

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
MARCH 8, 2021 @ 6:00 P.M.  
REMOTE MEETING**

NOTE: This meeting is being held remotely due to the Coronavirus concern. Members of the public may view or listen to the meeting by following the below steps:

- 1) Using Google Chrome browser, go to [www.grotonschools.org](http://www.grotonschools.org)
- 2) Zoom information can be found by clicking on the meeting under District Calendar

Mission Statement: Our mission is teaching and learning.

Board Goals: In a richness of cultures and with a respect for all, (1) Provide Dynamic Rigorous Curriculum, (2) Ensure Effective and Engaging Instruction, and (3) Embrace Excellent Learning Environment.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. BoE Regular Business
  - a. Approval of the C.O.W. meeting minutes of February 17, 2021 (Attachment #1)
3. Athletic Fields Task Force Presentation
4. Update from Ledge Light Health District
5. Perkins Eastman Architect Presentation re: New Elementary Schools
6. DoD Supplemental Impact Aid
7. Review Referral List (Attachment #2)
8. Suggested Future Topics
9. Adjournment

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	
<b>Subtotal - Secondary Campus Needs</b>						<b>63,220</b>	<b>-</b>

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/MRM	Current Media Specialist salary	57,336	None	-	57,336	57,336	
Add 1.0 FTE School Secretary at TRM/MRM	Step 1 Secretary salary	35,043	None	-	35,043	35,043	
<b>Subtotal - Elementary Schools Needs</b>						<b>215,290</b>	<b>151,579</b>

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

Attachment #2

Groton Public Schools  
 FY22 Budget Alternatives

		Variance to FY21 Budget	
		\$\$	%
<b>Superintendents Budget, 1/14/21</b>	<b>78,268,081</b>	<b>829,991</b>	<b>1.07%</b>
Retirements	(94,890)		
Proposed budget adjustments:			
Secondary campus needs	63,220		
Elementary schools needs	63,711		
<b>Adj Superintendents Budget, 2/17/21</b>	<b>78,300,122</b>	<b>862,032</b>	<b>1.11%</b>
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)		
<b>Budget after CARES Act II and cost reduction, 2/17/21</b>	<b>77,754,256</b>	<b>316,166</b>	<b>0.41%</b>
Health Insurance reserve reduction (in addition to \$1.5 million already taken)	(316,166)		
<b>Budget after health insurance reserve, 2/17/21</b>	<b>77,438,090</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

# BOARD OF EDUCATION - REFERRAL TRACKING SHEET

Revised: March 2, 2021

FCM = Future Committee Meeting

Referral #	Date Initiated	Subject	Referred to	Action	Status Report
R2015-37	12/10/18	Review the assessment of grammar (AA)	Curriculum	FCM	
R2020-19	9/21/20	Review of Spelling	Curriculum	FCM	
		<b>Policy Development</b>			
R2017-6	3/6/17	Review policy P 3520.11 Electronic Information Security	Policy	FCM	ongoing
R2017-7	3/6/17	Review policy P 3543.31 Electronic Communication Use and Retention	Policy	FCM	ongoing
R2018-10	6/4/18	Review policy P 5111.3 Protection of Undocumented Students	Policy	FCM	ongoing
R2018-25	1/7/19	Review policy P 6146.1 Examination Grading	Policy	FCM	ongoing
R2020-20	10/6/20	Review policy P 9000 Rules of Procedure	Policy	FCM	
R2020-22	10/19/20	Review policy P 5112.2 Admission Requirements for Resident Students	Policy	FCM	
R2021-3	3/1/21	Review policy 1330 Use of School Facilities	Policy	FCM	1 <sup>st</sup> reading - 3/22/21
		<b>COW</b>			
R2018-18	12/10/18	Discussion of student achievement by sub groups (KF)	COW	FCM	ongoing
R2020-8	5/18/20	Discussion of a regional approach to Transition Academy and the need for an alternative high school and how to support each	COW	FCM	ongoing
R2020-10	6/8/20	Review of Report Cards	COW	FCM	
R2020-12	6/8/20	Assessment of what went well and what went wrong with distance learning and the inequities	COW	FCM	
R2020-21	10/15/20	Discussion of STEM Masters for Diversity (RV)	COW	FCM	
R2020-26	11/9/20	Discussion of STEM Residency for Diversity (RV)	COW	FCM	
R2020-23	10/19/20	Discussion and review of the work of the DEI Committee	COW	FCM	ongoing
R2021-1	1/11/21	Discussion and review of policy P 6142.102 Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)	COW	FCM	
		<b>Finance/Facilities</b>			
R2021-2	2/1/21	Building substitutes for the 2021-22 school year (RV)	Fin/Fac	FCM	
		<b>Miscellaneous</b>			