GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 23, 2025 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11/HYBRID

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Beverly Washington – Chairperson, Ian Thomas

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Anne Marie Mancini, Rita Parciak, Ray Engle, Sam Kilpatrick, Lauren Casini, Heather Somers, Dan Gaiewski

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Johnson, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

The first order of business was the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Adrian Johnson.

II. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION OF VISITORS AND DELEGATIONS

- Legislative Updates on Education from Representative Dan Gaiewski, Representative Aundré Baumgardner, and Senator Heather Somers – Dan Gaiewski and Senator Somers gave an overview of Legislative Updates.

III. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

- Mr. David Goode, 4 Tompkins Street, addressed the request regarding the property on the Mary Morrisson Elementary School property.

III. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

V. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

NONE

VI. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

A. Superintendent & Assistant Superintendent Report

1. Career Pathways and Manufacturing Center with EB Partnership (Attachment #1)
Mr. Ben Moon, Shannon Weigle, and Chelsey Courtright gave an overview of the PowerPoint presentation of Career Pathways at GPS.

B. Reports and Information from the Staff

2. Interim Director Finance – Mr. Engle gave an overview of the Narrative dated June 17, 2025, and the Expenditure Summary as of June 23, 2025 (Attachment #2). Board members asked to receive this summary at every regular meeting.

B. Reports and Information from the Staff – cont.

3. Director of Buildings and Grounds – Mr. Kilpatrick reported:
   - Facilities
     - Parks and Recreation are in 2 buildings
     - Summer School
     - His department will work around programs in the buildings

   - Summer Projects
     - Music Room at CK – will divide into 2 sections
     - Manufacturing Center at FHS
     - Will be culling items in storage on Wells Road
     - At MM re: potential of Robotics and Early Childhood
     - PV situation, wood building, will be leaned out
     - Gym floors at FHS & GMS
     - If Town wants PV, will be working on it soon

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Policy – There was no report. The next meeting will be June 24, 2025.

2. Curriculum - There was no report.

3. Finance – Mr. Antipas stated that the Finance/Facilities Committee met on June 3, 2025, and received a report from the Director of Finance, discussed the Treehouse funding, discussed a correction to a placeholder of $280,000 in the budget, received a report from the Director of Buildings and Grounds on the rate schedule for Buildings and Grounds rental, Mrs. Washington inquired about porta potties at high school baseball field, Mr. Weitlauf inquired if the State requires EV charges to be placed and are there any restrictions, and Mrs. White asked about the status of the CB roof project. Mr. Weitlauf thought 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.

4. Ad Hoc Budget Procedures – There was no report.

5. LEARN – There was no report.

6. Athletic Fields – There was no report.

7. Trails – There was no report.

8. Library – There was no report.

A. ACTION ITEMS

MOTION: Antipas, Shulman: To approve the consent agenda with the following corrections to the May 27, 2025, minutes:

- Page 1 – under Mrs. Bordelon's comments, change "sports is" to "sports are"
- Page 4 – Clarify the "yes" "no" vote; Yes=to reduce; No=to not reduce
- Attach the tracker to the minutes
- Page 4 – correct the Vote on Amendment to reflect "failed"
- Page 4 – Under the Juneteenth motion, correct the spelling of "employes" to "employees"
- Page 2 – correct spelling of Mr. Shulman's name

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible action regarding a second reading policy P 5112.2 Admission Requirements (Attachment #3)

MOTION: White, Whitney: To approve policy P 5112.2 Admission Requirements as a second reading.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding a second reading of policy P 5118 Non-resident Attendance (Attachment #4)

MOTION: Shulman, Antipas: To approve policy P 5118 Non-resident Attendance.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

IX. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

Letters, communications, and comments by Board members on meeting items and any other items in their jurisdiction.

- Mike Whitney noted:
  - Honor employees who make suggestions.
  - In corporation Autumn and Spring to build communication links
  - He attended graduation
- Adrian Johnson congratulated the graduates

X. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

B. Suggested Agenda Items

- Mrs. Washington asked for a review of the Attendance Policy.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, White: To adjourn at 9:05 p.m.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Career Pathways at GPS

BOE Presentation 6/23/25

Why Career Pathways?

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

THE FUTURE OF EVERYTHING | WORK

The High-School Juniors With $70,000-a-Year Job Offers

Companies with shortages of skilled workers look to shop class to recruit future hires; 'like I'm an athlete getting all this attention from all these pro teams'

≡ TheMiddletownPress SALE! Subscribe for 25¢ Sign in

BUSINESS

Electric Boat and other Connecticut manufacturers have thousands of job openings. This is why it's hard to fill them.



The New York Times

OPINION
GUEST ESSAY

Stop Trying to Make Everyone Go to College

May 6, 2025

Why Career Pathways?

- Only 40% of jobs in Connecticut require a 4-Year degree
- 70% require some form of post-secondary schooling (e.g., certificate, 2- Yr, 4-Yr.)
- High Income Direct to Career
  - Example: Machinist at Electric Boat = $50,000
  - Example: CNA + 2 Years of School = $80,000
  - Example: EMT + 18 Months Training = $50,000
- Average Student Loan Debt: $36,672
- Generational Hiring At Electric Boat
- Comprehensive High School
  - A Path for Everyone





What do Career Pathways Look Like at GPS?

The goal of Career Pathways at Fitch High School is to enhance and expand pathway options and opportunities for the students.

There are four Career Clusters, consolidated from twelve career clusters with associated pathways. The four clusters are ...

- Arts, Business, and Communication
- Health Sciences
- Human Services
- Manufacturing, Architecture, and Engineering







Arts, Business, and Communication



Pathways

Digital Communication
Finance
Information and Technology
Journalism and Broadcasting
Marketing

Health Sciences







Pathways

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

Nursing (CNA)

Sports Science

Human Services



Pathways

Hospitality and Tourisum
Government and Public Administration
Education and Training
Military Science (NJROTC)

Architecture, Engineering, and Manufacturing



Pathways

Architecture
Manufacturing
Engineering

Program Highlights

Fitch High School's career pathways consist of several options that include a variety of specialty courses, core required coursework, and elective offerings, all of which serve to prepare every FHS graduate with the knowledge and skills required for future success. The program features:

- Purposeful and meaningful alignment of courses and extracurricular activities to post-secondary college and career options and individual student goals.
- Opportunities for advanced placement and dual enrollment credits
- Career connections activities, including job shadowing, internships, guest speakers, industry panels,etc.

"What a joy it was to work with these two women this summer! Their enthusiasm, dedication, kindness and curiosity help everyone in our department keep afloat!!"
~Barbara at Mystic Seaport

"I didn't realize I even liked welding until I tried it. The experience was so cool!"
~Boat for Next Gen participant

"I didn't really think that I wanted to go into education after college, but I took the EdRising course because I thought it would be interesting. Visiting some of our elementary schools has made me realize that I could see myself pursuing a career in education."
~24-25 EdRising student, now graduate of FHS

How: Program Implementation

The middle and high school course selection process incorporates career-connected learning and exploration. This process begins for students at the beginning of their eighth grade year. For current high school students, the process is initiated each fall. Additional opportunities that ensure students are informed about pathways include the following:

- Fall open house
- High School Expo for students and parents (occurs during the school day for students, and in the evening for parents)
- Presentations at the GMS from high school students currently involved in specific pathway (Nursing, EMT, NJROTC, Education).
- Freshman orientation where counselors meet with students are review the course planner and how to use this to guide their four years at the high school.
- High school counselors visit GMS classrooms to inform and support students throughout the course selection process.
- New educational and outreach materials for staff, parents and students were created showcasing Career Pathways. These are distributed as well as displayed in the building.
- Career Exploration event at GMS
- Career Clusters classroom presentations to all freshman by high school counselors

Internship Success and Experiential Learning at FHS















College and Career Readiness - Elementary & Middle

- Defined as students being aware of their strengths, interests, and potential career opportunities
- Leverage Magnet Programs to help students discover their passions and to help students develop “universal skills”
- Provide opportunities for students to learn about different careers







Opportunities and Experiences- Elem & Middle

- EB BOAT for Kids: STEM Manufacturing Program for Grade 5 - 200 students/4 schools
- Pfizer: In School Programming at Mystic River and School of Science Experience at CK
- Junior Achievement Partnership: “JA in a Day” event at Charles Barnum
- CNA: Program visits NEA
- Career Exploration Expo at GMS: 25 Partners/Over 275 students
- Mobile Manufacturing Lab Experience at GMS: involved 170 students







Industry Partnerships... and we are just getting started!

“Community is the beautiful bond that connects us, creating a sense of belonging and support.”

















Expenditure Summary 6.23.25

		Groton Public Schools Fiscal Year 2025 Generl Fund Summary as of 6.23.25			
Category Name	**2025 Budget**	**2025 YTD Expenses as of 06.23.2025**	**2025 YTD Encumbrances as of 06.23.2025**	**2025 Available Budget as of 06.23.2025**	**% Available**
Salaries	$53,994,462.00	$46,679,444.88	$6,732,403.11	$582,614.01	1.08%
Benefits	$13,413,020.00	$11,494,018.93	$1,250,064.37	$668,936.70	4.99%
Purchased Services	$2,372,326.00	$2,025,374.17	$336,658.30	$10,293.53	0.43%
Property Services	$906,174.00	$1,179,597.97	$157,525.99	-$430,949.96	-47.56%
Trans, Ins, Comm, Tuition	$12,806,411.00	$11,250,457.19	$1,612,282.94	-$56,329.13	-0.44%
Supplies	$4,308,032.00	$4,470,055.11	$490,232.90	-$652,256.01	-15.14%
Equipment	$74,050.00	$35,927.74	$1,369.99	$36,752.27	49.63%
Dues & Fees	$84,009.00	$86,296.11	$1,092.00	-$3,379.11	-4.02%
Grand Total	$87,958,484.00	$77,221,172.10	$10,581,629.60	$155,682.30	0.18%

P 5112.2

Students

Admission Requirements for Groton Residents

All children entering Groton Public Schools for the first time must present legal evidence of age and proof of residency. For students to attend school, current health assessments and up-to-date immunizations are required, except for those students classified as homeless in accordance with Federal law. Military families new to Groton have 30 days past enrollment to provide the above-mentioned medical documents. If the parent/guardian of any student is unable to pay for required immunizations or health assessments, the Groton Board of Education (Board) will refer the parent/guardian to the school-based health center.

One of the following documents accepted for proof of child's age (hand-written documents will not be accepted)
Hospital, Physician or Religious Certificate showing date of birth
State, Federal or other Government issued documents
Adoption Record
Birth Certificate
Previously verified school records showing date of birth

The Department of Children and Families and the Judicial Department shall provide to the Superintendent any educational records within their custody of a child seeking to enter, or to return to the District, from a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, or any other residential placement, prior to the child's entry or return. However, receipt of the educational records shall not delay a child from enrolling in school. The Superintendent shall provide such information to the principal at the school the child will be attending. The principal shall disclose such information to staff members as appropriate.

Residency Requirements

Groton Public Schools provides educational services to students who are residents of Groton and to those out-of-town students for whom the District has entered into an agreement, such as a tuition or other special arrangement, with either their parent(s)/guardian(s) or their home Board of Education. Students who are not residents of Groton, except as mentioned above, may not attend Groton Public Schools. The Board may take legal action to recoup the cost of educating students found to have been illegally attending schools in the District. A student's parents/guardians are required to notify the principal when they are no longer residents of Groton. In exceptional situations, the Superintendent may allow the student to complete the current school year. The student's parent/guardian must present proof of residency upon initial registration in Groton Public Schools and as necessary thereafter.

Admission Requirements for Groton Residents – cont.

Students who reside in Groton and wish to attend an intra-district magnet-themed school other than their attendance zoned school must enter the District's annual school lottery for an opportunity to earn a seat at the school of choice with District transportation.

> ***Intra-district Magnet****: A magnet school that serves only students who reside within the boundaries of Groton and is under the jurisdiction of Groton Public Schools.*

Students who reside in Groton and plan to attend an inter-district magnet school, outside of Groton's boundaries, are required to register with the Groton Public Schools' Central Office Registration Office prior to beginning the inter-district magnet school. A complete, updated registration and proof of residency is required annually.

> ***Inter-district Magnet****: A magnet school that serves students across District lines.*

Proof of Residency

Proof of residency can be verified by submitting:

(a) one document from column A and
(b) one document from column B.

Only those items listed on the *Documents for Proof of Residency* table in this policy will be accepted as proof of residency. Each document submitted must specify the physical address of where the student lives; post office box addresses are not acceptable.

Documents for Proof of Residency One from column A and one from column B	
Column A	Column B

• Current Residential rental or lease agreement
• Current Residential mortgage statement
• Residential purchase or escrow agreement within 180 days
• Residential property tax bill (dated within the past year)
• Notarized Residency Affidavit (*see below)
• Military Families Only: with 30-day follow-up
  • ~~Letter of Intent~~ Home Offer Letter for residency
  • Military Orders
	• Valid Connecticut driver's license (address labels not accepted) or state issued I.D.
	
	One of the following dated within the last 30 days
	
	• Utility bill (gas, electric, telephone, cable TV, etc.)
	• Letter from an approved government agency (assisted housing, food stamps, unemployment payment, etc.)
	• Payroll stub
	• Bank or credit card statement
	• Current vehicle registration or insurance bill
	• Medical billing or insurance information

Admission Requirements for Groton Residents – cont.

*If the student's family is living with another family in Groton:

1. the person they are living with must complete a notarized Residency Affidavit at the Groton Public Schools' Central Office stating that the student(s) and parent/guardian live with them at the address, and for what period of time.

2. The person completing the affidavit must also provide the following documents:
   a. a photo ID
   b. one document from column A and one document from column B showing they reside within District and school boundaries.

If the living situation is temporary, once they have moved into their own residence, proof of residency for their new address is required and must be brought to the Central Office Registration Office.

Placement

Children who apply for initial admission to the District's schools by transfer from nonpublic schools, or from schools outside the District, will be placed at the grade they would have reached elsewhere pending observation and evaluation by classroom teachers, guidance personnel, or the school principal. After such observations and evaluations have been completed, the principal will determine the final grade placement of the children.

(cf. 5118 – Non residence attendance)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes:

Sec. 10a-28. (Formerly Sec. 10-329d). Definitions.

10-15c. Discrimination in public schools prohibited.

10-76a. Definitions.

10-76d. Duties and powers of boards of education to provide special education programs and services. Determination of eligibility for Medicaid. State agency placements, apportionment of costs. Relationship of insurance to special education costs.

10-186. Duties of local and regional boards of education re: school attendance. Hearings. Appeals to state board. Establishment of hearing board. (As amended by Public Act 11-115 – An Act Concerning Juvenile Re-Entry and Education)

10-204a. Required immunizations.

10-206. Health assessments.

10-206a. Free health assessments.

10-220. Duties of boards of education.

Admission Requirements for Groton Residents – cont.

10-233a. Definitions.

Policy Adopted: June 23, 2014
Revised: June 24, 2019
November 27, 2023
June 17, 2024

GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Groton, Connecticut

P 5118

Students

Non-resident attendance

Definition

A nonresident student is a student who:

1. resides outside of the District; or
2. resides within the District on a temporary basis; or
3. resides within the District on a permanent basis but with pay to the person(s) with whom the student is living; or
4. resides within the District for the sole purpose of obtaining school accommodations; or is
5. a child placed by the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Family Services or by other agencies in a foster, group, or private residential facility. However, under this circumstance, children may attend local schools with tuition paid by the home District unless special education considerations make attendance in local schools and programs inappropriate. Children not requiring special education who live in town as a result of placement by a state agency other than another Board of Education and except as provided otherwise in this paragraph are resident students; those requiring special education may attend local schools with special education cost reimbursements in accordance with statutes unless special education considerations make attendance in local schools and programs inappropriate.

Nonresident Attendance Without Tuition

Nonresident students may be allowed, with the Superintendent's approval, to attend District schools without tuition under one of the following circumstances:

~~Upon written parental request, nonresident students may be allowed by the Superintendent to attend District schools without tuition under one or more of the following conditions~~:

1. Children affected by military transfers from January of their junior year through their senior year will be allowed to remain in the District tuition free until the completion of their senior year.
2. A family moves from the District during or after the Spring Recess ~~January 1st~~ of the school year; however, if parents so request, a child may complete the current school year.
3. A family residing outside of the District has firm plans to move into the District within 30 days of ~~the current school year~~ registration as evidenced by a contract to buy, ~~build,~~ rent, or lease;
4. Twelfth-grade students wishing to complete their education in the District;
5. Children residing temporarily within the District because of family changes or children attending local schools residing temporarily outside of the District because of family circumstances. Approval shall not exceed three (3) calendar months; if subsequent approval is necessary, it shall be considered based upon information available at that time.
6. The Groton Board of Education (Board) may seek reimbursement for children living in temporary shelters located within the Town of Groton from the school districts in which the child would otherwise reside as permitted in 10-253 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Non-resident attendance – cont.

Exchange Students

No tuition is required for foreign students living within the District under the American Field Service Program or under other programs or circumstances approved by the Board. Exchange students will be accorded all the rights and privileges of a resident student during the period of enrollment.

Nonresident Attendance With Tuition

Nonresident students who do not meet one or more criteria under previous sections of this policy, may attend local schools only with tuition payment. The Superintendent may approve nonresident student attendance with tuition if class size, transportation, and other considerations permit, and shall notify the Board of all tuition approvals. Nonresident approval with tuition shall be for one (1) school year or less and may be be renewed annually by the Superintendent or designee. Tuition rates shall be established by the Board annually.

Attendance by a nonresident tuition student may be terminated by Board action, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, if the Board deems such termination is in the best interest of the District. An adjustment of tuition on a per diem basis will be made in this instance.

Evidence of Residency

The Superintendent or designee may require documentation from ~~of~~ a family and/or student regarding residency, including affidavits.~~, provided that~~ Prior to a request for evidence of residency, the parent or guardian, relative or non-relative, emancipated minor, or student eighteen (18) years of age or older shall be provided with a written statement ~~of~~ explaining why a reason exists to believe such student~~'~~(s) may not be entitled to attend school in the District. If an affidavit ~~may~~ is required, it must include a statement or statements with documentation that a ~~is bona fide~~ student's residence exists in the District, that the resident is intended to be permanent, that it is provided without pay, and that it is not for the sole purpose of obtaining school accommodations.

Removal of Nonresident Student From District Schools

If after a careful review of affidavits and other available evidence, the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee believes that a student is not entitled to attend local schools, the parent or guardian, the student if an emancipated minor, or a student eighteen (18) years of age or older, shall be informed in writing that, as of a particular date, the student may no longer attend local schools, and the Superintendent or designee shall notify the Board where the child should attend school (if known). If after review, District residency is established by the evidence, the parent or guardian, the student if an emancipated minor, or a student eighteen (18) years of age or older, shall be so informed.

If a student is removed from a District school for residency reasons the Superintendent or designee shall: 1) inform the parent, guardian, emancipated minor, or student eighteen (18) years of age or older, of hearing rights before the Board and that the student may continue in local schools pending a hearing before the Board if requested in writing by the parent, guardian, emancipated minor, or student eighteen (18) years of age or older, 2) that upon request, a transcript of the hearing will be provided, 3) that a Board decision may be appealed to the State Board and that the student/s may continue in local schools pending a hearing before the State Board if requested in writing by the parent, guardian, emancipated

Non-resident attendance – cont.

minor, or student eighteen (18) years of age or older, 4) that if the appeal to the State Board of Education is lost, a per diem tuition will be assessed for each day a student attended local schools when not eligible to attend.

Board of Education Hearing

Upon written request, the Board shall provide a hearing within ten (10) days after receipt of such request. If a hearing ensues, the Board shall make a recording of the hearing, shall make a decision on student eligibility to attend local schools within ten (10) days after the hearing, and shall notify the parent, guardian, emancipated minor, or student eighteen (18) years of age or older, of its findings. Hearings shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Sections 4 177 to 4 180 inclusive of Connecticut General Statutes.

The Board shall, within ten (10) days after receipt of notice of an appeal, forward the hearing record to the State Board of Education.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statues

10-4a Educational interests of state defined.

10-33 Tuition in towns in which no high school is maintained.

10-35 Notice of discontinuance of high school service to non-residents.

10-55 Pupils to attend regional school.

10-253 School privileges for children in certain placements, non-resident children, and children in temporary shelters

Policy Adopted: May 24, 1993
Revised: March 12, 2012
Revised: October 23, 2023

GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Groton, Connecticut