GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2025 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11/HYBRID

MEMBERS PRESENT: Beverly Washington - Chairperson, Adrian Johnson – Vice Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman, Dean Antipas, Matthew Shulman (remote), Ian Thomas, Jay Weitlauf (remote - left at 7:45 P.M.), Jennifer White, Michael Whitney

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Anne Marie Mancini, Denise Doolittle, Ray Engle

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mrs. Beverly Washington, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

II. 2025-2026 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Superintendent Austin gave an overview of the 2025-2026 Budget presentation.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE BUDGET

- Mr. Shane Gulick addressed comments regarding the safety of children in the schools.
- Mrs. Portia Bordelon, 24 Jefferson Drive, addressed comments regarding:
  - Safety of children in the schools.
  - The need for a Homeless Shelter.
  - The fact that the Financial Director has left.
- Mrs. Kate Chanin, 8 Orchard Lane, asked what was included in Purchase Services.

IV. BUDGET WORK SESSION

Superintendent Austin, with input from Denise Doolittle and Ray Engle, gave an overview of the following pages of the proposed FY26 Budget:

- 1101 Elementary PreK-5
- 1205 Preschool Ages 3-5
- SPED Summer School PreK-12
- Other Special Instruction K-12
- 1230 Special Education K-12

Board members were asked to begin thinking about what adjustments they would like to see in the Superintendent's budget.

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Whitney: To adjourn at 9:20 p.m.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY