

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL FINANCE/FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MAY 3, 2022 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11

Members Present: Jay Weitlauf, Dean Antipas, Beverly Washington (remote)

Also Present: Phil Piazza, Ken Knight, Rick Norris, Sam Kilpatrick

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

1. Review April 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes - The minutes were accepted as presented.
2. Review Out of District Student Tuition Rates - Mr. Knight proposed setting out of district student tuition rates per the attached spreadsheet that calculated 85% of average cost per student for elementary, middle and high school. The report also showed some of the tuition rates charged by local schools. It was discussed that there are currently two out of district students at the high school, none at the middle and elementary schools.
3. Review End of Year Unexpended Funds - Mr. Knight stated that per the object code summary report reviewed at the last Board of Education meeting in April, the projected unexpended funds for the year was \$147,165, and that this is still just an estimate subject to final bills coming in. There are no concrete plans to utilize these funds at this time, but there has been a request from Maintenance for a replacement for a tow behind trailer that is in disrepair. It was discussed that other uses for these funds could be the health insurance or OPEB reserves.
4. Health Insurance Reserve Update - Mr. Knight reviewed that attached exhibit, which showed the health insurance reserve from FY2020 & 2021, as well as projections for FY2022 & 2023. It was commented that we expect the health insurance reserve over corridor may be at our target balance by the end of next year. There was discussion on the stop loss policy, which is a policy for self-insured health insurance plans that mitigates risk from large claims, by paying for claims that exceed a certain threshold, which is \$200,000 for our plan. While shopping the renewal, the district's insurance agent, MDG, has reported an increase to the premiums, as well as possible lasering of claims. Lasering is a practice by insurance companies whereby they carve out specific claims that would be subject to an increased threshold of three times our normal threshold. Two claims have been identified, one on the town side and one on the board side. This could be an additional \$400,000 charge to the health insurance reserve.
5. Discussion re: Field Use/Over Usage - Mr. Kilpatrick discussed field and facility use by outside organizations. In particular, there was a concern that these outside organizations expect the fields to be lined and prepped. The district does not have manpower to do this every time. The district has requested assistance from both the Town and City of Groton. A meeting between Mr. Kilpatrick, Mr. Romano and the Business Office to discuss how to address this is scheduled. There may be a request to an update to the Facility Use policy.
6. Discussion re: the Status of MRMS and TRMS - Mr. Kilpatrick discussed the status of the two new elementary schools, Thames River and Mystic River. The buildings are occupied and in use, but there are still some outstanding items. Some items are covered by warranty. The situation with the tiles has been resolved. There are some outstanding issues with trees and turf that need to be addressed. Ms. Washington requested a list of the punch list items.

7. Solar Panel Purchase Agreement Update - Mr. Norris discussed the Solar Panel Purchase Agreement (PPA). The agreement is currently with our attorney, who has asked another attorney in his firm that is more familiar with PPAs to review. Assuming everything is fine from a legal perspective, we are expecting to start installation in the beginning of August 2022, hopefully to be completed before the start of school. Even if not completed before school starts, there should be little to no disruption to school business.
8. Discussion re: Bus Contract Timeline - Mr. Knight discussed that our current agreement with Student Transportation of America (STA) is through the 2022/23 school year. Our daily cost for a bus is \$356.03 this year and \$366.71 next year, regardless of the size of the bus. Despite some issues at the beginning of this year, Mr. Kilpatrick felt STA has been a good partner with the district. At the request of Superintendent Austin, Mr. Kilpatrick has reached out to STA to discuss what an extension might look like, but indicated that we are prepared to go out to bid unless an extension would be beneficial to all parties.
9. Discussion re: Combined GMS & FHS Buses - Mr. Kilpatrick discussed that despite some issues at the beginning of the process combining the transportation for GMS & FHS students, the process is getting much better. There are still some issues with discipline, especially with middle school students after the high school student disembark in the morning, but these are being addressed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Groton Public Schools
 Regular Education Tuition Rates
 FY2023

	Groton cost per pupil	Groton Proposed Tuition @ 85% of cost per pupil
PK	7,286	6,193
K-5	14,572	12,386
6-8	14,765	12,550
9-12	18,415	15,653
IB DP		18,855

Comparisons						
Groton FY2022	Ledyard 2023	Stonington 2022	Waterford 2022	NFA 2023	St Bernards 2023	Williams School 2023
6,106	Not Provided	Not Provided	Not Provided	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
12,211	11,816	16,030	17,895	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
12,628	11,816	16,030	17,895	Not Applicable	8,900	30,150
14,387	14,490	18,325	17,895	13,643	14,000	31,150
16,597	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

FY22 IB DP Budget (func #1117)	67,250
FY22 IB DP Students	21
Proposed IB DP Surcharge	3,202

Groton Public Schools
Health Insurance Reserve

	Actual FY2020	Actual FY2021	Projected FY2022	Budgeted FY2023
BOE Insurance Reserve in excess of Corridor	5,702,936	5,893,817	5,861,447	4,659,000
Contributions:				
Board of Education	6,616,704	6,767,682	5,168,269	5,400,000
Employee	1,601,408	1,983,138	2,093,022	2,220,000
COBRA	7,196	1,117	206,346	0
Total Contributions	8,225,308	8,751,937	7,467,637	7,620,000
Claims, Fees, Stop Loss	7,865,587	8,924,563	8,670,084	8,720,000
Stop Loss Laser	0	0	0	400,000
Total Claims, Fees, Stop Loss & Lasers	7,865,587	8,924,563	8,670,084	9,120,000
BOE Insurance Reserve in excess of Corridor	6,062,657	5,721,191	4,659,000	3,159,000
Target Reserve (2-3 months)	1,962,646 to 2,943,969	2,075,206 to 3,112,809	1,981,702 to 2,972,553	2,080,787 to 3,121,181