

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL FINANCE/FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 @ 5:00 P.M.  
REMOTE MEETING

NOTE: In collaboration with the Town of Groton, Board of Education meetings are being held remotely via Zoom. 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) The Zoom meeting link can be found by clicking on the meeting under District Calendar

Mission Statement: Our mission is teaching and learning.

Board Goals: In 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. Review August 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes (Attachment #1)
3. Budget Timeline
4. Discuss Details of HVAC Upgrades Included in CIP Proposals
5. Update re: New Elementary Schools
6. Update re: Alliance District Funding for 2021-2022
7. Discussion re: District Technology Needs
8. Update re: Bus Driver Training
9. Adjournment

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL FINANCE/FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 2, 2021 @ 6:00 P.M.  
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 5

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

**Members Absent:** Elizabeth Porter

**Also Present:** Susan Austin, Ken Knight, Sam Kilpatrick, Laurie LePine

Chairman Weitlauf called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

1. Review June 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes - The minutes were accepted as presented.
2. Review ARP ESSER III Budget – Susan Austin reviewed the Summary of 3 ESSERS report. She went over the ARP ESSER column, highlighting that there is a requirement that a minimum of \$1,314,571 (20%) must be spent on the first priority (Learning acceleration & Academic renewal). Dean Antipas inquired about the sustainability of these initiatives. Susan remarked that we are trying to build capacity and that many of these costs will not need to be sustained.
3. Discussion of DoD Supplemental Impact Aid Grant – Ken Knight review the DoD Supplemental Impact Aid. Ken stated the balance at 6/30/21 was \$1,487,927.76. He confirmed that the district will receive an additional \$471,746.81 in August/September timeframe. The plan is to utilize \$648,098 on technology purchases (equipment and software) this fiscal year. Sam Kilpatrick noted that the schedule should not read “Tennis court overage,” but rather “Tennis court additional work.”
4. Discussion of OPEB Projections – Ken Knight and Laurie LePine reviewed an excerpt from the 7/1/20 OPEB report (page 20), attached. This report showed that the BOE OPEB reserve was \$611,566 at 6/30/20. The OPEB contribution for the upcoming fiscal year is \$1,567,234, which increase from \$1,035,607 in the previous year. The increase was primarily due to a change in the actuarial standards. Laurie remarked that we are working on providing retired employees a fully insured option in the coming months that could positively impact this reserve.
5. Discussion of Next Year's CIP Proposals - Sam Kilpatrick reviewed possible CIPs to be submitted to the town this fall. The potential projects include a new roof for Charles Barnum, new windows for the vintage section of Fitch High, an upgrade to the Fitch High careers wing, primarily in food services, addressing the athletic fields and field house at Fitch High, field lighting at Groton Middle and upgrades to HVAC at Charles Barnum and Fitch High.
6. Salary Comparison – Laurie LePine reviewed the salary rates for paraprofessionals, regular substitute teachers, building substitute teachers, and long term substitute teachers. In a survey conducted, it was determined that Groton was around average for paraprofessionals’ hourly rate and building substitute teacher daily rates, but we were slightly below for regular substitute daily rates. It was discussed that long term substitute teachers are paid at the building sub rate for the first 40 days of their assignment, but then are paid at the equivalent of the daily rate for a bachelor step one teacher per our teacher contract.

7. Discussion re: Potential Primary Voting Locations – For the September 14 primary, the committee discussed using Mary Morrisson and S.B. Butler as voting locations since the buildings no longer have students. It was also suggested using the Zbierski House instead of Thames River and the Town Hall Annex instead of Fitch High School.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.