

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jay Weitlauf-Chairperson, Beverly Washington-Vice Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman, Dean Antipas, Adrian Johnson, Robert Meade, Matthew Shulman, Ian Thomas, Jennifer White

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Phil Piazza, David Fleig, Denise Doolittle, Dr. Clint Kennedy, Sam Kilpatrick, Seth Danner, Ryan Chaney, Christine Dauphinais, Steve Wheeler, Jamie Giordano

I. CALL TO ORDER – Superintendent Austin called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. BUDGET WORK SESSION

- Chapter 2 – Instruction
 - Elementary School Building Principals gave an overview of their respective building budgets:
 - CK – School was built in 2008.
 - CK theme is STEAM based experiences, classes, units, lessons, and opportunities to engage in real world problem solving using a multidisciplinary approach and the integration of technology and the arts.
 - Teachers, paras, and tutors are a priority.
 - Keeping the library up to date is important.
 - Replacement costs.
 - CB – School was built in 1965.
 - CB’s theme provides educational experiences that foster discovery through creativity, curiosity, and exploration.
 - They are in a transitional phase and are partnered with Denison Pequot. They have taken what they learned from UConn’s Confratute Program (Renzuli & Reiss) and applied it to their model.
 - Outdoor education is a priority.
 - They are building classroom libraries.
 - They have grade 4-5 Academy.
 - MR – School was built in 2021.
 - MR’s theme is Play and Ingenuity that focuses on finding new ways to engage their students meaningfully in interest-based learning with a focus on Active Exploration.
 - They have trails behind the building and are involved with outdoor education.
 - They are partnered with Pfizer’s and Niantic Children Museum.
 - They have ABA Autism students, Preschool Program, and PreK.
 - They are looking at growing community partnerships.
 - NEA – School was built in 2008.
 - NEA’s theme of arts integration is to engage the students in challenging and complex instruction designed to develop creative thinkers and innovative learners.
 - They partner with the Mystic Museum of Arts.
 - They utilize a resident storyteller, work with Flock Theater, and ECSO theater.

- TR – School was built in 2021.
 - They are a Marine Science magnet school with marine and environmental themes.
 - Partners are Project O, New England Science and Sailing, and Mystic Aquarium.
 - They have 2 trails and are working on a third.
 - BELONG is their Mission Statement and they purchase books for each letter.
 - They have Transitional Kindergarten, 3 Integrated Preschools, PreK, and 2 district Academy programs (K-1 and 2-3).

- Mrs. Denise Doolittle gave an overview of the Special Education program throughout the district.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Meade:

To adjourn at 8:52 p.m.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY