

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 4, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.  
REMOTE MEETING**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dean Antipas

**ALSO PRESENT:** Susan Austin, Phil Piazza, Sam Kilpatrick, Clint Kennedy, Shannon Weigle, Ernie Koschmieder

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Jay Weitlauf, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RE: THE APPROVAL OF THE CT GROWN FOR KIDS SHIPPING CONTAINER GRANT – Mr. Koschmieder gave an overview of the grant.

MOTION: Shulman, Meade: To approve the CT Grown for Kids Shipping Container Grant in the amount of \$250,000.  
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RE: THE ADOPTION OF THE CERTIFIED RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MOTION: Ackerman, Shulman: To adopt the certified resolution to enter into contracts with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.  
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

IV. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RE: BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS' BUDGET DATA REQUESTS

1) MOTION: Johnson, Thomas: To retrieve information from the Administration into the reasons why the 9.32% budget increase was changed between the dates of February 23 and February 26, 2024, and why the Superintendent's revised budget of 7.91% was not able to be amended by Board members prior to the vote.

AYES (4) – Johnson, Thomas, Weitlauf, Ackerman  
NAYS (2) – Washington, White  
ABSTAINED (2) – Shulman, Meade  
ABSENT (1) – Antipas  
MOTION PASSED

IV. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RE: BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS' BUDGET DATA REQUESTS – cont.

- 2) MOTION: Johnson, Thomas: To request the Administration to explain, in detail, what goods or services will be displaced out of grants as a result of moving staff, services, and supplies from the Board's budget into existing grant funding.  
AYES (7) – Weitlauf, Washington, Ackerman, Johnson, Meade, Thomas, White  
NAYS (0)  
ABSTAINED (1) – Shulman  
ABSENT (1) – Antipas  
MOTION PASSED
- 3) MOTION: Johnson, Thomas: To request the Administration provide details regarding the impact of each lost position in the ARP ESSER grant and what it will have on the students directly.  
AYES (6) – Weitlauf, Meade, Johnson, Thomas, White, Ackerman  
NAYS (0)  
ABSTAINED (2) – Shulman, Washington  
ABSENT (1) – Antipas  
MOTION PASSED
- 4) MOTION: Johnson, Thomas: To provide the Board with the staff responses from the 2023 School Climate survey, to be done in Executive Session, to present disclosure of a record that is exempt from disclosure.  
AYES (3) – Johnson, Thomas, Weitlauf  
NAYS (5) – Ackerman, Washington, White, Meade, Shulman  
ABSTAINED (0)  
ABSENT (1) – Antipas  
MOTION FAILED
- 5) MOTION: Thomas, Johnson: To invite the Union Leadership to comment on the Board of Education's review of Climate Surveys in any context.  
AYES (2) – Thomas, Johnson  
NAYS (6) – Ackerman, White, Shulman, Washington, Meade, Weitlauf  
ABSTAINED (0)  
ABSENT (1) – Antipas  
MOTION FAILED

IV. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RE: BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS' BUDGET DATA REQUESTS – cont.

6) MOTION: Thomas, Meade: To request that from here on out, for this budget process, that any draft that's created is saved until the final vote as a separate document so that we can vote on multiple numbers or have multiple scenarios available to us when we finally vote on this later this month.

AYES (6) – Johnson, Thomas, White, Shulman, Meade,  
Weitlauf

NAYS (0)

ABSTAINED (1) – Ackerman

ABSENT (1) – Antipas

MOTION PASSED

Mrs. Washington was unavailable for the vote.

7) MOTION: Shulman, Meade: To make an amendment to modify the motion not just for this budget cycle but going forth.

AYES (6) – Johnson, Thomas, White, Shulman, Meade,  
Weitlauf

NAYS (1) – Ackerman

ABSTAINED (0)

ABSENT (1) – Antipas

MOTION PASSED

Mrs. Washington was unavailable for the vote.

8) MOTION: Thomas, Johnson: To form an Ad Hoc Budget Procedure Committee to begin meeting no later than June 1st and to aim for completion of the budget procedure by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

AYES (4) – Weitlauf, Johnson, White, Thomas

NAYS (3) – Ackerman, Washington, Meade

ABSTAINED (1) – Shulman

ABSENT (1) – Antipas

MOTION PASSED

9) MOTION: Thomas, Johnson: To have the Administration produce a document that lists the date of origin of the budgets, new, modified, or combined, over the last 9 years.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

IV. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RE: BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS' BUDGET DATA REQUESTS – cont.

10) MOTION: Thomas, Johnson: To have the Board review the NEASC report and the update data in a Special meeting with the option of going into Executive Session if needed.

AYES (1) – Thomas

NAYS (6) – White, Shulman, Washington, Weitlauf,  
Ackerman, Meade

ABSTAINED (1) – Johnson

ABSENT (1) – Antipas

MOTION FAILED

11) MOTION: Thomas, Johnson: To include a standing agenda item for Special meetings to include an item to move into Executive Session should any item arise as predicated under the FOI Commission.

AYES (0)

NAYS (8) – Washington, Meade, Johnson, Ackerman,  
Thomas, White, Shulman, Weitlauf

ABSTAINED (0)

ABSENT (1) – Antipas

MOTION FAILED

Mr. Thomas suggested the need to get guidance from the Board Attorney on how we should proceed on such matters.

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Washington: To adjourn at 8:11 p.m.  
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY