

**GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

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

Special Meeting

February 6, 2019

A special meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on February 6, 2019 in the CR 1 of the Town Hall Annex, for the purpose of conducting a joint meeting with the Town Council and RTM to review the 2019-2020 budget.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT

ABSENT

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson
Dr. Andrea Ackerman, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Jane Giulini
Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald
Mrs. Rosemary Robertson
Mrs. Rita Volkmann
Mrs. Lee White
Mr. Jay Weitlauf

Mrs. Gretchen Newsome

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Ken Knight, Business Manager
Mr. Sam Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Mr. Daniel Gaiewski, Student Representative

Mr. John Burt, Town Manager

Mrs. Patrice Granatosky, Mayor
Mrs. Rachael Franco, Town Council
Ms. Juliette Parker, Town Council
Mr. Conrad Heede, Town Council
Mrs. Rita Schmidt, Town Council
Mrs. Lian Obrey, Town Council

Mrs. Syma Ebbin RTM Moderator
Mr. Michael Whitney, RTM Education Member
Mrs. Portia Bordelon, RTM Education Member
Mr. James Gustavson, RTM Education Member
Mrs. Rosanne Kotowski, RTM Member
Mrs. Kate Richards, RTM Member
Mrs. Autumn Hanscome, RTM Member
Mrs. Beverly Washington, RTM Member
Mr. Shawn Powers, RTM Member
Mr. Reginald Sanford, RTM Member
Mrs. Kathy Chase, RTM Member
Mr. Wilmer Lambert, RTM Member
Mr. Gary Welles, RTM Member

Dr. Graner gave an overview of the proposed 2019-2020 school budget. [ATTACHMENT #1]

Mr. Kilpatrick gave an overview of the FY20 CIP recommendations. Dr. Graner noted his top 4 priorities and his rationale for each. [ATTACHMENT #2]

Mr. Knight gave an overview of the Health Insurance Reserve. [ATTACHMENT #3]

DISCUSSION:

1. Mr. Heede asked the Town Manager relative to the grant for the Groton Heights School building, why remove asbestos from a closed building instead of an open building.
2. Dr. Graner responded that we have already removed the asbestos material from active school. The idea is while it is an active school it is a code violation and the State will pay about 54% reimbursement. Once the school is closed the burden for the cost is borne by the Town.
3. Mr. Burt responded that there is a chance the Town will go for a grant. However, the top 3 priorities may be a possibility and suggested using the approved funds for asbestos removal at FHS to cover SBB. It may be possible to go for a grant later.
4. Mr. Kilpatrick stated that moving the funds from FHS to SBB would not be his recommendation.
5. Ms. Ebbin stated that she did not understand why FHS is not a higher priority than SBB.
6. Dr. Graner state that it is a higher priority because the asbestos at FHS is endanger of becoming friable in the near future.
7. Mr. Burt asked if there was reimbursement for FHS asbestos removal. Dr. Graner responded that there was reimbursement of approximately 54%.
8. Mrs. Bordelon addressed the following:
 - a. New Health Reserve – she questioned the differences in the numbers on the handout from Monday’s meeting and what is being presented tonight. Dr. Graner stated that the difference is the OPEB.
 - b. Glulam Beams or similar
 - c. Tennis Courts
 - d. MM Parking Lot – she asked why this item is not in the top 4.
 - e. Water Service Needs
9. Mrs. Franco stated that there is a group checking on empty buildings and asked Mr. Burt whether there are any goals relative to the empty schools. She also asked if the moisture issue is being addressed.
10. Ms. Parker asked relative to the asbestos removal at FHS.
11. Mr. Burt asked what the timeline for reimbursement was; Dr. Graner responded that there is a new system and explained the process.
12. Ms. Ebbin asked why any of the closed buildings can’t be used for storage; Dr. Graner responded that when the Board turns over a school to the Town it has been requested that the Board not use vacant buildings as storage.
13. Mr. Weitlauf asked Mr. Kilpatrick to be pro-active regarding the refinishing of exterior Glulam beams.
14. Mr. Weitlauf stated that he would rather see funds used for the asbestos removal at FHS.
15. Mr. Weitlauf stated that he feels the Town Council could break off the small piece of land at PV to be used as storage for the Board.
16. Mr. Whitney addressed class sizes and asked if the new middle school will be big enough and noted issues with the enrollment at CMS and NEA; Dr. Graner responded that enrollment has been stable. He noted that when we build the new middle school that is slated for 947 students, currently there are 970; however, the building has a total seating capacity for over 1,200 students.

17. Mrs. Granatosky addressed asbestos removal and stated that if it is not encased or friable, she would rather not go in there and waste the money on it.
18. Mrs. White noted there the available buildings – once the Board vacates a building, the Town has them.
19. Mr. Gustavson asked that the Board look into State and Federal Grants regarding water service needs.
20. Mr. Gustavson asked if all the school have had their water tested and suggested that the results be posted on the web.
21. Dr. Graner responded that we have tested all the school and once a school test clean, there is no funding.
22. Mrs. Obrey asked if the Board still have portable classrooms which could be used for storage.
23. Mrs. Obrey stated that there was not a great value in buying a school from a commercial real estate perspective.
24. Mrs. Schmidt asked what is being stored.
25. Mr. Kilpatrick responded that items that are reusable and some of the items has to go back to the Town and some items are short term storage. Dr. Graner stated that records have to be stored for 50 years.
26. Mrs. Kotowski noted the increase in the Superintendent’s proposal; taxes are going up; budget is not realistic or sustainable; she will not support the Board’s budget.
27. Mrs. Kotowski asked when grants conclude what will be decreased from the budget when staff is folded into the Board’s budget. She also asked when the grants end what happens to the materials and equipment.
28. Mr. Heede asked how books are vetted; Dr. Graner responded that the Curriculum Committee vets the purchase of books and by statute the Board has to approve them.
29. Mrs. Richards noted the cost for electricity and heating.
30. Mr. Knight responded that heating oil prices have gone up as well as propane and the budget contemplates that.
31. Mrs. Granatosky noted that the Town and City have waived inspection fees for the new building. However, Poquonnock Bridge Fire Department has rejected it. She noted that funding would come out of Bonding.
32. Mr. Heede asked who wrote the Poquonnock Bridge ordinance; Mr. Burt responded that Poquonnock Bridge Fire District wrote their own ordinance.
33. Mrs. Obrey asked if anyone has thought about using a survey of the number of student who will be riding a bus be taken; Dr. Graner responded that mostly elementary students use the buses and noted the amount of time they spend on the bus. Dr. Graner that LEARN is looking into regionalizing special education transportation.
34. Mr. Weitlauf commented that the Poquonnock Bridge Fire District cover quite a few government building and have a burden as a Fire District.
35. Ms. Parker commented on bus transportation noting elementary and middle school students going to Magnet Schools.
36. Mrs. Bordelon stated that funding should be used to close the achievement gaps; Career Readiness, i.e., starting a ROTC Program; the DoDea funds being used for IB.
37. Mrs. Watson responded that the ROTC Program is not being offered by the Federal government.
38. **Adjournment**

MOTION: Robertson, Giuliani

To adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

Groton Public Schools

Superintendent's Proposed 2019-2020 Budget



Board of Education

Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson

Andrea Ackerman, Vice Chairperson

Katrina Fitzgerald

Jane Giuliani

Gretchen Newsome

Rosemary Robertson

Rita Volkmann

Jay Weitlauf

Lee White

Overview of FY19 Budget Reductions

School Site Budgets and Operational Supplies:

\$3,456,199 → \$2,810,065 **-\$646,134**

Total Equipment Account:

\$490,896 → \$44,183 **-\$446,713**

Allocation of District Health Insurance Reserve:

-\$651,652

Total Budget Reduction: **-\$1,744,499**

Highlights

- Maintain effective class size
- Restore school site budget to FY18 level
- Enhance Literacy Program
 - Writers Workshop
 - Readers Workshop
 - Classroom Libraries K-12
- Implement math workshops to increase rigor and relevance
- School Resource Officer - Town/BoE Funded
- Upgrading of aging classroom technology & district infrastructure
- Retain all curricular & extracurricular programs
- Online learning program for enrichment and remedial support



Highlights (cont'd)

- Support for elementary magnet schools
- Continue high school 1 to 1 computer program
- Enhance Vocational Program for 18-21 year olds
- Support Planning & Implementation for Next Generation Science Standards
- Continue elementary after school enrichment programs; expand into middle school
- Maintain high quality child care program before/after school



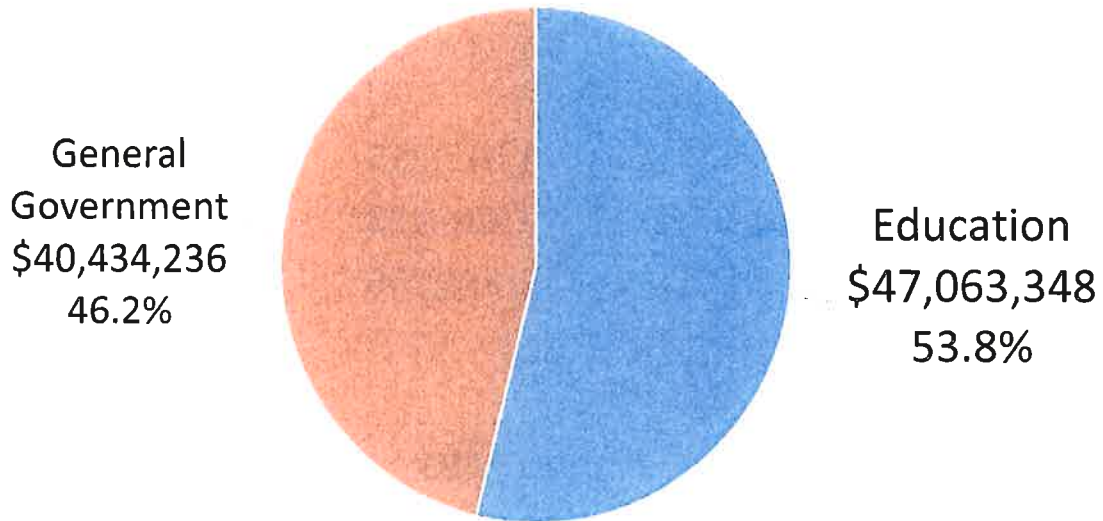
Budget History

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Budget Total</u>	<u>Budget Increase</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
2011-2012	72,645,500	-	0.00%
2012-2013	72,645,500	-	0.00%
2013-2014	73,662,715	1,017,215	1.40%
2014-2015	75,098,943	1,436,228	1.95%
2015-2016	76,730,239	1,631,296	2.17%
2016-2017	76,468,239	(262,000)	(0.35%)
2017-2018	76,468,239		0.00%
2018-2019	76,485,922	17,683	0.02%
Eight Year Average (2012-2019)			0.65%

Proposed Budget

	<u>FY19 Budget</u>	<u>Proposed FY20 Budget</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>	<u>%</u>
Salaries	47,996,095	48,852,072	855,977	1.8%
Benefits	11,779,052	11,785,660	6,608	.1%
Purchased Services	1,813,232	1,865,316	52,084	2.9%
Property Services	815,101	811,508	(3,593)	(.4%)
Trans, Ins, Comm. Tuition	11,188,198	11,357,665	169,467	1.5%
Supplies	2,810,065	3,438,904	628,839	22.4%
Equipment	44,183	282,645	238,462	539.7%
Dues & Fees	39,996	74,866	34,870	87.2%
Total	76,485,922	78,468,636	1,982,714	2.59%

FY19 Taxes Collected = \$87,497,584

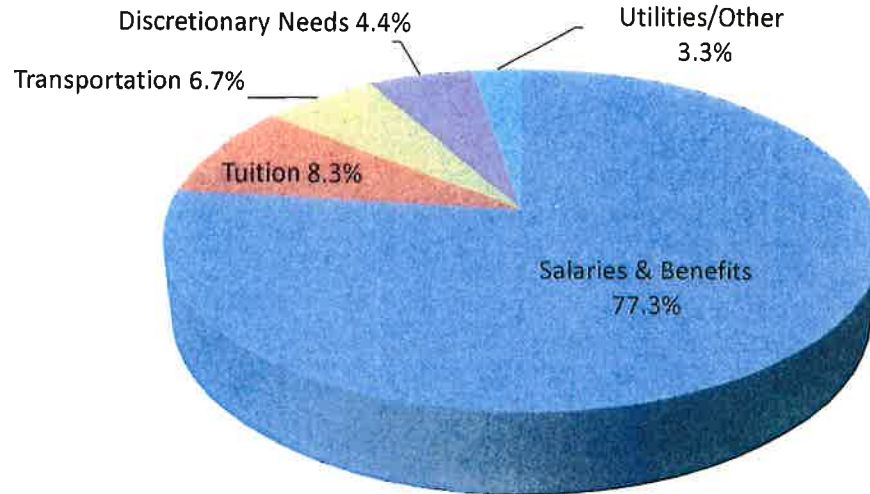


FY19 Revenues

Education Cost Sharing (ECS)	24,898,096
Other State Funds	310,262
Federal Impact Aid	3,214,533
SPED Excess Cost	800,000
Medicaid	93,000
Other Sources	<u>89,000</u>
	29,404,891

Total Town FY19 Budget Expenditure	125,856,730
Balance to be raised from taxes (per town approved budget book)	87,497,584
Board of Education Budget	76,468,239
Grants (ECS, Impact Aid, Other)	(29,404,891)
Balance needed to be raised for BoE budget from Town of Groton taxpayers	47,063,348

GPS Budget Categories



Salaries & Benefits	60,637,732	77.3%
Tuition/Contracted Services	6,503,231	8.3%
Transportation	5,240,553	6.7%
Discretionary Needs	3,414,093	4.4%
Utilities/Ins./Tel/Network	2,673,027	3.3%

Class Size Enrollment

	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Core Subject FTE</u>	<u>Average Class Size</u>
Elementary Schools			
Pre-school	145	7.0	20.7
Pre-K/Speech	64	4.0	16.0
K	353	20.0	17.7
1	342	17.0	20.2
2	342	17.0	20.1
3	295	15.0	19.7
4	323	16.0	20.2
5	308	16.0	19.3
Cutler Middle School			
6	188	8.0	23.5
7	161	8.0	20.1
8	149	8.0	18.6
West Side Middle School			
6	162	8.0	20.3
7	174	8.0	21.8
8	139	8.0	17.4
High School			
English	1,077	16	17
Science		12	18
Social Studies		10	19
World Language		8	16
Math		13	17

Board of Education Grants Revenue

	<u>Time Period</u>	<u>FY19</u>
Categorical Grants		
Title I (Improving basic services for at-risk students CK,CC,WSMS)	Annual	963,853
Title II (Professional Development)	Annual	130,998
Title III (English Language Learners)	Annual	14,459
Title IV (Student Support & Academic Enrichment)	Annual	71,978
Carl Perkins (Vocational Education)	Annual	58,310
School Readiness (Early Childhood)	Annual	528,121
IDEA (Federal Special Education grant)	Annual	1,122,058
Bilingual Education (Bilingual education)	Annual	1,989
DOD Supplemental Impact Grant (Tech. Equip)	Annual	260,000
Total Categorical Grants		3,151,766
Competitive Grants		
MSAP (Magnet School Assistance Program)	FY18-22	
• MYP (IB Middle Years Program, WSMS, CMS)		130,900
• STEM (STEM Magnet, WSMS)		346,550
• Arts/Humanities (Arts/Humanities Magnet, CMS)		336,050
DoDEA-Math Grant K-12 (Math grant for military schools)	FY16-20	274,660
DoDEA-Literacy Grant K-8 (Literacy grant for military schools)	FY18-22	195,577
DoDEA-STEM Grant K-5, 9-12 (STEM grant for military schools)	FY19-23	217,419
Total Competitive Grants		1,501,156
Total Grants		4,652,922

Mission Statement: Teaching & Learning

BoE Goals: Provide Dynamic Rigorous Curriculum

Ensure Effective and Engaging Instruction

Embrace Excellent Learning Environment



FY20 CIP RECOMMENDATIONS

FACILITY	FY20 REQUESTS	REQUEST HISTORY
Asbestos Removal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitch High School • S. B. Butler 	\$ 370,000 \$ 275,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY16 – \$370,000 approved (half proposed project) • FY17 – requested \$370,000, not approved • FY18 – requested \$370,000, not approved • FY19 – requested \$370,000, not approved
Fitch High School Athletic Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis Courts • Gym Floor • Football Field Resurface/Recrown 	\$ 300,000 \$ 40,000 \$ 120,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY19 – requested \$300,000, not approved • FY19 – requested \$110,000, not approved
Mary Morrison Parking Lot <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning • Construction 	\$ 80,000 \$ 420,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY15 – requested \$80,000, not approved • FY16 – requested \$80,000, not approved • FY17 – requested \$80,000, not approved • FY18 – requested \$25,000, not approved • FY19 – requested \$80,000, not approved • FY16 – requested \$420,000, not approved • FY17 – requested \$420,000, not approved • FY19 – requested \$300,000, not approved
District Storage Facility to Replace PV Frame Building NEA and CK	\$ 450,000	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refinish of Exterior Glulam Beams 	\$ 110,000	
Claude Chester Elementary School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel Tank Removal 	\$ 30,000	
District-wide Phone System	\$ 500,000	Possible reimbursement
Water Service Needs	\$ 150,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY18 – requested \$150,000, not approved • FY19 – requested \$50,000 for planning, approved
TOTAL	\$2,845,000	

Net Health Insurance Reserve

Attachment #3

	<u>Per FY20 Budget</u>	<u>Per FY19 Reforecast</u>	<u>Per FY19 Budget</u>
Beginning Balance, 7/1/17	2,719,213.00	2,719,213.00	2,719,213.00
FY18 actual net change in reserve	<u>1,417,819.92</u>	<u>1,417,819.92</u>	<u>1,417,819.92</u>
Actual Ending Balance, 6/30/18	4,137,032.92	4,137,032.92	4,137,032.92
FY19 reserve reduction	(363,889.21)	(363,889.21)	(684,850.00)
FY19 add'l OPEB contribution	<u>(400,000.00)</u>	<u>(400,000.00)</u>	<u>0</u>
Forecasted Ending Balance, 6/30/19	3,373,143.71	3,373,143.71	3,452,182.92
FY20 budgeted reserve reduction	<u>(500,000.00)</u>		
Projected Ending Balance, 6/30/20	2,873,143.71		