

BUDGET NEWS 2015-2016

NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD OF EDUCATION PROPOSED BUDGET

On Feb. 5, The Board of Education approved adjustments to the Superintendent’s Budget. The 2015-2016 budget was passed by the Board for \$72,253,488.

During workshops on the budget in January and February, the Board of Education heard from the school district on new initiatives and savings set out in the Superintendent, Dr. Erardi’s Proposed Budget. During the final budget meeting, several changes were suggested to reduce the budget including several recommended by the Superintendent’s office. The accepted adjustments outlined below brought the 2015-2016 budget request to a 1.27% increase over the 2014-2015 approved budget.



The budget includes net staff reductions of 13 positions throughout the district to reflect declining enrollment which, along with other savings, helped offset regular yearly contracted increases.

FEBRUARY 17TH, 2015

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Upcoming Budget Meetings

Feb. 19	7:00pm—Board of Finance Meeting Public Hearing and BOE Presentation
Mar. 2	7:30pm—Board of Finance BOE to Answer Questions
Mar. 12	7:30pm—Board of Finance Vote on Budget Recommendation

RECOMMENDED BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

2014-15 Approved Budget	\$ 71,345,304
2015-16 Superintendent original proposal	\$ 72,399,186

Adjustments

Diesel fuel - \$3.1449 to \$2.65 per gallon	\$ (54,989)
Worker's compensation plus 3% to 5%	\$ 10,144
Liability Insurance policies plus 3% to 5%	\$ 7,782
Medical self-insurance	\$ (67,120)
Dental insurance	\$ (4,000)
Transportation	\$ (37,515)

Final, budget approved by Board of Education	\$ 72,253,488
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SUPERINTENDENT AVAILABILITY

Open Budget Hour

Thursdays 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
in March and April:

3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26

4/2, 4/9

Board of Education Offices

Dr. Erardi will also be attending faculty meetings, parent meetings, civic group meetings, and visiting community organizations during the budget season.

Dr. Erardi will continue to be available most days during his open office hour at 6:30am at the Board of Education Offices.

If you would like to meet with Dr. Erardi privately, please contact Meg Reilly at 203-426-7606.



BUDGET ESTIMATES

A school system budget is an estimate of the costs of running the school district for the given year. The estimates are created carefully by the superintendent, administrators and department heads before being brought to the Board of Education at the beginning of the budget season. Many items in the budget are estimated based on costs from previous years and experience with what changes may come to those costs some estimates need to be adjusted as new information becomes available and others are based on contractual obligations.

State reimbursement for Special Education is based on the total amount of spending across the state and the portion that the town will receive is unknown until the state makes payments. Those payments usually begin in late February, after the BOE has had to pass the budget on to the Board of Finance. Energy costs are defined by contract but energy usage is quite variable between years and the contracts are often not defined when the budget comes to the Board of Education. Costs for employee benefits and items that must be put out to bid may not be known until later in the budget process and sometimes not until after the budget has been passed at referendum.

The business manager and superintendent continue to work with the details throughout the budget process to account for these changes. As the budget passes each stage of approval, adjustments can be made to take advantage of the new information.

POINTS OF PRIDE

- ↑ Newtown High School received **Gold Medal** status in *U.S. News & World Report 2014 Best High Schools* Rankings. NHS was ranked in the top 2.5% of High Schools nationally.
- ↑ For the 2013-2014 school year, the Elementary Schools in Newtown received national recognition from the HealthierUS School Challenge. The schools were awarded Bronze Level for emphasizing physical activity and excellence in nutrition.

MORE INFORMATION

Contact the Newtown Board of Education by email: newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us

Get the latest budget updates on twitter: [@NewtownBOE](https://twitter.com/NewtownBOE)

Check the town meeting calendar: <http://tiny.cc/nboe1502n1tc>

View town board meeting videos: <http://tiny.cc/nboe1502n1va>

See the Superintendent's Video Series: <http://tiny.cc/nboe1502n1sv>

Look over the Board of Education's 2015-2016 Proposed Budget: <http://tiny.cc/nboe1502n1br>

Access BOE Agenda and Minutes: <http://tiny.cc/nboe1502n1am>

Find BOE Budget Information including the Budget Calendar: <http://tiny.cc/nboe1502n1bi>