

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
FEBRUARY 17, 2021 @ 6:00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kim Shepardson Watson-Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman-Vice Chairperson, Dean Antipas, Jane Giulini, Liz Porter, Rosemary Robertson, Rita Volkmann, Jay Weitlauf,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lee White

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Sam Kilpatrick, Ken Knight, Laurie LePine

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Kim Watson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. BOE REGULAR BUSINESS

MOTION: Porter, Volkmann: To approve the COW minutes of February 8, 2021.
PASSED -UNANIMOUSLY

III. BUDGET WORK SESSION

Mrs. Volkmann noted receipt of the class sizes and shared a concern with class sizes with below 10 in enrollment; she asked if these lower numbers were impacted by COVID-19 and the hybrid/remote models. Ms. Austin stated that she would provide more information from the high school administrative team and forward to the board; further discussion would take place at a future COW meeting.

Ms. Austin and Mr. Knight gave an overview of the Budget Decisions Detail chart. **(ATTACHMENT #1)** Mr. Keleher and Mr. Bass discussed the need for a full time Athletic/Extra-Curricular Activities Director for the Middle School and High School Campus. Ms. Austin reported the need for the APEX tutor position to be transferred to a teaching position; it has currently been overseen by the part time Athletic Director who serves as part time certified teacher. Mr. Keleher requested converting the Dean position to an Assistant Principal position to provide additional support to the high school by sharing responsibility for evaluation of staff, allowing for the coordination of the campus counseling department (grades 6-12).

In addition to the secondary requests, Ms. Austin reviewed the elementary school needs:

- Addition of .5 PE teacher (for Health)
- Full Time Tutor to support Magnet Themes
- Social Worker at NEA/CB
- Media Specialist at TRM/MRM
- School Secretary at TRM/MRM

Mr. Weitlauf asked if these positions can be for 1 year duration and then reevaluate them to determine if they are still needed.

Ms. Austin gave an overview of proposed FY 22 Budget Alternatives. **(ATTACHMENT #2)** Mrs. LePine addressed the Health Insurance Reserve.

Mr. Weitlauf suggested taking \$324,000 from the DoD Supplemental fund instead of from the Health Insurance Reserve account; in order to set a 0% budget. Mr. Weitlauf also suggested starting a DEI account for the duration of the DEI 5 year plan for training of teachers.

Ms. Austin stated that she would provide revisions of the chart data for the Board to review, i.e. revised FY22 Budget Alternatives and FY22 Budget Decisions Detail documents, Revised DOD Supplemental Impact Aid.

IV. SUGGESTED FUTURE TOPICS

NONE

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Porter: To adjourn at 8:33 p.m.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Groton Public Schools
 Budget decisions detail
 FY2022

| Secondary Campus Needs | Cost assumption | Cost | Offset assumption | Offset, if any | Differential | Possible Funding | |
|--|-------------------------------|---------|--|----------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| | | | | | | FY22 Board of Ed Budget | CARES Act II |
| Full time FHS Athletic Director | Dean salary | 128,217 | Current AD teacher salary & stipend | 107,853 | 20,364 | 20,364 | |
| Convert Dean at FHS to Asst Principal | HS AP salary | 152,918 | Current Dean salary & summer sch stipend | 131,442 | 21,476 | 21,476 | |
| Convert APEX tutor position to teacher | Masters/Step 3 teacher salary | 57,336 | Current tutor salary | 35,956 | 21,380 | 21,380 | |
| Subtotal - Secondary Campus Needs | | | | | | 63,220 | - |

| Elementary Schools Needs | Cost assumption | Cost | Offset assumption | Offset, if any | Differential | Possible Funding | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| | | | | | | FY22 Board of Ed Budget | CARES Act II |
| Add 0.5 FTE PE teacher at elem | Masters/Step 3 teacher salary | 28,668 | None | - | 28,668 | 28,668 | |
| Add FT Tutor to support magnet themes | FT tutor salary | 35,956 | None | - | 35,956 | 35,956 | |
| Add 1.0 FTE Social worker at NEA/CB | Masters/Step 3 social worker salary | 58,287 | None | - | 58,287 | 58,287 | |
| Add 1.0 FTE Media Specialist at TRM/MIRM | Current Media Specialist salary | 57,336 | None | - | 57,336 | 57,336 | |
| Add 1.0 FTE School Secretary at TRM/MIRM | Step 1 Secretary salary | 35,043 | None | - | 35,043 | 35,043 | |
| Subtotal - Elementary Schools Needs | | | | | | 215,290 | 151,579 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|------------------------|---------|----------|----------------|----------------|
| Retirements - three step 14 teachers | Masters/Step 5 teacher salary | 191,337 | Actual salary replaced | 286,227 | (94,890) | (94,890) | |
| Total | | | | | | 183,620 | 151,579 |

Attachment #2

Groton Public Schools
FY22 Budget Alternatives

| | | Variance to FY21 Budget | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| | | \$\$ | % |
| Superintendents Budget, 1/14/21 | 78,268,081 | 829,991 | 1.07% |
| Retirements | (94,890) | | |
| Proposed budget adjustments: | | | |
| Secondary campus needs | 63,220 | | |
| Elementary schools needs | 63,711 | | |
| Adj Superintendents Budget, 2/17/21 | 78,300,122 | 862,032 | 1.11% |
| Costs added that could be paid by CARES Act II: | | | |
| 1.5 FTE Social Worker | (90,533) | | |
| Remote learning software | (150,000) | | |
| Summer School | (8,834) | | |
| Reduce Costs: | | | |
| Travel for Workshops (funded by DoDEA STEM grant) | (23,500) | | |
| Diesel Fuel (funded by leftover FY21 supplies) | (75,000) | | |
| IT Infrastructure (funded by DOD Supplemental Impact Aid) | (60,000) | | |
| Reg Ed Magnet Tuitions (assume 10% enrollment reduction) | (108,000) | | |
| Electricity/Natural Gas (assume quicker turnover to town) | (30,000) | | |
| Budget after CARES Act II and cost reduction, 2/17/21 | 77,754,256 | 316,166 | 0.41% |
| Health Insurance reserve reduction (in addition to \$1.5 million already taken) | (316,166) | | |
| Budget after health insurance reserve, 2/17/21 | 77,438,090 | - | 0.00% |