

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL FINANCE/FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 6, 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 6:07 p.m.

1. Review November 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes - Prior meeting minutes were review and accepted.
2. Administrative Staffing Review - Ms. Austin and Mr. Knight reviewed the number of students to administrator schedule. It was discussed that Fitch High School administrators and counselors are assigned portions of the alphabet, while Groton Middle School administrators and counselors are assigned grade levels. It was also discussed that a 0.5 FTE Assistant Principal was added to both Thames and Mystic River Elementary Schools this year to assist with the specialized programs and preschools at those locations. It is felt we now have a stable administrator structure.
3. GPS Budget History - Mr. Knight reviewed the budget history and expenditure per pupil exhibits that will be included in the budget. It was noted that the seven-year average budget increase is 0.5%.
4. Review Cost of School Safety/Security Plan - Ms. Austin and Mr. Kilpatrick reviewed the school safety/security plan submitted to the ARPA committee. It was also reported that if this is not awarded ARPA funds that it was also subsequently submitted through CIP.
5. Review HVAC Grant - Mr. Kilpatrick reported that the district submitted a grant request to install HVAC at Charles Barnum Elementary School and the vintage section of Fitch High School. The request was submitted by the deadline of December 1, 2022; however, additional steps need to be taken by the town to qualify the district for this grant. The total cost of the request for the two projects has been estimated at approximately \$7 million, and the grant would possibly provide up to 57% of the cost.
6. Update re: GMS Field Lights - Mr. Kilpatrick reported that the maintenance group continues to work with the lighting contractor to complete the Groton Middle School field lights project. It is anticipated that this project will be completed over the summer.
7. Update re: Solar Panels - Mr. Kilpatrick reported that the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for the two solar panel projects has completed legal review and has been signed by the Superintendent. Equipment will now be ordered with an anticipated start date of late summer.
8. Update re: Bus Contract - Mr. Kilpatrick and Mr. Knight reported that they worked with a contractor to create bid specifications for the bus contract. The deadline for submission was today, December 6, 2022, and two bids were received, STA and First Student. The staff is still analyzing the submissions to determine the total cost of each bid. It is anticipated that a decision will be reached by the end of the week.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.