A special meeting of the Groton Board of Education was held on February 13, 2013, in Room 19 of the School Administration Building, for the purpose of discussing the proposed 2013-2014 budget.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Kirsten Hoyt, Chairperson of the Board, at 6:47 p.m.

PRESENT

Dr. Kirsten Hoyt, Chairperson
Mrs. Shelley Gardner
Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson
Mrs. Rita Volkmann
Mrs. Beverly Washington

Dr. John Ramos, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Carolyn Dickey, Business Manager
Mrs. Denise Doolittle, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Mrs. Laurie LePine, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Sean McKenna, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Paul Sikorski, Director of Technology Services
Mr. Joseph Arcarese, Principal, Fitch High School
Mr. Robert Pendolphi, Principal, Cutler Middle School
Mr. Jeffrey Kotecki, Assistant Principal, West Side Middle School
Mrs. Valerie Nelson, Principal, Charles Barnum School
Mrs. Jamie Giordano, Principal, Claude Chester School
Mrs. Christine Dauphinais, Principal, Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School
Dr. Monica Franzone, Principal, Mary Morrisson School
Mr. Paul Esposito, Principal, Northeast Academy School
Mrs. Kathleen Miner, Principal, Pleasant Valley School
Mr. Monson, Lane, Principal, S. B. Butler School
Mr. Larry Croxton, GEA Co-Chair
Mrs. Beth Horler, GEA Co-Chair

ABSENT

Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Patricia Doyle
Mr. Robert Peruzzotti
Mr. Chaz Zezulka

Mr. William Robarge, Director of Buildings and Grounds

1. Discussion of the proposed 2013-2014 calendars for students and staff.

Dr. Ramos gave an overview of the charge from the Board in preparing the proposed 2013-2014 budget which was to:
   a. Identify what it would cost to run the district as we do today this time next year;
b. Demonstrate how to get the budget to a 0% increase (with the realization that in this case, it will actually cost 4 million more).

Dr. Ramos explained that the ARRA funds and the ED Job funds are no longer available to the district. Dr. Ramos explained that he solicited input from the Principals and Union leaders for ways to get the budget to 0% increase. Dr. Ramos reviewed the anticipated increases and savings. He explained that the items in possible reductions column, color coded in Red, were determined not to make sense, so they were included; the items in Yellow are still under consideration; and the items in Green are being advanced for Board consideration. He further explained that the item regarding Security in the increases column needed to be discussed with the Town before a determination could be made.

Mrs. Dickey reviewed how the budget was put together.

Dr. Ramos further reviewed the list of possible reductions.

Mrs. Gardner requested that the Board receive a copy of statistics on the IB Program.

It was the consensus of the Board that at the next budget meeting, the Board would review the budget line by line.

Mrs. Dickey noted that the fuel cost is budgeted at $3.50 with a locked in price this year of $2.96.

Mrs. Volkmann suggested that the Board needs to discuss the class size parameters, in particular the Special Areas.

Dr. Ramos noted that the next Budget Work Sessions would be February 19 and 26 at 6:00 p.m.

Additional information requested:

- IB Program
- Pupil Testing
- Class sizes of comparable districts

Mrs. Volkmann suggested inviting the Town to a budget meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.