

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2025 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11/HYBRID**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Anne Marie Mancini, Ray Engle (remote), Marc Romano (remote)

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

II. DISCUSSION RE: ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS BUDGET MEETINGS

Board members noted items they wanted to discuss:

- Ian Thomas
 - Fuel price and budget updates
- Adrian Johnson
 - Insurance rates
 - Para education reduction
 - Average special education teacher load
- Mike Whitney
 - Green Tab items: Superintendent Austin asked if this could wait until next Monday when Mrs. LePine will be in attendance.
- Andrea Ackerman
 - Asked to hear from Mr. Ramono at this time.
- Dean Antipas
 - Average salaries: Superintendent Austin noted that she will discuss this item with Mr. Engle and Mrs. LePine to get answers.
- Ian Thomas
 - Special Education caseloads
- Mike Whitney
 - Benefits

III. BUDGET WORK SESSION

- Superintendent Austin gave an explanation, with input from Marc Ramono and Anne Marie Mancini, of the adjustments made to the proposed 2025-2026 budget pages:
 - 1500 Student Activities 6-12
 - 2201 Teaching and Learning
 - 2202 Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI)
 - Improvement of Instruction
 - 1260 Enrichment K-8
 - 1270 Remedial Instruction K-12
 - 1700 District Wide Services
 - 2220 Educational Media Services K-12
 - 2311 Board of Education
 - 2312 Superintendent Office
 - 2410 School Administration
 - 1091 Military Science 9-12

IV. PREPARATION FOR FEBRUARY 10, 2025 BUDGET WORK SESSION

The Board discussed how the Board should approach the review of the Superintendent's budget now that it has become the Board's budget.

Mrs. Washington noted that there will be an Executive Session after the February 10, 2025 Budget Work Session and that it will be held in person only.

V. DISCUSSION RE: A BOARD RETREAT

The Board discussed dates, including Saturdays, for holding a Board Retreat. The Board Retreat will be held in March.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Shulman: To adjourn at 9:04 p.m.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY