

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 6, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Ray Engle, Laurie LePine

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

II. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RE: 2024 YEAR-END BUDGET (Attachments)

Superintendent Austin noted the following unforeseen escalated costs in the 2024 budget:

- Health Insurance costs
- Substitute costs
- Property Damages
- Transportation Costs
- Utilities
- Lunch Program - unpaid
- Paraprofessional Negotiations
- Contractual & Wage Inflation
- Legal Fees
- Prior Year Expenses

Superintendent Austin noted that the principals are working with 50% for their Site Budgets. The principals are monitoring the number of hours worked by staff with overtime freeze. The FY 24 Excess Revenue in the amount of \$1,399,824 has come to the town on behalf of the Board of Education. The recommendation was to request these funds, that do not affect the MBR or tax payer, to offset FY24 remaining expenses and to help restore the remaining expenses and to help restore the Health Care Corridor and Reserve. Additionally, the Superintendent received information from the CSDE that the Board is eligible to ask for (2%) of the ECS grant and recommends not to do this because the Town is counting on it.

The Board held in-depth discussions as well as asked for clarification on items, with input from Ray Engle and Laurie LePine regarding the different handouts.

MOTION: Washington, Thomas: To approve that the Board of Education formally request a special appropriation from the Town of Groton, which is in line with the excess revenue collected by the Town of Groton on behalf of the Board of Education in FY24 in the amount of \$1,399,824.

MOTION: Shulman, Washington: To amend the motion to approve that the Board of Education formally request a special appropriation from the Town of Groton, for use of education related to the children of Groton collected by the Town of Groton.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

MOTION: Washington, Whitney: To amend the motion to approve that the Board of Education formally request a special appropriation from the Town of Groton, which is in line with the excess revenue collected by the Town of Groton on behalf of the Board of Education in FY24 in the amount of \$1,399,824 to offset FY24 remaining expenses and to help restore the remaining expenses and to help restore the Health Care Corridor and Reserve.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED:
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Weitlauf noted that this will be forwarded to the Town Manager by next Tuesday.

III. UPDATE RE: BUSINESS MANAGER AND ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT SEARCHES

Laurie LePine noted that the Business Manager has been posted and there are 3 candidates. The Assistant Superintendent posting will close on July 14, 2024

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Whitney: To adjourn at 8:53 p.m.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY



FY24 Revenue Estimate

	Budget	6.3.24 Actual	Over/(Under) Budget	Potential SPED Adjustment	Expected Total Revenue	Projected additional Rev balance
Federal						
Impact Aid	\$4,094,300	\$5,819,196	\$1,724,896	\$90,799	\$5,909,995	\$1,815,695
Medicaid	\$192,100	\$122,450	(\$69,650)	\$102,858	\$225,308	\$33,208
Total Federal	\$4,286,400	\$5,941,646	\$1,655,246	\$193,657	\$6,135,303	\$1,848,903
State						
Education Cost Sharing (ECS)	\$25,040,045	\$25,040,045	\$0	\$0	\$25,040,045	\$0
SPED Excess Cost	\$1,193,440	\$945,441	(\$247,999)	\$0	\$945,441	(\$247,999)
Magnet School Transportation	\$143,000	\$126,100	(\$16,900)	\$0	\$126,100	(\$16,900)
Adult Education	\$116,100	\$125,104	\$9,004	\$0	\$125,104	\$9,004
Nonpublic Health Services	\$26,400	\$26,873	\$473	\$0	\$26,873	\$473
Total State	\$26,518,985	\$26,263,563	(\$255,422)	\$0	\$26,263,563	(\$255,422)
Total Revenue	\$30,805,385	\$32,205,209	\$1,399,824		\$26,263,563	\$1,593,481

Susan Austin

From: Susan Austin
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2024 4:42 PM
To: Susan Austin
Subject: FW: Two Percent Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Program Grant Set-aside

From: Murrelly, Jennifer <Jennifer.Murrelly@ct.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 2:22 PM
To: Susan Austin <saustin@groton.k12.ct.us>; Stephanie Marshall <smarshall@groton.k12.ct.us>
Cc: Russell-Tucker, Charlene <Charlene.Russell-Tucker@ct.gov>; Parisi, Irene <Irene.Parisi@ct.gov>; Persson, Roger <Roger.Persson@ct.gov>; Chambers, Kevin <Kevin.Chambers@ct.gov>
Subject: Two Percent Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Program Grant Set-aside

This email was sent on behalf of Irene Parisi

Dear Superintendent Susan Austin:

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 10-262k for compensatory education programs, GROTON School District is eligible to be awarded a maximum of two percent of the town/city's ECS Grant entitlement for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023–24. The maximum set-aside figure for Groton is \$500,801.

Please note that this set-aside comes out of your town/city's ECS Grant and does not represent additional ECS Grant funds. Receipt of these funds will result in a corresponding reduction of ECS Grant funds that are available to your town/city. **In accordance with the provisions of C.G.S. Section 10-262k, you must notify your town/city of your intention to apply for the Two Percent ECS Program Grant Set-aside at the time of application.**

To apply:

1. You must e-mail Dr. Jennifer Murrelly at Jennifer.murrelly@ct.gov by **June 14, 2024**, stating your intention to apply for the Two Percent ECS Program Grant Set-aside.
2. You must indicate in your e-mail response that your town/city has been notified of your intention to apply.

The Two Percent ECS Program Grant Set-aside will be available through the "Two Percent Education Cost Share Program" Grant in eGMS.

Please contact Dr. Jennifer Murrelly at Jennifer.murrelly@ct.gov if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Irene C. Parisi

IP:jkm

cc: Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of Education

CSDE Roger Persson

Draw down estimate A/O 6.4.2024			
Object Code Balance	-\$1,242,734.00	Suggested Adjustmests	Confirmed Trans completed 6.3.24
Apply \$13k from homeless grant towards Curtin bills			\$13,000.00
Move Chromebook charges from 1254024 730 to Chromebook revenue account			\$11,121.00
Apply \$34,267.83 from Truck & Plow salvage value to Maintenance costs			\$34,268.00
Sped transition grant to pay for \$15K of sharp training costs * Not received			\$15,000.00
Reduce Maintenance/Custodial supplies by 50k		\$50,000.00	
Apply \$48,971.40 from insurance company for FHS claim to 331 professional services [Check rec'd 4.15.24]			\$48,971.40
Apply \$49,320.49 from insurance company for MRM claim to 331 professional services [Check rec'd 4.18.24]			\$49,320.49
CREC TRP Grant offset to salary account [Payment notification on 5.20.24]		\$39,000.00	
Total Adjustments taken since last Summary:		\$89,000.00	\$171,680.89
Additional Entries to be completed:			
Apply \$90,799 Impact Aid for Children with Disabilities to 332 [Payment notification on 4.30.24]		\$90,799.00	
Apply remaining \$75,184.42 from Impact aid for children with disabilities to 1213060-333 [Kate to book adjusting entry]		\$75,184.42	
Use remaining \$79K from DOD supplemental - athletic bus and midday bus		\$79,000.00	
Apply ~\$39K e-rate credit towards 1888888-343 computer network services		\$39,000.00	
Sub total		\$283,983.42	
SPED Revenue Transfers			
Apply \$97,914.91 Medicaid Revenue to 332 [Payment notification on 5.6.24]		\$102,867.00	
Additional children with disabilities payments on 5/10/24 20k and 65k notified from Town [Payment notification on 5.10.24]		\$84,900.00	
Sub total		\$187,767.00	
Summary of adjustments: Current estimated deficit Balance	-\$681,983.58	\$560,750.42	
For Consideration/Next Up:			
Adjust the FY24 opeb payment. Instead of paying total \$1,543,862, only pay \$1,431,930 which is the pay as you go - savings of \$111,932			
Assumptions in FY24 Forecast * We are expecting our final DoD Supplemental payment in May.			
This is estimated to be ~\$515K. Attempting to confirm payment date			

Groton Public Schools

Date prep:		FY24 Budget Summary Review					
6/3/24 12:49 PM							
Account	Object #s	FY24 Budget 2023-2024	Expenditures	Encumbered	FY24 Actual Total	Remaining Balance	%
Salaries							
1	Administrators 105-109	5,139,279	4,736,189	435,715	5,171,904	(32,625)	(0.6%)
2	Teachers 101-104,123-127,151-152	35,924,586	26,251,111	9,034,843	35,285,954	638,632	1.8%
3	Non-Cert Aides 110-111,130-131,136,139	4,621,663	4,097,293	936,997	5,034,290	(412,627)	(8.9%)
4	Substitute - Cert & Non-Cert 120-121	1,057,434	1,458,379	0	1,458,379	(400,945)	(37.9%)
5	Clerical 112-114,132-134,144	2,059,296	2,024,034	317,297	2,341,331	(282,035)	(13.7%)
6	Custodial/Maintenance/Techs 117-118,129,137-138,147-148	3,685,428	3,156,737	603,208	3,759,945	(74,517)	(2.0%)
7	Campus Security/Supervision 128	190,167	241,875	14,353	256,228	(66,061)	(34.7%)
8	Total Salaries 100	52,677,853	41,965,618	11,342,413	53,308,031	(630,178)	(1.2%)
Benefits							
9	Health Insurance 201-202	6,881,439	6,509,341	372,098	6,881,439	0	0.0%
10	Workers Comp & Town Pension 211,213	1,089,758	1,089,747	0	1,089,747	11	0.0%
11	Social Security & Medicare 212,214	1,571,584	1,440,720	300,000	1,740,720	(169,136)	(10.8%)
12	Other Benefits 222-227	394,000	348,381	2,600	350,981	43,019	10.9%
13	Total Benefits 200	9,936,781	9,388,189	674,698	10,062,887	(126,106)	(1.3%)
Purchased Services							
14	Instructional Services 321-324	235,375	83,426	10,873	94,300	141,075	59.9%
15	Professional Services 331	310,731	434,074	35,272	469,346	(158,615)	(51.0%)
16	Other Prof Services 332	595,000	539,937	263,538	803,475	(208,475)	(35.0%)
17	OT & PT Services 333	750,000	75,700	677,463	753,162	(3,162)	(0.4%)
18	Legal 334	71,100	85,343	27,000	112,343	(41,243)	(58.0%)
19	Athletic Officials & Other Athletic Serv 341-342	82,390	78,069	0	78,069	4,321	5.2%
20	Computer Network Services 343	164,483	157,378	26,161	183,539	(19,056)	(11.6%)
21	Total Purchased Services 300	2,209,079	1,453,928	1,040,307	2,494,234	(285,155)	(12.9%)
Property Services							
22	Water & Sewer 410-411	101,807	93,056	17,469	110,525	(8,718)	(8.6%)
23	Trash & Snow Removal 421-422	138,341	78,884	35,110	113,994	24,347	17.6%
24	Repair/Maintenance 430-435,490-491,499	496,549	566,369	59,287	625,656	(129,107)	(26.0%)
25	Rental 441	135,267	125,345	13,288	138,633	(3,366)	(2.5%)
26	Total Property Services 400	871,964	863,654	125,154	988,807	(116,843)	(13.4%)
Transportation, Insurance, Communications, Tuition							
27	Transportation: Schools 510-513	6,171,636	5,003,892	1,333,838	6,337,730	(166,094)	(2.7%)
28	Transportation: Student Activities 587-596	175,933	148,650	39,859	188,509	(12,576)	(7.1%)
29	Transportation: Staff 580-584	153,750	41,157	0	41,157	112,593	73.2%
30	Insurance 522,525	457,874	455,544	0	455,544	2,330	0.5%
31	Communications 530-552	155,542	273,624	40,240	313,863	(158,321)	(101.8%)
32	Tuition: Special Education 561-563,568	4,068,674	3,428,785	460,958	3,889,742	178,932	4.4%
33	Tuition: Other 564-567	1,218,720	1,076,842	0	1,076,842	141,878	11.6%
34	Total Trans, Ins, Comm, Tuition 500	12,402,129	10,428,493	1,874,895	12,303,388	98,741	0.8%
Supplies							
35	Instructional Supplies 601-609,613-619,622-623,628	515,143	271,532	65,324	336,856	178,287	34.6%
36	Computer Supplies 610-612	235,900	193,419	2,194	195,613	40,287	17.1%
37	Electricity & Heating 631-633	1,652,798	1,712,727	377,767	2,090,493	(437,695)	(26.5%)
38	Transportation Supplies 634,656	374,029	348,219	73,000	421,219	(47,190)	(12.6%)
39	Textbooks & Library Books 640-642,645,647	90,368	35,762	32	35,794	54,574	60.4%
40	Facility/Maintenance Supplies 650,652-655,657,659	271,678	320,803	13,871	334,674	(62,996)	(23.2%)
41	Other Supplies (staff dev, PPE, etc) 621,624-627,690	89,660	54,621	14,824	69,445	20,215	22.5%
42	Total Supplies 600	3,229,576	2,937,082	547,012	3,484,094	(254,518)	(7.9%)
Equipment							
43	Instructional Equipment 730,735	73,734	13,013	7,080	20,093	53,641	72.7%
44	Non-Instructional Equip 731,736	10,000	13,615	0	13,615	(3,615)	(36.2%)
45	Total Equipment 700	83,734	26,628	7,080	33,708	50,026	59.7%
46	Total Dues & Fees 800	99,511	78,211	0	78,211	21,300	21.4%
47	GRAND TOTAL	81,510,627	67,141,803	15,611,559	82,753,361	(1,242,734)	(1.5%)



FY24 Financial Challenges Being Monitored

<u>Health Insurance Claims</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health insurance claims are up ~39% or ~\$1.2M over the prior year• Health insurance budget was reduced ~\$725K during the budget process• Insurance reserve will be depleted
<u>Property Costs</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incurred eight new property events and one ADA Compliant investment• YTD expected to exceed ~\$173K
<u>Transportation Costs</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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
<u>Utilities</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 54% of the Electricity Budget spent. Electricity costs will be similar to last year.• Natural Gas & Oil budgets ~25%-40% lower than FY23 actual expense
<u>Lunch Program Collection</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Averaging ~\$8.5K of unpaid student lunch charges per month (primarily @ CB, NEA, FHS)• Incurred ~\$26K of charges YTD and estimating \$80K for the full year
<u>Contractual & Wage Inflation</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Para Union Contractual Agreement Signed• CT State Minimum Wage Increase Effective January 1st (\$15 to \$15.69 hour)
<u>Legal Fees</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contractual Negotiations, Robotics and SPED fees rising quickly• Only \$26K remaining in the Legal Fees Budget
<u>Prior Year Expenses</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ~\$626K of prior year expenses deferred to FY24• ~\$89K of FY23 related invoices not received until FY24• DOD Supplemental balance at risk