GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 2, 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

Town Council Present: Portia Bordelon, Aundre Bumgardner, Melinda Cassiere, Rachael Franco, Bruce Jones, David McBride, Mayor Juan Melendez, Juilette Parker, Scott Westervelt

RTM Present: Moderator Jill Rusk, Mike Whitney, Kathy Chase, Emma Giunipero, John Scott, Ian Thomas, Gary Wells, Susan Deane-Shinbrot, Autumn Hanscom, Edward Jacome, Emily Norman, Larry Bright, Matt Ivey, Lian Obrey, Petricia Weaver, Robert Bailey, Genevieve Cerf, Alfred Fritzsche, James Gustavson, Jaime Veazie-Williams, Lee White

Also Present: Susan Austin, Phil Piazza, Sam Kilpatrick, Ken Knight, Laurie LePine, Nadine Macklin, Kerry Carter

Chairperson Watson called the joint meeting on the superintendent's proposed 2022- 2023 budget to order at 6:09 p.m.

Juan Melendez, Town Council, called the joint meeting on the superintendent's proposed 2022- 2023 budget to order at 6:09 p.m.

Jill Rusk, RTM, called the joint meeting on the superintendent's proposed 2022- 2023 budget to order at 6:09 p.m.

I. JOINT BUDGET WITH THE TOWN COUNCIL AND RTM

- Revenues that Support the Town's Budget on Education – Mrs. Watson gave an overview of the program elements. Mrs. Watson and Ms. Austin gave an overview of the revenues that support the budget. **(ATTACHMENT #1)**
- Impact Aid Funding and Recent Legislation – Ms. Austin reviewed the Impact Aid funding that goes directly to the town to pay for the education budget and also discussed recent legislation.
- Grants that Supplement the Budget – Ms. Austin reviewed the different grants and their durations.
- DOD Supplemental Impact Aide Account – Mr. Knight reviewed the DOD Supplemental Impact Aid account, which comes to the Board of Education to support mostly technology.
- Per Pupil Spending Comparison to Other Districts – Ms. Austin gave the history of Per Pupil spending in comparison to the State average. For many years, Groton Public Schools has been falling further below the state average.
- Update on Health Reserve and OPEB Reserve Accounts – Mr. Knight noted that the Groton district's health insurance is solely self-funding, and he explained the structure of the Health Reserve and OPEB Reserve accounts.

- Review of CIP Account: Priorities – Mr. Knight reviewed the CIP account and noted that it will be submitted with the budget. Mr. Kilpatrick thanked the Town Council for moving forward on the field lighting, as well as other items on the CIP/Capital Projects list.
- History of the GPS Budget – Ms. Austin reviewed the history of the GPS budget over the last 10 years and noted that it is coming in at an average of .60 increase over the years.
- GPS Budget Categories – Mr. Knight reviewed the different budget categories.
- Superintendent's Proposed Budget – Ms Austin gave an overview of the Superintendent's proposed budget outlining the reductions and addition to the budget.

BOARD MOTION: Ackerman, Antipas:	To adjourn at 6:56 p.m. **PASSED - UNINAMOUSLY**
RTM MOTION: Shinbrot, Whitney:	To adjourn at 6:56 p.m. **PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**
TOWN COUNCIL MOTION: Parker, Cassiere:	To adjourn at 6:56 p.m. **PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY**

Attachment #1

Groton Public Schools

Joint Budget Meeting

2/2/22

Board of Education

Town Council

RTM Education Committee

Program Elements

- Maintain effective class size
- Enhance Literacy - Teachers College Readers' Writers' Project
- Continue to support rigor and relevance in math instruction
- Support Next Generation Science Standards Curriculum
- Support International Baccalaureate campus program at Fitch High School and Groton Middle School (Middle Years Program, Diploma Program and Careers Program & Pathways)
- FHS Partnership with Grasso Tech provides afterschool opportunities in the trades for student credit





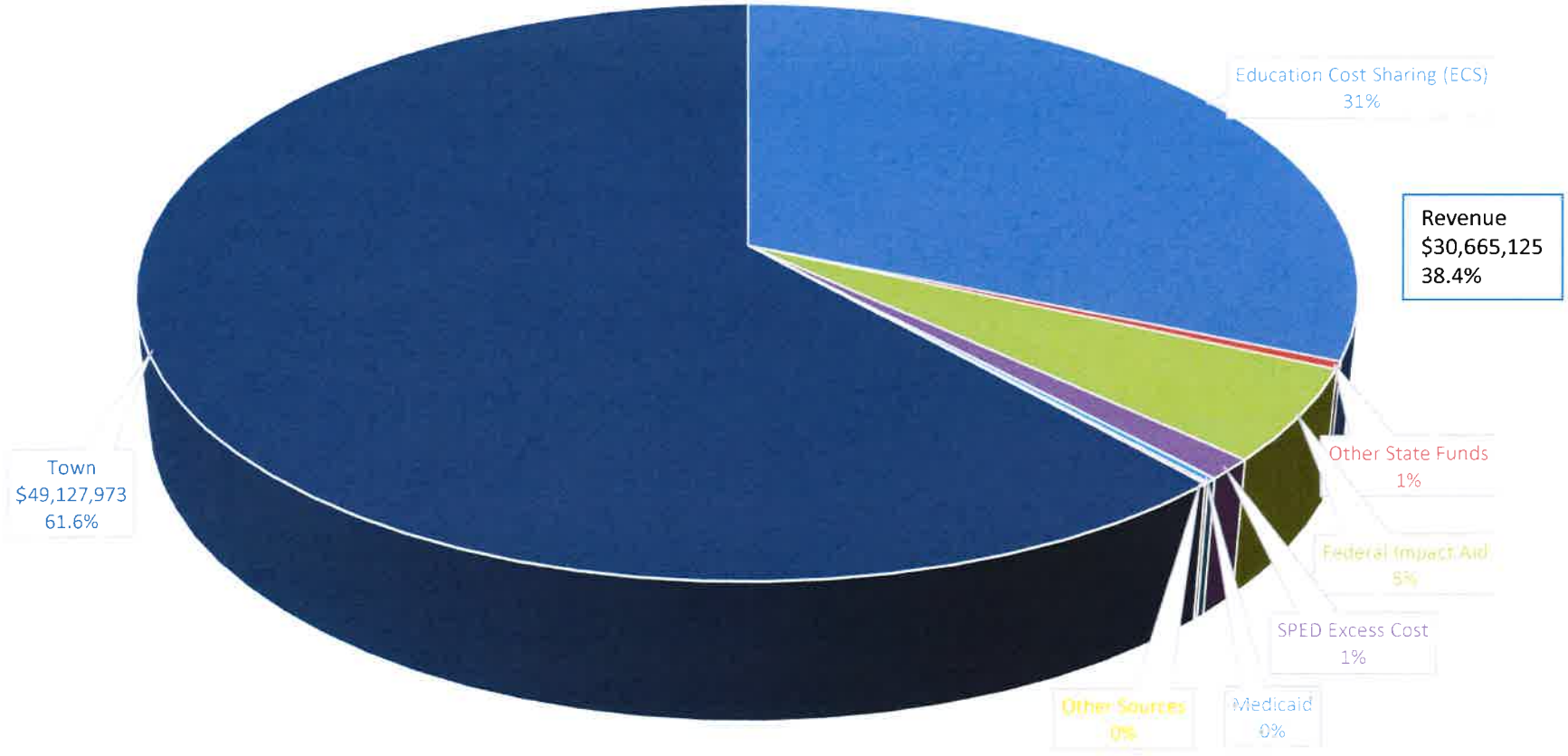
Program Elements (cont'd)

- Support for all five elementary magnet schools
- Retain all curricular & extracurricular programs
- Continue upgrading of classroom technology & infrastructure
- Continue middle school and high school 1 to 1 computer initiative
- Maintain Vocational Program for 18-22 year olds
- Maintain high quality Tree House child care program before/after school; expansion into GMS
- School Resource Officers @ FHS & GMS - Town/BoE Funded





FY22 Town Revenues



Education Cost Sharing (ECS)	25,040,045
Other State Funds	324,697
Federal Impact Aid	4,094,283
SPED Excess Cost	925,000
Medicaid	192,100
Other Sources	89,000
	30,665,125

Joint Meeting
February 2, 2022
BOE, TC, RTM Education Committee

- Revenues that support the Town's budget on education
- Impact Aid funding and recent legislation
- Grants that supplement the budget
- DOD Supplemental Impact Aid Account
- Per Pupil Spending Comparison to Other Districts
- Update on Health Reserve & OPEB Reserve Accounts
- Review of CIP Account: Priorities
- Review of January 18, 2022 Public Hearing recommendations

Impact Aid Funding and Recent Legislation

Groton Public Schools
Impact Aid received vs. budgeted
FY2018-2023

	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
Budgeted	3,250,000	3,214,533	3,256,657	3,283,678	3,316,515	4,094,283
Received	3,751,870	4,465,764	3,945,650	4,213,847	2,155,714	0
Excess over budget	501,870	1,251,231	688,993	930,169	**Not yet avail**	**Not yet avail**

Average Received FY18-FY21	4,094,283

BOE Grants that Supplement the Budget

	Time Period	FY22
Categorical Grants		
Federal Education Grants (ESEA)	Annual	1,023,447
Carl Perkins (Vocational Education)	Annual	59,517
School Readiness (Early Childhood)	Annual	532,002
IDEA (Federal Special Education grant)	Annual	1,172,987
Bilingual Education (Bilingual education)	Annual	1,635
DOD Supplemental Impact Grant (Tech. Equip)	Annual	350,000 est
Alliance District	Annual	200,000
Total Categorical Grants		**3,339,588**
Competitive Grants		
Magnet School Assistance Program – STEAM	FY18-22	704,920
DoDEA-Math Grant K-12 (Math grant for military schools)	FY18-22	273,560
DoDEA-STEM Grant K-5, 9-12 (STEM grant for military schools)	FY19-23	141,075
DoDEA-Health/STEM Pathways	FY22-26	87,300
Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning	FY22-26	59,986
Total Competitive Grants		**1,266,841**
Coronavirus Grants		
CARES Act/ESSER		66,159
CARES ACT/ESSER II		1,525,278
American Rescue Plan/ESSER III		1,664,788
American Rescue Plan/IDEA		76,731
ESSER II Special Education Recovery Activities		39,550
American Rescue Plan ESSER/Homeless Children and Youth		10,619
Total Coronavirus Grants		**3,383,125**
Total Grants		**7,989,554**

DoD Supplemental Impact Aid Account

Groton Public Schools
DOD Supplemental Impact Aid
As of 02/01/2022

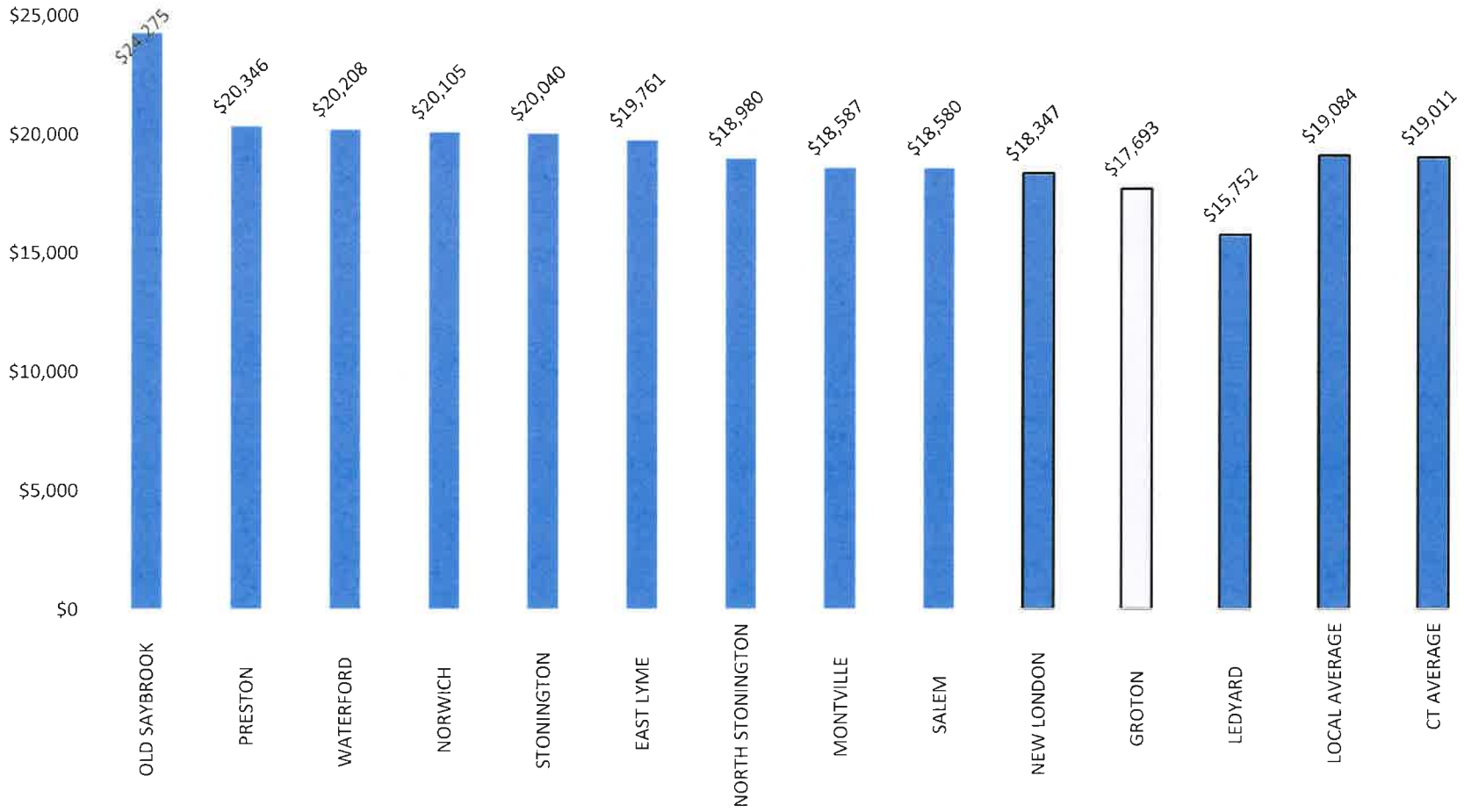
	Actual FY2019	Actual FY2020	Actual FY2021	Estimated FY2022	Budget FY2023	Comments
Beginning Balance	943,228.92	1,020,484.84	1,112,084.69	1,487,927.76	1,136,083.94	
Amount Received	275,815.29	387,334.53	461,185.39	471,746.81	450,000.00	estimated
Interest Earned			1,984.46	2,603.87	1,988.15	estimated
Expenditures						
IT						
Chromebooks	(130,755.00)	(295,734.68)	0.00	0.00	(95,000.00)	K-1
Software	0.00	0.00	0.00	(324,436.00)	(335,000.00)	Similar to FY22
Projection Devices	(10,500.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
IT Equipment	(36,738.37)	0.00	(31,326.78)	(336,758.50)	0.00	IT Infrastructure, audio/proj FHS/NEA/CK
Staff devices	0.00	0.00	0.00	(165,000.00)	(165,000.00)	Lease
Other						
CABE Dues	(20,566.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Tennis Court add'l work	0.00	0.00	(56,000.00)	0.00	0.00	
Total Expenditures	(198,559.37)	(295,734.68)	(87,326.78)	(826,194.50)	(595,000.00)	
Ending Balance	1,020,484.84	1,112,084.69	1,487,927.76	1,136,083.94	991,083.92	
Target balance	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	

Expenditure per Pupil (NCEP per CSDE)

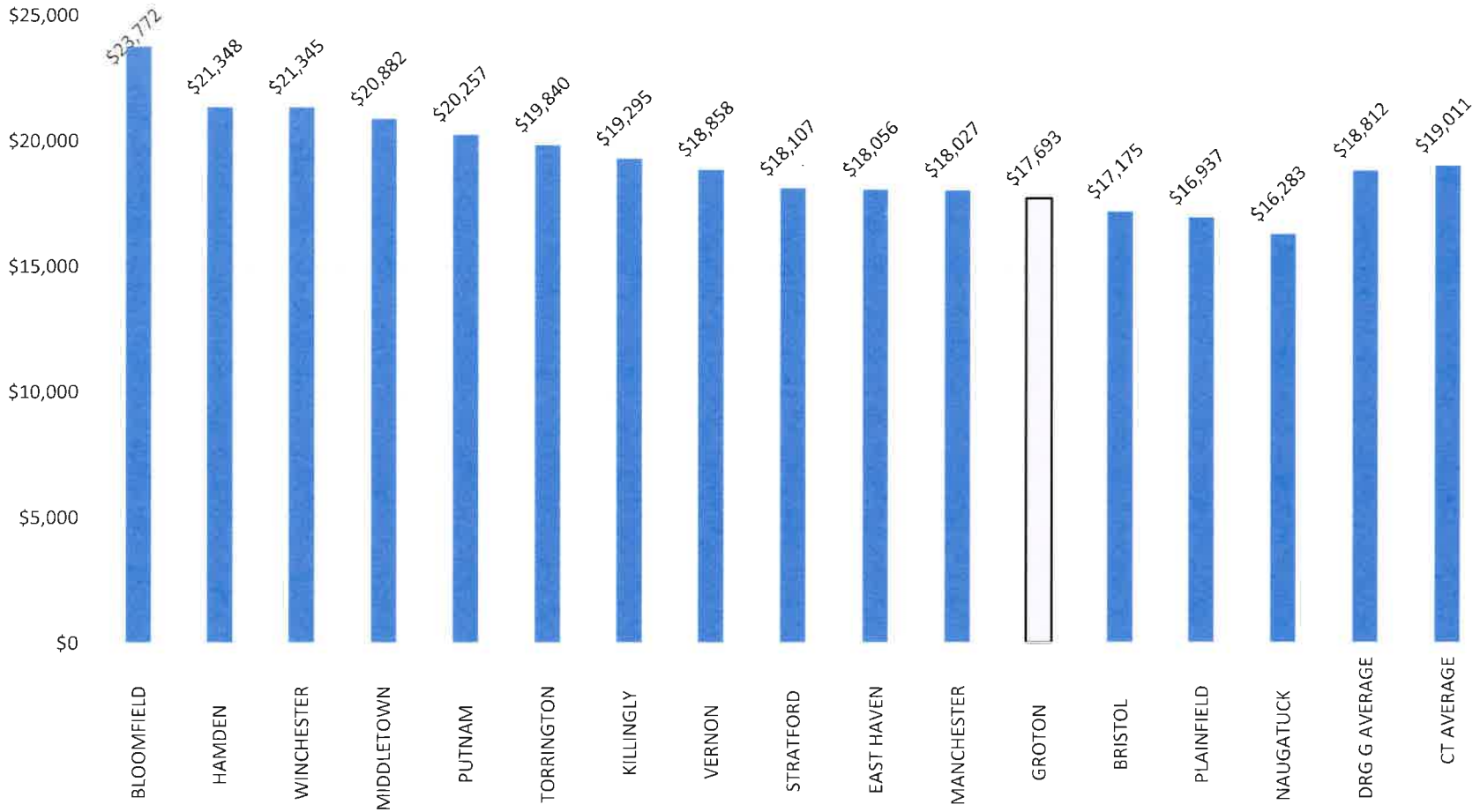
School Year	Groton	CT Avg	Variance
FY2011-2012	$14,366.54	$14,135.33	$231.21
FY2012-2013	$14,603.89	$14,499.70	$104.20
FY2013-2014	$14,698.39	$15,180.11	$(481.73)
FY2014-2015	$15,229.90	$15,715.05	$(485.15)
FY2015-2016	$15,528.49	$16,244.97	$(716.48)
FY2016-2017	$15,812.77	$16,564.06	$(751.30)
FY2017-2018	$16,207.50	$16,988.40	$(780.90)
FY2018-2019	$16,304.32	$17,438.69	$(1,134.37)
FY2019-2020	$16,476.84	$17,747.88	$(1,271.04)
FY2020-2021	$17,692.91	$19,011.22	$(1,318.31)
FY2021-2022 estimate*	$17,511.17	Not yet available	

* Calculated from budget using actual FY22 enrollment

2020-21 Average Cost per Student (Local Districts)

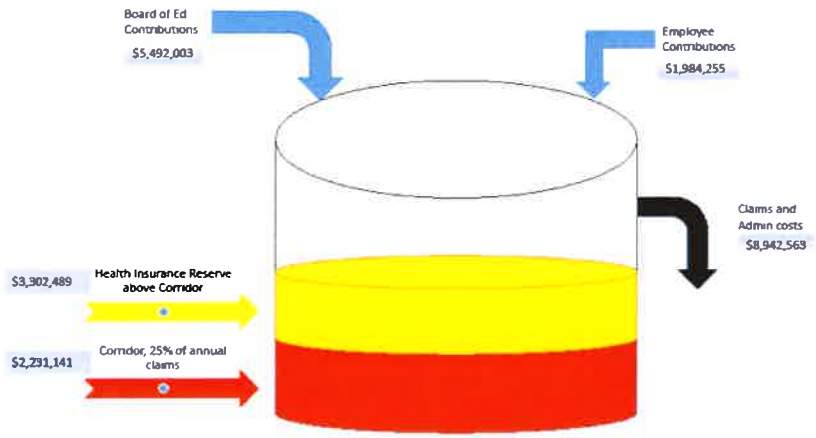


2020-21 Average Cost per Student (District Reference Group G)

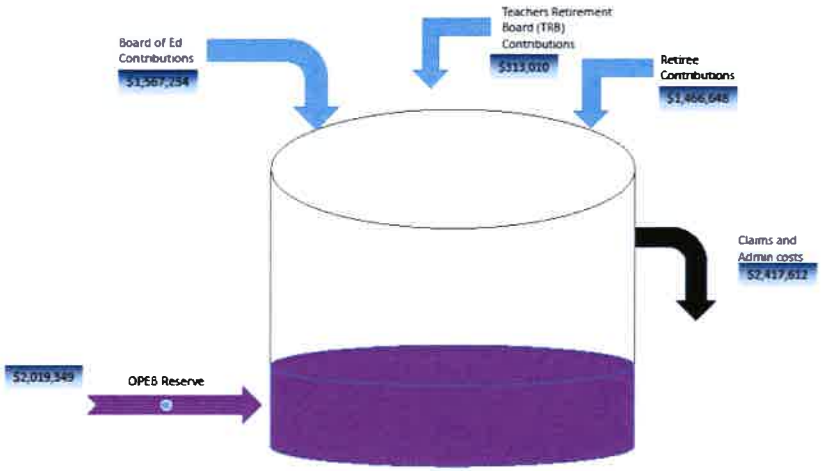


Update on Health Reserve and OPEB Reserve Accounts

FY22 PROJECTED HEALTH INSURANCE RESERVE



OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFIT (OPEB) RESERVE



Review of CIP Accounts/Priorities; Capital Projects Chart

Groton Public Schools
List of projects and funding source
As of 1/28/2022

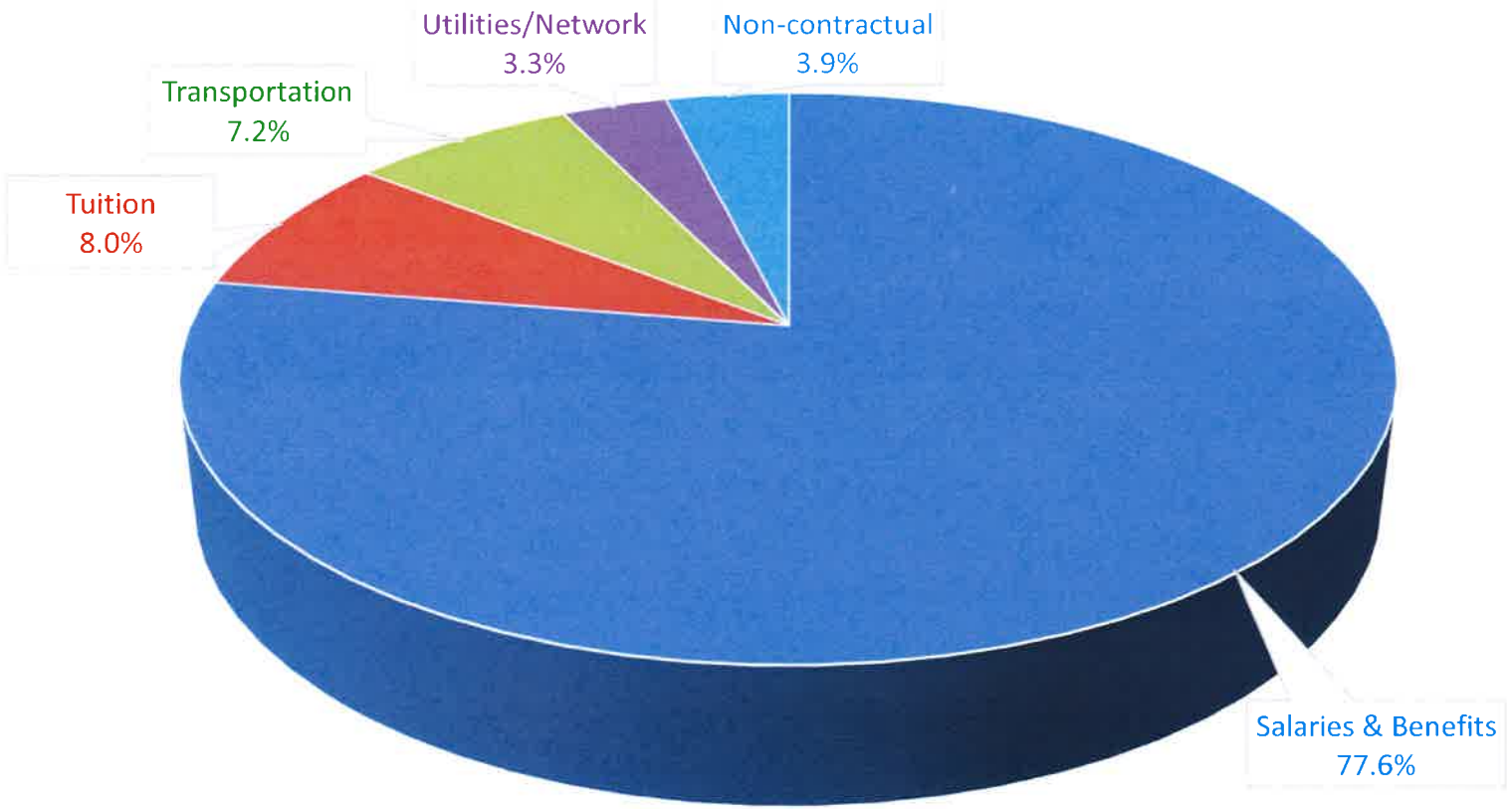
		Projected Cost		
Project	Location	Study	Construction	Funding Source
Additional needs for new buildings*	GMS/TR/MR		747,731	Groton 2020
Field lights	GMS		850,000	Groton 2020, approved by TC
Sod/recrown football field/irrigation	FHS		244,000	CIP Request
Roof replacement	CB		1,000,000	CIP Request
Improve air quality	NEA		800,000	CIP Request (over multiple years)
HVAC engineering study	FHS/CB	50,000		CIP Request
Renovate culinary classrooms	FHS	70,000	600,000	CIP Request (study fy23, constr fy24)
Field house study	FHS	24,000		FY22 Board Operating Funds
Prometheum board equity	FHS/CB/CK/NEA		300,000	ARP ESSER
Steamer/boiler replacement	FHS		60,000	ARP ESSER
HVAC replacement	FHS		179,000	ARP ESSER
HVAC upgrades dependent on study	FHS/CB		450,000	ARP ESSER
Upgrade cameras on non-new buildings	FHS/CB/CK/NEA		80,000	DOD Supplemental Impact Aid
Total		144,000	5,310,731	

* See separate list

History of GPS Budget

School Year	Budget Total	Inc/(Decr)	% Increase
FY2011-2012	72,645,500	-	0.00%
FY2012-2013	72,645,500	-	0.00%
FY2013-2014	73,662,715	1,017,215	1.40%
FY2014-2015	75,098,943	1,436,228	1.95%
FY2015-2016	76,730,239	1,631,296	2.17%
FY2016-2017	76,468,239	(262,000)	(0.34%)
FY2017-2018	76,468,239	-	0.00%
FY2018-2019	76,485,922	17,683	0.02%
FY2019-2020	77,438,090	952,168	1.24%
FY2020-2021	77,438,090	-	0.00%
FY2021-2022	77,438,090	-	0.00%
		Eleven Year Average	0.60%

GPS Budget Categories



Salaries & Benefits	61,925,838	77.6%
Tuition/Contracted Services	6,375,813	8.0%
Transportation	5,716,247	7.2%
Utilities/Ins./Tel/Network/Software Lic.	2,662,777	3.3%
Non-contractual Expenses	3,112,423	3.9%

Superintendent's Proposed Budget

	FY22 Budget	Proposed FY23 Budget	Increase (Decrease)	%
Salaries (100)	50,164,323	51,794,120	1,629,797	3.25%
Benefits (200)	9,620,080	10,131,718	511,638	5.32%
Purchased Services (300)	1,999,627	1,998,250	(1,377)	(0.07%)
Property Services (400)	848,189	843,380	(4,809)	(0.57%)
Trans, Ins, Comm, Tuition (500)	11,729,799	11,903,331	173,532	1.48%
Supplies (600)	2,910,036	2,921,303	11,267	0.39%
Equipment (700)	77,201	108,400	31,199	40.41%
Dues & Fees (800)	88,835	92,596	3,761	4.23%
Total	**77,438,090**	**79,793,098**	**2,355,008**	**3.04%**

(100) Contractual pay increases and minimum wage obligations
(200) 5% anticipated increase in insurance claims cost
(300) Decrease in cost of services (athletic trainer moved to salaries)
(400) Lower experience and more in house services with purchased equipment
(500) Increase cost in bus transportation per the contract
(600) 2% increase to site budgets and reduction in other supplies
(700) Reflection of equipment needs of the schools through their site budget
(800) Speech Pathologist licenses per teacher contract

Mission Statement: Teaching & Learning

BoE Goals: Provide Dynamic Rigorous Curriculum
Ensure Effective and Engaging Instruction
Embrace Excellent Learning Environment

Belief Statement: Cultivate an Environment of Diversity, Equality, and Inclusiveness










PLAYSCHOOL

