

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL FINANCE/FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 2, 2020 @ 6:00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING**

Members Present: Jay Weitlauf, Jane Giulini, Liz Porter

Also Present: Mike Graner, Ken Knight, Susan Austin

Chairman Weitlauf called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

1. Review October 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes – The minutes were approved as presented.
2. Update re: STA Contract – Mike Graner explained that he spoke to the STA management, and they indicated that Groton would be expected to pay 100% of the contract even though buses will not be used on Wednesdays. STA explained that it is extremely important to retain the drivers. Until further notice, Groton will honor the full contract. With the Curtin transportation contract, we are only charged for the services that are used; as a result, the district expects significant cost avoidance in that account.
3. Update re: Budget Prep – Mike Graner explained that it was his intention to deliver the FY 22 budget to the Board at its December 21 meeting. Ken Knight and Mike Graner will preview the budget at the COW meeting on December 14.
4. Fitch High School Field House Architectural Study
 - SLAM Consultants – Sam Kilpatrick explained that he and Mike Graner met with the SLAM architects and toured the concession stand and field house at Fitch High School. The architects will develop a proposal for a facility upgrade to provide female locker rooms.
5. Groton Middle School Close-out
 - Certificate of Occupancy – Sam Kilpatrick explained that Groton Middle School is expected to receive its Certificate of Occupancy next week. The fire marshal is concerned that fire evacuation maps need to be clarified. Once that work is done, he indicated the Certificate of Occupancy would be issued.
 - Punch List Items – Sam Kilpatrick explained that several punch list items need to be completed. Contractors are working on the roof and recently completed the gym and the installation of the volleyball posts.
 - Striping of Synthetic Surface Field – Sam Kilpatrick reported that the company is installing the permanent field hockey lines on the synthetic surface field this week.
6. Update re: CRF & CARES Budget – Ken Knight reviewed the budget allocations for both the CRF and CARES Act. He indicated that the CRF budget was submitted on October 30. The funds must be expended by December 31 of this year. The majority of the budget is allocated to staff wages. The CRF budget is at the CSDE awaiting review and approval. The CARES Act budget deadline was extended and Ken reported that the funds will be available through September of 2022.
7. Supplemental Impact Aid History to the RTM – Mike Graner shared the history of the Board's expenditure of the DoD Supplemental Impact Aid. The vast majority of the funds have been expended to support instructional technology.

8. Alliance District Funding (\$300,000) Allocation from CSDE – The CFO of the State Education Department confirmed that the allocation of Alliance funding is pending and expects the funds to be delivered shortly.
9. Discussion re: Proposed Usage of the Three Elementary Schools that are Closing (MM, CC, SBB) – Sam Kilpatrick indicated that Mary Morrisson is the school in the best physical shape of the three buildings scheduled to be closed. Sam recommended turning over Claude Chester and S.B. Butler to the town.
10. Discussion re: Fall Sports Stipends – Mike Graner explained that he met with the high school athletic director, Vin Varrecchione, and confirmed that the majority of ECC schools plan to pay the full stipend for fall sports. If the season extends to the spring, that will be considered part of the “extended” season, and no additional stipend will be provided.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.