# GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
# COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
# SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
# JUNE 4, 2026 AT 6:00 PM
# REMOTE MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jay Weitlauf, Jennifer White
MEMBERS ABSENT: Sean Corcoran
ALSO PRESENT: Beverly Washington, Anne Marie Mancini, Rebecca Beyus

1. **Call to Order** - J. Weitlauf called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. **Review of Meeting Minutes** - There were no amendments to the meeting minutes from March 3, 2026.

3. **Publicity for the opening of the Mary Morrisson Early Childhood Center and DREAM shop at Fitch High School** - R. Beyus provided an overview of current outreach efforts to raise awareness about the expansion of the Early Childhood Program, including enrollment updates, and the opening of the D.R.E.A.M. (Department of Robotics, Engineering, Architecture, and Manufacturing) Shop at Fitch High School. She also reviewed plans for additional publicity, community engagement opportunities, family events, and opening celebrations leading up to the launch of both facilities.

    - B. Washington shared information about an upcoming food distribution event at St. John's Church scheduled for the end of June.
    - J. White requested that dates for ribbon-cutting ceremonies be finalized as soon as possible to allow local officials to reserve the events on their calendars.
    - Committee members asked questions regarding enrollment, program offerings, and staffing for both initiatives.

4. **Highlights from the FY26 year and communications priorities for FY27** - R. Beyus provided an overview of key communications initiatives and ongoing activities, including year-end communications, system rollovers, summer outreach efforts, and the rollout of new ParentSquare features. She highlighted accomplishments from FY26 and outlined priorities for FY27, building on the momentum established during the past year.

    **Discussion included:**

    - B. Washington expressed interest in identifying additional ways PTOs can encourage participation in meetings.
    - B. Washington asked how families can access support when they have questions and suggested creating a flowchart outlining the appropriate contacts for various topics. The committee discussed the possibility of adding a QR code that would direct families to a webpage with this information.
    - J. White suggested a BOE table at school and community events.
    - J. White addressed how to bring attention to concerns about student behavior when necessary.
    - J. White would like more details attached to communication goals, including timelines.

5. **Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.