

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
MAY 19, 2025 @ 5:30 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11/HYBRID**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Anne Marie Mancini, Ray Engle, Sam Kilpatrick, Laurie LePine (remote), Lauren Casini (remote), Marc Romano (remote)

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mrs. Beverly Washington – Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

II. REVIEW OF MAY 12, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Antipas, White: To approve the May 12, 2025 meeting minutes

Mr. Shulman suggested to add in item 3 the addition of Informal vote on proposed reduction “(a NO vote meant the person was not in agreement)”

MOTION: Shulman, Johnson: To amend the motion by adding the \$40,000 on line 1700, 2312, and 2314 that was not noted in the minutes and to add that the Superintendent would find the reduction out of the Central Office outside of the \$43,000 reduction.

YES – Washington, Ackerman, Antipas, Weitlauf, White, Whitney

ABSTAINED – Thomas, Shulman, Johnson

PASSED

MOTION: Antipas, Shulman: To amend the motion to clarify the consensus vote: YES – to reduce, NO – not to reduce, 0 - Abstain

VOTE on Motion:

YES – Washington, Johnson, Ackerman, Antipas, Shulman, Weitlauf, White, Whitney

ABSTAINED - Thomas

PASSED

III. DISCUSSION RE: FY26 BUDGET

Superintendent Austin gave an overview of proposed cuts.

Mr. Romano gave an overview of the sports that ran including ROTC program.

Mrs. White suggested that the Board go back to the 10% reduction for Art Supplies, Music Supplies, Athletic Supplies, and PE Supplies.

After Board discussion, Mrs. White suggested that the Board leaves the supply cuts as is; when the different departments need addition funds, the Superintendent will accommodate the requests.

III. DISCUSSION RE: FY26 BUDGET - cont.

MOTION: White, Antipas: To accept the items in column I for a cut of \$2,357,075 to correspond to the budget that the Town Council gave to the Board in the amount of \$92,004,575.
YES – Washington, Johnson, Ackerman, Antipas, Thomas, Weitlauf, White, Whitney
ABSTAINED - Shulman
PASSED

MOTION: Whitney, Antipas: To add with tentative spending reduction as articulated in the minutes of 5/19/25 on the Tracking Sheet document.
MOTION WITHDRAWN

MOTION: White, Antipas: To move a proposed reduced Board budget in the amount of \$2,357,075 to correspond to the Town Council budget of \$92,004,575 was tentatively revised on 5/19/25.
YES – White
NO – Thomas, Johnson
ABSTAINED – Shulman, Ackerman
MOTION WITHDRAWN

IV. REVIEW OF TRACKING SHEET

The Board reviewed the Tracking Sheet.

REMOVED: R2024-7 Discussion of the school calendar
R2024-29 Discussion of the software survey

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Antipas: To adjourn at 8:43 p.m.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY