

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
JUNE 14, 2021 @ 6:00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kim Shepardson Watson-Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman-Vice Chairperson, Liz Porter, Rosemary Robertson, Rita Volkmann, Jay Weitlauf, Lee White

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dean Antipas, Jane Giulini

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Philip Piazza, Sam Kilpatrick, Ken Knight

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Kim Watson called the meeting to order at 6:043 p.m.

II. BOE REGULAR BUSINESS

MOTION: Robertson, Ackerman: To approve the COW minutes of May 17, 2021.
PASSED -UNANIMOUSLY

III. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE RE: MYP

Ms. Austin noted:

- The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program visit was held this past spring; accolades and recommendations were made;
- The Directors who organized the visit are Kathy Wilson (MYP Coordinator), Leslie Forbes (Humanities Coordinator), and Amy Murphy (STEM Coordinator);
- A future COW will be scheduled to go into more details.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE RE: NEASC

Ms. Austin noted:

- The New England Association of Schools and Colleges sent a collaborative team to Groton in the fall; we received the report in the spring;
- Dr. Piazza will take the lead with the team on implementing the next steps;
- A future COW will be scheduled to go into more details.

V. REVIEW OF TRANSFINDER REPORT & ESTIMATED SCHOOL OPENING/CLOSING TIMES
(Attachment #1)

Mr. Lonsdale gave a PowerPoint report of the Transfinder report and estimated school opening/closing times.

Mr. Weitlauf requested to know from the high school the impact on after school activities with the proposed time changes.

Mrs. Volkmann asked that the administration investigate the buying of vans to transport special education students. This item was referred to the Finance/Facilities Committee for review.

VI. TUITION FOR OUT-OF-TOWN STUDENTS (Attachment #2)

Mr. Knight gave an overview of the proposed tuition rates for out-of-town students.

VII. REVIEW OF REFERRAL LIST

The Board reviewed the Referral List.

Mrs. Volkmann requested discussion of the cost of AP and IB tests and who pays for them at a COW meeting.

Mrs. Volkmann requested that the cost of bus monitors be referred to the Finance/Facilities Committee.

Mrs. Porter referred final exams and mid-term exams and how they affect middle school and high school to the Curriculum Committee.

XI. SUGGESTED FUTURE TOPICS

NONE

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Porter:

To adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

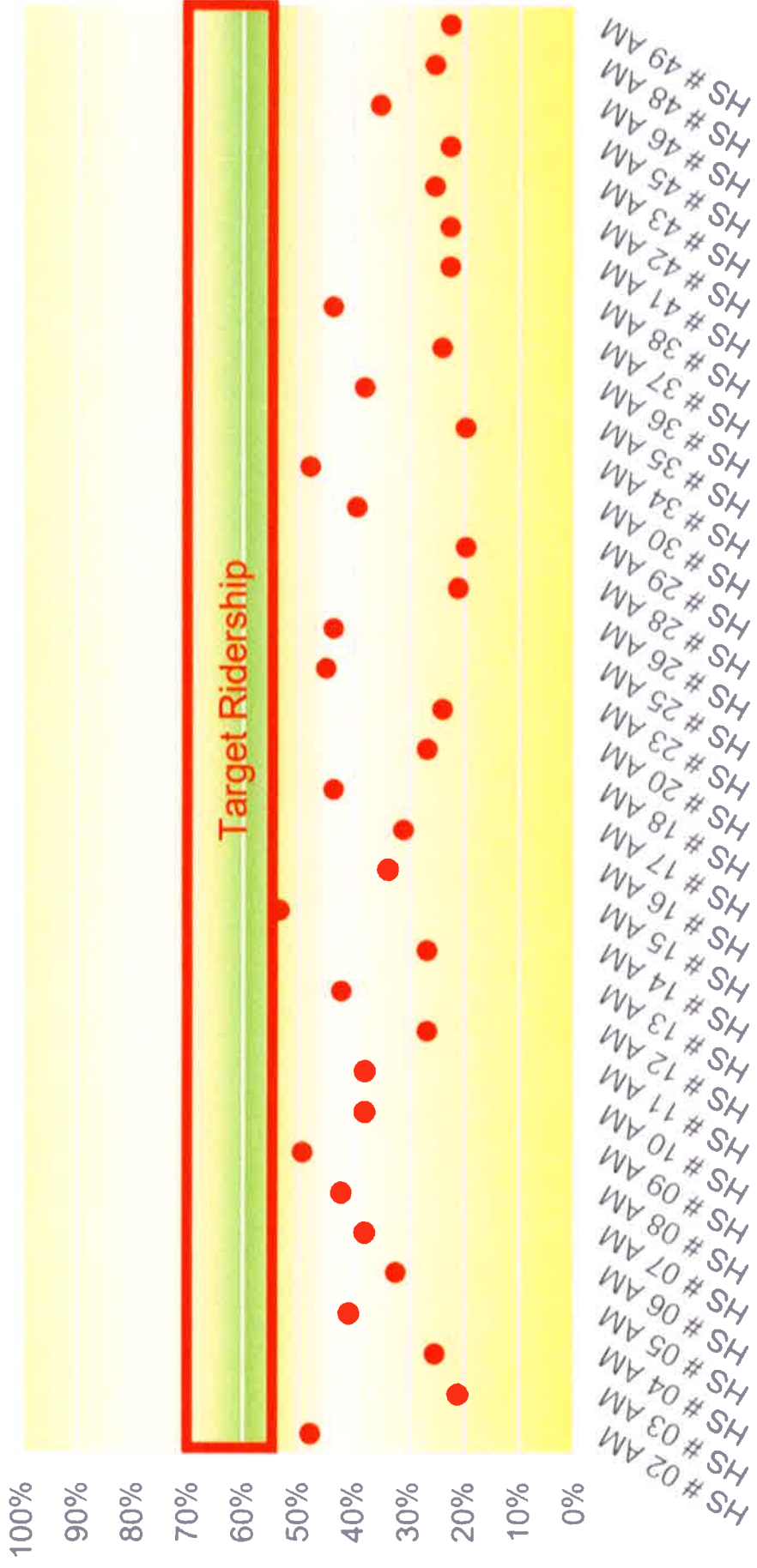
Why does Groton need to reevaluate its transportation for 2021-2022.

- Groton Public Schools K-5 Elementary schools will require us to transport students across the entire district.
- Groton Public Schools will offer transportation for our pre-K students.
- The additional travel distance and number of students will require additional time for the buses to complete their routes.
- It is anticipated that if the current system was continued additional buses would be needed to meet the demand.

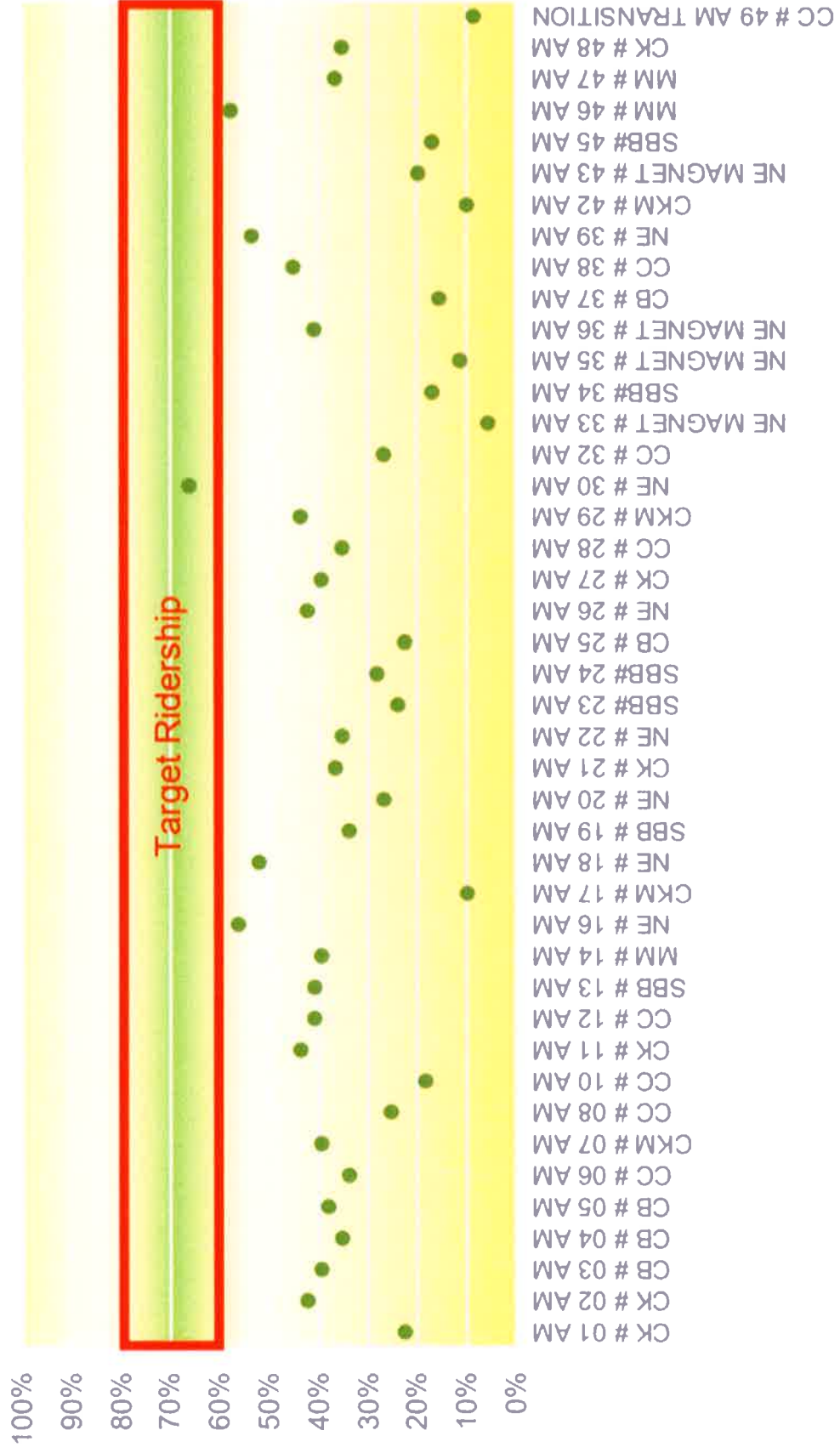
Transfinder Study

- Groton Public Schools contracted with Transfinder to complete a “Route Efficiency Study.”
- This study determined that there was additional capacity on our current buses and that they could be routed more efficiently.
- This study also determined that our current number of buses could support a two-tier busing system.

FHS AM Vehicle Utilization



Elementary AM Vehicle Utilization



Bus Utilization

2021-2022 Target

60%-80% - Across all grades.

2020 - 2021

33% - Across all grades.

2018 - 2020

44% - Across all grades.

Sixty-six percent of capacity is 2 riders per seat and 80% is approximately 3 riders per seat for 1/2 the bus and 2 riders per seat for the rest.

Transfinder Continued...

- Transfinder is working to create an efficient routing design for the 2021-2022 school year. This design will allow us to accomplish district goals without the expense of additional buses.
- This design will provide an efficient foundation for our transportation services for years to come.
- Transfinder will train district staff to route more efficiently in the future.

The Benefits of a Two-Tier System

- **Increased Sleep** – Fitch High School will be able to start later in the morning. There is strong scientific research supporting later start times and positive academic growth.
- **Increased Time** – More time between bus routes will allow us to ensure that elementary magnet students can arrive at school on time.
- **Increased Efficiency** – School buses will spend less total time in route. This will lower out fuel consumption and costs.
- **Increased Flexibility** – A more closely aligned Groton Middle School and Fitch High School schedule provides the opportunity to share staff across the campus.

Proposed Bell Times

SY 2020 - 2021

Fitch High School

Bus Arrival Time	Bell Start Time	Bell End Time	Bus Departure Time
7:15:00 AM	7:25:00 AM	2:07:00 PM	2:17:00 PM

Groton Middle School

Bus Arrival Time	Bell Start Time	Bell End Time	Bus Departure Time
7:55:00 AM	8:05:00 AM	2:45:00 PM	2:55:00 PM

Elementary Schools

Bus Arrival Time	Bell Start Time	Bell End Time	Bus Departure Time
8:45:00 AM	8:55:00 AM	3:30:00 PM	3:40:00 PM

SY 2021 - 2022

Fitch High School

Bus Arrival Time	Bell Start Time	Bell End Time	Bus Departure Time
7:35:00 AM	7:45:00 AM	2:27:00 PM	2:37:00 PM

Groton Middle School

Bus Arrival Time	Bell Start Time	Bell End Time	Bus Departure Time
7:45:00 AM	7:55:00 AM	2:35:00 PM	2:45:00 PM

Elementary Schools

Bus Arrival Time	Bell Start Time	Bell End Time	Bus Departure Time
8:50:00 AM	9:00:00 AM	3:35:00 PM	3:45:00 PM

Next Steps

- GPS is working to ensure arrival and dismissal procedure are as safe and efficient as possible between Groton Middle School and Fitch High School.
- Transfinder is working to finalize routing for the 2021-2022 school year and is integrating the data from our K-5 elementary lottery.
- GPS is working with the special education department to ensure that all transportation accommodations are met.

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