

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2021 @ 6:30 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kim Shepardson Watson-Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman-Vice Chairperson, Jane Giuliani, Liz Porter, Rita Volkmann, Jay Weitlauf, Lee White

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dean Antipas, Rosemary Robertson

TOWN COUNCILERS PRESENT:

Mayor Patrice Granatosky, Conrad Heede, Juliette Parker, Rachael Franco, Juan Melendez, Aundre Bumgardner, Portia Bordelon, Lian Obrey

RTM PRESENT: Syma Ebbin, RTM Moderator, Ian Thomas, Cindy Fortner, Michael Whitney, Katrina Fitzgerald, Melinda Cassiere, Susan Deane-Shinbrot, Shawn Powers, Kathy Chase, Lauren Gauthier

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Denise Doolittle, Sam Kilpatrick, Ken Knight, Laurie LePine

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Kim Watson called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.
Mayor Patrice Granatosky called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

II. BUDGET WORK SESSION

Ms. Susan Austin, Superintendent, gave an overview of the building of the proposed 2021-2022 budget. (ATTACHMENT #1)

Ms. Austin and Mr. Knight gave an overview of the Health Reserve Account.

Mr. Knight addressed Workers Compensation noting that we will have a reduction. Ms. Austin noted that there are 3 retirements to date.

Mr. Kilpatrick noted that the District was asked to prioritize the items on the CIP. Mr. Kilpatrick gave an overview of the air quality at NEA. He also noted the need regarding of the FHS football field; he noted the CB roof is beyond its life expectancy; and the lighting project at the Groton Middle School and the softball field.

Ms. Austin noted that the District has received notification regarding the FY 21 Impact Aid funding will be \$3,941,000.

Ms. Austin noted that the District will receive \$250,000 from the DoD Supplemental Impact Aid fund and it will be used for the 1-1 initiative.

Ms. Austin stated that the review of the January Public Hearing recommendations was covered by Mr. Kilpatrick's update.

Mrs. Watson noted that the Board needs to discuss when to turn over CC and SBB to the Town. Mrs. Watson stated that the Board has already voted to keep MM.

Ms. Austin noted that the District is looking at 2 additional grants:

- DoD STEM in amount of 3 million and 6 million; the District is working with LEARN and the pipeline for the middle school and high school. This grant will help support a NROTC program.
- DoDEA STEM that has a Health and Nutrition slant.

Mrs. Watson noted that the Board needs to revisit the CIP.

Mr. Whitney asked the Board to provide data on how the CARES Act funds are being used this year and next year.

III. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Volkmann: To adjourn the Budget Session at 7:52 p.m.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION: Bumgardner, Heede: To adjourn the Town Council session at 7:53 p.m.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Groton Public Schools

Superintendent's Proposed 2021-2022 Budget



Board of Education

Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson

Andrea Ackerman, Vice Chairperson

Dean Antipas

Jane Giuliani

Liz Porter

Rosemary Robertson

Rita Volkmann

Jay Weitlauf

Lee White

Program Elements

- Maintain effective class size
- Enhance Literacy - Teachers College Readers' Writers' Project
- Continue to support rigor and relevance in math instruction
- Support Next Generation Science Standards Curriculum
- Support International Baccalaureate campus program at Fitch High School and Groton Middle School (Middle Years Program, Diploma Program and Careers Program & Pathways)



Program Elements (cont'd)

- Support for all five elementary magnet schools
- Retain all curricular & extracurricular programs
- Continue upgrading of classroom technology & infrastructure
- Continue middle school and high school 1 to 1 computer initiative
- Maintain Vocational Program for 18-22 year olds
- Maintain high quality Tree House child care program before/after school
- School Resource Officers @ FHS & GMS - Town/BoE Funded

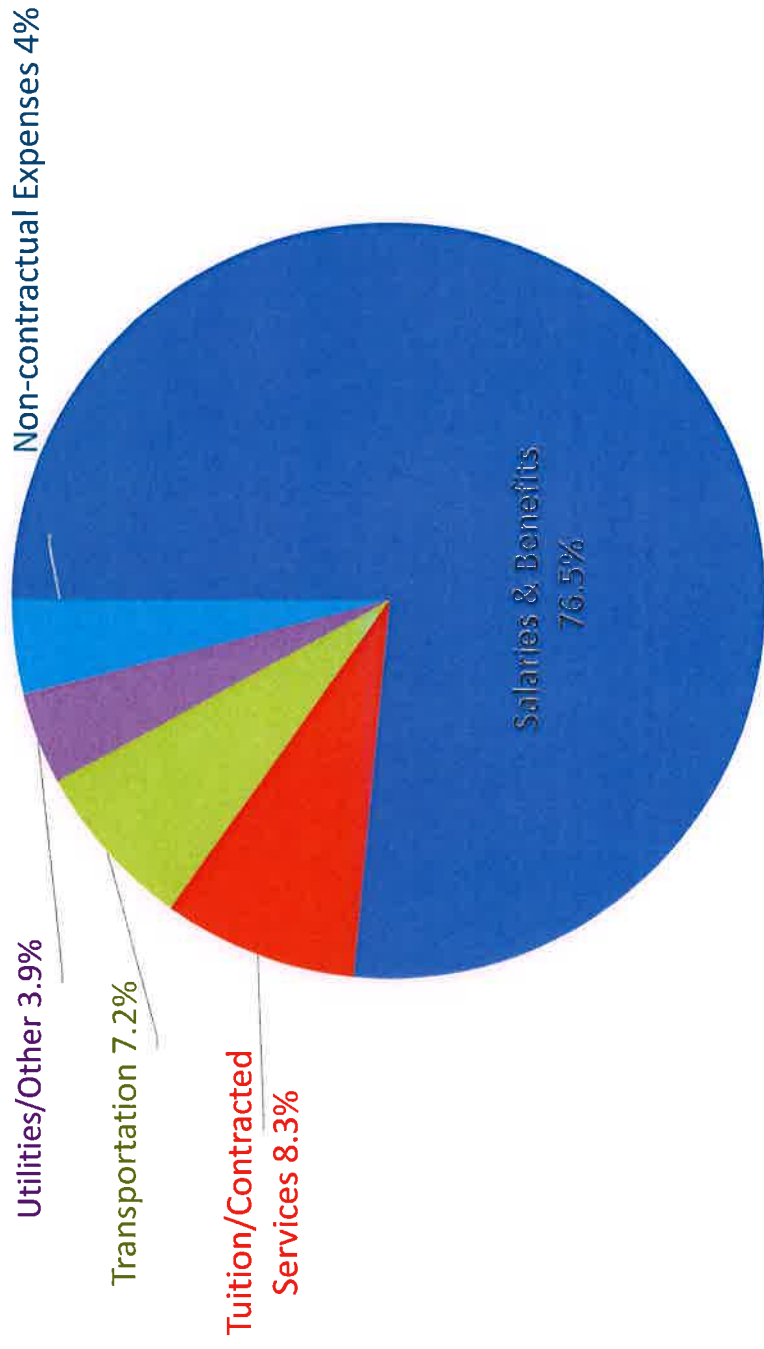


Proposed Budget

	FY21 <u>Budget</u>	Proposed FY22 <u>Budget</u>	Increase (Decrease)	%
Salaries (100)	49,203,539	50,167,065	963,526	2.0%
Benefits (200)	10,455,723	9,704,146	(751,577)	(7.2%)
Purchased Services (300)	1,968,135	1,994,323	26,188	1.3%
Property Services (400)	867,813	848,189	(19,624)	(2.3%)
Trans, Ins, Comm, Tuition (500)	11,560,211	11,834,195	273,984	2.4%
Supplies (600)	3,217,512	3,493,065	275,553	8.6%
Equipment (700)	90,816	138,263	47,447	52.2%
Dues & Fees (800)	<u>74,341</u>	<u>88,835</u>	<u>14,494</u>	<u>19.5%</u>
Total	77,438,090	78,268,081	829,991	1.1%

- (100) Contractual pay increases offset by efficiencies due to consolidation of elementary schools.
- (200) 7% anticipated increase in claims cost offset by reduction in health insurance reserve.
- (300) Increase in cost of services not provided by outside experts to support district needs.
- (400) Lower experience and more in house services with purchased equipment.
- (500) Sustaining bus transportation no longer paid through MSAP grant.
- (600) Increased cost for software needs for remote learning partially support by grants, electricity costs for new buildings in addition to existing buildings.
- (700) Continue upgrading IT infrastructure.
- (800) MYP and Careers Programs & Pathways requirements.

GPS Budget Categories



Salaries & Benefits	59,871,211	76.5%
Tuition/Contracted Services	6,511,951	8.3%
Transportation	5,654,498	7.2%
Utilities/Ins./Tel/Network/Software Lic.	3,064,176	3.9%
Non-contractual Expenses	3,166,245	4.0%

History of GPS Budget

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Budget Total</u>	<u>Inc/(Decr)</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
FY2011-2012	72,645,500	-	0.00%
FY2012-2013	72,645,500	-	0.00%
FY2013-2014	73,662,715	1,017,215	1.40%
FY2014-2015	75,098,943	1,436,228	1.95%
FY2015-2016	76,730,239	1,631,296	2.17%
FY2016-2017	76,468,239	(262,000)	(0.34%)
FY2017-2018	76,468,239	-	0.00%
FY2018-2019	76,485,922	17,683	0.02%
FY2019-2020	77,438,090	952,168	1.24%
FY2020-2021	77,438,090	-	0.00%
Ten Year Average			0.64%

FY21 Town Revenues



Education Cost Sharing (ECS)	24,969,249
Other State Funds	328,206
Federal Impact Aid	3,283,678
SPED Excess Cost	925,000
Medicaid	189,100
Other Sources	<u>83,277</u>
	29,778,510

H.R. 8472: the *Impact Aid Coronavirus Relief Act*



Congressman Courtney presented Groton Superintendent Susan Austin with redline copies of the Impact Aid Coronavirus Relief Act, which was signed into law in December, allowing schools to use the student count info from this year's funding application

The Impact Aid program provides assistance to local school districts with concentrations of children residing on Indian lands, military bases, low-rent housing properties, or other Federal properties and concentrations of children who have parents in the uniformed services or employed on eligible Federal properties who do not live on Federal property.

Joint Meeting

2/3/21

BOE, TC, RTM

- Update on Health Reserve Account
- Workers Compensation/Projected Retirements
- Review of CIP account: Priorities
- Impact Aid funding and recent legislation;
- DOD Supplemental Impact Aid Account
- Review of January Public Hearing recommendations

Mission Statement: Teaching & Learning

BoE Goals: Provide Dynamic Rigorous Curriculum

Ensure Effective and Engaging Instruction

Embrace Excellent Learning Environment

Belief Statement: Cultivate an Environment of Diversity, Equality,
and Inclusiveness

