

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
OCTOBER 18, 2021 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jane Giulini, Rosemary Robertson

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Sam Kilpatrick, Kenneth Knight

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Kim Watson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. BOE REGULAR BUSINESS

MOTION: White, Porter: To approve the COW minutes of October 12, 2021 with a grammatical correction under Elementary Magnet Themes - *Principal should read Principal's*.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

III. DISCUSSION RE: FHS ATHLETIC FIELDS

Mrs. Watson noted that the Athletic Fields was referred to the Finance/Facilities committee for review. The Finance/Facilities Committee determined that discussion of the Athletic Fields should be discussed with the full board.

Mr. Weitlauf asked that the Board to make their priorities regarding the Athletic Fields without interfering with the Task Force's plan. Mr. Weitlauf noted the outdated rest room, concession stand and the old field house. Mrs. Volkmann noted the need for handicap accessibility. Mr. Weitlauf noted that there are ARP funds that could be used to address these concerns.

Mr. Burt addressed the timeline involved in support of the Board's position. Mr. Jerry Loken, Parks and Recreation, noted that the building can be taken down and a more appropriate facility built. Mr. Burt noted that the Town Council has developed a plan regarding what to do at FHS, GMS, and Sutton Park. Mr. Burt suggested that the Board ask SLAM to design a study of the Field House/concession stand.

Mrs. Watson referred this item to the Finance/Facilities Committee to determine where funds can be found in the Board budget to do a study.

IV. DISCUSSION RE: ALLIANCE DISTRICT FUNDING (Attachment #1)

Mr. Knight stated that he and Ms. Austin met with the State and it was determine that Groton would be getting \$ 200,000 for FY22 and FY 23 in Alliance District funds.

Mrs. Volkmann noted that there should be a line item for student who need help from a teacher. Mrs. Volkmann suggested a future topic for discussion is what can do for these students.

V. UPDATE RE: TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Kennedy noted the following:

- There are 2 openings and interviews will occur this week;
- The new PowerSchool Administrator is Angela Wheeler;
- VOIP System: 4 are complete and 4 are scheduled;
- Working on full implementation of technology at the new schools
- Interactive white boards to be installed this week at TRM;
- Waiting for the final switches;
- Budget Process – He is collaborating with the School Leaders and teachers;
- Equity standardization;
- He addressed security and insurance.

VI. FY 23 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mr. Knight reviewed the budget timeline.

VII. UPDATE RE: TRANSPORTATION/FACILITIES

Mr. Kilpatrick noted:

Transportation

- There has been a resignation of the Coordinator; the replacement will begin November 1st;
- Drop offs have been improving on a daily basis;
- STA is still short 5 drivers
- 3 new drivers will be taking their driver's test on October 28
- There are no substitute drivers when a driver calls out;
- STA has agreed to purchase 10 new cameras.

Facilities

- Installation of exterior doors at new schools as well as interior doors;
- TRM is close to getting a CO and MRM is waiting for approval from the State Fire Marshal;
- GMS Field Lights – the RFP and RFQ: The Town Council has given their approval and the GPS will manage the project;
- The SLAM proposal is in the amount of \$24,000 to study the field house, etc.

VIII. REVIEW OF REFERRAL LIST

The Board reviewed the Referral List.

VIII. SUGGESTED FUTURE TOPICS

Discussion of what we can do to help students to close the achievement gap.

Dr. Ackerman noted that the Martin Luther King Scholarship dinner will be held virtually on October 21, 2021.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, White: To adjourn at 7:40 p.m.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachment #1

Groton Public Schools
Alliance District funding
Proposed budget FY22 & FY23

	FY22	FY23
EL Teacher (salary & payroll tax)	38,072	58,250
EL Tutor (salary & payroll tax)	26,915	34,751
Curriculum writing	32,085	0
Teacher mentor	12,000	12,000
Minority recruitment	5,000	5,000
PD	30,000	0
Software		
Investigations - Elem	0	40,000
CMP3 - Middle	0	40,000
Supplies	45,928	
Grant management	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
	200,000	200,000