

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2025 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11/HYBRID**

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

MEMBERS ABENT: Andrea Ackerman

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Denise Doolittle, (remote) Clint Kennedy, Ray Engle (remote), Sam Kilpatrick

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mrs. Beverly Washington, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. BUDGET WORK SESSION

- Superintendent Austin reviewed, with input from Ray Engle, the FY26 Budget Tracker Sheet:
 - Adding of 1 nurse at GMS – Board consensus was Yes-8
 - Suggestion to increase para wages – Board consensus was Yes-5, No-3
 - Increase Remedial Instruction – Board consensus was Yes-5, No-3
 - Dr. Kennedy reviewed the IT Equipment Needs draft for discussion V2; he proposed to cut lines 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10 – Board consensus was Yes-8
 - Special Education Teacher – Board consensus was Yes-8
 - Fuel – reduce \$55,000 on the tracker sheet – Board consensus was Yes-8
 - Electricity (add \$350,000) Board consensus was Yes-8
 - Health Benefits – on hold
 - Remove Contingency - Board consensus was Yes-8

The Board proposed the following for consideration:

- Jennifer White
 - Maintenance Truck
 - Remove Wit and Wisdom (\$300,000)
 - Substitute (\$344,000)
 - Reduce by 10% of \$950,000
 - General Supplies
 - Transportation – reevaluate the routes
 - 3 mentions of Grant position that were pick up in the Board’s budget – how are they funded?
- Adrian Johnson asked for a list of Grant funded positions that are going into the Board’s budget.
 - Coach stipends
 - Superintendent Office, etc.
 - AP & IB testing paid by the Board – reimbursement for testing?
- Dean Antipas
 - Transportation cost for Magnet Schools

II. BUDGET WORK SESSION (Cont'd)

- Beverly Washington
 - 5% budget reduction
- Mike Whitney
 - Guidance Counselor mismatch
- Ian Thomas
 - Cost to increase Career Counselor position to full time

III. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Antipas, White:

To adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY