

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 5, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11/HYBRID**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Philip Piazza, Sam Kilpatrick, Clint Kennedy, Rebecca Beyus

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Jay Weitlauf, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. Budget Work Session

- Chapter 4 – Operations

- CIPs – Superintendent Austin noted that NEA has had HVAC on for 5 years. She stated that she has talked to the Town Manager regarding this situation. They have now added updated numbers for NEA and CK.
- Mr. Kilpatrick gave an overview of the Operations budget:
 - He noted the staff that work alongside him; one custodial supervisor, one maintenance coordinator, one administrative assistant, 12 maintenance technicians with different expertise, and 37.5 custodians-13 of which are half-time.
 - Administrative costs have increased by 10.2% contractually.
 - He noted the professional services for his department.
 - He noted repairs to the grounds; the cost includes the Supervisor for the Town of Groton.
 - He noted rental; building protection remains the same; fire boxes have been eliminated – he explained the new system.
 - Transportation – Public: Mr. Kilpatrick noted that there are 2 full time staff members who handle the bus schedules, 18.5 bus aides, and that 4,000 students are transported daily.
 - Non-Public Transportation budget is for Sacred Heart School.
 - CIP Projects: Mr. Kilpatrick read the summary page regarding ongoing projects for elementary and secondary levels.
 - FHS Athletic Facilities regarding the recrowning of the football field.
 - NEA and CK air quality – the schools have the boilers on at the same time as the air conditioners.
 - FHS HVAC Study, in the vintage area, at a cost of 5.054 million dollars. Mr. Kilpatrick noted that Mr. Burt stated that this is beyond the CIP.
 - CB HVAC Study – the building was built in the 1960's: there is a need to replace some of the mini splits at a cost of 2.018 million dollars.
 - The FHS Culinary Arts Facilities Study was completed several years ago by SLAM architects. The estimated cost at that time was \$600,000. Superintendent Austin and Mr. Kilpatrick stated that his staff put in new sinks and stoves, which was purchased through the Perkins Grant.

Mr. Shulman made a referral to the COW regarding examining core competencies.

- FHS Auditorium:
 - Lighting
 - Sound
 - Digital projection that would be mounted in the ceiling
 - Seating for the handicap and the replacement of broken seats

- Technology – Dr. Kennedy noted that there are 6,000 users on a daily basis.
 - Staffing – there is a small change (-0.5)
 - Dr. Kennedy gave high praise for the staff he works with in Groton.
 - Dr. Kennedy gave a brief explanation of the cyber-attack that occurred last Thursday.
 - Dr. Kennedy gave an overview of the phone lines and computer software.
 - We are in a fully 1 to 1 model (grades 6-12 take them home; K-5 in the classroom)
 - Every student has a Chromebook
 - Dr. Kennedy gave an overview of the Video Technician and the Assistant Video Technician and all that they do.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Meade:

To adjourn at 7:53 p.m.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY