

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 21, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11/HYBRID**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dean Antipas, Robert Meade

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Philip Piazza, David Fleig, Sam Kilpatrick, Clint Kennedy, Denise Doolittle, Laurie LePine

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Jay Weitlauf, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.
- II. BUDGET WORK SESSION – Superintendent Austin and David Fleig reviewed the FY25 Budget Efficiency/Reduction Opportunities. Mr. Fleig noted that this adjustment brings the proposed budget to 8.76%.

The Board held extensive discussion around the cutting of staff and alternative ways of making these cuts, i.e. cutting salaries. Superintendent Austin reiterated the situation regarding the VNA discontinuing their service to the Groton Public School and area districts.

Denise Doolittle gave an overview of the Student Health Service and the grant that provides the School Based Health Centers. She further explained the distinction of the roles of the School Based Health Centers and the staff in the Nurses offices.

The Board discussed ways to improve the budget process.

- III. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Shulman: To adjourn at 8:23 p.m.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY