

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2025 @ 6:30 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11/HYBRID**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Anne Marie Mancini, Ray Engle (remote), Denise Doolittle, Laurie LePine (remote), Floyd Dugas-Board Attorney

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mrs. Beverly Washington, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

II. BUDGET WORK SESSION

Superintendent Austin gave an overview of the Green Tab of the proposed 2025-2026 budget pages:

- Certified Teachers/Administrators FTE Report
- Enterprise Funds
- Non-Certified Staff
- Tutors
- Community Coordinators
- Clerical Staff
- IT Tech
- Nurses and Health Aides (including at Sacred Heart School)
- Staff in Grants

Board members made suggestions of areas they would like more information on:

- More paraprofessionals and an increase in their starting wage
- Asked the Superintendent to find efficiencies if possible

III. DISCUSSION RE: PENDING CLAIMS – IRENE LYNCH

MOTION: Washington, Ackerman: To go into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss pending claims from Irene Lynch and to invite Susan Austin, Denise Doolittle, Floyd Dugas, and Laurie LePine

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:40 p.m.

MOTION: Shulman, Thomas: To authorize Board Counsel to conduct a preliminary inquiry into the allegations asserted by Ms. Lynch to determine whether a full investigation is required

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Weitlauf: To adjourn at 9:45 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY