

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2025 @6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11/HYBRID**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Beverly Washington – Chairperson, Adrian Johnson – Vice Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman (remote), Dean Antipas, Sean Corcoran, Ian Thomas, Jay Weitlauf (remote.), Jennifer White, Michael Whitney (remote/arrived at 7:53 p.m.)

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Anne Marie Mancini, Lauren Casini

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mrs. Beverly Washington – Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Review of the October 20, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of October 20, 2025, were approved.

III. Manufacturing Center Project with Electric Boat (Attachment #1)

Mr. Matt Brown, FHS Principal, with input from EB Personnel, Aundré Bumgardner, Dan Gaiewski, Shannon Weigle, Will Barber, Bryce Aaronson (Program Manager for the UConn/URI DoDSTEM Coalition), Ben Moon, Chelsey Courtright, Sean McKeown (CT Dept. of Education), Melissa Manzione and Lori Ferguson (LF Consulting, LLC) gave an overview of the PowerPoint presentation. They also discussed the next generation for the high school with input from Superintendent Austin.

IV. Discussion re: Data Dashboard (Attachment #2)

Lauren Casini gave an overview of the PowerPoint presentation re: Data Dashboard. She focused on attendance – Pillar #2.

V. Discussion re: FY 27 Board Budget Priority

Board members shared their priorities:

- Ian Thomas - have a complete Board package in full – not piece meal
 - FTEs listed in all departments including grants
- Dean Antipas - have better matching of FTEs
 - students in later years – can they read
- Adrian Johnson – also students have literacy by grade 3
- Jen White
 - fair workload for teachers
 - focus and more investment at the elementary level
 - what major contracts are coming due in upcoming years
- Sean Corcoran - agrees with suggestions made by Dean, Adrian, and Jen regarding literacy
- Mike Whitney - wants to see recommendations for additional staff in the Central Office
 - Literacy in all grades
 - Math and Science
 - Continuing investments in STEM and elementary challenges at the middle school
 - Make a strong link with the Strategic Plan with Pillars
- Ian Thomas - Support for literacy
- Dean Antipas - Sales pitch to the other 2 bodies in the Town

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Antipas:

To adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY



FITCH HIGH SCHOOL

Machine Program

Falcons R.I.S.E!

Our mission at Robert E. Fitch High School is to educate our young men and women to become outstanding citizens. The faculty and staff will collaborate with the home and community to promote academic excellence, physical wellness, and social awareness. We will encourage our students to use their individual talents to their fullest potential. To this end, our graduates will become informed, responsible adults who respect diversity and value life-long learning.





DREAM

ROBOTICS, ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE, MANUFACTURING





BUILDING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Manufacturing is one of the region's largest industry providing over **48%** of employment or approximately 11,422 jobs.

- ★ U.S. Naval Submarine Base
- ★ General Dynamics Electric Boat
- ★ Doncasters Precision Castings
- ★ Collins & Jewell
- ★ Proterial Cable America
- ★ Davis-Standard, LLC

Operations are expanding to meet the nation's security demands

Critical need to train and employ a skilled pipeline

Demand for over 1000 workers over the next ten years



WAGE/EARNING DATA

GDEB continues to have a demand for employees for the next few decades.

- Machinists are at the top of the list for increased demand.
- Consequently, local suppliers have an increased demand for a skilled pipeline of machinists.
- Increased demand = increased wages.

Employer	Average annual	Average Hourly	Entry Level	Mid Range
GD/EB	\$66,000	\$32.33 (32% above national averages)	\$23.12	\$25.76-\$41.14
Norwich/New London Machine Shops (LMI Data)	\$63,403	\$30.49	\$22.40	\$23.73-36.62



BUILDING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

PARTNER FUNDING RESOURCES

Electric Boat Support

- Equipment
- Tooling and Materials
- Teacher Training

Federal Support

- DoDEA Career Pathway Grant
- UConn/URI Anchor Program (DoDSTEM)
- Congressman Courtney's Community Grant Program

Connecticut Department of Education

- Guidance & General Support



NEXT GEN FOR HIGH SCHOOL





GROWING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

STEM OPPORTUNITIES	Grade	2024-2025 Enrollment	2025-2026 Enrollment
FIRST ROBOTICS	9-12	25-30	25-30
NEXT GEN (EB)	12	9	12
SEAPERCH EXPLORERS (EB/UCONN)	8	N/A	120
MOBILE MFG LAB	7, 8	170	TBD
ANCHOR PEP	6, 7, 8	UCONN CAMPUS	UCONN CAMPUS
STEAM CAMP	K-8	250+	250+
BOAT FOR KIDS	5	211	226





OPPORTUNITIES THAT LEAD TO SUCCESS

2024 GRADUATES OF NEXT GEN

- ★ Jesse Torruella-Hudson
- ★ Matthew Oquendo



- Participated in “Sign-on” Day for Electric Boat
- Employed at Electric Boat



D.R.E.A.M.

DEPARTMENT OF ROBOTICS, ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE, & MANUFACTURING

DREAM Elementary Schools

Catherine Kolnaski STEAM Magnet School

Robotics	All K-5 Students experience Robotics & Computer Science/Grades 4 & 5 Participate in Simulated First Lego League
Engineering	All K-5 Students Have Two Engineering Units Per Year
Architecture	All Grade 4 & 5 Students engage with 3D Printing and Design
Manufacturing	MakerSpace Class and School-wide Design Challenges

All Groton Magnet Elementary Schools

**Robotics and Computer Science Enrichment
Summer Robotics Mini-Camp Open to All Grade 4 & 5**





D.R.E.A.M.

DEPARTMENT OF ROBOTICS, ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE, & MANUFACTURING

DREAM	GROTON MIDDLE SCHOOL	Grade
Robotics	Automation and Robotics	8
Engineering	Computer Science for Innovators & Makers	7
	Science of Technology	7
	Flight & Space	8
	App Creator	8
	Energy and the Environment	8
Architecture	Green Architecture	8
Manufacturing	Design and Modeling	6



D.R.E.A.M.

DEPARTMENT OF ROBOTICS, ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE, & MANUFACTURING

DREAM	FITCH HIGH SCHOOL CURRENT OFFERINGS	Grade
ROBOTICS	COMING SOON...	9-12
Engineering	Introduction to Engineering	9-12
	Principles of Engineering	10-12
	Engineering Design & Development	12
	AP Computer Science	11-12
Architecture	Architectural CAD 1	9-12
Manufacturing	Introduction to Manufacturing (Woodwork)	9-10
	Manufacturing Technology 1 (Woodwork)	10-12





Fitch High School Senior Post Secondary Plans

	2023-2024	2024-2025
Class Size	236	241
4 Year College	58.9%	49.6%
2 Year College	16.5%	24.1%
Technical Training	5.1%	1.8%
Employed	5.1%	10.5%
Military	6%	6.1%
Undecided	9%	7.9%



FACILITIES & SPACE ASSESSMENT

Conducted a facilities assessment to ensure that we can meet the needs of the project including bringing the Robotics Club to Fitch High School, and future expansion of connecting courses.

- Space
- Layout
- Infrastructure
- Safety and compliance
- Technology





PROGRAM PLANNING ASSESSMENT

Completed a project assessment to determine the budget and needs of the program.

- Equipment
- Tooling
- Storage
- Utilities
- Funding
- Instructional technology





SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Conducted working sessions with key stakeholders to create and develop a comprehensive plan to implement and support a machine program.

- District, State, and Industry Stakeholders met several times.
- School Board presentation to inform the community of the initiative.
- Relay information to parents and the community through Open House, newsletters, and School Board meetings.





STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT CURRICULUM MAPPING

Key stakeholders discussed and agreed to provide a nationally recognized curriculum that also aligns with Electric Boat standards and required skills.

- Identified the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) as the primary curriculum.
- Identified the NIMS credential as the primary credential.
- Identified curriculum for the implementation of Robotics.





MARKETING AND STUDENT RECRUITMENT

Continue to design and execute a recruitment and awareness campaign to inform, attract, and enroll students.

- Marketing materials: school newsletters, brochures, flyers, social media, video
- Information workshops: Open House, Parent Information Nights.
- Career awareness for middle grades



IMPLEMENT AND LAUNCH SUPPORT

Assist with program launch logistics, including final equipment installation, community event kick-off, and registration of the first cohort of students.

- Final facilities preparation assessment
- Finalize instructional needs for implementation.
- Student cohort registration.
- Industry kick-off event.



QUESTIONS???





THANK YOU

PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

Susan Austin, Superintendent

Willie Barber, GDEB

Peter Bass, Groton Middle School Principal

Matt Brown, Fitch High School Principal

Chelsey Courtright, CTE Pathways

Lori Ferguson, LF Consulting, LLC

Clint Kennedy, Director of Technology

Sam Kilpatrick, Facilities Director

Anne Marie Mancini, Asst. Superintendent

Melissa Manzione, CTE Dept. Head

Ben Moon K-5 STEM Coordinator

Sean McKeown, CT Dept. of Education

Val Nelson, DoDEA Project Director

Susan Votto, LF Consulting, LLC

Shannon Weigle, Grants Coordinator

Bryce Aaronson, Program Manager, Navy STEM Coalition (UCONN/URI)

Dr. Lexi Hain, Director UCONN Navy STEM Program





**Data Dashboard
Attendance Update**

November 10, 2025

GPS Strategic Plan Pillars

1

Accelerate Academic Achievement



2



Cultivate a Rich and Vibrant Learning Community



3

Strengthen Pathways that Develop Post Secondary Readiness



4

Attract and Grow A Skilled and Supported Workforce



5

Improve Operational Efforts and Increase Fiscal Responsibility



Priority #6

Increase student and staff engagement by emphasizing the importance of daily attendance.

Foster a safe and inclusive environment that engages and empowers students, families, and staff

Key Performance Indicators

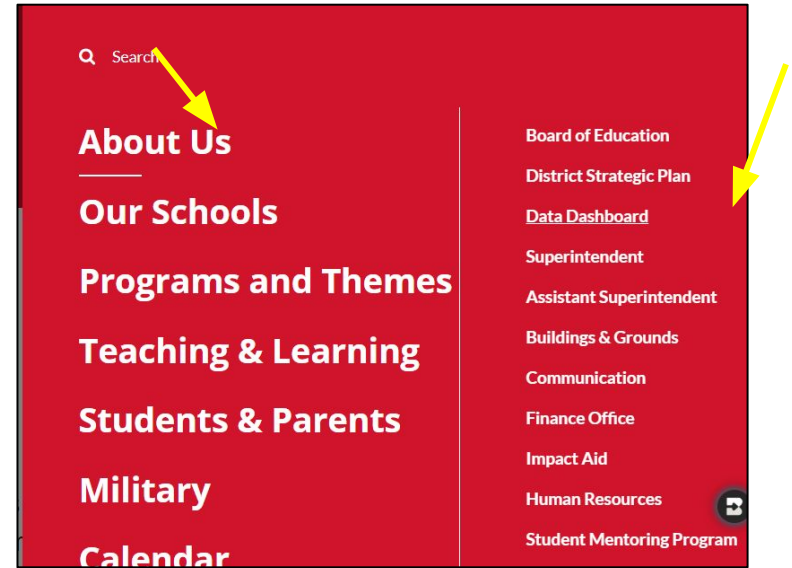
Academics	Attendance	Behavior	College and Career Readiness	Communications & Climate
Accountability Index	Average Daily Attendance	# of Incidents of In-School Suspensions	% On-track for Graduation	% of K-5 Students Who Can Identify a Trusted Adult
DPI- ELA	% of Students Chronically Absent	# of Incidents of Out of School Suspensions	% Taking CCR Courses	% of 6-12 Students Who Can Identify a Trusted Adult
DPI- Math	Average # of Staff Absences		Postsecondary Entrance	% of Staff Reporting PD is Connected to Position
DPI- Science			4-Year Graduation Rate	% of Parents Who Believe there are Opportunities for Caregiver Involvement

District Data Dashboard: A New Home!

At the bottom of the District's Home Page



In the Home Page Menu-About US-Data Dashboard



Data Dashboard: Attendance

Chronic Absenteeism

See [related links](#).

Year:

District:

Schools:

Filter By:

Chronic Absenteeism, Trend Groton School District, All Students

[Export .csv file](#)

For the 2019-20 school year, chronic absenteeism calculations are based only on in-person school days until mid-March 2020. See the [Report Notes](#) for additional information.

District	Chronically Absent									
	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
	Student Count	%	Student Count	%	Student Count	%	Student Count	%	Student Count	%
Groton School District	1,425	37.5	1,088	28.4	836	21.8	731	18.8	748	20.1

Data Dashboard: Attendance

Attendance Dashboard

See [related links](#).

State Dashboard Yearly Attendance **Monthly Attendance** View Data

< Overview **Deeper Dive** >

Page Filter(s): indicates active filters

Org Type - <No item selected>, District(s) - Groton School District, School(s) - District-Level, Year(s) - 2024-25, Month(s) - <No item selected>, Group - <No item selected>

Select Filters

Organization Type ▾

Districts¹ ▾

Schools¹ (required) ▾

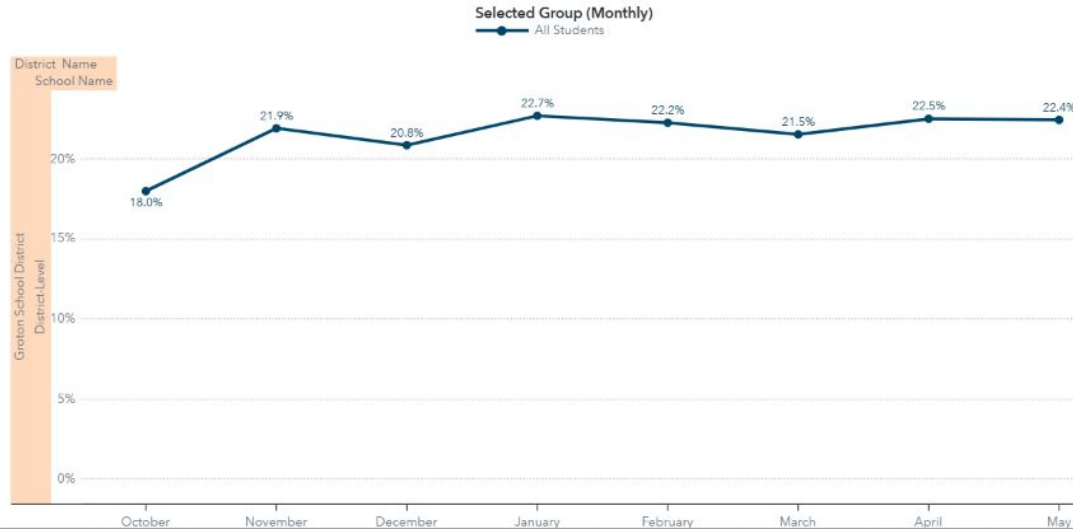
Years ▾

Months ▾

Group By

Student Group ▾

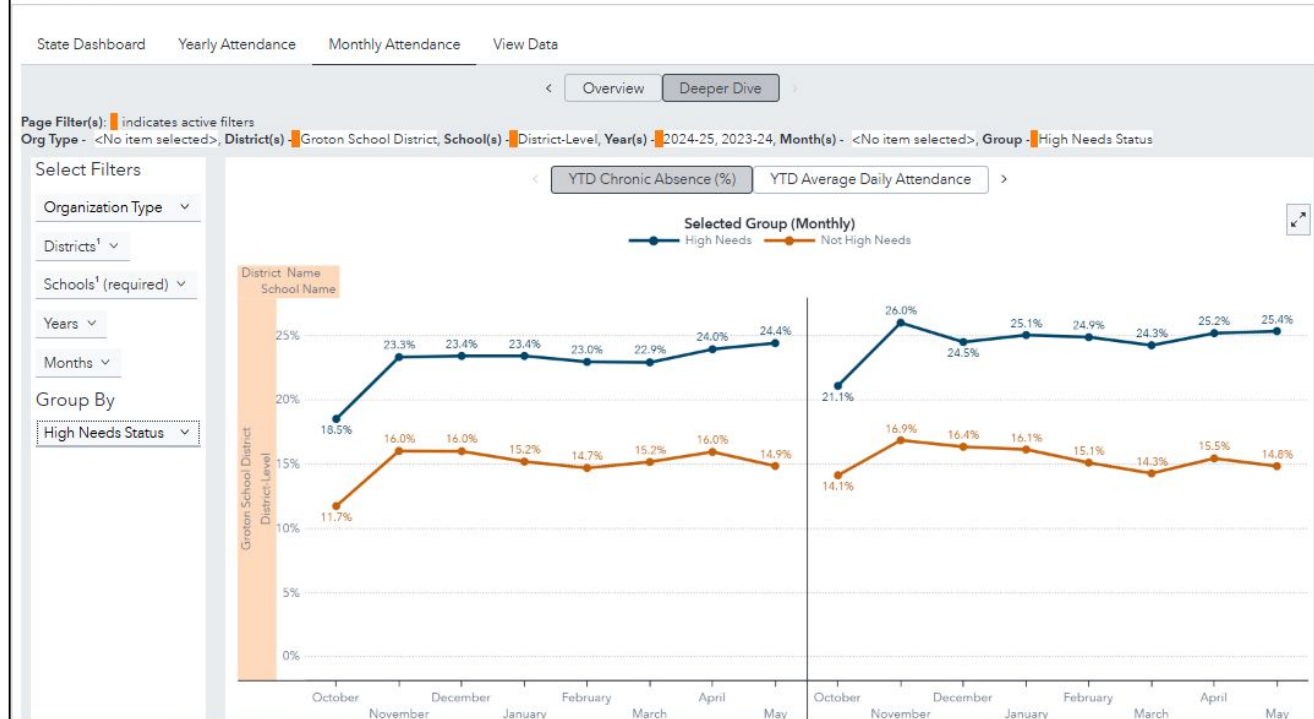
< **YTD Chronic Absence (%)** YTD Average Daily Attendance >



Data Dashboard: Attendance

Attendance Dashboard

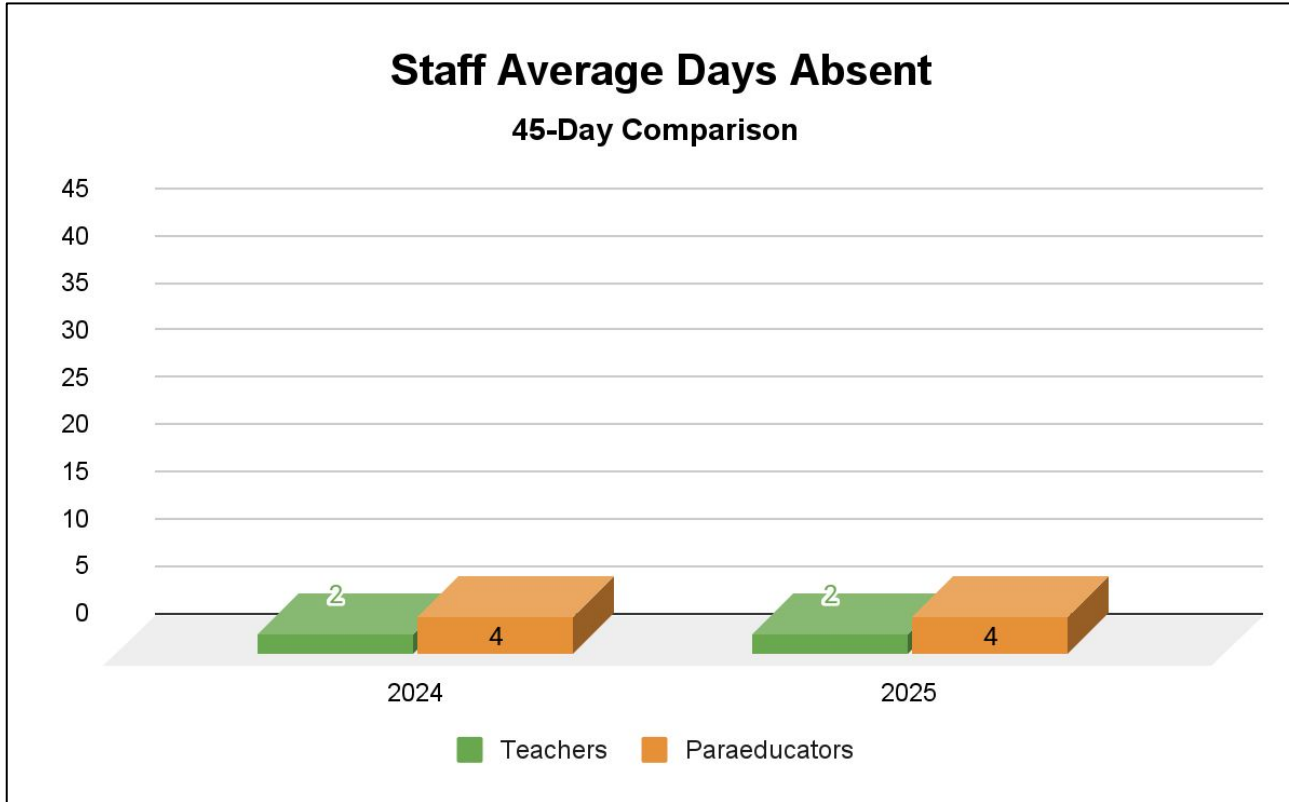
See [related links](#).



45-Day Student Attendance by School

	CK	CB	MRMS	NEA	TRMS	GMS	FHS
2024-2025 Count of Students Below 90%	69	56	91	37	90	210	222
2024-2025 Percentage of Students Below 90%	17.6%	16%	16.9%	9.3%	16.9%	23%	22.7%
2025-2026 Count of Students Below 90%	37	32	49	23	33	115	168
2025-2026 Percentage of Students Below 90%	10.50%	10.10%	11.50%	6.70%	9.10%	12.90%	18.30%
Improvement	-7.1%	-5.9%	-5.4%	-2.6%	-7.8%	-10.1%	-4.4%

45-Day Staff Attendance



Strategic Plan Efforts to Improve Attendance

- Training all staff in Tier 1 interventions
- Creating targeted Tier 2 interventions and intensive Tier 3 supports
- Revised Attendance Letters to inform and engage families
- Developed District and School Attendance Teams
- Revised District Attendance Policy and Regulations (in process)

Our Roadmap to Success



District
Improvement
Plan



School
Improvement
Plan

Key Performance Indicators and State Data Measure Progress