

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
FINANCE/FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 2, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11

NOTE: This meeting is being held in-person. For those attending via Zoom, please click on the meeting under District Calendar for the Zoom link.

Mission Statement: Our mission is teaching and learning.

Board Goals: In richness of cultures and with a respect for all, (1) Provide Dynamic Rigorous Curriculum, (2) Ensure Effective and Engaging Instruction, and (3) Embrace Excellent Learning Environment

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Review April 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes (Attachment #1)
3. Review End of Year Unexpended Funds
4. Juneteenth Financial Implications
5. Discussion re: Summer Facility Use/Projects (Summer School, Summer Camps & Tutoring at Multiple Sites) (Attachment #2)
6. Update re: GMS Field Lights
7. Update re: Solar Panel Projects
8. Adjournment

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL FINANCE/FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 18, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11

Members Present: Jay Weitlauf, Beverly Washington, Dean Antipas

Also Present: Sam Kilpatrick, Ken Knight, Laurie LePine, Ernie Koschmieder

Chairman Weitlauf called the meeting to order 6:06 PM.

1. Review March 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes - Prior meeting minutes review and accepted.
2. Discussion re: the Effect of Tuition Increases on Tree House - Recognizing that the district is currently recruiting for a new Director of Tree House, Mr. Weitlauf recommended tabling discussion on the effect of tuition increases on Tree House enrollment until the new director is in place and has had time to review enrollment.
3. 2023-24 Salary & Wages for Non-union Personnel - Ms. LePine reviewed the attached non-union hourly and stipended positions/pay and hiring rates schedule. Based on competitive data, adjustments have been made to the daily and building substitute teacher rates. It is felt the new rates will make the district more competitive in the local area. The remaining positions, with the exception of the substitute secretary and night school secretary positions, are at a 2% increase over the current year. There was a discussion of the possible impact of the paraprofessional contract, currently in negotiations, on the substitute paraprofessional and bus aide rates.
4. Uncollected Meal Balance - Mr. Knight discussed that the current uncollected meal balance is \$6,317.15. This represents cost of meals provided to students at the three non-CEP schools during January and February 2023 that were not covered by a balance in the students individual meal accounts. Since March 1, 2023, all meals are being paid by the State of CT through ARPA funds, so this balance will not get any higher this year. Mr. Koschmieder and his staff are still actively trying to collect funds and are doing fundraisers to offset this balance.
5. Testimony SB1216 – Universal Meals - Mr. Koschmieder discussed bill SB1216, an act concerning funding for student meals. He had testified at the state capital on this bill, but learned today that the bill has failed and there will be no funding in the state budget for 2024 & 2025 for student meals. There was discussion about possibly expanding CEP to one or more of the three schools not covered by CEP. Mr. Koschmieder is currently working on this and cautiously hopeful that this can be expanded.
6. Discussion re: Summer Meals - Mr. Koschmieder discussed the summer meals program, which is a federal program administered by the state. There are 13 locations in the district, including summer school, parks & rec summer program, extended school year program, Riverfront, some Navy sites, library, Branford Manor, etc., the same sites as previous year. Meals are provided for any student 18 and younger. It is anticipated that they will serve 47-48,000 meals over the 8 week period.

Mr. Kilpatrick was called away on an emergency, but was able to first provide an update to the ceiling issue at Mystic River Magnet School. The issue was caused by equipment that the ceiling tiles hang on in

a corner of the cafeteria. The contractor was at the site to inspect and start repairs. A representative for the manufacturer of the failed equipment is expect the next day. Mr. Kilpatrick and his staff intend to inspect all remaining tiles in that building, as well as its sister building, Thames River Magnet School this week.

7. Discussion re: Summer Facility Use/Projects (Summer School, Summer Camps & Tutoring at Multiple Sites) - This item was tabled.

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM.

GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2023 SUMMER SCHOOL/CAMPS

- **Special Education Extended School Year Summer School**
Location: Northeast Academy

Standard Session: July 5 – July 27
ABA Program: July 5 – August 10

Student Hours: 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Food Services will provide breakfast every day.

- **Elementary STEM Summer Camp (K-5)**
Location: Charles Barnum Elementary School

Session 1: June 20 – June 23
Session 2: June 26 – June 29
(Monday – Thursday)

Student Hours: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Food Services will provide breakfast every day.

- **Groton Middle School STEAM Summer Camp**
Location: Groton Middle School

Session 1: June 20 – June 23
Session 2: June 26 – June 29
(Monday – Thursday)

Student Hours: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Food Services will provide breakfast every day.

- **Fitch High Regular Education Summer School**
Location: Fitch High School

In Session: June 26 – July 26
5 days per week (excluding July 3 & 4 holiday break)

Student Hours: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

- **Elementary Small Group Instruction/Tutoring for ELA & Math**
available at every elementary school based on intervention needs.

- **Tree House Summer Program**
Location: Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School

- **Mystic River Magnet School**
Parks & Recreation Town Summer Program

- **Thames River Magnet School**
Parks & Recreation City Summer Program