

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
FINANCE/FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 1, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11

Members Present: Jay Weitlauf, Beverly Washington

Members Absent: Dean Antipas

Also Present: Susan Austin, Sam Kilpatrick, Laurie LePine (Remote), Matthew Shulman (Remote)

Chairman Weitlauf called the meeting to order 6:01 p.m.

1. Review June 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes - Prior meeting minutes review and accepted.
2. Discussion re: the East River Energy Contract – Laurie LePine stated that the East River Energy contract for the upcoming year was signed by Ken Knight in February; rates were locked in for the heating oil and diesel fuel. She stated that we’re paying approximately \$1.00/gallon less than last year. We also coordinate with the town to get the best rates available. In response to a question from Bev Washington regarding the process we use to choose the oil/fuel company, Sam Kilpatrick responded that we’ve gone out to bid in the past, and we don’t always choose the same company.
3. Review End of Year Unexpended Funds/Encumbrances – Jay Weitlauf stated that Matt Shulman had a question regarding encumbered salaries. Laurie LePine stated that the encumbrances in the year-end report refer specifically to teachers’ salaries; it’s necessary to encumber their salaries for July and August because it’s work performed before June.
4. Discussion re: the Health Insurance Reserve – Laurie LePine stated that we received the health claims through June, which shows where we finished the year against Anthem’s projection of how the plan would perform. In the coming weeks, we will compare this to the budget and see what the impact is on the reserve.
5. Update re: School Facilities – Sam Kilpatrick updated the committee on the following projects:
 - The well pump at Central Office is being replaced on Friday afternoon.
 - Working on a contract for the GMS field lights.
 - The solar project at GMS is scheduled to mobilize on August 2.
 - The solar project at MRMS is scheduled to mobilize on August 15.
 - The drainage project at NEA started today.
 - The LED lighting project at FHS will pay for itself.
 - The pergola project at GMS, which can be used as an outdoor classroom, will be located outside the art room. Sam Kilpatrick is hopeful the concrete will be completed by the beginning of school.
 - The water fountain on the second floor at MRMS leaked. Repairs to be completed.
 - It doesn’t appear that we’ll be able to get to the additional office space project at CK this summer.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.