

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL FINANCE/FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 2, 2022 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11

Members Present: Jay Weitlauf, Dean Antipas, Beverly Washington

Also Present: Susan Austin, Sam Kilpatrick, Ken Knight, Matthew Shulman (remote)

Chairman Weitlauf called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

1. Review June 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes - The minutes were accepted as presented with correction to Ms. Washington's name.
2. Historical Review of Health Insurance Claims - Mr. Knight reviewed the claims reports from FY2020, FY2021 and FY2022 through May 2022. Additionally, he reviewed a spreadsheet of claims for the period FY2018 through FY2022 (attached). It was noted that the number of employees/retirees covered by the self-insured plan has reduced during this time frame, but cost of claims has remained somewhat steady, resulting in higher cost per employee/retiree. We anticipate cost of the plan to start rising, as the number of employee/retirees is expected to stabilize.
3. Review ARP ESSER Spending Plan - Mr. Knight reviewed a report of the budget for the three ESSER grants (ESSER I, ESSER II and ARP ESSER). The report showed that ESSER I is fully expended, ESSER II is 52% expended and ARP ESSER is 24% expended as of June 30, 2022. This is in line with expectations. There was a discussion on how to deal with sustainability after the grants expire in 2024. Ms. Austin explained that would be accomplished through a combination of elimination of positions, attrition, finding additional grants or finding efficiencies to be able to add to the operations budget.
4. Next Year's CIPs - Mr. Kilpatrick reviewed next year's possible CIPs. These include the field house at Fitch High School and the culinary arts classrooms at Fitch High School. The plans for both of these projects were funded through last year's BOE operation funds. Also discussed was inclusion of the football field at Fitch High School and HVAC project at Fitch High School's vintage section and Charles Barnum Elementary School that is not covered by the ARP ESSER. Also discussed was the humidity control measures at Northeast Academy Elementary School and roof at Charles Barnum Elementary School that had been previously approved as a CIP by the Town Council.
5. Review Summer Facilities Projects - Mr. Kilpatrick discussed current projects being undertaken by the facilities department. These projects include the closing of the wood frame building at the former Pleasant Valley Elementary School and finalizing the setup of the portable buildings at Central Office, where the items from PV will be stored. Additional projects include readying Mary Morrisson Elementary School for the robotics team, Early Childhood Evaluation Team (ECAT) and Tree House management. Also, they are dismantling the portable at Charles Barnum Elementary School, possibly installing a room divider at Catherine Kolnaski Elementary School, dealing with HVAC issue in the server room at Central Office, and installing Promethean boards at the three older elementary schools. They are continuing to push forward HVAC installation at Fitch High School, field lighting at Groton Middle School and installation of solar panels, all of which may need to be finalized after school begins in the fall.

6. Review Punch Lists for New Buildings - Mr. Kilpatrick reviewed the outstanding punch list items at the two new elementary schools. There are some landscaping issues at both schools and a gate at Thames River Elementary School that needs to be addressed.
7. Bus Contract Update - Mr. Kilpatrick discussed the bus contract, which expires June 30, 2023. We intend to go out to bid in September with the help of a consultant that specializes in transportation.
8. Discussion re: Bus Routes - Mr. Kilpatrick discussed the bus routes. Per STA management, we have enough bus drivers including spare drivers for the beginning of school at this point. Bus routes are being worked on by the transportation department, but these will continue to be tweaked as new students enter or leave the district.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Groton Public Schools
Claims through Anthem (active & retired)

Year	# of Lives	Avg Monthly	Total Cost	Avg/Life	Comments
2018	8,962	747	10,867,347	14,551	Closed Pleasant Valley 6/30/17, severance incentive of extended health benefits to retirees for up to two years.
2019	8,217	685	11,649,036	17,012	
2020	7,451	621	9,970,597	16,058	COVID19 pandemic starting Mar 2020.
2021	7,025	585	10,800,001	18,448	Closed Cutler Middle & Westside Middle Schools 6/30/20, severance incentive of extended health benefits to retirees for up to two years. Concerted effort to convert retirees off self-insured plan to fully-insured plan.
2022*	6,047	550	10,656,897	19,386	Closed 3 elementary school opened 2 new elementary schools 6/30/21, no severance incentive. Continued effort to convert retirees to fully-insured plans.

* Data only through May 2022