

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
FINANCE/FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 4, 2026 @ 6:00 P.M.
MARY MORRISSON

Members Present: Jennifer White, Adrian Johnson (arrive 6:20PM), Jay Weitlauf (depart 7:05PM)

Also Present: Sam Kilpatrick, Susan Austin, Beverly Washington, Rita Parciak (depart 6:35PM), Shannon Weigle, Chris Jenkins

1. Call to Order - Chairperson White called the meeting to order at 6:03PM
2. Review July 7, 2026 Meeting Minutes - The committee reviewed the minutes and noted that Ernie Koschmieder was not present at the meeting as stated in the minutes.
3. Director of Finance
 - a. STA Contract
 - i. Superintendent, S. Austin, mentioned each school received additional field trips as part of contract extension
 - ii. BOE Administration will investigate potential savings due to less mid-day bus runs with the opening of Mary Morrisson Childcare Center
 - iii. Committee asked for the number of daily buses that will be utilized for upcoming school year.
 - iv. School District is one-year into a possible two-year contract extension period.
 - b. MDG Healthcare Report
 - i. Director of Finance awaiting FY25 data from the Town Finance Director. BOE is not trueed up. The committee is planning to hold a special meeting to discuss data and other financials not currently available.
 - ii. Questions still open:
 1. Amount of true up to actuaries' recommendations
 2. Are accrual levels funding to forward or backward-looking data
4. Director of Facilities
 - a. Robotics
 - i. Project Manager, S. Weigle, mentioned that the public surplus auction ended today at 3:00PM. Thirteen of the seventeen items had bids. Payment is expected within 5 days and pickup within another 5 days for a maximum total of ten days. Items without bids will be donated to Mystic Seaport Museum. Expectation is that the Robotics team will have the opportunity to fully move in thereafter. Some robotic items have already been moved from the machine shop to the former wood shop.
 - ii. The public surplus auction funds will go to the Town. BOE Administration and possibly Board Chair, B Washington, will ask Town Manager, J. Burt, if funds could be transferred to BOE to support robotics.
 - iii. BOE Administration is in discussion with Congressman Courtney to procure additional funding/grants to support building a permanent structure for robotics field space. It was discussed that the permanent structure will more than likely not be completed this school year, so it's important for BOE Administration to identify a temporary resource for the organization. Several locations were mentioned:

4. Director of Facilities (cont'd)
 - a. Robotics (cont'd)
 1. Flanders Industrial Business Park – Fully Occupied
 2. Cafeteria – Potential to ruin ceilings
 3. Library – Need to fill-in pit
 4. Gym – Conflict with other sports/events
 5. Flag hallway – Under investigation
 6. Former Administration hallway – under investigation
 - b. Mary Morrison
 - i. Meeting transitioned to walk through of Mary Morrison by Committee, Administration and guests.
5. Future Items
 - a. Date on attachment was off by a month.
6. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.