

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kim Shepardson Watson-Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman, William Horgan, Matthew Shulman, Rita Volkmann (Remote), Beverly Washington (remote), Jay Weitlauf

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dean Antipas, Liz Porter

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Phil Piazza, Ken Knight, Sam Kilpatrick, Isaiah Anderson, Ernie Koschmieder

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Shepardson Watson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. BOE REGULAR BUSINESS

MOTION: Ackerman, Shulman: To approve the COW minutes of September 12, 2022
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

III. FOOD NUTRITION PROGRAM PRICING (ATTACHMENT #1)

Mr. Koschmieder, Food Services Director, gave an overview of the proposed food program pricing. Mr. Koschmieder noted that every year rates are set by the USDA and that we are required to follow what they set forth. Catering/outside catering allows us to offset the price. Only 3 schools would be affected (NEA/CB/FHS). Mr. Koschmieder stated that we have the option to add another school or to opt out of the CEP program. Mr. Knight discussed the charge to the board to cover the cost of reduced price student meals. This was estimated to be a maximum of \$15,612, but probably less due to less than 100% participation.

IV. TRANSPORTATION UPDATE – COST OF SMALL BUSES

Mr. Knight stated that the cost for the 2022-2023 school year for a bus is \$366.71/per day X 181 days that comes to \$66,375 and the cost for the fuel for a bus. The cost for the 2 additional buses would be \$132,750. The need for the additional buses is due to the number of special education Preschoolers who need car seats.

V. HEATING FUEL COST INCREASE (ATTACHMENT #2)

Mr. Knight gave an overview of the heating fuel cost increase. Mr. Knight explained that the RESC Alliance Fuel Consortium suggested we lock in at the \$4.14 rate for heating oil and at the \$4.24 rate for Diesel fuel. Mr. Knight noted that Natural Gas stating that the 3 newer buildings as well as Fitch High School use Natural Gas. We have a contract in place for the 2 newer elementary school and for the Middle School and Fitch High School we had to have a new contract put in place this year.

VI. FIELD HOUSE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Weitlauf noted the 1957 Field House is used a public rest rooms and changing rooms and the concession stand The new building is used for changing room for male member Football Teams. The Architect and Mr. Romano is suggesting remodeling the existing field house and a connector to have male and female locker rooms and to remodel the concession stand and/or demolish it.

VII. REVIEW OF REFERRAL TRACKING SHEET

Mr. Shulman made a referral to the Curriculum Committee to discuss having electives get college credit or a certificate.

VIII. SUGGESTED FUTURE TOPICS

Mr. Shulman made a suggestion for discussion of the cost of recovery for transportation due to the Branford Manor situation.

Mrs. Shepardson Watson made a suggestion for discussion regarding the State taking away the ban on Magnet Schools.

Mrs. Washington requested discussion of the Climate Survey. Ms. Austin noted that this discussion will occur in October.

Ms. Austin noted that Principals will bring their Action Plans based on data to the Board in October.

Mrs. Shepardson Watson requested discussion of how the Snack Shack did over the summer at Eastern Point Beach.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

Attachment #1

Groton Public Schools
Proposed Meal Prices - FY2023

| Meal | School | Current prices | Proposed prices | % Incr proposed over current |
|-----------|------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Breakfast | Elementary | \$ 1.50 | \$ 2.00 | 33% |
| Breakfast | Secondary | \$ 1.75 | \$ 2.25 | 29% |
| Lunch | Elementary | \$ 2.80 | \$ 3.25 | 16% |
| Lunch | Secondary | \$ 3.00 | \$ 3.75 | 25% |

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Average | 24.6% |
|----------------|--------------|

| Meal | 2019/2020 USDA reimb | 2022/2023 USDA reimb | % Incr USDA reimb rate |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Breakfast | \$ 2.20 | \$ 2.67 | 21% |
| Lunch | \$ 3.41 | \$ 4.33 | 27% |

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Average | 24.2% |
|----------------|--------------|

| Cost to Cover meals for Reduced Cost Students | | | | | |
|---|------------|---------------|---|---|--|
| Meal | School | Reduced Price | Anticipated # of reduced price students | Cost assuming 100% participation 181 days | Cost assuming 100% participation 75% of days |
| Breakfast | Elementary | \$ 0.30 | 72 | \$ 3,909.60 | \$ 2,937.60 |
| Breakfast | Secondary | \$ 0.30 | 92 | \$ 4,995.60 | \$ 3,753.60 |
| Lunch | Elementary | \$ 0.40 | 72 | \$ 5,212.80 | \$ 3,916.80 |
| Lunch | Secondary | \$ 0.40 | 92 | \$ 6,660.80 | \$ 5,004.80 |

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| \$ 20,778.80 | \$ 15,612.80 |
|---------------------|---------------------|

Attachment #2

Groton Public Schools
 Fuel usage/cost
 Fiscal Year 2023

| Heating Oil | No. of Gallons | Per FY23 Budget | | Estimated FY23 | | Estimated Variance |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| | | Cost/Gallon | Cost | Cost/Gallon* | Cost | |
| Charles Barnum | 15,000 | \$ 2.8500 | 42,750 | \$ 4.1431 | 62,147 | 19,397 |
| Catherine Kolnaski | 20,000 | \$ 2.8500 | 57,000 | \$ 4.1431 | 82,862 | 25,862 |
| Northeast Academy | 20,000 | \$ 2.8500 | 57,000 | \$ 4.1431 | 82,862 | 25,862 |
| Mary Morrisson | 10,000 | \$ 2.8500 | 28,500 | \$ 4.1431 | 41,431 | 12,931 |
| Fitch High Field House | 3,000 | \$ 2.8500 | 8,550 | \$ 4.1431 | 12,429 | 3,879 |
| Central Office | 12,000 | \$ 2.8500 | 32,038 | \$ 4.1431 | 49,717 | 17,679 |
| Total | 80,000 | | 225,838 | | 331,448 | 105,610 |

| Natural Gas | No. of Therms | Cost/Unit | Cost | Cost/Unit** | Cost | Estimated Variance |
|---------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------|
| | | | | | | |
| Thames River | 35,000 | \$ 0.8951 | 31,329 | \$ 0.8951 | 31,329 | 0 |
| Groton Middle | 45,650 | \$ 1.5000 | 68,475 | \$ 1.5850 | 72,355 | 3,880 |
| Fitch High | 92,312 | \$ 1.5000 | 138,468 | \$ 1.6880 | 155,823 | 17,355 |
| Total | 207,962 | | 269,670 | | 290,905 | 21,235 |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|----------------|--|----------------|----------------|
| Total Heating Costs | | | 495,508 | | 622,353 | 126,845 |
|----------------------------|--|--|----------------|--|----------------|----------------|

| Diesel | No. of Gallons | Cost/Gallon | Cost | Cost/Gallon* | Cost | Estimated Variance |
|--------|----------------|-------------|------|--------------|------|--------------------|
| | | | | | | |

* Per RESC Alliance Consortium meeting 09/08/2022

** Based on contract