

BUDGET COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: March 16, 2026

PLACE: Virtually via Zoom

ATTENDANCE:

Committee:

Ms. Sophie Koven, Chair

Mr. Paul Cappiali

Mr. Bob Chaney

Ms. Karen Krause

Administration:

Dr. Toni Jones, Superintendent

Mr. Ben Branyan, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer

Mr. Patrick Lai, Director of Finance

1. Meeting Opening

A. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by Ms. Koven at 5:33 pm.

2. Discussion Item

The finance committee discussed the questions raised at the previous meeting. Dr. Jones and Ben Branyan provided materials responding to questions raised at the previous meeting. There was general agreement that a 3.1% increase for K-12 tuition students is supported by the finance committee. The committee agreed to further investigate K-12 tuition rates for Town of Greenwich and GPS employees in our meetings in April or May.

Pre K:

Karen Krause suggested increasing Pre K tuition by 10% a year for three years in order to bring it more in line with the cost of other private pre k options in town.

Last year the increase was 13%, some board members were concerned the cumulative increase could be a burden for families with an increase of nearly 50% over 4 years. It is possible the raised tuition rates could result in more revenues, but we may also see decreased interest in the program and have trouble filling typical peer spots.

Revenue difference was pretty insubstantial overall:

3.1%: \$975,839 total tuition

6.2%= approximately \$30K more

10%= approximately \$64K more

Money goes to the Town, very small revenue increase in terms of a budget of nearly half a billion dollars.

Arguments in favor were Pre K has long wait list, suggests good market demand and perhaps families would be willing to pay more.

But we do not want to deter families from enrolling. We need to maintain 9:6 ratio and if we price out tuition paying students, that would be a problem.

There was discussion over whether the Town should be paying for the credit card fees for families who enroll in Pre K. Most families pay by credit card— 3.1% average fee is covered by Town—- Town does this for all transactions.

A sliding scale model was discussed, but would be difficult and expensive to implement and may not result in any additional revenue as it is not known what percentage of enrolling families would pay full tuition and who would qualify for reduced tuition.

Paul Cappiali spoke of the value of the Pre K program for typical peers; his own daughter had a great experience. Bob Chaney also said his son had a very good experience as a student in GPS Pre K.

Non Lapsing Account:

The board members spoke about maintaining maximum transparency on projected surplus and possible uses. The BOE will collaborate with the BET on an MOU regarding best practices around non lapsing accounts.

3. Adjournment

MOTION	Mr. Chaney moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cappiali.
VOTE	4 in favor, none opposed.
	MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,

Sophie Koven
Chair