GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
FINANCE/FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JULY 7, 2026 @ 6:00 P.M.
MARY MORRISSON

Members Present: Jennifer White, Adrian Johnson, Jay Weitlauf

Also Present: Susan Austin, Rita Parciak, Beverly Washington, Sam Kilpatrick, Shannon Weigle, Sean Corcoran, Chris Jenkins

Chairperson White called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

1. Review June 2, 2026 Meeting Minutes – The committee reviewed the minutes; no corrections were submitted.

2. Director of Finance Report
    a. Budget Transfers – Budget transfer form was reviewed with the committee. Projected transfer for the period is $226,902 for a year-to-date total transfer of $894,491. Transfer will assist for upcoming year budget preparation/review to ensure that monthly variance comparisons will be aligned to respective account codes.
    b. Lunch Debt Balance – Director of Facilities shared that unpaid lunch balance for the District is $68,327. Discussion was held regarding opportunities on how to improve payment. Committee member Johnson suggested obtaining payment method at the start of the school year. Director of Finance will engage with Director of IT to determine what opportunities are available. Engaging Director of IT since parents have to pay for laptop insurance.
    c. Food Service Program Meal Pricing – Committee asked Director of Facilities to work with Director of Food Services to provide information on other District's meal cost. Additional data will assist when presented to the Board for approval. Currently, the Director is proposing a $0.25 cent increase for lunches. Impacted schools within the District will be Fitch High School, Charles Barnum and Northeast Academy. Please note that all schools receive free breakfast. The committee discussed why there is an increase in non-payments within the forementioned schools.

3. Update re: Grants (DESPP)
    a. The District received 3 grants this period.
        i. DESPP ($191K)
            1. This is a 2-year grant to support the IT organization. The grant requires in-kind matching of $47.6K over a 2-year period. Committee requested additional information be provided regarding the District matching funds. Administration does not expect this grant to increase FTES or IT cost.
        ii. T-MOBILE ($50K)
            1. Grant is to support the Robotics' field. The grant does not specifically call for a robotics field house but could be used, if determined. Committee asked if grant is specific to Groton. Response by Administration was "yes".

3. Update re: Grants (DESPP) (cont'd)
    iii. Farm to School ($100K)
        1. Competitive grant award to District to continue with Farm to School food sourcing.
    b. Other grants in application stages were mentioned and will be discussed, if District is selected. Grants range from $125K to $300K.

4. Director of Facilities Report
    a. Robotics
        i. Conversation was held as to when the Robotics team would move from the machine shop to the wood shop. Administration is committed to finding a field space for the organization to use during the 2026-2027 school year. Committee suggested taking a harder look at the small gym and treating this group as integral and viable as other teams. Committee asked Administration to provide an update at the next F&F meeting with move timelines and field location opportunities.
        ii. Suggestions by committee included space next to O'Reilly's, closed Butler elementary school and Flanders Industrial Park.
    b. Mary Morrison
        iii. Meeting transitioned to walk through of Mary Morrison by Committee, Administration and guests.

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.