

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
FINANCE/FACILITIES COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 14, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11

Members Present: Jay Weitlauf, Beverly Washington, Dean Antipas

Also Present: Susan Austin, David Fleig, Sam Kilpatrick, David Haugeto

Chairman Weitlauf called the meeting to order 6:02 p.m.

1. Review October 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes – Prior meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted.
2. Discussion re: Revenue – Dave Fleig shared a Revenue to Support Education document (attached) and stated that the purpose of the document is to follow revenue that comes into the district. It shows the revenue that has actually been collected vs. revenue that was budgeted. The excess revenue collected over the budgeted revenue goes directly to the town’s general fund and not to our schools.
3. Discussion re: FY24 Financial Challenges – Susan Austin stated that we’ve been keeping close track of our financial challenges. David Fleig shared the attached document, which outlines the challenges with health insurance claims, property costs, transportation costs, utility budgets, lunch program collection, contractual & wage inflation, legal fees, and prior year expenses. Mr. Fleig will discuss these challenges with the full board at the next COW meeting.
4. Discussion re: Emergency Facility Repairs – This item was addressed during the FY24 Financial Challenges discussion. The Property Damage Information document that was discussed is attached.
5. Director of Finance Report – David Fleig stated that work has begun on the budget and would like to get some feedback on the presentation of the budget. This year, he would like to show school level profit & loss and is working on finetuning the profit & loss documents.
6. Director of Buildings & Grounds Report – Sam Kilpatrick reported on the following projects:
 - FHS LED project - David Haugeto stated that the students have noticed a difference in the lighting at the school; Mr. Kilpatrick stated that this project should be completed shortly after Thanksgiving
 - The wheelchair lift at the field house has arrived
 - GMS solar project is progressing; will be completed toward the end of the year
 - MRMS solar project is also progressing and is on schedule to be completed by the end of the year
 - Turf field/softball field - 30’ long concrete footings for each light has arrived

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Groton Public Schools
 Revenue to support education
 Budget to Actual

	Actual*						
	2023**	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2018-2023
4521 Education Cost Sharing	25,124,493	25,183,030	25,006,069	24,969,249	25,025,766	24,903,311	150,211,918
4522 Adult Education	89,615	117,717	117,310	113,451	102,394	102,900	643,387
4525 Special Education Excess Cost	1,073,201	1,110,911	998,437	1,293,954	917,145	891,571	6,285,219
4534 Magnet School Transportation	131,300	117,000	143,000	189,800	182,000	209,300	972,400
4544 Non-Public Pupil Service	24,394	26,369	18,783	26,246	22,315	20,847	138,954
4508 Medicaid	236,961	129,184	90,630	117,659	271,881	271,834	1,118,149
4591 Pupil Impact Aid	4,201,315	3,901,177	4,213,846	3,945,649	5,253,028	3,751,870	25,266,885
4662 Tuition from Other Towns	37,298	29,884	19,006	78,044	104,855	120,822	389,909
4669 Other School Receipts	34,830	31,440	22,073	26,124	33,549	58,289	206,305
Total Actual	30,953,407	30,646,712	30,629,154	30,760,176	31,912,933	30,330,744	185,233,126

	Budget*						
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2018-2023
4521 Education Cost Sharing	25,040,045	25,040,045	25,040,045	25,025,766	25,040,045	19,979,526	145,165,472
4522 Adult Education	116,103	113,451	116,960	102,300	102,334	105,000	656,148
4525 Special Education Excess Cost	1,093,637	925,000	900,000	850,000	800,000	915,000	5,483,637
4534 Magnet School Transportation	143,000	185,000	185,000	188,000	188,000	188,000	1,077,000
4544 Non-Public Pupil Service	26,369	26,246	26,246	22,000	22,000	188,000	310,861
4508 Medicaid	196,570	195,100	195,311	149,039	93,000	139,000	968,020
4591 Pupil Impact Aid	4,094,283	3,316,515	3,283,678	3,306,657	3,214,533	3,250,000	20,465,666
4662 Tuition from Other Towns	20,000	20,000	64,000	70,000	70,000	145,487	389,487
4669 Other School Receipts	-	16,000	25,000	19,000	19,000	18,998	97,998
Total Budget	30,730,007	29,837,357	29,836,240	29,732,762	29,548,912	24,929,011	174,614,289

Excess Revenue Collected over Budget	223,400	809,355	792,914	1,027,414	2,364,021	5,401,733	10,618,837
Excess Impact Aid Collected over Budget	107,032	584,662	930,168	638,992	2,038,495	501,870	4,801,219

* Per Town of Groton Adopted Budget books
 ** Per Groton Board of Ed records



FY24 Financial Challenges Being Monitored

Health Insurance Claims

- Health insurance claims are up ~30% or ~\$680K over the prior year
- Health insurance budget was reduced ~\$725K during the budget process
- Insurance reserve is nearly depleted

Property Costs

- Incurred five new property damage events and one ADA Compliant investment
- YTD expense of ~\$51K and expected to reach ~\$100K

Transportation Costs

- The mix of standard buses has changed costing us ~\$22K (six add'l mid-day buses and one less regular bus)
- Out of town athletic event bus costs are 2.25x the budgeted amount

Utility Budgets

- 38% of the Electricity Budget already spent (pre-winter)
- Natural Gas & Oil budgets ~25%-40% lower than FY23 actual expense

Lunch Program Collection

- Averaging ~\$8K of unpaid student lunch charges per month (primarily @ CB, NEA, FHS)
- Incurred ~\$16K of charges YTD and estimating \$80K for the full year

Contractual & Wage Inflation

- Para Union Contractual Agreement TBD (*only budgeted ~6% rate increase*)
- CT State Minimum Wage Increase Effective January 1st (*\$15 to \$15.69 hour*)

Legal Fees

- Contractual Negotiations, Robotics and SPED fees rising quickly
- Only \$29K remaining in the Legal Fees Budget

Prior Year Expenses

- ~\$624K of prior year expenses deferred to FY24
- ~\$83K of FY23 related invoices not received until FY24
- DOD Supplemental balance at risk

Groton Public Schools
 Property Damage Information

Property:	<u>Claim Filed</u>	<u>Total Estimate</u>	<u>Town Contribution</u>	<u>Estimated BOE Cost</u>
Mystic River Insurance Claim (Water - Bottle Filler)	8/4/2023	\$ 69,712.49	\$ 13,810.57	\$ 11,189.43
Fitch Insurance Claim (Water)	10/13/2023	\$ 35,264.20	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00
Fitch HVAC Lines	N/A	\$ 12,100.00	\$ -	\$ 12,100.00
Fitch Fieldhouse Lift (ADA Compliant)	N/A	\$ 7,177.00	\$ -	\$ 7,177.00
Mystic River Insurance (Water - Nurse/Admin Area)	N/A	\$ 4,475.48	\$ -	\$ 4,475.48
Fitch Water Heater	N/A	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ 40,000.00
Total Estimated Costs		\$ 168,729.17	\$ 13,810.57	\$ 99,941.91