GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 7, 2026 @ 6:00 P.M. - REMOTE

Members Remote: Andrea Ackerman, Mitch Shinbrot, Ian Thomas (arrived at 6:20 pm)
Also Remote: Adrian Johnson, Anne Marie Mancini, Matthew Brown, Amy McKenna, Edward Kay

Shinbrot called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Review Meeting Minutes: September 21, 2026

   The minutes were reviewed and amended for a grammatical error. The minutes were accepted as amended.

2. New Course Proposal/Curriculum Review: Intro. to Robotics

   Mancini stated that in the fall when the course was first proposed it was stated that we would use a purchased curriculum. Vex robotics makes a compact model. Kay described the curriculum and pacing guide. Kay explained all the work he is currently doing. The committee recommended the full Board approve the curriculum. The committee was concerned about the location the class will take place.

3. FHS Course Enrollment

   The High school administration described the process of scheduling and enrollment. The schedule is built on what students choose. The schedule is made as optimal as they can for every student and honor as many of their choices as possible. The committee discussed different aspects of how it is decided if a class runs. The committee also discussed looking at a critical assessment of what courses we run. We need to balance the number of teachers and courses with the number of credits students need to earn to graduate.

4. Study of IB

   Mancini explained the IB program, Vision of the graduate, history and the benefits of the program. She explained the specialized training that the teaching staff goes through. They can use the instructional methods in any course regardless if it's an IB course or not. Grant funds have been used for all the training. The committee discussed the program. They discussed the cost of the program with Johnson looking for specifics.

5. Review of Referral Tracker

   R2024-34 is complete as of October 7th, 2026.

6. Adjournment

   The meeting adjourned at 8:56 P.M.