;
- Mrs. Fitzgerald asked what the Town budget is proposed at.

Dr. Graner gave an overview of the Reserve Account. [ATTACHMENT #1]

A referral was made to the Finance/Facilities Committee regarding the Reserve Account and what to do with it.

The Board asked the Superintendent to take the \$350,000 out of the proposed budget to reduce the budget to .97% increase as well as show what it would look like to get to a .75% increase.

- Mrs. Fitzgerald suggested that the Administration put back the \$5,000 for advertising as well as another \$5,000 into that account.

Requests were made to add to the Referral List for discussion at the COW:

- Discussion of College Prep and its continuation;
- Discussion of class sizes at FHS, e.g. scheduling

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. Newsome to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

**PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**