

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
FINANCE/FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 7, 2023 @ 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 6:06 PM.

1. Review December 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes - Prior meeting minutes review and accepted.
2. Eastern Point Beach Profit & Loss Statement-Summer 2022 - Mr. Knight reviewed the profit & loss statement for the Eastern Point Beach concession stand run by the Food Services Dept. The statement shows a nominal profit, with the majority of the costs being food and salaries. It was noted that the motive was not necessarily profit, but to provide a community service and provide some summer employment both to school kitchen staff, as well as some student aged individuals.
3. Discussion re: Student Meals/Summer Meals - Mr. Kilpatrick stated that the summer meal program will be offered at nine locations. Ms. Austin stated that as of March 1st, all meals are offered free through funding from the state. It was discussed that the district did have to charge for meals at the three non-CEP schools (FHS, CB, NEA) for January and February, and that there may be unfunded balances the Board may need to absorb (this has not yet been calculated). Also discussed was that no student is turned away for a meal regardless of whether offered for free or not, but that snacks and extras do require payment or a positive balance in their account. In addition, serving sizes were discussed, particularly number of slices of pizza offered.
4. Update re: Non-lapsing Fund Proposal - Mr. Knight discussed some research on non-lapsing funds. A survey document from the Connecticut Association of School Business Officials (CASBO) was reviewed, which showed that of 75 districts responding, 51 participate in a non-lapsing fund, approximately 68%. Also reviewed was a survey of business managers conducted by Mr. Knight on what might be advantages or disadvantages of non-lapsing funds. Responses were mixed, but most saw these funds as a positive way of dealing with budget shortfalls resulting from special education tuition costs and funding CIPs, while some felt it was viewed as slush fund or used as a way to reduce future budget requests.
5. Update re: GMS Field Lights - Mr. Kilpatrick reported that the field lights consultant, Kent & Frost, is in the process of finalizing drawings to be submitted to the zoning committee for approval. The drawings would also need FAA approval, as the school is in the flight path for Groton - New London Airport. Once all approvals are obtained, the materials can be ordered, and it is anticipated it would take 12 weeks before installation could begin. It is further anticipated that the installation will happen during late fall, but that we would use portable lights in the meantime.
6. Update re: Solar Panel Projects - Mr. Kilpatrick reported that the agreements are in place and we are awaiting final plans for the solar panel project from Greenbank to order the materials. It was discussed that the solar panels would be held in place through a ballast system, not drilled into the

6. Update re: Solar Panel Projects – (Cont'd)

roof. The panels are expected to last 20 plus years. It is anticipated that the panels would be operational by the end of the calendar year.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.