

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 17, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.  
REMOTE MEETING

**Members Present:** Chairperson-Kim Shepardson Watson, Andrea Ackerman-Vice Chairperson, Dean Antipas, William Horgan, Elizabeth Porter, Matthew Shulman, Rita Volkmann, Jay Weitlauf

**Members Absent:** Beverly Washington

**Also Present:** Susan Austin, Phil Piazza, Denise Doolittle, Clint Kennedy, Ken Knight, Sam Kilpatrick, Laurie LePine

- I. Chairperson Shepard Watson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. Public Hearing - Superintendent Austin gave an overview of the proposed 2023-2024 budget: **(ATTACHMENT #1)**
  1. Mr. Patrick Kohr, 106 George Avenue, stated that the middle school needs more manning for unruly situations that occur there.
  2. Mr. Ian Thomas, 24 Jefferson Drive, stated that he'd like to see the following key issues and concerns addressed in this year's budget:
    - He wants to see free lunch continued for all beyond the end of the emergency funding and would like to see the cost breakout associated with continued funding
    - He is concerned about AED machines and Narcan training for athletic support staff and anyone on site afterhours; he would like to know where are the AED machines are located in the facilities
    - Honors English and Honors classes at the junior level – IB, AP, and ECE have been the focus; however, supports promised for students have not been forthcoming or a strain to acquire
    - He would like to see food available for athletes after school to cover the gap between lunch and afterschool athletic programming
    - He is concerned about the funding situation with athletics across the board; there seems to be an inordinate amount of fundraising required of parents and would like to know how funding is allocated. He suggested a proportionate funding approach such as per capita would be more equitable. He also feels the number of coaches is not equitable across the board
    - He would like more information on NNDCC and how it relates to NROTC
    - He would like to know if a master plan has been developed for field maintenance and facilities improvements
    - He would like to see feeder programs for middle school students to help support the high school programs such as marching band, concert band, jazz band, fencing, and smaller sports to boost enrollment at the higher levels
    - He would like to see upper level math support
    - He would like to see debit card readers in the cafeteria lines for school lunches
    - He would like to know if the Homeland Security Audit can be made available to the RTM's Education Committee; he would also like to know more about security versus discipline in the schools
- III. Adjournment

MOTION: Ackerman, Horgan:

To adjourn at 6:45 p.m.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

# Groton Public Schools Superintendent's Proposed 2023-2024 Budget



## Board of Education

Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson  
Andrea Ackerman, Ed.D., Vice Chairperson  
Dean Antipas  
William Horgan, MD, MBA  
Elizabeth Porter  
Matthew Shulman  
Rita Volkman  
Beverly Washington  
Jay Weitlauf

**Mission Statement:** Teaching & Learning

**BoE Goals:** Provide Dynamic Rigorous Curriculum

Ensure Effective and Engaging Instruction

Embrace Excellent Learning Environment

**Belief Statement:** Cultivate an Environment of Diversity, Equality,  
and Inclusiveness



# Joint Meeting

February 1, 2023

## BOE, TC, RTM Education Committee

- Revenue that support the Town's budget on education
- Impact Aid funding and recent legislation
- Grants that supplement the budget
- DOD Supplemental Impact Aid Account
- Per Pupil Spending Comparison to Other Districts
- Update on Health Reserve & OPEB Reserve Accounts
- Review of CIP Account: Priorities
- Review of January 17, 2023 Public Hearing recommendations

# Program Highlights

- Enhance Literacy, following state legislation on Science of Reading for K-2; GPS curriculum based on Connecticut Core Standards (CCS), Teachers College Reading & Writing Project, including TC phonics and updated Units of Study in Reading and Writing
- Increase rigor and relevance in math instruction K-12 based on CCS
- Amplify GPS Science Curriculum K-12 with Next Generation Science Standards
- Expand The International Baccalaureate Program currently at Fitch High School and Groton Middle School (Middle Years Program, Diploma Program and Careers Program & Pathways)
- Partner with Grasso Tech, which will provide afterschool opportunities in the trades for FHS students to receive credit

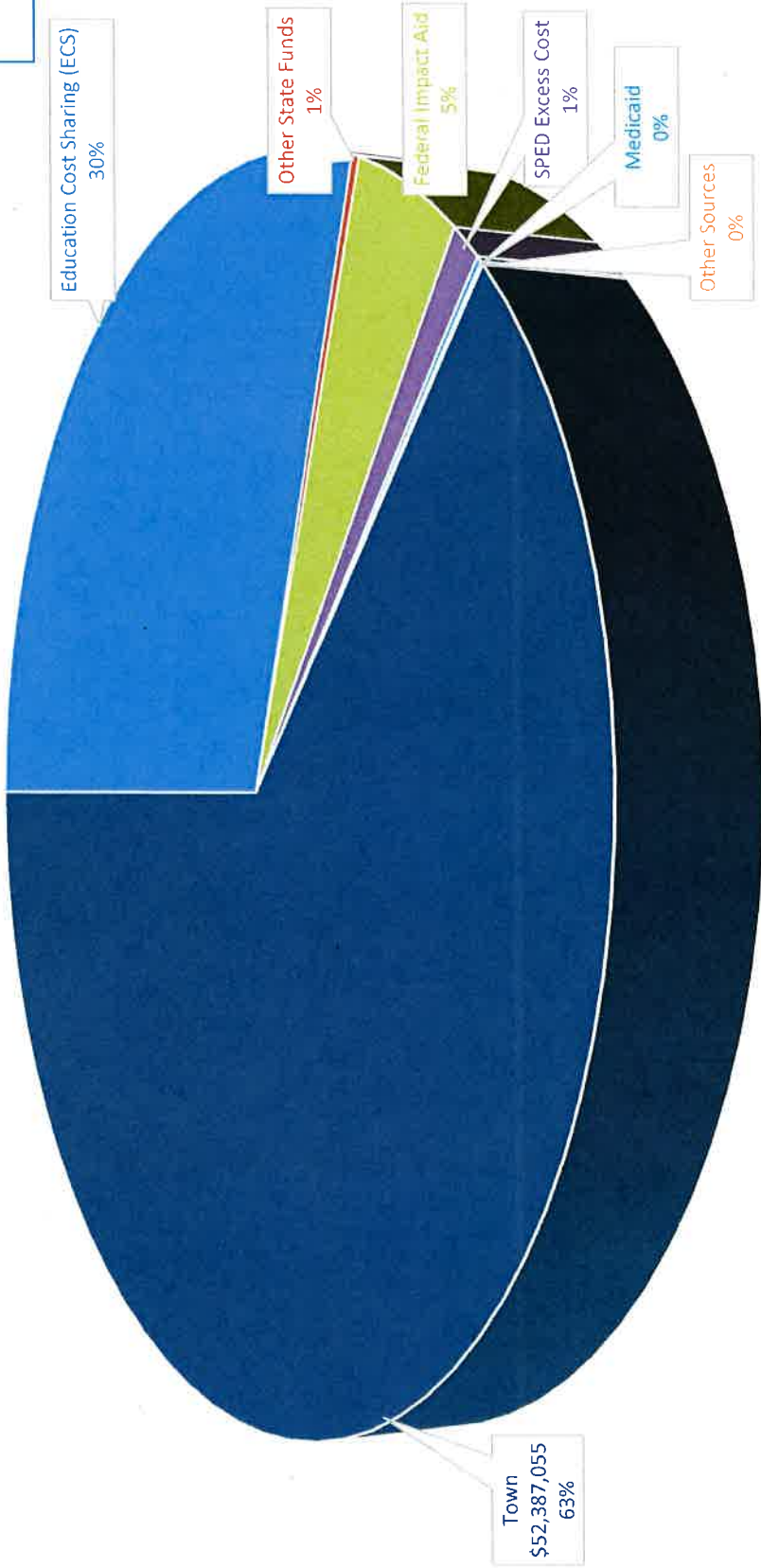


# Program Highlights

- Magnify all five elementary magnet schools with community partners
- Retain all curricular & extracurricular programs, including supports for social emotional learning
- Sustain and continue to upgrade classroom technology, infrastructure, and 1 to 1 computer initiative
- Provide Vocational Program for 18-22 year-olds under IDEA
- Expand high quality Tree House child care program before/after school; 21<sup>st</sup> century grant expansion into GMS & FHS
- Support School Resource Officers @ FHS & GMS, as well as DARE officer partners at the elementary schools

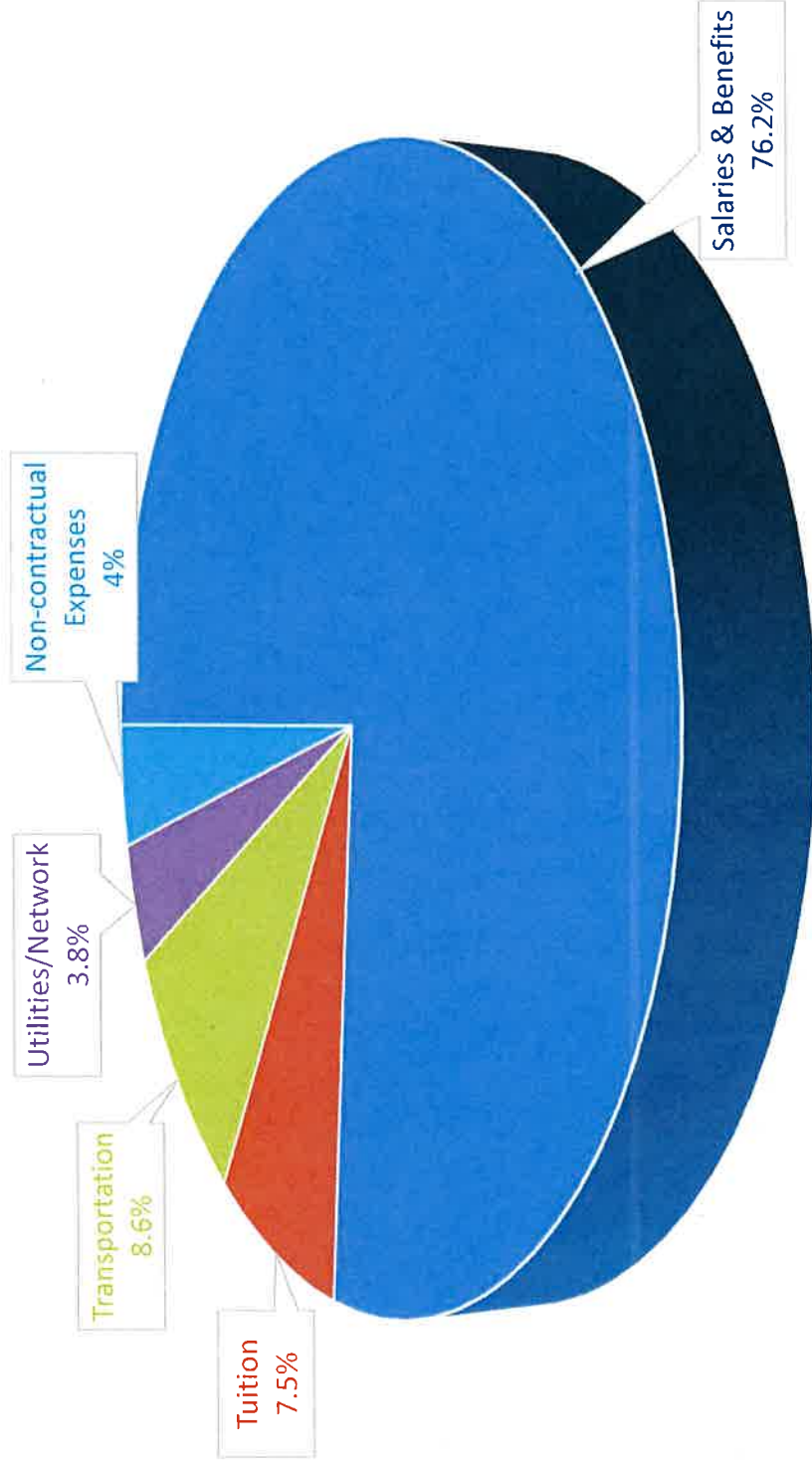


# FY23 Town Revenues



Education Cost Sharing (ECS)	25,040,045
Other State Funds	285,500
Federal Impact Aid	4,094,300
SPED Excess Cost	1,039,000
Medicaid	163,300
Other Sources	<u>89,000</u>
	30,711,145

# GPS Budget Categories



Salaries & Benefits	63,304,051	76.2%
Tuition/Contracted Services	6,230,282	7.5%
Transportation	7,114,391	8.6%
Utilities/Ins./Tel/Network/Software Lic.	3,149,606	3.8%
Non-contractual Expenses	3,299,870	4.0%

# Superintendent's Proposed Budget

	<u>FY23 Budget</u>	<u>Proposed FY24 Budget</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>	<u>%</u>
Salaries (100)	51,446,541	52,821,697	1,375,156	2.7%
Benefits (200)	10,039,106	10,482,354	443,248	4.4%
Purchased Services (300)	1,998,859	2,272,180	273,321	13.7%
Property Services (400)	843,380	871,964	28,584	3.4%
Trans, Ins, Comm, Tuition (500)	11,754,659	12,854,359	1,099,700	9.4%
Supplies (600)	2,873,730	3,594,401	720,671	25.1%
Equipment (700)	108,400	101,734	(6,666)	(6.1%)
Dues & Fees (800)	<u>92,596</u>	<u>99,511</u>	<u>6,915</u>	<u>7.5%</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>79,157,271</u></b>	<b><u>83,098,200</u></b>	<b><u>3,940,929</u></b>	<b><u>4.98%</u></b>

- (100) Contractual pay increases and competitive wage adjustments
- (200) 4.6% anticipated increase in insurance claims cost
- (300) Preventative maintenance and inflationary increases
- (400) Inflationary increase
- (500) Increase cost in bus transportation per the bids
- (600) 1% increase to site budgets, inflationary increase in electricity/heating costs
- (700) Reflection of equipment needs of the schools through their site budget
- (800) Additional dues/fees for EdRising & NNDCC programs

# History of GPS Budget

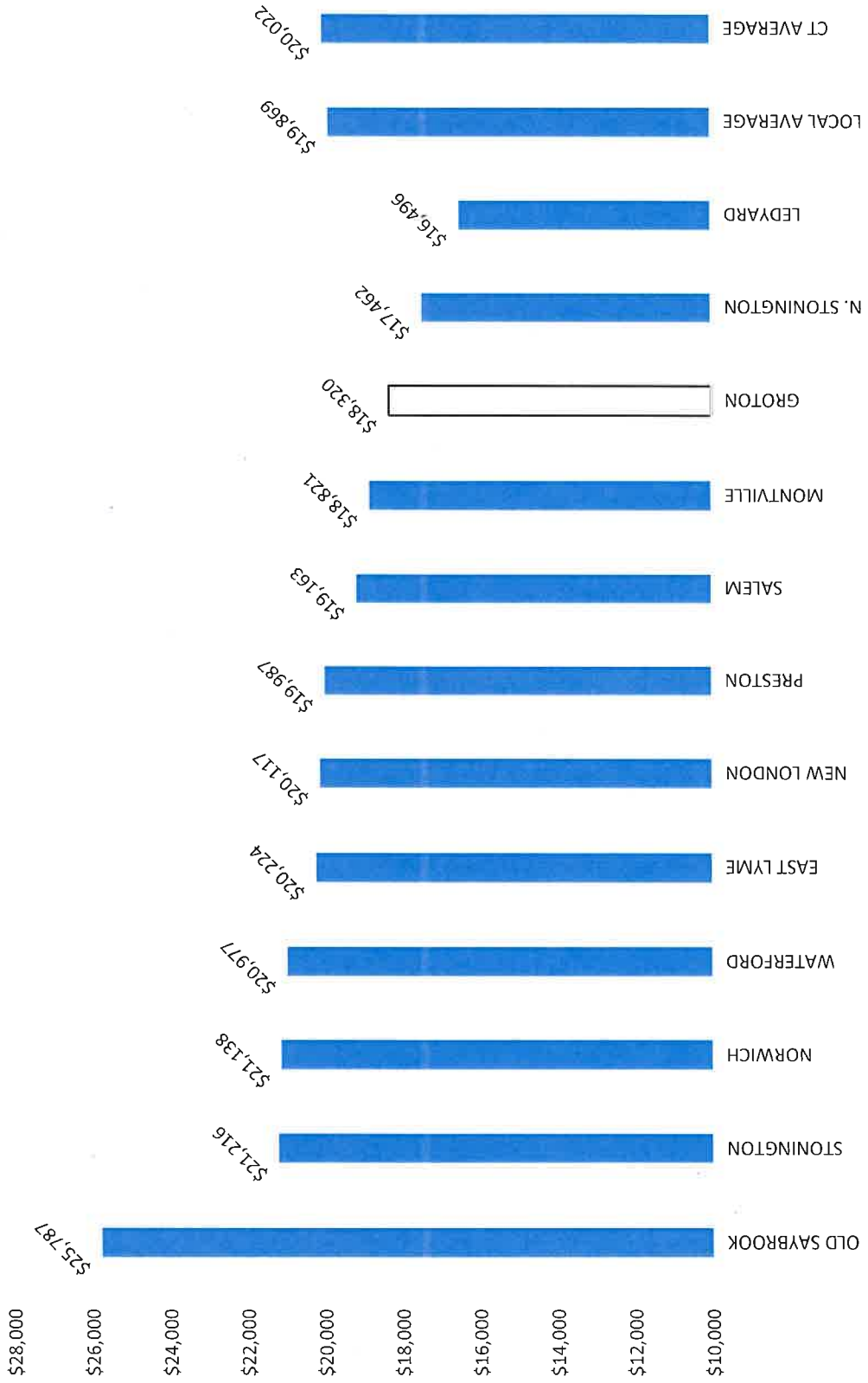
<u>School Year</u>	<u>Budget Total</u>	<u>Inc/(Decr)</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
FY2016-2017	76,468,239	(262,000)	(0.34%)
FY2017-2018	76,468,239	-	0.00%
FY2018-2019	76,485,922	17,683	0.02%
FY2019-2020	77,438,090	952,168	1.24%
FY2020-2021	77,438,090	-	0.00%
FY2021-2022	77,438,090	-	0.00%
FY2022-2023	79,157,271	1,719,181	2.22%
		Seven Year Average	0.50%

# Expenditure per Pupil (NCEP per CSDE)

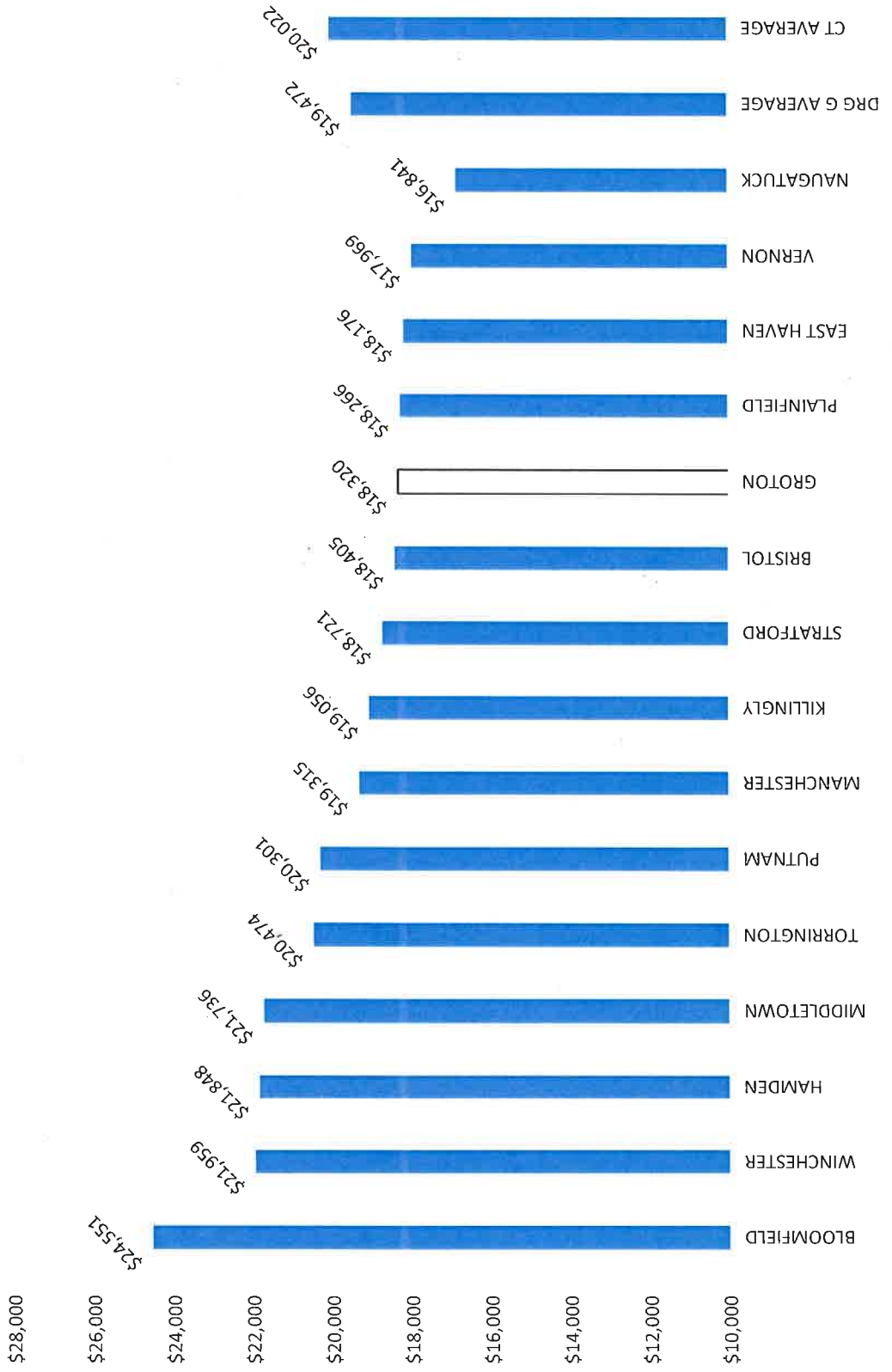
<u>School Year</u>	<u>Groton</u>	<u>CT Avg</u>	<u>Variance</u>
FY2016-2017	\$15,812.77	\$16,564.06	\$(751.30)
FY2017-2018	\$16,207.50	\$16,988.40	\$(780.90)
FY2018-2019	\$16,304.32	\$17,438.69	\$(1,134.37)
FY2019-2020	\$16,476.84	\$17,747.88	\$(1,271.04)
FY2020-2021	\$17,692.91	\$19,011.22	\$(1,318.31)
FY2021-2022	\$18,319.73	\$20,021.80	\$(1,702.07)
FY2022-2023 estimate*	\$17,906.36	Not yet available	

\* Calculated from budget using actual FY23 enrollment

# 2021-22 Average Cost per Student (Local Districts)



# 2021-22 Average Cost per Student (District Reference Group G)



# Board of Education Grants Revenue

	<u>Time Period</u>	<u>FY24</u>
<u>Categorical Grants</u>		
Federal Education Grants (ESEA)	Annual	1,007,489
Carl Perkins (Vocational Education)	Annual	70,047
School Readiness (Early Childhood)	Annual	532,002
IDEA (Federal Special Education grant)	Annual	1,227,570
Bilingual Education (Bilingual education)	Annual	7,853
DOD Supplemental Impact Grant (Tech. Equip)	Annual	400,000 est
Alliance District	Annual	0
<b>Total Categorical Grants</b>		<b>3,244,961</b>
<u>Competitive Grants</u>		
DoDEA-STEM Grant K-5, 9-12 (STEM grant for military schools)	FY19-23	0
DoDEA-Health/STEM Pathways	FY22-26	183,282
DoDEA-World Language	FY23-27	103,440
Nita M. Lowey 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning	FY22-26	59,986
<b>Total Competitive Grants</b>		<b>346,708</b>
<u>Coronavirus Grants</u>		
CARES ACT/ESSER II		0
American Rescue Plan/ESSER III		2,993,880
American Rescue Plan/IDEA		0
ESSER II Special Education Recovery Activities		0
American Rescue Plan ESSER/Homeless Children and Youth		0
<b>Total Coronavirus Grants</b>		<b>2,993,880</b>
<b>Total Grants</b>		<b>6,585,549</b>

