

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL FINANCE/FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 1, 2020 @ 6:00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING

Members Present: Jay Weitlauf, Jane Giulini, Liz Porter

Also Present: Mike Graner, Ken Knight, Sam Kilpatrick, Nikki Salaun, Jake Tedeschi

Chairman Weitlauf called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

1. Review May 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes – The minutes were approved as presented.
2. Discussion of Tree House Fee Program for the fall of 2020 – Nikki Salaun explained that the program received the waiver to operate two child care programs with no more than 60 students per program. As of today, she expects approximately 35 to 40 students in the program located at CK and NEA. Jake Tedeschi estimated that the final deficit due to the requirement to expand the staff will be approximately \$34,000. The enrollment deadline is June 5, so the final enrollment figures will be shared with the Board on June 15.
3. Review of the Groton Middle School Schedule C Stipends – Mike Graner reported that he spoke to Peter Bass, and after speaking to the staff members, Peter recommended one jazz stipend, one student council stipend, and two drama stipends.
4. Update re: DoD Supplemental Impact Aid – Ken Knight reported that the account now has a balance of \$1,100,000.
5. FY20 Closeout Process – Ken Knight explained that he notified the principals and department directors that final requisitions must be submitted by June 5. This will determine the unexpended balance for the end of the year.
6. Update re: Technology Purchases – Mike Graner explained that the technology purchases approved by the Board in May have been submitted. Dennis Colclough placed orders for 1,200 Chromebooks, 600 Chrome tablets, and 17 interactive panels. The purchase of the approved software will take place in July.
7. Discussion of Secondary School Summer APEX Program – Mike Graner explained that the APEX summer program for secondary students is being developed by Adam Diskin. We are planning two possible scenarios: (1) a program with 100% Distance Learning on the APEX program for both middle and high school students, and (2) a hybrid model where high school students would attend in person at the high school two days per week and have Distance Learning two days per week; middle school students would attend in person two days and have Distance Learning on the other two days. Adam is currently working with the middle school staff and high school counselors to determine the enrollment needs. An estimated budget will be presented to the Board at its June 22 meeting.
8. Update re: School Facilities
 - Groton Middle School – GMS is on schedule for September 1 opening.
 - West Side Middle School – Packing is nearly complete, and we are removing equipment to be used in other schools in the district.

- Cutler Middle School - Packing is nearly complete, and we are removing equipment to be used in other schools in the district.
- Solar Panel Power Purchase Agreement - Mike Graner explained that the CT Green Bank held a video conference explaining the proposal to finance solar panels on Groton Middle School and the elementary school at the Cutler site. The group will be invited to make a presentation to the Board at its June 15 meeting.
- Elementary School Construction – Excavation work is continuing along with tree removal at West Side.
- Relocation of Portable Classrooms – Sam Kilpatrick reported that three bids were received and he is working with the low bidder to ensure compliance with the needs; Groton Planning Department approved the placement of the portables at the Central Office.
- Water Safety - Legionnaires Disease – Sam Kilpatrick reported that he, Scott Kirkpatrick, and Wendell Gaston participated in a webinar on water safety; with the schools closed, there are concerns about stagnant water. The custodial staff has been flushing the entire water system in each building every week to avoid water safety problems.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.