

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
FINANCE/FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 2, 2025 @ 6:00 P.M.
FITCH HIGH SCHOOL, MAIN OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM

Members Present: Dean Antipas, Jay Weitlauf, Jennifer White

Also Present: Susan Austin, Sam Kilpatrick, Shannon Weigle, Sherri Facas, Chris Jenkins

Chairperson Antipas called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

1. Review August 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes - The committee reviewed the minutes; no corrections were submitted.

MOTION: Antipas, White; To add to the agenda a discussion regarding moving Robotics from Pleasant Valley to Fitch High School and to tour potential spaces at Fitch High School to house Robotics.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The superintendent told the committee that Fire Marshall Bednarz stated that Fitch High School is the only space that is appropriate and safe to house the Robotics team. There was discussion about originally considering Mary Morrisson, which is designated as a K-5 school under the Groton Board of Education, but is not being used in that way at this time. The fire Marshall has stated it is not an appropriate space for a Robotics team and the building would lose its K-5 elementary designation, that the district needs to preserve. There was more discussion about other closed down schools and town spaces, but the discussion went back to FHS.

The committee toured the auto shop, wood shop, and computer lab in the career tech wing at Fitch High School as potential spaces for the Robotics team. The team is presently in Pleasant Valley School but have to leave prior to November 1st because the building is being sold; they're packed and ready to go, and the coaches will be meeting with the Superintendent and facilities director by the end of this week to plan for the move.

Administration and the team's coaches suggested meeting this week and reviewing a schedule. The administration and the board recognize that the team needs the space immediate so they can begin its activities.

2. Director of Buildings & Grounds Report

- Review Facilities Use Rate Schedule – The committee recommended adding two columns to the rate schedule (group #1 and group #2) and to define the two groups. The Fitch High School classroom and fitness center locations as an option for rental spaces will be removed from the rate schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.