

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
NOVEMBER 21, 2022 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kim Shepardson Watson-Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman-Vice Chairperson, Dean Antipas, William Horgan, Liz Porter (remote), Matthew Shulman, Beverly Washington (remote),

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rita Volkmann, Jay Weitlauf

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Phil Piazza, Sam Kilpatrick, Ken Knight

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Kim Shepardson Watson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. BOE REGULAR BUSINESS

MOTION: Ackerman, Shulman: To approve the COW minutes of November 14, 2022
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

III. DISCUSSION RE CIP REQUESTS (ATTACHMENT #1)

Mr. Kilpatrick reviewed the proposed CIP requests that have been submitted to the Town for review.

- School Needs Summary – CB
- FHS Athletic Facilities
- CB Roof Replacement (Approved last year)
- NEA Air Quality
- FHS/CB HVAC Upgrades
- FHS Culinary Arts
- District Safety and Security – Mutualink
- District Safety and Security – Camera

IV. UPDATE RE: SOLAR PANELS, GMS FIELD LIGHTS AND HVAC GRANT

Solar Panels - Mr. Kilpatrick stated that the PPA was ready to be signed so that parts can be purchased for the Solar Panels.

GMS Field Lights – Mr. Kilpatrick noted that Kent & Frost are working on the plans and we are looking at ways to get through the 600 feet of conduit.

HVAC Grant – Mr. Kilpatrick noted that the grant is due on December 1, 2022 for FHS and CB. Mr. Kilpatrick noted that he working with the consultants and that the engineers were here recently.

V. DISCUSSION RE: GPS COVERING THE COST OF AP EXAMS (ATTACHMENT #2)

Superintendent Austin noted that the cost to cover exams is set for this year and next year due to Federal grants (ARP ESSER, Free/Reduced Lunch, NMSI-National Math and Science Initiative).

Mr. Knight gave an overview of the AP Test Cost Proposal. Mr. Knight noted that there are 546 instances of students taking AP courses.

Mr. Shulman asked for a breakdown of how many students the 546 instances represented.

VI. DISCUSSION RE: THE COST/SOURCE OF FUNDING OF NEW EMPLOYEES OVER THE LAST FOUR YEAR (ATTACHMENT #3)

Superintendent Austin and Mr. Knight reviewed the chart of positions added over the last four years both certified and non-certified.

VII. REVIEW OF REFERRAL TRACKING SHEET

REMOVE:

- R2021-5 Discussion of the cost of AP and IB tests and who pays for them
- R2021-8 Implementation of One Card, One Community
- R2022-2 Discussion re: a second MSAP grant
- R2022-5 Discussion re: Minority Recruitment, and an update on staffing
- R2022-14 Review and make recommendations re: the Program of Studies booklet

CHANGE R2022-8 Explore the history and/or process of a curriculum, audit at FHS and R2022-14 Review and make recommendations re: the Program of Studies booklet to read R2022-16 Review and audit of the Program of Studies for FHS and GMS.

It was suggested that R2021-9 Discussion of Educational Rising Club – Nation Organization be placed on the December COW agenda.

Mr. Shulman asked for an update on Board visits to schools.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Horgan: To adjourn at 7:20 p.m.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROJECT DETAIL (ADDENDUM)	
PROJECT	ACTIVITY/DEPARTMENT
SCHOOL NEEDS SUMMARY	5) EDUCATION
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
<p>Projects for various system upgrades and replacement at the schools are listed on the individual facility project sheets. However, there are longer term needs to maintain the educational and functional adequacy that are summarized below.</p> <p>ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS</p> <p>The projects shown on the individual project sheets are intended to maintain the adequacy of the facilities in their present configuration. However, to meet educational adequacy needs in the future, Charles Barnum Elementary School will also require an expanded media center, a full-service kitchen, a larger cafetorium, a gymnasium, larger and redesigned administration spaces, additional resource and remedial program spaces, appropriate instrumental and band program spaces, an art room, a space for the school based health center, and a larger space for the school nurse.</p>	

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
PROJECT DETAIL

PROJECT	ACTIVITY/DEPARTMENT
A) FITCH HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC FACILITIES	5) EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

In addition to the regular use of the football field by the football team, the field is also used by the Groton Public Schools lacrosse and soccer teams, as well as physical education classes. Because the playing field no longer drains properly, it is in need of upgrading. It will be necessary to regrade and recrown the field and sod the entire surface.

The addition of an irrigation system while work is performed will greatly enhance the continued maintenance by providing timed watering while also improving on the efficiency/cost of water usage.

Requested for FYE 24 are funds (\$250,000) to sod and recrown the field and funds (\$30,000) for irrigation.

RECOMMENDED FINANCING (000)

	Source of Funds*	Estimated Funding by Year						Total Estimated Cost
		FYE2023	FYE2024	FYE2025	FYE2026	FYE2027	FYE2028	
A. Planning and Engineering								0
B. Land and Right of Way								0
C. Construction	C		250					250
D. Equipment								0
E. Other Costs								0
Total	C	0	250	0	0	0	0	250

*Funding (C) Capital Reserve Fund (G) General Obligation Bonds (O) Other

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
PROJECT DETAIL

PROJECT B) CHARLES BARNUM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ROOF REPLACEMENT	ACTIVITY/DEPARTMENT 5) EDUCATION
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DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

The Board of Education plans to keep Charles Barnum Elementary School open for many years to come. As of 2021, that building will be the only school in the district that is older than 14 years. The roof on the building is beyond its 20-year life expectancy.

Requested for FYE 23 are funds (\$1,000,000) for roof replacement.

Approved last year

RECOMMENDED FINANCING (000)

	Source of Funds*	Estimated Funding by Year						Total Estimated Cost
		FYE2023	FYE2024	FYE2025	FYE2026	FYE2027	FYE2028	
A. Planning and Engineering								0
B. Land and Right of Way								0
C. Construction	C	1000						1000
D. Equipment								0
E. Other Costs								0
Total	C	1000	0	0	0	0	0	1000

*Funding (C) Capital Reserve Fund (G) General Obligation Bonds (O) Other

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
PROJECT DETAIL**

PROJECT	ACTIVITY/DEPARTMENT
C) NORTHEAST ACADEMY AIR QUALITY	5) EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

There have been concerns about excessive humidity in the Northeast Academy. The district contracted with the engineering firm Fuss & O'Neill to determine the cause and possible remedy for this issue. The study concluded with recommendations for both short and long term solutions.

The long-term recommendation in the engineering report is the replacement of the air handling units

The initial work for the short-term equipment upgrades was completed during the spring of 2020.

The Board recommends postponing the replacement of the air handling units until FYE 25 and beyond. During the spring of 2020 the maintenance staff implemented an active dehumidification program that mitigated the humidity problem. The HVAC technician will continue to monitor the air quality of the building.

Programmed for FYE 25-28 are funds (\$250,000/year estimated) for replacement of the air handling units.

RECOMMENDED FINANCING (000)

	Source of Funds*	Estimated Funding by Year						Total Estimated Cost
		FYE2023	FYE2024	FYE2025	FYE2026	FYE2027	FYE2028	
A. Planning and Engineering								0
B. Land and Right of Way								0
C. Construction								0
D. Equipment	C			250	250	250	250	1000
E. Other Costs								0
Total	C	0	0	250	250	250	250	1000

*Funding (C) Capital Reserve Fund (G) General Obligation Bonds (O) Other

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
PROJECT DETAIL

PROJECT D) FITCH HIGH & BARNUM SCHOOLS HVAC UPGRADES	ACTIVITY/DEPARTMENT 5) EDUCATION
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DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

While many areas of Fitch High School were renovated in the 2008 building project, the vintage section did not get an updated HVAC system.

Charles Barnum Elementary School, built in the 1960's, has the original HVAC systems.

The Board of Education is funding the study and plans for the expected upgrades. Once this has been completed the construction and equipment estimate will be included in next years CIP.

RECOMMENDED FINANCING (000)

	Source of Funds*	Estimated Funding by Year						Total Estimated Cost
		FYE2023	FYE2024	FYE2025	FYE2026	FYE2027	FYE2028	
A. Planning and Engineering	C							0
B. Land and Right of Way								0
C. Construction								0
D. Equipment								0
E. Other Costs								0
Total	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Funding (C) Capital Reserve Fund (G) General Obligation Bonds (O) Other

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
PROJECT DETAIL**

PROJECT	ACTIVITY/DEPARTMENT
E) FITCH HIGH SCHOOL CULINARY ARTS	5) EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

With the Groton Public Schools' focus on college and career readiness, we are expanding our Careers Pathway program to ensure our students are workforce ready. A very popular career pathway for our students is the Culinary Arts Program. The program fills to capacity and many students are turned away. There is a need for a more robust culinary arts program that can service more of our students and ready them for entry level jobs in the restaurant industry. This would require upgrading of the current cooking/cleaning stations to more commercial grade equipment.

Requested for FYE 24 are funds estimated at (\$600,000) for the construction and equipment to complete the project.

RECOMMENDED FINANCING (000)

	Source of Funds*	Estimated Funding by Year						Total Estimated Cost
		FYE2023	FYE2024	FYE2025	FYE2026	FYE2027	FYE2028	
A. Planning and Engineering	C							0
B. Land and Right of Way								0
C. Construction			400					400
D. Equipment			200					200
E. Other Costs								0
Total	C	0	600	0	0	0	0	600

*Funding

(C) Capital Reserve Fund

(G) General Obligation Bonds

(O) Other

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
PROJECT DETAIL**

PROJECT District Safety & Security	ACTIVITY/DEPARTMENT Education
PROJECT NAME	SECTION NUMBER AND TITLE

DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

As concerns continue with schoolplace incidents, providing a means for first responders to see in real time is highly recommended. Mutuallink would give access to school cameras on an as needed basis to assist in the timely mitigation of a critical event . The system would connect both communications and cameras to school administrators and local police authority.
Requested for FYE24 is \$150,000.

RECOMMENDED FINANCING (000)

	Source of Funds	Estimated Funding by Year						Total Estimated Cost
		FYE2024	FYE2025	FYE2026	FYE2027	FYE2028	FYE2029	
A. Planning and Engineering								
B. Land and Right of Way								
C. Construction								
D. Equipment		150						150
E. Other Costs								
Total								150

*Funding (C) Capital Reserve Fund (G) General Obligation Bonds
(O) Other

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
PROJECT DETAIL**

PROJECT District Safety & Security	ACTIVITY/DEPARTMENT Education
PROJECT NAME Cameras	SECTION NUMBER AND TITLE

DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

Four (CB, CK, NEA, FHS) of the seven Groton Public Schools are in need of upgraded security cameras (internal and external) and camera management systems. Currently, each school has its own standalone system. To effectively address emergency issues in our schools, a federated system of camera access controls across all schools with real-time access for School Administrators, Groton PD, and first responders is required. This proposal would provide funding to address these needs and to prepare for the Mutalink system proposed by the Board of Education to be used with Groton Police Departments .
Request for FYE24 is \$245,000

RECOMMENDED FINANCING (000)

	Source of Funds	Estimated Funding by Year						Total Estimated Cost
		FYE2024	FYE2025	FYE2026	FYE2027	FYE2028	FYE2029	
A. Planning and Engineering								
B. Land and Right of Way								
C. Construction								
D. Equipment		245						245
E. Other Costs								
Total								245

*Funding (C) Capital Reserve Fund (G) General Obligation Bonds (O) Other

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 Intr 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 FY23	Funding FY24
Social Worker	MRM	1.0	62,900	ARP ESSER	ARP ESSER
Social Worker	GMS	0.5	37,529	ARP ESSER	ARP ESSER
Social Worker	CB/NEA	1.0	58,229	ARP ESSER	ARP ESSER
Special Education	TRM/MRM	1.0	60,742	ARP ESSER	ARP ESSER
Special Education	MRM/FHS	1.0	58,229	ARP ESSER	ARP ESSER
Math Specialist	MRM	1.0	68,510	ARP ESSER	ARP ESSER
Mathematics	FHS	1.0	55,464	ARP ESSER	ARP ESSER
Magnet Theme Teacher	MRM/TRM/CB	1.0	55,464	ARP ESSER	ARP ESSER
BCBA	District	1.0	92,820	ARP IDEA	Board funded
Social Worker	TRM/MRM	1.0	78,347	ARP IDEA	Apply for Mental Health Grant
Special Education	FHS	1.0	55,961	ESSER II Spec Ed	Board funded
Bilingual	GMS	1.0	54,257	Alliance District	Alliance?/Title III 50%
Health Science	FHS	1.0	65,000	Vacant FY23	DODEA Pathways
Project Lead the Way	GMS	1.0	55,464	ARP ESSER	ARP ESSER
Pathways Coordinator	FHS	1.0	106,486	CPP Career Pathways	ARP ESSER
Subtotal Certified		14.5	965,402		
Non-certified Position	Location	FTE	Amount	Funding FY23	Funding FY24
Prog Coordinator	GMS	0.25	14,919	Roots Program	Roots Program
Prog Aides	GMS	0.5	8,452	Roots Program	Roots Program
Prog Assistant	GMS	0.5	5,184	Roots Program	Roots Program
ELA/Math Tutors	District	17.0	644,109	ARP ESSER	ARP ESSER
Tech Support	District	1.0	64,260	ARP ESSER	ARP ESSER
PT Custodial	District	3.5	88,690	ARP ESSER	ARP ESSER
SEL Tutors	District	8.0	303,110	ARP ESSER	ARP ESSER
Security Guards	FHS/GMS	7.0	350,368	ARP ESSER/Board funded	ARP ESSER/Board funded
Subtotal Non-certified		37.8	1,479,092		

Already in Budget					
Position	Location	FTE	Amount	Funding FY23	Funding FY24
Special Ed	FHS	1.0	56,415	Board Budget	Board Budget
ASL Teacher	FHS	1.0	100,816	Board Budget	Board Budget
Literacy Spec	FHS	0.5	47,078	Board Budget	Board Budget
Student Data Manager	District	1.0	121,646	Board Budget	Board Budget
Athletic Trainer	FHS/GMS	1.0	48,960	Board Budget	Board Budget
Subtotal Non-certified		4.5	374,915		