

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL FINANCE/FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 1, 2022 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11

Members Present: Jay Weitlauf, Beverly Washington, Dean Antipas

Also Present: Susan Austin, Sam Kilpatrick, Ken Knight

Chairman Weitlauf called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

1. Review October 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes - The minutes were reviewed and accepted as presented.
2. Discussion re: Vehicle Charging Stations - Mr. Kilpatrick reported that the district has vehicle charging stations at the three newest schools in the district (Groton Middle, Thames River, and Mystic River). It has been reported that vehicles are sometimes seen charging at night and/or on weekends. The cost is incorporated into the electric bills for those locations and are not on a separate meter. Mr. Knight reported per the US Department of Energy's Alternate Fuels Data Center website, the cost for recharging an EV (electric vehicle) with a 200-miles range and a fully depleted 54 kWh battery is around \$6 assuming electricity cost of 10.7 cents/kWh. It was also noted that the Town has vehicle charging stations at the Town Hall Annex and Library that are absorbed into the town costs.
3. Discussion re: the Purchase of Vans to Transport SpEd Students - Ms. Austin reported that she attended a seminar on electric school transportation vehicles. Mr. Knight reported that the district currently has 14 special education buses (vans) through the contract with STA. The district also utilizes Curtin Transportation for some special education trips. Mr. Kilpatrick noted that a vehicle may need to meet federal and state standards to be allowed to be used for student transportation. In addition to purchasing or leasing the vehicles, the district would need to address staffing, licensing, and insuring these vehicles. It was discussed whether this was intended to replace all the contracted vehicles or be for certain special circumstances. Mr. Knight is to find out if CASBO (Connecticut Association of Business Officials) has any insight into this process.
4. Discussion re: CIP Requests - Mr. Kilpatrick reviewed the CIP submissions for the next budget year. These includes requests that have been submitted in previous years:
 - Expansion at Charles Barnum Elementary, which includes an updated media center, cafetorium, art space, etc. to address equitable facilities
 - Addressing the football field at Fitch High School, including sodding, crowning, and irrigation
 - Air quality improvements at Northeast Academy, which would consist of new HVAC units
 - Renovation of culinary arts classrooms at Fitch High School

In addition, CIP requests are being submitted for projects that had been submitted as a part of the town ARPA grant process:

- Safety and security program to connect school cameras to the police and fire departments in case of an emergency
- Update and enhance security cameras at Fitch High, Charles Barnum, Catherine Kolnaski and Northeast Academy

5. Discussion re: GPS Covering the Cost of AP Exams - Ms. Austin discussed the plan to increase student participation in advanced classes. One of the barriers is the cost of the AP test, currently \$88. Mr. Knight reviewed the attached document that shows the total cost of the tests less the amount paid by the CSDE for students eligible for free/reduced price meals, and amount picked up by NMSI (National Math and Science Initiative). It was proposed that the remainder of \$30,448, which assumes all students enrolled in AP courses take the test, could be funded through ARP ESSER.

6. Discussion re: the Cost/Source of Funding of New Employees Over the Last Four Years - Mr. Knight reviewed the attached schedule of FTEs added over the past four years, as well as how they are to be funded in FY23 and FY24. The majority of the positions were added supports to help students through the impact of COVID-19 through the ARP ESSER grant, which ends September 30, 2024. It is anticipated that the positions would either be eliminated, funded through other grants, or possibly added to the board budget.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Groton Public Schools
 AP Test Cost Proposal
 Fiscal Year 2023

Course Name	Free	Reduced	Full Pay	Grand Total	Cost @ 100% Testing (\$88/exam)	Free/Reduced Meal Students (CSDE pays)	Cost after reduction for Free/Reduced Meal Students	NMSI Portion (50% of paid)	Cost to GPS
AP Government	22	7	99	128	\$11,264.00	\$2,552.00	\$8,712.00	\$0.00	\$8,712.00
AP UCONN ECE 11 Inltr to Academic Writing	15	3	72	90	\$7,920.00	\$1,584.00	\$6,336.00	\$3,168.00	\$3,168.00
AP US History	16	5	54	75	\$6,600.00	\$1,848.00	\$4,752.00	\$0.00	\$4,752.00
AP UCONN ECE English 12	14	5	54	73	\$6,424.00	\$1,672.00	\$4,752.00	\$0.00	\$4,752.00
AP Psychology	12	3	52	67	\$5,896.00	\$1,320.00	\$4,576.00	\$0.00	\$4,576.00
AP Physics I	3	2	28	33	\$2,904.00	\$440.00	\$2,464.00	\$1,232.00	\$1,232.00
AP Calculus A-B	2	1	17	20	\$1,760.00	\$264.00	\$1,496.00	\$748.00	\$748.00
AP Environmental	1	1	17	19	\$1,672.00	\$176.00	\$1,496.00	\$748.00	\$748.00
AP Biology Yr	2	1	14	17	\$1,496.00	\$264.00	\$1,232.00	\$616.00	\$616.00
AP Computer Science	2	1	6	9	\$792.00	\$264.00	\$528.00	\$264.00	\$264.00
AP Music Theory	2	0	7	9	\$792.00	\$176.00	\$616.00	\$0.00	\$616.00
AP UCONN ECE Statistics	0	0	6	6	\$528.00	\$0.00	\$528.00	\$264.00	\$264.00
Total	91	29	426	546	\$48,048.00	\$10,560.00	\$37,488.00	\$7,040.00	\$30,448.00

Groton Public Schools
Positions added

Grant Funded				
Certified Position	Location	FTE	Amount	Funding FY24
Social Worker	MRM	1.0	62,900	ARP ESSER
Social Worker	GMS	0.5	37,529	ARP ESSER
Social Worker	CB/NEA	1.0	58,229	ARP ESSER
Special Education	TRM/MRM	1.0	60,742	ARP ESSER
Special Education	MRM/FHS	1.0	58,229	ARP ESSER
Math Specialist	MRM	1.0	68,510	ARP ESSER
Mathematics	FHS	1.0	55,464	ARP ESSER
Magnet Theme Teacher	MRM/TRM/CB	1.0	55,464	ARP ESSER
BCBA	District	1.0	92,820	ARP IDEA
Social Worker	TRM/MRM	1.0	78,347	ARP IDEA
Special Education	FHS	1.0	55,961	ESSE II Spec Ed
Bilingual	GMS	1.0	54,257	Alliance District
Health Science	FHS	1.0	65,000	Vacant FY23
Project Lead the Way	GMS	1.0	55,464	ARP ESSER
Pathways Coordinator	FHS	1.0	106,486	CPP Career Pathways
Subtotal Certified		14.5	965,402	
Non-certified Position	Location	FTE	Amount	Funding FY24
Prog Coordinator	GMS	0.25	14,919	Roots Program
Prog Aides	GMS	0.5	8,452	Roots Program
Prog Assistant	GMS	0.5	5,184	Roots Program
ELA/Math Tutors	District	17.0	644,109	ARP ESSER
Tech Support	District	1.0	64,260	ARP ESSER
PT Custodial	District	3.5	88,690	ARP ESSER
SEL Tutors	District	8.0	303,110	ARP ESSER
Security Guards	FHS/GMS	7.0	350,368	ARP ESSER/Board funded
Subtotal Non-certified		37.8	1,479,092	

Already in Budget				
Position	Location	FTE	Amount	Funding FY24
Special Ed	FHS	1.0	56,415	Board Budget
ASL Teacher	FHS	1.0	100,816	Board Budget
Literacy Spec	FHS	0.5	47,078	Board Budget
Student Data Manager	District	1.0	121,646	Board Budget
Athletic Trainer	FHS/GMS	1.0	48,960	Board Budget
Subtotal Non-certified		4.5	374,915	