

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL FINANCE/FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 7, 2021 @ 6:00 P.M.  
REMOTE MEETING

**Members Present:** Jay Weitlauf, Dean Antipas, Liz Porter

**Also Present:** Susan Austin, Ken Knight, Sam Kilpatrick, Tom Lonsdale

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

1. Review May 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes – Discussion regarding the question: Do we charge Parks and Rec for utilities when they are using GPS facilities? The answer was that we do not charge for their use of GPS facilities. The motion to accept the minutes was made by Dean Antipas, seconded by Liz Porter. The minutes were accepted.
2. Review of STA Transportation Contract – Ken Knight reviewed the current STA rates. It was noted that the average rate has increased annually at approximately 2.2%. GPS is locked into this contract until 2023. The current rate is for 181 days with approximately 43 regular education busses. Ken Knight provided the attached chart identifying rate changes over time and projected costs for upcoming years.
3. Discussion re: Transfinder – Tom Lonsdale reviewed the findings of the Transfinder inquiry. This inquiry was to determine current usage of the busses and to identify any efficiencies that can be made given the new magnet schools’ needs as well as the possible change in start times for GMS and FHS. Transfinder is in the process of developing efficient bus routes. The cost is approximately \$12,000 for the completion of the study and the creation/implementation of the new routes. Training and coaching of GPS staff will also occur to allow GPS staff to address the needs of Groton’s changing population demographics. A 2 Tier system was recommended – Tier 1 for Elementary, Tier 2 for MS/HS. Proposed bell time changes are still in discussion for the MS and HS.
4. Discussion re: Use of ARP ESSER Funds for HVAC – Susan Austin shared that the State of Connecticut has sent templates and other documents to assist in the planning and use of the ESSER funds. A committee is currently being formed to oversee the administration of these funds. Susan Austin stated that the charge of the committee will be to prioritize the usage of the funds in a balanced, fair, and effective manner. The state has provided a consultant and guidance documents on how to use these funds and the approval process. The areas that the ESSER funds can be used for are academic, accelerated learning, gap learning, social/emotional learning and health and safety.

Sam Kilpatrick presented the need for the replacement of the air handler at the high school due to erosion caused by salt air. The cost would be \$170,000, and ESSER funds could be used to cover this cost as it can be categorized as part of health and safety. Discussion also included adding air conditioning to the “vintage” section of FHS with a current estimate of \$2.7 to 3 million dollars; a study at CB and MM regarding adding a modern HVAC, roof top system with an estimated cost of \$1.6 to \$1.8 million. Pricing is higher now due to overseas supplier issues.

5. Discussion re: Naming the High School Baseball Field – Jay Weitlauf asked if there was a process for naming a field. There is a process for buildings. Should the facility follow the same process. The facility in question is the FHS baseball field. Jay and Sam have been working on this issue and have consulted with Bob Peruzzotti who was involved with the baseball field renovation years ago. The Mara family donated the funds without any expectation of having the field named after them. Discussion will continue before bringing this matter before the full Board.
6. Continued Review of Tuition for Out-of-Town Students – Ken Knight presented the attached matrix illustrating the cost per pupil to educate a student in Groton in comparison to other schools, public and private, in our geographic area. Discussion about possible further discounting of tuition for a variety of reasons ensued. The matrix with the rate of 85% of the current cost per pupil will be presented for Board approval.

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Groton Public Schools  
 STA contract

School Year	Contract	Increase	Rate/day	Increase
2010-2011	16-Aug-11		\$ 284.40	
2011-2012	16-Aug-11	0.0%	\$ 284.40	\$ -
2012-2013	16-Aug-11	5.3%	\$ 299.45	\$ 15.05
2013-2014	20-Mar-13	0.0%	\$ 299.45	\$ -
2014-2015	20-Mar-13	2.5%	\$ 306.94	\$ 7.49
2015-2016	20-Mar-13	2.0%	\$ 313.08	\$ 6.14
2016-2017	20-Mar-13	2.0%	\$ 319.34	\$ 6.26
2017-2018	20-Mar-13	2.0%	\$ 325.73	\$ 6.39
2018-2019	3-Mar-18	2.0%	\$ 332.24	\$ 6.51
2019-2020	3-Mar-18	2.0%	\$ 338.88	\$ 6.64
2020-2021	3-Mar-18	2.0%	\$ 345.66	\$ 6.78
2021-2022	3-Mar-18	3.0%	\$ 356.03	\$ 10.37
2022-2023	3-Mar-18	3.0%	\$ 366.71	\$ 10.68

Total increase in rate over 13 years	\$ 82.31
% increase in rate over 13 years	28.9%
Average annual rate increase over 13 years	2.2%

Groton Public Schools  
Regular Education Tuition Rates

	Groton cost per pupil	Groton Proposed Tuition @ 85% of cost per pupil	RSD #18 (Lyme/ Old Lyme)	Stonington	Ledyard	NFA	St Bernards	Williams School
PK	7,191	6,112	15,000	Not Provided	11,302	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
K-5	14,382	12,225	15,000	14,468	11,302	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
6-8	15,804	13,433	17,000	14,468	11,032	Not Applicable	8,600	30,150
9-12	16,112	13,695	19,000	16,497	13,859	13,375	13,700	31,150
IB DP		15,905	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

FY21 IB DP Budget (func #1117)	86,195
FY21 IB Full DP Students	39
Proposed IB DP Surcharge	2,210