

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 19, 2021 @ 6:00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING

Members Present: Chairman Kim Shepardson Watson, Vice Chairman Andrea Ackerman, Dean Antipas, Jane Giuliani, Elizabeth Porter, Rosemary Robertson, Rita Volkmann, Jay Weitlauf, Lee White

Also Present: Susan Austin, Sam Kilpatrick, Ken Knight, Denise Doolittle, Laurie LePine

Chairman Watson called the Public Hearing meeting on the superintendent's proposed 2021 - 2022 budget to order at 6:01 p.m.

Mrs. Watson and Ms. Austin gave an overview of the proposed 2021 – 2022 budget. [ATTACHMENTS #1]

1. Mrs. Connie Woods, 10 Fort Hill Road, shared comments regarding HEPA filtration and CO2 monitors for classrooms and offices for proper ventilation controls. [ATTACHMENT #2]

Mr. Knight gave an overview of how the Coronavirus Relief Grant funds (CARES Act/ESSER in the amount of \$686,882 and the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) in the amount of \$1,227,291) were used. [ATTACHMENTS # 3]

MOTION: Ackerman, Porter: To adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:52 p.m.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

Groton Public Schools Superintendent's Proposed 2021-2022 Budget



Board of Education

Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson

Andrea Ackerman, Vice Chairperson

Dean Antipas

Jane Giulini

Liz Porter

Rosemary Robertson

Rita Volkmann

Jay Weitlauf

Lee White

Program Elements

- Maintain effective class size
- Enhance Literacy - Teachers College Readers' Writers' Project
- Continue to support rigor and relevance in math instruction
- Support Next Generation Science Standards Curriculum
- Continue upgrading of classroom technology & infrastructure
- Retain all curricular & extracurricular programs
- Expand online learning program as well as tutoring for enrichment and remedial support



Program Elements (cont'd)

- Support for all five elementary magnet schools
- Continue elementary & middle school after school enrichment programs
- Continue middle school and high school 1 to 1 computer initiative
- Maintain Vocational Program for 18-21 year olds
- Maintain high quality Tree House child care program before/after school
- School Resource Officers @ FHS & GMS - Town/BoE Funded



Proposed Budget

	FY21	Proposed	Increase	%
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>FY22</u>	<u>(Decrease)</u>	
Salaries	49,203,539	50,167,065	963,526	2.0%
Benefits	10,455,723	9,704,146	(751,577)	(7.2%)
Purchased Services	1,968,135	1,994,323	26,188	1.3%
Property Services	867,813	848,189	(19,624)	(2.3%)
Trans, Ins, Comm. Tuition	11,560,211	11,834,195	273,984	2.4%
Supplies	3,217,512	3,493,065	275,553	8.6%
Equipment	90,816	138,263	47,447	52.2%
Dues & Fees	74,341	88,835	14,494	19.5%
Total	77,438,090	78,268,081	829,991	1.1%

SALARIES

	Account	Object #s	FY20 Actual 2019-2020	FY21 Budget 2020-2021	FY21 Estimated 2020-2021	FY22 Budget 2021-2022	Increase/ (Decrease)	%
1	Administrators	105-108	4,440,494	4,642,710	4,619,271	4,608,372	(34,338)	(0.7%)
2	Teachers	101-104, 109, 123-127	34,625,859	34,415,719	34,230,367	35,396,567	980,848	2.9%
3	Non-Certified Aides	110, 111, 119, 129, 130, 131	3,699,815	3,578,209	3,543,098	3,618,042	39,833	1.1%
4	Substitute Teachers	120,121	1,009,551	979,580	783,900	996,774	17,194	1.8%
5	Clerical	112-114, 132-134, 144	1,936,116	1,876,870	1,876,870	1,848,517	(28,353)	(1.5%)
6	Custodial/Maintenance/ Techs	117, 118, 129, 137, 138, 147, 148	3,337,457	3,563,841	3,563,841	3,549,251	(14,590)	(0.4%)
7	Campus Security/Supervision	128	160,603	146,610	146,610	149,542	2,932	2.0%
8	Total Salaries	100s	49,209,895	49,203,539	48,763,958	50,167,065	963,526	2.0%

BENEFITS

	Account	Object #s	FY20 Actual 2019-2020	FY21 Budget 2020-2021	FY21 Estimated 2020-2021	FY22 Budget 2021-2022	Increase/ (Decrease)	%
9	Health Insurance	201-202	8,127,938	7,965,817	7,965,817	7,145,733	(820,084)	(10.3%)
10	Workers Comp & Town Pension	211,213	934,552	927,138	927,138	951,485	24,347	2.6%
11	Social Security & Medicare	212,214	1,429,982	1,433,611	1,412,620	1,454,428	20,817	1.5%
12	Other Benefits	222-227	310,364	129,157	236,438	152,500	23,343	18.1%
13	Total Benefits	200s	10,802,836	10,455,723	10,542,013	9,704,146	(751,577)	7.2%

PURCHASED SERVICES

	Account	Object #s	FY20 Actual 2019-2020	FY21 Budget 2020-2021	FY21 Estimated 2020-2021	FY22 Budget 2021-2022	Increase/ (Decrease)	%
14	Instructional Services	321-324	145,930	153,921	154,316	162,098	8,177	5.3%
15	Professional Services	331	173,396	261,078	315,950	257,436	(3,642)	(1.4%)
16	Other Professional Services	332	782,632	600,634	600,573	608,971	8,337	1.4%
17	OT & PT Services	333	651,904	665,591	664,450	671,345	5,754	0.9%
18	Legal Services	334	81,519	70,000	60,050	70,350	350	0.5%
19	Athletic Officials & Other Athletic Serv	341, 342	47,430	77,676	59,997	75,350	(2,326)	(3.0%)
20	Computer Network Services	343	88,520	139,235	110,577	148,773	9,538	6.9%
21	Total Purchased Services	300s	1,971,331	1,968,135	1,965,913	1,994,323	26,188	1.3%

PROPERTY SERVICES

	Account	Object #s	FY20 Actual 2019-2020	FY21 Budget 2020-2021	FY21 Estimated 2020-2021	FY22 Budget 2021-2022	Increase/ (Decrease)	%
22	Water & Sewer	410, 411	85,130	99,801	99,801	99,801	0	0%
23	Trash & Snow Removal	421, 422	109,825	156,600	156,600	136,600	(20,000)	(12.8%)
24	Repair/Maintenance Services	430-435, 490, 491, 499	473,611	486,970	486,302	479,183	(7,787)	(1.6%)
25	Rental	441	91,357	124,442	115,665	132,605	8,163	6.6%
26	Total Property Services	400s	759,923	867,813	858,368	848,189	(19,624)	(2.3%)

TRANSPORTATION, INSURANCE, COMMUNICATIONS, TUITION

	Account	Object #s	FY20 Actual 2019-2020	FY21 Budget 2020-2021	FY21 Estimated 2020-2021	FY22 Budget 2021-2022	Increase/ (Decrease)	%
27	Transportation: Schools	510-513	4,363,337	4,855,917	4,903,253	5,211,674	355,757	7.3%
28	Transportation: Student Activities	587-596	94,181	176,589	152,353	194,418	17,829	10.1%
29	Transportation: Staff	580-584	74,213	134,441	101,381	138,620	4,179	3.1%
30	Insurance	522,525	289,770	302,400	309,985	310,331	7,931	2.6%
31	Communications	530-552	127,472	124,735	123,522	138,546	13,811	11.1%
32	Tuition: Special Education	561-563, 568	4,127,587	4,481,290	4,468,779	4,481,290	0	0.0%
33	Tuition: Other	564-567	1,505,566	1,484,839	1,345,569	1,359,316	(125,523)	(8.5%)
34	Total Transp, Ins, Comm, Tuition	500s	10,582,126	11,560,211	11,404,842	11,834,195	273,984	2.4%

SUPPLIES

Account	Object #s	FY20 Actual 2019-2020	FY21 Budget 2020-2021	FY21 Estimated 2020-2021	FY22 Budget 2021-2022	Increase/ (Decrease)	%
35 Instructional Supplies	601-609, 613-619, 622, 623, 628	504,444	468,326	601,896	459,950	(8,376)	(1.8%)
36 Computer Supplies	610-612	626,345	642,796	585,494	762,542	119,746	18.6%
37 Electricity & Heating	631-633	1,351,852	1,344,801	1,344,801	1,494,070	149,269	11.1%
38 Transportation Supplies	634, 656	297,227	247,010	247,010	248,406	1,396	0.6%
39 Textbooks & Library Books	640-642, 645, 647	75,611	121,597	130,372	106,175	(15,422)	(12.7%)
40 Facility/Maintenance Supplies	650, 652-655, 657, 659	526,655	320,220	358,712	336,810	16,590	5.2%
41 Other Supplies (staff dev., etc.)	621, 624-627, 690	71,447	72,762	73,557	85,112	12,350	17.0%
42 Total Supplies	600s	3,453,582	3,217,512	3,341,841	3,493,065	275,553	8.6%

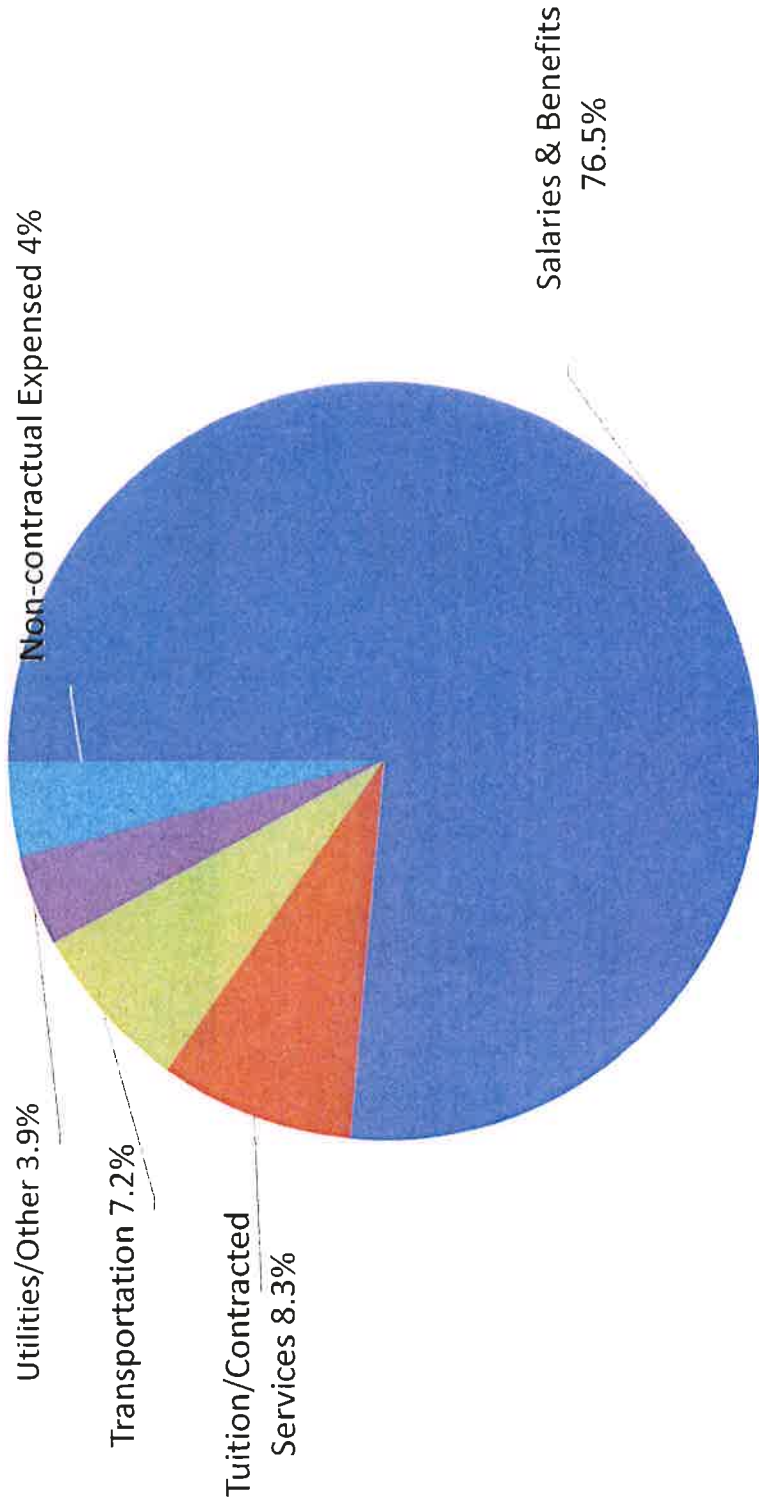
EQUIPMENT

	Account	Object #s	FY20 Actual 2019-2020	FY21 Budget 2020-2021	FY21 Estimated 2020-2021	FY22 Budget 2021-2022	Increase/ (Decrease)	%
43	Instructional Equipment	730 & 735	416,562	64,504	99,198	67,201	2,697	4.2%
44	Non-Instructional Equip	731 & 736	77,049	26,312	61,571	71,062	44,750	170.1%
45	Total Equipment	700s	493,610	90,816	160,769	138,263	47,447	52.2%

DUES & FEES

	Account	Object #s	FY20 Actual 2019-2020	FY21 Budget 2020-2021	FY21 Estimated 2020-2021	FY22 Budget 2021-2022	Increase/ (Decrease)	%
46	Total Dues & Fees	800s	68,558	74,341	85,871	88,835	14,494	19.5%

GPS Budget Categories



Salaries & Benefits	59,871,211	76.5%
Tuition/Contracted Services	6,511,951	8.3%
Transportation	5,654,498	7.2%
Utilities/Ins./Tel/Network/Software Lic.	3,064,176	3.9%
Non-contractual Expenses	3,166,245	4.0%

Elementary Projected Enrollment

	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Subject FTE</u>	<u>Average Class Size</u>
Elementary Schools			
Pre-school	180	6.0	15.0
Pre-K/Speech	60	2.0	15.0
K/Transition-K	392	19.0	20.6
1	335	19.0	17.6
2	349	17.0	20.5
3	288	17.0	16.9
4	304	17.0	17.9
5	<u>305</u>	17.0	17.9
	2,213		

Secondary Projected Enrollment

	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Subject FTE</u>	<u>Average Class Size</u>
Middle School			
6	315	12.0	26.2
7	328	12.0	27.3
8	<u>307</u>	12.0	25.6
	950		
High School	1,012		
English		16.0	17.0
Science		12.0	18.0
Social Studies		10.0	19.0
World Language		8.0	16.0
Math		13.0	17.0

Expenditure per Pupil (NCEP per CSDE)

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Groton</u>	<u>CT Avg</u>	<u>Variance</u>
FY2011-2012	\$14,366.54	\$14,135.33	\$231.21
FY2012-2013	\$14,603.89	\$14,499.70	\$104.20
FY2013-2014	\$14,698.39	\$15,180.11	\$(481.73)
FY2014-2015	\$15,229.90	\$15,715.05	\$(485.15)
FY2015-2016	\$15,528.49	\$16,244.97	\$(716.48)
FY2016-2017	\$15,812.77	\$16,564.06	\$(751.30)
FY2017-2018	\$16,207.50	\$16,988.40	\$(780.90)
FY2018-2019	\$16,304.32	\$17,438.69	\$(1,134.37)
FY2019-2020	\$16,480.53	\$17,768.36	\$(1,287.83)
FY2020-2021 estimate*	\$16,515.50	Not yet available	
FY2021-2022 budget*	\$16,760.85	Not yet available	

* Calculated from budget using actual FY20 enrollment

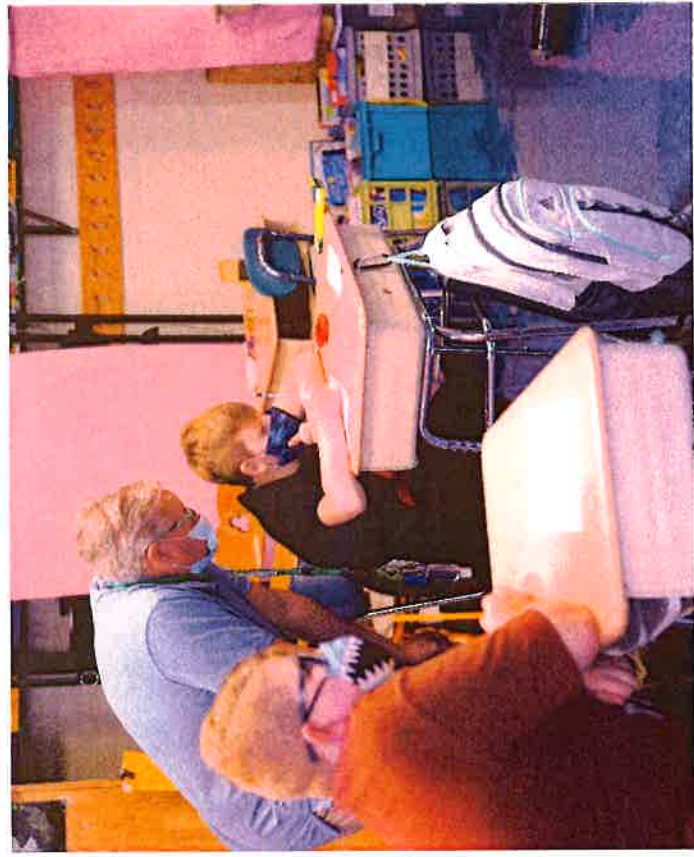
FY21 Town Revenues

Education Cost Sharing (ECS)	24,969,249
Other State Funds	328,206
Federal Impact Aid	3,283,678
SPED Excess Cost	925,000
Medicaid	189,100
Other Sources	<u>83,277</u>
	29,778,510

Board of Education Grants Revenue

	<u>Time Period</u>	<u>FY21</u>
<u>Categorical Grants</u>		
Federal Education Grants (ESEA)	Annual	1,091,231
Carl Perkins (Vocational Education)	Annual	63,359
School Readiness (Early Childhood)	Annual	448,982
IDEA (Federal Special Education grant)	Annual	1,164,716
Bilingual Education (Bilingual education)	Annual	2,962
DOD Supplemental Impact Grant (Tech. Equip)	Annual	260,000 est
Alliance District	Annual	300,000
Total Categorical Grants		3,331,250
<u>Competitive Grants</u>		
Magnet School Assistance Program – STEAM	FY18-22	704,920
DoDEA-Math Grant K-12 (Math grant for military schools)	FY18-22	273,560
DoDEA-STEM Grant K-5, 9-12 (STEM grant for military schools)	FY19-23	141,075
Total Competitive Grants		1,119,555
<u>Coronavirus Grants</u>		
CARES Act/ESSER		686,882
Coronavirus Relief Fund		1,227,291
Total Coronavirus Grants		1,914,173
Total Grants		6,364,978

Mission Statement: Teaching & Learning
BoE Goals: Provide Dynamic Rigorous Curriculum
Ensure Effective and Engaging Instruction
Embrace Excellent Learning Environment



Good evening and thank you for scheduling this public hearing. I have a request during these Covid times to please look at budgeting for HEPA filtration and CO2 monitors classrooms/ offices for proper ventilation controls. Students will most likely still need layers of protection while they wait for pediatric vaccines to be approved.

Yesterday on Jan.18th, the Biden administration nominated Cindy Marten for Deputy Secretary of Education. As San Diego Superintendent, she has worked with Atmospheric Chemist Kimberly Prather Ph.D [KIMBERLY PRATHER | Scripps Oceanography](#), and acknowledged that Covid is airborne and put in measures to clean the air in schools. Cindy Marten's policy is to get at least 6 ACH (air changes per hour), and if not possible then HEPA filtering systems for rooms where they cannot. She also measures aerosols and CO2 in every classroom to check air quality. Schools will more than likely have to make similar changes for safe schools, once the new admin gets put in place. It may be useful for the Groton BOE to have a committee to look into what is needed for the buildings and possibly make needed changes to the 2 new buildings under construction.

The Groton district hired engineers Fuss & O'Neill before the school year started to commission the schools HVAC, but so far that report has not been made public.

Dr.Graner had emailed me back (with the BOE and Susan Austin cc'd) on November 23, 2020 and stated it would be posted on the district's website, and that has not happened. Since the public does not know the air quality, if Merv filters were able to be added, or if work is needed on schools to bring them up to ASHRAE guidelines during the pandemic. I am asking for further mitigations to be purchased for the safety of students/staff without knowing which ventilation measures have already taken place. [ASHRAE Introduces Updated Reopening Guide for Schools and Universities | ashrae.org](#)

The reason for CO2 monitors in the classrooms is due to SARS-CoV-2 being transmitted through the air, and the higher CO2 level, the more we are sharing our air. These monitors will help reduce risk of infection so that teachers/admin will know when to open a window (if windows open) or turn up the HVAC system for more ACH. Ideally, when a CO2 monitor shows 800 ppm, then you know 1% of the air you are breathing has already been breathed by someone in the space. Any higher ppm, then the percent of shared air goes up. The 1918 Fresh Air Movement has already taught us that ventilation was key.

It is time for Groton to address ventilation within our schools, and add more engineered mitigation efforts for solutions against the virus. Studies show poor air quality has an effect on learning and increased absences; ventilation improvements have the added benefits of helping with allergens and air pollution within classrooms. If improvements are made now then Groton will be ahead of most schools, and ready for the next pandemic. Ben Franklin said it best, "I am persuaded that no common Air from without, is so unwholesome as the Air within a close Room, that has been often breath'd and not changed".

Thank you,
 Connie Woods
 10 Fort Hill Rd. #2C
 Groton, CT 06340

Citation of Cindy Marten on airborne mitigation: "Rather, Marten turned to a team of scientists at the University of California San Diego, including specialists in airborne illness, to guide an overhaul of air filtration systems, cleaning, and other protocols. Working with local experts helped San Diego to tailor its plan to its specific needs, and it also has helped build the credibility needed for public buy-

in, she said. The plan calls for working with the university to test up to 10,000 students and staff members a day, using frequent testing to significantly drive down the likelihood of transmission.”
<https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/what-educators-need-to-hear-from-biden-on-covid-19/2020/12>

I'm adding a couple of photos of CO2 monitors: The large monitor is in a restaurant, but that is for visibility. Many are small hand sized and work for what is needed in classrooms. They can also be built as a classroom project if supplies are purchased.

Groton Public Schools

Coronavirus Relief Grants

CARES Act/Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ESSER)	Budget
Personnel	
Additional teaching personnel - hybrid model/distance learning	153,454
Additional social workers - student supports	64,113
Additional technology support - student and teacher support	47,597
Additional community coordinators - student/families outreach	22,365
Additional parttime custodial personnel - cleaning	66,183
Additional substitute teachers - support hybrid learning	126,912
	<hr/> 480,624
Other	
Food service - support for meal distribution to students/families	113,081
School supplies - at home usage during distance learning	71,177
Document cameras - support hybrid/distance learning	22,000
	<hr/> 206,258
Total CARES Act/ESSER	686,882

Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)	Budget
Personnel	
Additional substitute teachers/paraprofessionals - support hybrid learning	605,413
Additional teaching personnel - hybrid model/distance learning	98,442
Additional tutor support - hybrid learning support	34,279
Additional social workers - student supports	54,031
Additional technology support - student and teacher support	21,104
Additional community coordinators - student/families outreach	31,485
Additional parttime custodial personnel - cleaning	42,457
Additional admin support - coord of hybrid/distance learning	11,049
Salaries for updating curriculum instruction - support hybrid	154,031
	<hr/> 1,052,291
Other	
PPE (face masks, shields, gloves, gowns, desk shields, etc)	147,337
Hand sanitizer/dispensers	12,663
HVAC reconditioning	15,000
	<hr/> 175,000
Total CRF	1,227,291

Total Coronavirus Relief (ESSER + CRF)	1,914,173
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