

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 28, 2026 @ 5:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11/HYBRID**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Beverly Washington – Chairperson, Adrian Johnson Vice Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman (remote), Sean Corcoran (left at 7:21 p.m.) Mitch Shinbrot, Ian Thomas, Jay Weitlauf (remote), Jennifer White, Michael Whitney (remote/arrived at 6:04 p.m.)

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Anne Marie Mancini, Denise Doolittle, Sam Kilpatrick, Clint Kennedy, Rita Parciak, Lauren Casini, Kamila Irizarry Boria, Gavin Frost, Evan Vetter

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mrs. Washington, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

II. Discussion with the Community re: Input Around the Board of Education’s Goals

- Focus on improving student learning outcomes
- Continue to align our expenditures with district priorities
- Review building capacity based on expected demographic trends
- Improve the flow of the Board’s business
- Community engagement

Mrs. Washington stated that the discussion of the meeting would be about community engagement.

III. Comments from Citizens

1. Lori Slonski, 401 West Thames Street, Norwich, stated that she has been shamed by a lie made about her on November 9, 1972, the need to get to the bottom of the situation, the need for fact checking, and her willingness to work with the Board to resolve this situation.
2. Catherine Jones, 12 Rhonda Drive, questioned AI used in the classroom and the need for critical thinking.
3. Kate Channing, 8 Orchard Lane, questioned the AI policy, YouTube policy, and lunches.
4. Lauren Gauthier, Boardsen Road, questioned the consent forms that are sent home-she found them very vague, AI use, and increased tech being used.
5. Monica White, 26 Cathedral Heights, reminded the Board that there are opportunities to help support children in our community that may be experiencing food insecurity.
6. Nick Yevoli, 8 Orchard Lane, questioned the IB program and asked what is its value.
7. Beth Green, 155 River Road, questioned the calendar at the beginning of the year (the first week was a long five-day week).
8. Monica White, 26 Cathedral Heights is concerned with the use of AI.
9. Kate Channing questioned parent engagement in the classroom and parents supporting their child’s classroom.
10. Portia Bordelon questioned the achievement gap-not enough funding, intervention received, diversity needs, communication, and students not able to write in cursive.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Shinbrot:

To adjourn at 6:05 p.m.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY