

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 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 (remote/arrived at 6:35 p.m.), Ian Thomas, Jay Weitlauf (remote), Jennifer White

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Whitney

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Sam Kilpatrick, Laurie LePine, (remote), Aundré Bumgardner

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mrs. Beverly Washington – Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

II. Review Of September 15, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of September 15, 2025, were approved.

III. FHS Solar Panel Presentation by Connecticut Green Banks (Attachment #1)

Katie Shelton and Emily Bashem, Director of Solar Systems Market Place, gave an overview of the FHS Solar Panel project.

It was the consensus of the Board to forward this item to the October 27, 2025, Board meeting to get the RFP. The Board had marketplace concerns.

IV. Review of Draft School Calendar (Attachments #2, 3)

Superintendent Austin gave an overview of the proposed 2026-2027 calendar. The consensus of the Board was for the proposed calendar B. The Board is waiting for staff input.

V. Discussion re: the Title of the Business Manager

It was the consensus of the Board to forward this item to the October 27, 2025, Board meeting for approval of the change of Business Manager to Finance Director.

MOTION: Thomas Johnson: To suspend the rules to add an item to the agenda for an update on Robotics.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

Superintendent Austin gave an update on the work that Mr. Kilpatrick’s department has been doing:

- Painting of walls
- Removal of equipment from the auto shop
- Mr. Kilpatrick gave an overview of the 2 companies that can move the equipment
- Superintendent Austin noted that she has found a closet for equipment that Robotics would not need right away
- Mr. Kilpatrick noted that he can’t give a different data for when Robotics can move in until he gets answers from the moving companies

VI. Review Referral List

Mr. Weitlauf made a referral to the Finance/Facilities Committee for discussion about launching an employee efficiency suggestion campaign.

Mr. Johnson made a referral to the Policy Committee to modify policy P 6141 regarding the 6 steps.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Weitlauf: To adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

Solar MAP+

Marketplace Assistance Program



Mission & Vision



Connecticut Green Bank is the nation's first state level green bank. Established in 2011 as a quasi-public agency, the Green Bank uses limited public dollars to attract private capital investment and offers green solutions that help people, businesses and all of Connecticut thrive.

Our mission is to confront climate change by increasing and accelerating investment into Connecticut's green economy to create more resilient, healthier, and equitable communities.



Round One	Round Two	Round Three
<u>5</u> Municipalities	<u>9</u> Municipalities	<u>3</u> Municipalities
<u>15</u> Projects	<u>22</u> Projects	<u>5</u> Projects
<u>3</u> MW of Solar	<u>4</u> MW of Solar	<u>3</u> MW of Solar

Mystic River Magnet School

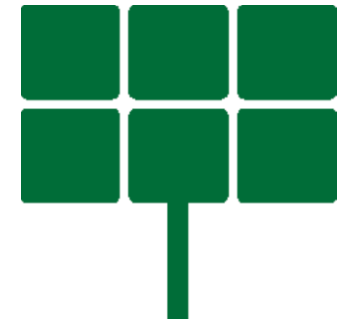


Groton Middle School

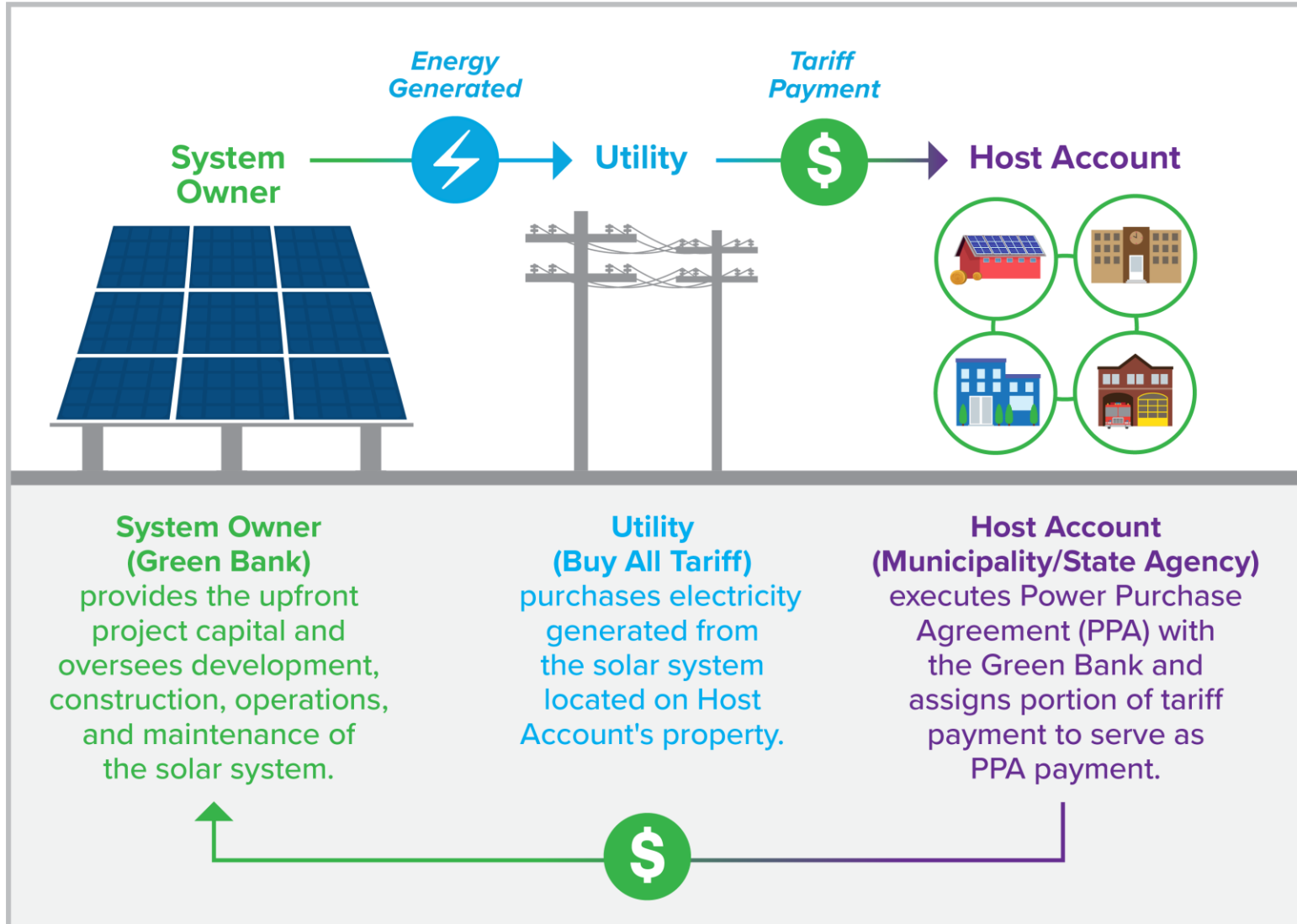


School Carveout

- 25 MW of capacity exclusively reserved for qualified public-school projects annually.
- The benefit here is that school solar projects will not be competing against all other commercial projects in the state for a limited pool of funding.
- Additionally, qualified school projects are eligible to take advantage of a higher tariff in the NRES program (Tariff rates will be the same as the Medium Zero Emission category)
- **Adders available for carport canopies, distressed municipalities, and brownfield projects**



How Does it Work? Solar Buy All Sell All PPA



What is Battery Storage?

- **Backup Power in Outages:**
 - Automatically islands from the grid to power critical loads.
- **No Emissions:**
 - A clean energy solution that helps municipalities meet sustainability goals with no air pollutants.
- **Cost Savings:**
 - Reduces energy costs by mitigating demand charges and optimizing energy use during peak periods.
- **Works with Solar PV:**
 - Ensures continuous operation of municipal solar installations during grid outages, providing uninterrupted power.
- **No Fuel Shortages:**
 - Stores energy directly, no reliance on fuel.

Solar + Battery Storage Potential

Solar

System Size (kW)	1,180 kW
Year 1 Production (kWh)	1,404,864 kWhs

Battery Storage

System Size (kW)	(2) 125 kW/279.2 kWh batteries. 1 Battery per meter
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Project is estimated to offset 964 metric tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) each year



Robert E Fitch High School VS Mystic River Magnet & Groton Middle School Solar



	Robert E Fitch High School	Mystic River Magnet & Groton Middle
Incentive Program	NRES – Green School Carveout (new)	ZREC (closed)
PPA	Yes, Buy all Sell All	Yes, Netting
Benefit	On- Bill credits: monetary credits on the utility bill	On-Bill Savings: Purchasing power at a reduced rate per kWh, fixed for the contract term, reduces electric bill
Battery Storage	Yes, providing back up power + demand savings	No, solar only
Install Type	Carport Canopies (concern over roof condition)	Rooftop (new roofs)
ITC	Impacted by OBBBA	Full ITC + Bonus

Market Changes

- One Big Beautiful Bill signed 7/4/2025
 - Accelerates the phase out of the investment tax credit (ITC) for solar
 - Window 2: execute a contract and safe harbor the ITC before July 2026
 - **Requires compliance with procurement requirements – specifically, foreign entity of concern (FEOC)**
 - **Anticipate this will create a price premium for materials.**
- Because of this shift we are seeing uncertainty within the market in terms of material costs and availability, as well as construction costs for projects.
 - Result:
 - Too difficult to model projects at a high level given the uncertainty within the market
 - Green Bank requires a formal commitment to participate in solar MAP + with an RFP release Q4 2025 or Q1 2026.
 - Goal is to solicit responses from the market, and provide site specific economics to contract
 - Tight window of time so review and approval of the PPA is recommended prior to, or in parallel with the RFP release.
 - **Template agreement previously negotiated can be re-used for this project (with adjustment for new incentive structure).**

pv pv magazine USA

Solar module pricing up 12%, according to Anza report

The data and analytics software platform's Q2 2025 Solar Module Pricing Insights report indicates a double-digit increase in median module...

Jul 21, 2025



pv pv magazine International

Solar panel prices increase nearly 5% as China tightens oversight

The Chinese Module Marker (CMM), OPIS's benchmark for TOPCon modules $\geq 600\text{W}$, rose 1.18% this week to \$0.086/W Free-On-Board (FOB) China, with...

1 month ago



Y Yicai Global

Chinese Solar Giants Raise Panel Prices as Demand Picks Up

Several leading Chinese photovoltaic companies have confirmed to Yicai that they hiked solar module prices after demand for the products recovered.

Feb 26, 2025



Project Timeline

- Q4 2025 or Q1 2026 Connecticut Green Bank runs a competitive solicitation for contractor selection (EPC RFP)
- Before 7/4/2026 Green Bank evaluates results and looks to safe harbor projects
- Before 7/4/2026
 - Groton Public Schools Approves Project
 - Execute Project Resolution
 - Sign a Power Purchase Agreement
- Template PPA used for Groton Middle School and Mystic River Magnet School can be re-used for this project (with a slight tweak to the model as we are using a new incentive program.)

Questions & Answers




Katie Shelton

Senior Manager Market Engagement

Katie.Shelton@ctgreenbank.com

860-785-9625



 Early dismissal

 No school

Start Date: 8/26/2026
Tentative End Date: 6/14/2027

JULY 2026					0/0
M	T	W	Th	F	
		1	2	3	
6	7	8	9	10	
13	14	15	16	17	
20	21	22	23	24	
27	28	29	30	31	

2, 3 July 4th Recess

AUGUST 2026					4/4
M	T	W	Th	F	
3	4	5	6	7	
10	11	12	13	14	
17	18	19	20	21	
24	25	26	27	28	
31					

21 Convocation/School Meeting
 24, 25 Professional Development
26 First Day of School (K-12)
28 First Day of School (Preschool, PreK)

SEPTEMBER 2026					21/25
M	T	W	Th	F	
	1	2	3	5	
7	8	9	10	12	
14	15	16	17	19	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30			

7 Labor Day
 15 TLI-Early Dismissal

OCTOBER 2026					21/46
M	T	W	Th	F	
			1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	
12	13	14	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30	

6 TLI-Early Dismissal
 12 Columbus/Indigenous People's Day
 28, 29, 30 Parent/Teacher Conference

NOVEMBER 2026					16/62
M	T	W	Th	F	
2	3	4	5	6	
9	10	11	12	13	
16	17	18	19	20	
23	24	25	26	27	
30					

3 Professional Development
 11 Veteran's Day
 25, 26, 27 Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER 2026					14/76
M	T	W	Th	F	
	1	2	3	5	
7	8	9	10	12	
14	15	16	17	19	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30	31		

8 TLI-Early Dismissal
 21-31 Winter Holiday Recess

JANUARY 2027					19/95
M	T	W	Th	F	
				1	
4	5	6	7	8	
11	12	13	14	15	
18	19	20	21	22	
25	26	27	28	29	

1 New Year's Day
 12 TLI-Early Dismissal
 18 Martin Luther King Day

FEBRUARY 2027					18/113
M	T	W	Th	F	
1	2	3	4	5	
8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17	18	19	
22	23	24	25	26	

2 TLI-Early Dismissal
 15, 16 Presidents Day Recess

MARCH 2027					21/134
M	T	W	Th	F	
1	2	3	4	5	
8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17	18	19	
22	23	24	25	26	
29	30	31			

5 Professional Development
 9 TLI-Early Dismissal
 26 Good Friday
 31 Parent/Teacher Conference

APRIL 2027					17/151
M	T	W	Th	F	
			1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	
12	13	14	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30	

1, 2 Parent/Teacher Conference
 12-16 Spring Recess
 27 TLI-Early Dismissal

MAY 2027					20/171
M	T	W	Th	F	
3	4	5	6	7	
10	11	12	13	14	
17	18	19	20	21	
24	25	26	27	28	
31					

11 TLI-Early Dismissal
 31 Memorial Day

JUNE 2027					10/181
M	T	W	Th	F	
	1	2	3	4	
7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30			

14 Tentative Last Day of School, Early Dismissal
 15-17 Snow Make-Up day
 18 Juneteenth Observation Day
 FHS Graduation - TBD*

 Early dismissal

 No school

Start Date: 8/27/2026
Tentative End Date: 6/10/2027

JULY 2026					0/0
M	T	W	Th	F	
		1	2	3	
6	7	8	9	10	
13	14	15	16	17	
20	21	22	23	24	
27	28	29	30	31	

2, 3 July 4th Recess

AUGUST 2026					3/3
M	T	W	Th	F	
3	4	5	6	7	
10	11	12	13	14	
17	18	19	20	21	
24	25	26	27	28	
31					

24 Convocation/School Meeting
 25, 26 Professional Development
27 First Day of School (K-12)
31 First Day of School (Preschool, PreK)

SEPTEMBER 2026					21/24
M	T	W	Th	F	
	1	2	3	5	
7	8	9	10	12	
14	15	16	17	19	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30			

7 Labor Day
 15 TLI-Early Dismissal

OCTOBER 2026					21/45
M	T	W	Th	F	
			1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	
12	13	14	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30	

6 TLI-Early Dismissal
 12 Columbus/Indigenous People's Day
 28, 29, 30 Parent/Teacher Conference

NOVEMBER 2026					16/61
M	T	W	Th	F	
2	3	4	5	6	
9	10	11	12	13	
16	17	18	19	20	
23	24	25	26	27	
30					

3 Professional Development
 11 Veteran's Day
 25, 26, 27 Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER 2026					17/78
M	T	W	Th	F	
	1	2	3	5	
7	8	9	10	12	
14	15	16	17	19	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30	31		

8 TLI-Early Dismissal
 23 Early Dismissal
 24-31 Winter Holiday Recess

JANUARY 2027					19/97
M	T	W	Th	F	
				1	
4	5	6	7	8	
11	12	13	14	15	
18	19	20	21	22	
25	26	27	28	29	

1 New Year's Day
 12 TLI-Early Dismissal
 18 Martin Luther King Day

FEBRUARY 2027					18/115
M	T	W	Th	F	
1	2	3	4	5	
8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17	18	19	
22	23	24	25	26	

2 TLI-Early Dismissal
 15, 16 Presidents Day Recess

MARCH 2027					21/136
M	T	W	Th	F	
1	2	3	4	5	
8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17	18	19	
22	23	24	25	26	
29	30	31			

5 Professional Development
 9 TLI-Early Dismissal
 26 Good Friday
 31 Parent/Teacher Conference

APRIL 2027					17/153
M	T	W	Th	F	
			1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	
12	13	14	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30	

1, 2 Parent/Teacher Conference
 12-16 Spring Recess
 27 TLI-Early Dismissal

MAY 2027					20/173
M	T	W	Th	F	
3	4	5	6	7	
10	11	12	13	14	
17	18	19	20	21	
24	25	26	27	28	
31					

11 TLI-Early Dismissal
 31 Memorial Day

JUNE 2027					8/181
M	T	W	Th	F	
	1	2	3	4	
7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30			

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