

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL FINANCE/FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MAY 10, 2021 @ 5:00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING

Members Present: Jay Weitlauf, Dean Antipas, Liz Porter

Also Present: Susan Austin, Ken Knight

Chairman Weitlauf called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. Review April 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes - The motion to accept the minutes was made by Antipas, seconded by Porter. The minutes were accepted.
2. Continued Review of End of Year Unexpended Funds – Ken Knight reviewed the list of the FY2021 End of Year Funds. It was noted that the Magnet Costs remain and that the High School item should be removed as it is no longer an issue. Central Office now has locking file cabinets. Under Operations, Mr. Antipas asked about the need for a new floor scrubber. Answer: GMS has different flooring than any other school; therefore, a different scrubber is needed to accommodate this new material. Mr. Knight also updated us on the excess vacation payout which is expected to decrease in amount and OPEB is expected to increase.
3. Continued Review of Alliance District Funds – Ken Knight reviewed the Alliance District Funding for FY 2021. He reminded the committee that these funds must be expended by the end of June, even though the district only received the amount a couple of weeks ago. Discussion regarding the purchase of software ensued. Susan Austin stated that a utilization report and survey would be conducted to analyze the effectiveness of purchased software currently in use. An audit will be conducted to discover what is being used and what is not. Ms. Austin stated that she meets approximately four times a year with software providers. Mr. Antipas asked if the accounting/HR software is the same as the Town of Groton uses. The committee was informed that the Town is converting to MUNIS. GPS currently uses eFinance PLUS. It was recommended that an audit be conducted.
4. Continued Review of Tuition for Out-of-Town Students – Ken Knight presented a table of Regular Education Tuition Rates for Groton and surrounding systems: Lyme/Old Lyme, Stonington, Ledyard, NFA, St. Bernard School and Williams School. It has been proposed that to make Groton more marketable that the rate of 85% of cost per pupil be accepted. A review of the costs inherent in the MYP, DP as well as AP and UCONN/ECE was given. Mr. Weitlauf asked about various criteria for discounts to be offered such as for relatives of Groton taxpayers, GPS faculty that live out of town and Active-Duty personnel as well as for discounts for families with multiple students enrolled. The tuition collected goes directly to the Town of Groton. A discussion regarding the managing of enrollment followed. Any out of district placement is approved by the Superintendent. These items will be discussed at a future COW meeting.
5. Grants and Grant Sustainability – This item had been inadvertently left off the original agenda and was added with the committee’s consent. Mrs. Austin reported that she is waiting to hear about 3 DoDEA Grants. ESSER 3 needs to have a committee formed that includes students, faculty, parents. The amount of the ESSER Grant is approximately \$7 million through 2024. More information regarding the Impact Aid grants will be forthcoming.

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.