

## BUDGET COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

**DATE:** March 4, 2026

**PLACE:** Havemeyer Building (Virtually via Zoom)

### **ATTENDANCE:**

#### **Committee:**

Ms. Sophie Koven, Chair (*via Zoom*)

Mr. Paul Cappiali

Mr. Bob Chaney (*via Zoom*)

Ms. Karen Krause (*via Zoom*)

#### **Administration:**

Dr. Toni Jones, Superintendent

Mr. Ben Branyan, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer (*via Zoom*)

### **1. Meeting Opening**

**A. Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order by Ms. Koven at 4:31 pm.

### **2. Discussion Item**

The agenda was to discuss increasing tuition for the GPS Pre K and K-12 programs. Dr. Jones presented information on enrollment, costs, revenues, tuition rates of comparable programs within town, and public Pre K programs in Darien and Stamford. The proposed increase for all programs was 3.1%, in line with the budget guidelines for the next fiscal year. Karen Krause suggested that the two programs be considered separately, with a 3.1% increase for the K-12 program, but more substantial increases of 10% per year, for three consecutive years, for the Pre K program. Ms. Krause explained these increases would raise GPS rates to be more aligned with the rates of Pre K in Darien public schools. There was extensive discussion of the history of tuition rate increases, last year the tuition rates were already increased by 13%, and the potential impact on families who have already enrolled in the Pre K program next year. Dr. Jones and Bob Chaney both raised concerns about families that may be priced out of the Pre-K program. Paul Capialli also voiced concerns regarding the cost of the program, as well as a desire to continue to serve a diverse population throughout town.

The committee additionally agreed to meet in April to discuss tuition increases for the 2027-2028 school year, and to further evaluate the tuition discount for Town employees (currently they pay 25% of cost) and GPS employees (currently they pay 15% of cost). Mr. Branyan presented information on the varying discounts for Town and GPS employees for the past two decades.

Ultimately the committee agreed to consider a sliding scale tuition model for Pre K with families paying varying rates of tuition based on income. This is the model currently used by Stamford public schools. Chair Koven will work with Dr. Jones to create a draft proposal of this model to share with the committee as soon as possible. The committee still expects that the board will vote on tuition rates at the board meeting on March 19th.

### **3. Adjournment**

<b>MOTION</b>	Mr. Chaney moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cappiali.
<b>VOTE</b>	4 in favor, none opposed.
	<b>MOTION PASSED</b>

Respectfully submitted,

Sophie Koven  
Chair

DRAFT