

GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TOWN & CITY COUNCILS/RTM/BOARD OF EDUCATION LIAISON COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
July 7, 2021 @ 5:30 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING

Central Office – Susan Austin, Philip Piazza
BOE – Kim Shepardson Watson, Lee White, Rosemary Robertson
Town Council – Patrice Granatosky, Juliette Parker
City Council – Christine Piazza
RTM –Kathy Chase

1. Call to Order – 5:32 p.m.
2. Review of June 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve – Kim Shepardson Watson, 2nd Rosemary Robertson. The minutes were approved as presented.
3. Board of Education Report
 - Moving into the two new schools in August
 - ARP ESSER Plan – look at the Groton website for the full plan. There will be full in-person education this Fall. No more remote.
 - ESSER plans have five buckets of money of priorities to address – Teaching and Learning, Family and Community Connections (outreach), Social and Emotional Learning, Technology and Professional Learning and Safe and Healthy Schools
 - STEM and Literacy camps are in progress
 - Teachers have been taking a lot of curricula writing and math workshops
 - A Transfinder bus route audit is in progress. The software company helped support this work. Within the time frame, to do a two-tier system with the middle and high schools coming in together a little before 7:40 for high school and 7:45 for middle school they will leave at different times in the afternoon so there will be plenty of time to get the magnet schools rolling which was the catalyst so the young children wouldn't have to be on the buses for long periods of time. The BoE won't have to add on buses, in fact, might be saving some buses in the future.
 - Hiring three positions: IT Director, FHS Music Teacher and Band Director and Campus Athletic Director for the high school and middle school.
 - Rollover from one fiscal year to the next has gone smoothly. With leftover funds was shooting for \$150,000 but if there is a couple extra thousand will add to it to take care of OPEB obligations to get caught up along with the health savings account to make sure it is funded correctly.
4. Town Council Report
 - Paving Sandy Hollow Road
 - Children First Groton grant
 - Land acquisition for open space property – 161 acres that is ecologically and historically sensitive has passed through the Council and will go to the RTM for final approval. Applied for a grant for 40% of the cost, Groton Open Space associates has pledged several hundred thousand dollars and the town will put in \$220,000 and the remaining \$18,000 will be raised by either other grants or other conservation groups. The owner wants the property preserved.
5. City Council Report
 - The farmers market has opened at Washington Park
6. RTM Report
 - The Mystic Coastal Access Wayfinding signage was approved for \$40,000

- The RTM approved the sale of the Pleasant Valley School
- Authorized the allocation of the \$55,320 for the Crystal Lake Road project
- Fourth quarter transfers were approved
- A recommendation to the rules committee was made to not vote on future sales of property until the sale price is known

7. New Business

8. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.