GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
FINANCE/FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 3, 2025 @ 6:00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING

Members Present: Dean Antipas, Jay Weitlauf, Jennifer White

Also Present: Susan Austin, Ray Engle, Ernie Koschmieder, Kristina Roberge, Clint Kennedy, Sam Kilpatrick, Beverly Washington

Chairperson Antipas called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

1. Review May 6, 2025 Meeting Minutes - The committee reviewed the minutes; no corrections were submitted.

2. Director of Finance Report
   - Tree House Update – Susan Austin stated that Tree House is a before and after school program and is in the elementary schools and the middle school. The program is partially supported by 21st century grant money at Groton Middle School, and the rest is supported by the enterprise fund, which is parent funded. The enterprise fund has a balance of $753,000. Clint Kennedy stated that he will work with the Tree House director to assist with a plan to refurbish technology to support the program's instructional needs. Susan Austin also clarified that no BOE operational funds pay for the Tree House program; it is self-sustaining. Jay Weitlauf suggested reviewing the program's finances and perhaps using the surplus for scholarships. Bev Washington concurred with Mr. Weitlauf's suggestion as well as the possibility of reducing the cost to families. The Superintendent said that Tree House uses a *Care for Kids* program that is a sliding scale payment for families who need support. At the August Finance/Facilities Committee meeting, the committee will be provided with the trend of the reserve amount for comparison and how we can take advantage of the reserve.
   - Bev Washington asked Ray Engle to explain the $280,000 budget entry. He stated that $280,000 was mistakenly put in the budget as a placeholder and was not properly distributed and has now been corrected. Mr. Weitlauf shared his recollection that the Board approved reductions to the curriculum coordinators and that savings was put as a placeholder in a general districtwide account and was not distributed over the other object codes. He further stated that no money was lost or added; just not properly distributed. Ms. Austin concurred with his recollection. Mr. Engle will send the full board the affected object codes and amounts. The committee expressed their appreciation to Mr. Engle for all the work he has done to bring things into compliance and for his help with onboarding the next Business Manager.

3. Director of Buildings & Grounds Report
   - Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Follow-Up – Mr. Koschmieder stated that CEP is a USDA program which allows eligible schools to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students. It is based on directly certified programs such as SNAP, TANF, foster care, migrant, homeless, and runaway status. Students who qualify for SNAP get the Identified Student Percentage (ISP), which is what the state recognizes when they certify a school to become CEP. A school needs to be 25% or higher in order to qualify as CEP and currently

3. Director of Buildings & Grounds Report (Cont'd)

CB and NEA do not qualify. Last year, there was an opportunity to add Fitch to our four-school grouping to meet the percentage qualification. However, we had to remove Fitch from the grouping this year because the CEP reimbursement rate cut into the Food Service department's surplus. It costs $390,000 to $410,000 to include Fitch in the four-school grouping. Mr. Koschmieder shared that his surplus should currently be $525,000, which provides approximately 3 months of operating expenses that is required by the state. The Food Services department has been working with families who have unpaid meal balances and will continue to reach out to parents via ParentSquare asking them to complete the free/reduced meal application.

- Facilities Use Rate Schedule - Sam Kilpatrick explained the update to the rate schedule (attached) and would like to have it brought to the full Board for approval. He said the new proposed rates are in line with other school districts.
- Bev Washington inquired as to whether there are porta potties at the high school baseball field. Sam Kilpatrick stated that he believes there are porta potties. He will confirm and send verification to the committee as well as if the porta potties are handicapped accessible.
- Jay Weitlauf wanted to know if the state required EV chargers to be placed and are there any restrictions. Sam Kilpatrick stated that Rick Norris checked with the state who told him that there is no requirement for the school district to have EV stations be free of charge. Mr. Weitlauf also asked if we have talked to the town about their vendor for putting equipment on them to charge people. Sam Kilpatrick said that we got our pricing from the town's vendor, which is $5,000 per pole. The cost to repair each station is approximately $2,500. Mr. Weitlauf suggested removing the charging stations during the summer months.
- Jen White asked about the status of the Charles Barnum Roof Project. Sam Kilpatrick said the state sent the submission back to us again for changes and we will resubmit. Jay Weitlauf though it would be a good idea to reach out to our Senator and/or Representatives to see if they can help us get through the red tape and bureaucracy at the state level.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

R ~~P~~ 1330
Appendix A

Groton Public Schools
Building and Grounds Rental Rate Schedule
2025-2026 School year

~~When buildings are to be utilized on Saturday, Sunday or holidays, or any other time custodial personnel are not scheduled*, the following fees will be charged:~~

	~~Non-Profit~~	~~For Profit~~	Proposed Proposed
Custodial (per custodian) ~~and Utility Fees:~~	~~$45/hr~~	~~$45/hr~~	$75/hr
~~If more than one custodian is required,~~			
~~the fee for each additional custodian will be:~~	~~$35/hr~~	~~$35/hr~~	
Technician Staff	~~$45/hr~~	~~$45/hr~~	$75/$100hr (weekend/holiday) 2 hr min.
Police Officer (4-hour minimum)			$75/hr
Security Staff	~~$20/hr~~	~~$20/hr~~	$75/hr
Kitchen Staff	~~$20/hr~~	~~$20/hr~~	$50/$75weekend/holiday

~~Heating utility surcharges for the period November 1 - April 30~~			
~~High School~~	~~First hour~~	~~$80/hr~~	~~$80/hr~~
	~~each hour thereafter~~	~~$20/hr~~	~~$20/hr~~
~~Middle School~~	~~First hour~~	~~$45/hr~~	~~$45/hr~~
	~~each hour thereafter~~	~~$10/hr~~	~~$10/hr~~
~~Elementary School~~	~~First hour~~	~~$40/hr~~	~~$40/hr~~
	~~each hour thereafter~~	~~$5/hr~~	~~$5/hr~~

~~High School Auditorium~~		
~~Air conditioning:~~		
~~First hour~~	~~$63/hr~~	~~$63/hr~~
~~each hour thereafter~~	~~$9/hr~~	~~$9/hr~~
~~High School Field Lights~~	~~$12/hr~~	~~$12/hr~~

~~For Profit~~ **Fee Schedule**

Location	Per day rate	Proposed day rate
High School Auditorium	~~$800~~	$1,000
High School Cafeteria	~~$400~~	$1,000
High School Lobby (Main Street)	$400	$400
High School Gym (Large)	~~$600~~	$1,000
High School Gym (Small)	$300	$300
High School Football Field/Track	~~$800~~	$1,000
High School Football Field/Track Press Box		$500
High School Baseball Field	$1,000	$1,000
High School Baseball Field Press Box		$500
High School Tennis Courts	~~$200~~	$1,000
High School Parking Lot	$400	$400
High School Classroom	$100	$100
Middle School Cafeteria	~~$200~~	$1,000
Middle School Gym	~~$200~~	$1,000
Middle School Turf Field		$5,000
Middle School Dance Studio		$500
Blackbox Studio		$500
Fitness Center		$500
Elementary School Cafeteria	~~$100~~	$1,000
Elementary School Gym	~~$100~~	$1,000
Elementary Athletic Fields (softball, baseball)		$1,000
Kitchen	~~$300~~	$500
Other Athletic Fields	~~$200~~	$1,000
Other Parking Lots	~~$200~~	$400

~~*If custodians are present in the specific location that a non-profit organization requests to use, and no additional cost will be incurred, the fee can be waived by the Superintendent or their designee.~~

Fee schedule approved by Groton Public School on: October 5, 2015
Revised: January 22, 2018

Groton Public Schools
Building and Grounds Rental Rate Schedule

2025-2026 School year

	Proposed Rate
Custodial (per custodian)	$75/hr
Technician Staff	$75/$100hr (weekend/holiday) 2 hr min.
Police Officer (4-hour minimum)	$75/hr
Security Staff	$75/hr
Kitchen Staff	$50/$75weekend/holiday

Fee Schedule

Location	**Proposed day rate**
High School Auditorium	$1,000
High School Cafeteria	$1,000
High School Lobby (Main Street)	$400
High School Gym (Large)	$1,000
High School Gym (Small)	$300
High School Football Field/Track	$1,000
High School Football Field/Track Press Box	$500
High School Baseball Field	$1,000
High School Baseball Field Press Box	$500
High School Tennis Courts	$1,000
High School Parking Lot	$400
High School Classroom	$100
Middle School Cafeteria	$1,000
Middle School Gym	$1,000
Middle School Turf Field	$5,000/up to 8 hours
	$500/hr after 8 hours
Middle School Dance Studio	$500
Blackbox Studio	$500
Fitness Center	$500
Elementary School Cafeteria	$1,000
Elementary School Gym	$1,000
Elementary Athletic Fields (softball, baseball)	$1,000
Kitchen	$500
Other Athletic Fields	$1,000
Other Parking Lots	$400

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