

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 18, 2022 @ 6:00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING

Members Present: Chairperson Kim Shepardson Watson, Andrea Ackerman, Dean Antipas, Vice Chairperson Katrina Fitzgerald, Matthew Shulman, Elizabeth Porter, Rita Volkmann, Beverly Washington, Jay Weitlauf

Also Present: Susan Austin, Sam Kilpatrick, Ken Knight, Denise Doolittle

Chairperson Watson called the Public Hearing meeting on the superintendent's proposed 2022- 2023 budget to order at 6:00 p.m.

Chairperson Watson and Ms. Austin gave an overview of the proposed 2022 – 2023 budget. [ATTACHMENT #1]

1. Mrs. Joanna Priest, 39 Hunting Ridge Drive, stated that she wouldn't change anything in the budget. Mrs. Priest noted that she would like to see more in the Social and Emotional sections of the budget. Lastly, she shared praise for the playground at MRMS.
2. Mrs. Ellen Sefransky, 19 Oceanview Avenue, noted that she has six kids in the Groton School System, two who have Down Syndrome. Mrs. Sefransky stated:
 - a. That she agrees with the comments from Mrs. Priest.
 - b. That the Tree House Program is a wonderful program.
 - c. Re: Athletic Trainer, that the girls don't have helmets and a trainer.
 - d. Paraprofessionals do not make enough money and should be paid more than minimum wage. She also noted that IEPs are not being followed.
3. Mrs. Fenty Lee, 160 Gales Ferry Road, shared that her kids are into arts and music. Mrs. Lee stated that during the pandemic, she watched her kids go from being "A" students to failing. Mrs. Lee asked how are we preparing kids for Arts and Music? Mrs. Lee suggested that the district reach out to Safe Future, where she works, for assistance with obtaining grants.
4. Mrs. Sefransky asked how much does the IB program cost to the Town.

Chairperson Watson adjourned the Public Hearing at 6:53 p.m.