**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**
**SPECIAL MEETING**
**FEBRUARY 19, 2025 @ 6:00 P.M.**
**CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11/HYBRID**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Beverly Washington – Chairperson

**ALSO PRESENT:** Susan Austin, Anne Marie Mancini, Clint Kennedy, Denise Doolittle, Ray Engle (remote), Lauren Casini

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Adrian Johnson - Vice Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

II. BUDGET WORK SESSION

Superintendent Austin, with input from Ray Engle, reviewed potential items on the tracking sheet to reduce the proposed FY26 budget that was discussed at the February 12, 2025, meeting.

- Health benefits changed to $200,000
- Electricity adjustment estimate changed to $200,000
- Remove truck $75,329

Board members discussed investments:

- Jennifer White discussed unfunded State mandates
  - 1 at FHS, Business teacher
  - Social Worker at NEA in the amount of $64,000
- Ian Thomas
  - .4 Career Counselor in the amount of $25,600
- Adrian Johnson
  - .5 ASL Teacher at FHS in the amount of $32,000
- Mike Whitney
  - Guidance Counselor at FHS, function 1105, 2120, pg. 5.79, object code 104 review
- Jennifer White
  - 619 Supplies, 1101 Custodial Supplies – zero it out
  - Substitute teachers 1101 – across the board, review all functions
- Adrian Johnson
  - Elementary classroom supplies in the amount of $100,000

Mr. Engle noted that the auditors will not be issuing a report.

- Matt Shulman
  - He would like to see supplies cut not staff
  - Bus routing reduction in the amount of $85,000 removed

Items for the Tracker sheet:

- Function 2210, object code 101 in the amount of $15,000
- Function 2212, object code 331 reduced to $10,000
- Reduce 2313/2314/1700 (105 to 134 by 3%) in the amount of $44,803

- Reduce 2312/2214/1700, lines 430 – 626 in the amount of $80,531
- Increase Para wages - keep
- IB testing, function 1117, object code 607 in the amount of $10,000

- Ian Thomas shared his document with the 2.5% adjustment
  - Cut Military in the amount of $1,250 (2.5%)
- The Board went object by object to find areas to make adjustments to bring the budget down.

III. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Weitlauf: To adjourn at 9:39 p.m.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY