

**THIS MEETING IS NOT BEING LIVE-STREAMED AND ACCESS BY PHONE IS NOT AVAILABLE**

Board of Education Meeting  
January 16, 2024

Reed Intermediate School Library  
3 Trades Lane, Newtown, CT  
7:00 p.m.

*As citizens of our community, we will conduct ourselves in accordance with Newtown's Core Character Attributes as displayed in our character tree. We will be responsible for our actions and show respect for each other. We will interact peacefully, productively, and politely. We will be trustworthy and honest and show compassion toward others. Newtown's continued success is contingent upon our ability to persevere, to follow through with our commitments, and to stay focused on the greater good.*

**AGENDA**

- Item 1                    PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
  
- Item 2                    CONSENT AGENDA
  - Donation to Newtown High School
  - Newtown High School April 2025 ACIS Trip
  - Correspondence Report
  
- Item 3                    \*\*PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
  
- Item 4                    REPORTS
  - Chair Report
  - Superintendent's Report
  - Committee and Liaison Reports
  - Student Representatives Report
  
- Item 5                    PRESENTATIONS
  - Superintendent's Overview of the 2024-2025 Budget
  
- Item 6                    LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Senator Tony Hwang
  
- Item 7                    OLD BUSINESS
  - Second Read and Possible Action on Policy 1700 Possession of Deadly Firearms or Deadly Weapons
  
- Item 8                    NEW BUSINESS
  - Action on Minutes of December 19, 2023
  - Action on Minutes of January 4, 2024
  - Action on Minutes of January 9, 2024
  
- Item 9                    PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
  
- Item 10                    ADJOURNMENT

*\*\*During the first Public Participation, the Board welcomes commentary regarding items on the agenda. After being recognized, please state your name and address for the record. We request that speakers be respectful and limit comments to not more than three minutes. The Board of Education does not discuss personnel items or student matters in public. During the second Public Participation, commentary may address the agenda or may introduce issues for the Board to consider in the future. The Board does not engage in dialogue during either public comment period. If you desire more information or answers to specific questions, please email the BOE: [NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us)*

# THE WELLER FOUNDATION, INCORPORATED

P.O. Box 4512, Danbury, CT 06813  
(475) 395-6397

December 23, 2023

Brandy Jacobs  
College & Career Center Coordinator  
Newtown High School  
12 Berkshire Road  
Sandy Hook, CT 06842

Subject: 2023 Donation Approval

Dear Brandy,

I am delighted to inform you that the Foundation has approved the donation request that was sent on November 7, 2023, by Noreen Morgenstern. The request was for (2) ViewSonic View Boards for the Math Department, and the total amount approved for the donation is \$5,600. We have enclosed Foundation Check #1237, which is to be delivered to the Math Department.

We kindly request that you extend our gratitude to the teachers and students of the Math Department. We hope this donation will assist them in their academic pursuits and wish them continued success.

Thank you for allowing us to participate in your ongoing efforts to provide quality education.

Cordially,

Stephanie M. Baker  
Foundation Administrator

SMB  
Enclosure — Check #1237 - \$5,600.00  
cc: Dr. Kimberly Longobucco Ed.D. - Princ

<b>The Weller Foundation, Incorporated</b>		10-4/220	1237
PO BOX 4512 DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06813 (475) 395-6397		DATE	DECEMBER 23, 2023
PAY TO THE ORDER OF	NEWTOWN HIGH SCHOOL		\$ 5,600. <sup>00</sup>
	FIVE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND 00/100		DOLLARS
<b>M&amp;T Bank</b>		<i>Stephanie M. Baker</i>	
MEMO	2023 DONATION - 2 VIEW SONIC VIEW BOARDS MATH DEPT	MP	
⑆022000046⑆		314085547⑆1237	



## Newtown High School

12 Berkshire Road  
Sandy Hook, CT 06482  
(203) 426-7646  
FAX (203) 426-6573

November 21, 2023

Dear School Board Members,

My name is Elizabeth Mouchantat. I have been teaching social studies at Newtown High School for 4 years including Government, Economics, U.S. History, World Religions, Asian Studies, and Western Studies. In addition, I am an alumni graduating with the class of 2012.

This April I am bringing 28 students to Italy with ACIS (American Council for International Studies) from April 12-20, 2024. In order to allow more students the opportunity, and families to financially plan ahead, I am writing to ask for your approval to bring students in April Break of 2025 on a trip with ACIS to Paris, Switzerland, and Munich.

ACIS is the country's leading sponsor of educational tours. Its programs are fully insured, and its nationwide reputation is based on 35 years of experience with more than 500,000 student and adult travelers. They have a 24-hour, 365-day support network staffed by ACIS employees, both in the U.S. and overseas. They use only three- and four-star hotels in popular and safe areas and the best sources of local transportation. Newtown High School traveled with ACIS for 6 years prior to pausing the partnership during the pandemic.

Our group will have an ACIS Tour Manager who is a highly-trained, multilingual guide and educator. Our tour manager will not only explain what we are seeing, but how it came to be and why it matters. ACIS Tour Managers are renowned for bringing a unique perspective to their tours, combined with a love of teaching and an irresistible enthusiasm for the regions they describe. Our tour manager will serve as an accessible, authoritative source of information, helping students form a basis for exploration. His or her expertise will certainly enhance all that my colleagues and I have taught our students at home.

The ten day trip will include tours of Paris, Engelberg, Munich, and Salzburg. Students will have the opportunity to explore not only the cities themselves, but learn the culture and history first hand as we explore the Louvre and see Renaissance Art like the Mona Lisa, take a lesson on how to play the Alpenhorn, and any student learning french will be able to practice with many native speakers as we explore.. In addition to the cultural connections, students will have the opportunity to tour Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial and learn more deeply about the experience of the Holocaust and effects they studied throughout this history curriculum at the high school. This is a wonderful cross disciplinary opportunity for our students.

My experience so far with ACIS has shown me they are experts in international travel and will support our students and chaperones leading up to, and on this trip and this has been confirmed by the teacher who worked with them for 6 successful years. The continued support of the Newtown Board of Education is what makes these types of travel trips so accessible to students and I ask you to approve this travel request for April Break of 2025. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [mouchantate@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:mouchantate@newtown.k12.ct.us)

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Mouchantat

NHS Social Studies Department



**Paris, Switzerland, Munich  
Itinerary and Included Experiences**

**Day 1: Depart from NHS**

- Fly out of JFK

**Day 2-4: Paris**

- Guided Sightseeing tour of Paris including Arc de Triumph, Notre Dame
- Timed Entrance to the Louvre, then climb the Eiffel Tower and an evening Boat Cruise on the Seine River
- Tour King Louis XIV's Palace of Versailles

**Day 5-6: Engelberg**

- Cable Car and Cog Railway up Mount Pilatus
- Explore Lucerne and then enjoy an Alpine Hut Dinner and Alpenhorn Lesson

**Day 7-8 Munich**

- See the famous Neuschwansein fairy tale castle
- Guided sightseeing tour of Munich
- Afternoon tour of Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial

**Day 9: Saltzberg**

- Guided tour of Saltzberg including some famous Sound of Music Sites
- Explore the Hallein Salt Mine

**Day 10: Depart for NHS**

**\*Ultimate Plus Protection Plan**

**Health Coverage**

24/7 medical assistance, consultation, monitoring, and emergency evacuation where deemed necessary

- Coverage up to \$50,000 no deductible
- Team Assists will pay up to \$1,500 for immediate family member to travel to trip destination in the event a participant under 21 is hospitalized more than 48 hours

**Cancellation Protection**

Cancel for any reason and receive 100% cash refund (minus the cost of the plan) up to 4 days before departure



**10 Day Tour Cost**

**Trip Cost - \$5,170**

**Ultimate Plus Insurance\* - \$500**

If Registered by 2/1/2024

**Cost Includes**

- Round Trip Tickets
- Breakfast and Dinners
- Hotels
- All local transportation
- Tour Guides
- All Museum and Entrance Tickets listed in Itinerary
- Tip for guides and drivers

**Not Included in Cost**

- Lunches (est. 10-15 Euro per lunch)
- Souvenirs/Spending money/Extras the group/student decides to do
- Charter to and from airport
  - Price depends on the number of students traveling (Estimated \$100-160)



## **Community Relations**

### **Possession of Deadly Firearms or Deadly Weapons**

#### **I. Definitions**

As used in this Policy 1700(a), the following terms have the meaning set forth herein:

- A. Deadly Weapon means any weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged, or a switchblade knife, gravity knife, billy, blackjack, bludgeon, or metal knuckles [Ref. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-3(6)]
- B. Firearm means any sawed-off shotgun, machine gun, rifle, shotgun, pistol, revolver, or other weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged. [Ref: Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-3 (19)]
- C. Real Property means the land and all temporary and permanent structures comprising the Newtown Public School District's elementary and secondary schools, administrative office buildings, and operational facilities. Real Property includes, but is not limited to, classrooms, hallways, storage facilities, theaters, gymnasiums, fields, and parking lots.
- D. School-Sponsored Activity means any activity sponsored, recognized, or authorized by the Newtown Board of Education and includes activities conducted on or off school property. [Ref: Conn. Gen. Sta. § 10-233a(h)].

#### **II. Prohibition of Deadly Weapons and Firearms**

In accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 29-28(e) and § 53a-217b, the possession and/or use of a Deadly Weapon or Firearm on the Real Property of the Newtown Public School District, on school transportation, or at a School-Sponsored Activity, is strictly prohibited by the Board of Education, even if the person possessing the Deadly Weapon or Firearm has a permit for such item, and even if the person intends to traverse school property with an unloaded Firearm or Deadly Weapon for the purpose of gaining access to public or private lands open to hunting or for other lawful purposes.

#### **III. Limited Exceptions**

Notwithstanding the foregoing prohibition of Deadly Weapons or Firearms, a person in lawful possession of a Deadly Weapon or Firearm may possess such item on the Real Property of the Newtown Public School District, on school transportation, or at a School-Sponsored Activity pursuant to the following limited exceptions:

##### **(A) Peace Officers**

A person in lawful possession of a Deadly Weapon or Firearm bringing such item on the Real Property of the Newtown Public School District, on school transportation, or at a School-Sponsored Activity, is a peace officer, as defined by Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-3, and is engaged in the performance of his or her official duties; or

**(B) Armed School Security Officers**

The person in lawful possession of a Deadly Weapon or Firearm bringing such item on the Real Property of the Newtown Public School District, on school transportation, or at a School-Sponsored Activity, is an armed security officer employed by the Board of Education to provide security services pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-244a, and is engaged in the performance of his or her official duties; or

**(C) Off-Duty Qualified Law Enforcement Officers**

The person in lawful possession of a Deadly Weapon or Firearm bringing such item on the Real Property of the Newtown Public School District, on school transportation, or at a School-Sponsored Activity, is an off-duty qualified law enforcement officer authorized by the Board of Education to do so pursuant to a written agreement between the Board of Education and the Newtown Police Department, provided such written agreement has been duly authorized and approved by the Board of Education; or

**(D) Other Specifically Authorized Persons**

The person in lawful possession of a Deadly Weapon or Firearm bringing such item on the Real Property of the Newtown Public School District, on school transportation, or at a School-Sponsored Activity, is a person authorized to do so pursuant to a written agreement with such person and the Board of Education or a written agreement between such person's employer and the Board of Education, provided such written agreement has been duly authorized and approved by the Board of Education

**IV. Consequences**

Unless subject to one of the exceptions specifically set forth in this Policy, any person who possesses a Deadly Weapon or Firearm on the Real Property of the Newtown Public School District, on school transportation, or at a School-Sponsored Activity, whether or not the person is lawfully permitted to carry such Deadly Weapon or Firearm, will be reported to law enforcement by school officials upon becoming aware of its possession.

A student who possesses and/or uses any Deadly Weapon or Firearm on the Real Property of the Newtown Public School District, on school transportation, or at a School-Sponsored Activity in violation of this policy shall be disciplined in accordance with the Board of Education's discipline policies.

The Board of Education reserves the right to forbid any person possessing a Deadly Weapon or Firearm in violation of this policy on the Real Property of the Newtown Public School District, on school transportation, or at a School-Sponsored Activity, from entering the Real Property of the Newtown Public School District and/or from using any and all school facilities of the Newtown Public School District.

## **P1700(c)**

(cf. 5114 - Suspension/Expulsion/Exclusion/Removal)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
29-28 Permit for sale at retail of pistol or revolver. Permit to carry a pistol or revolver. Confidentiality of name and address of permit holder. Permits for out-of-state residents  
29-33 Sale, delivery or transfer of pistol and revolvers. Procedure. Penalty  
53a-3 Definitions.  
53a-217b Possession of a weapon on school grounds: Class D felony  
P.A. 13-188 An Act Concerning School Safety  
10-233a Definitions  
10-244a Employment of persons to provide security services in a public school while in possession of a firearm

Policy adopted: May 5, 2015 , Effective July 1, 2015  
Policy revised: April 5, 2016, November 1, 2022

NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Newtown, Connecticut

**Please Note: These minutes are pending Board approval.  
Board of Education  
Newtown, Connecticut**

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on December 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 3 Primrose Street.

A. Plante, Chair	C. Melillo
J. Vouros, Vice Chair	A. Uberti
D. Ramsey, Secretary	T. Vadas
T. Higgins	1 Staff
S. Tomai	1 Public
C. Gilson	
D. Linnetz	
I. Khazadian (absent)	
G. Peteronjes	

Mrs. Plante called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Item 1 – Pledge of Allegiance

Item 2 – Consent Agenda

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda which includes the donations to Sandy Hook School and the correspondence report. Mrs. Tomai seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 3 – Public Participation

Item 4 – Reports

There was no Chair report tonight.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Melillo spoke about the boys and girls basketball team and the high school winter concerts this week. He wished the Newtown community, Board of Education and our school staff a joyous holiday season.

Committee reports:

Mr. Higgins reported on the Policy Committee discussion of Policies 3160 for action tonight and 1700 for first read. They also reviewed safety and security related policies 6114, 6114.1 and 6144.7. The Director of Security provided background on the development of these policies.

Mrs. Tomai spoke about the December 14 CFF meeting where they reviewed tonight's financial report.

Mr. Ramsey reported the Curriculum and Instruction Committee met December 12. There was a presentation by Reed and Middle School staff regarding the Project Challenge program. There was also an overview of the curriculum and development procedures from Mrs. Uberti.

Mr. Gilson, as the liaison for CABE, said they are scheduling a legislative breakfast to be held at Sandy Hook School on January 9 or 10. He and the Chair of the Ridgefield Board of Education will be working with CABE and the new CABE president.

Mr. Ramsey attended a concert at the middle school. They also had a career day and all of the presenters were parents of students. Workshops were conducted and lunch was provided. There was a staff breakfast last Thursday, which included retirees.



### Student Report

Mr. Peterlonges reported that with the holiday season students have been giving back to the community. The Leo's Club has donated toys to St. Rose church and on Saturday students attended a holiday party given by Families United in Newtown. Today Student Government hosted a gingerbread-making contest and students brought in canned items for the Food Pantry. Students are busy with winter sports and last Wednesday some of our students traveled to South Korea for an international exchange program to work with students on various science topics.

### Financial Report:

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved that the Board of Education approve the financial report and transfers for the month November 30, 2023. Mr. Vouros seconded.

Mrs. Vadas presented the financial report.

Motion passes unanimously.

### Item 5 – Old Business

Action on Architectural Design 2 Curriculum:

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved that the Board of Education approve the Agricultural Design 2 curriculum. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Action on Policy 3160 Budget Procedures and Line Item Transfers:

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved that the Board of Education approve Policy 3160 Budget Procedures and Line Item Transfers. Mr. Higgins seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

### Item 6 – New Business

Policy 1700 Possession of Deadly Firearms or Deadly Weapons:

Mr. Higgins spoke about this policy, which is a redraft of an existing policy. Connecticut State law outlined a series of exemptions allowing off duty officers to carry firearms in a school. There is an agreement with the Board of Education and the Newtown Police Department but we wanted to tighten up the Board policy to make sure the exception was clear. This went through a drafting process with the himself, the Director of Security, Ms. Zukowski, Mr. Cruson, and Mr. Melillo. Shipman reviewed the policy and provided some cleanups which will be reviewed. We also adopted our calendar for the upcoming year so there is time to review the policy.

Mr. Gilson asked if our resource officers carried tasers. Mr. Melillo responded that the School Resource Officers carry tasers.

Mr. Gilson said Connecticut updated their definitions in Statute 53-3 referring to tasers as electronic defense weapons and feels that should be in the policy also to which Mr. Higgins agreed.

Minutes of December 5, 2023:

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to amend the minutes of December 5, 2023 on page 4 to change "Mr. Melillo noted the report talks about shifting teachers" to "Mr. Gilson noted the report talks about shifting teachers." Mrs. Linnetz seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve the minutes of December 5, 2023. Mrs. Linnetz seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Minutes of December 7, 2023:

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of December 7, 2023. Mrs. Linnetz seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 7 – Public Participation

MOTION: Mr. Vouros moved to adjourn. Mrs. Linnetz seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 8 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Donald Ramsey  
Secretary

**Board of Education  
Newtown, Connecticut**

Minutes of the Board of Education special meeting on January 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Reed Intermediate School Library.

A. Plante, Chair	C. Melillo
J. Vouros, Vice Chair (absent)	N. Caruso (CT Association of Boards of Education)
D. Ramsey, Secretary	3 Public
T. Higgins	
S. Tomai	
C. Gilson	
D. Linnetz	

Item 1 – Call to Order

Mrs. Plante call the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Item 2 – Discussion Regarding Board Roles and Responsibilities

Nick Caruso from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) gave a presentation on the roles and responsibilities of a Board of Education.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved to adjourn. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Item 3 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Donald Ramsey  
Secretary

**Board of Education  
Newtown, Connecticut**

Minutes of the Board of Education special meeting on January 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in Board of Education Conference Room, 3 Primrose Street.

A. Plante, Chair  
J. Vouros, Vice Chair  
D. Ramsey, Secretary  
T. Higgins  
S. Tomai  
C. Gilson  
D. Linnetz

Item 1 – Call to Order

Mrs. Plante call the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Gilson moved that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss the Superintendent's mid-year evaluation. Mrs. Linnetz seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 2 – Executive Session

The Board discussed the Superintendent's mid-year evaluation and exited executive session at 7:52 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to adjourn. Mr. Vouros seconded.

Item 3 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Donald Ramsey  
Secretary

ENROLLMENT REPORT AS OF December 31, 2023

Grade	<u>Current Monthly Enrollment</u>			<u>Cumulative Year-to-Date</u>				
	Nov(e) 2023	Added	Left	Dec 2023	Sept 5th 2023	Added	Left	Dec 2023
K	275	2	0	277	273	5	1	277
1	242	0	2	240	240	2	2	240
2	300	0	1	299	300	1	2	299
3	286	0	0	286	281	5	0	286
4	279	0	0	279	279	2	2	279
Total Elementary	1,382	2	3	1,381	1,373	15	7	1,381
5	288	0	2	286	288	1	3	286
6	293	0	1	292	294	1	3	292
Total Intermediate	581	0	3	578	582	2	6	578
7	290	0	2	288	290	1	3	288
8	321	2	1	322	320	4	2	322
Total Middle	611	2	3	610	610	5	5	610
9	299	1	0	300	297	6	3	300
10	299	0	2	297	300	3	6	297
11	343	2	1	344	345	2	3	344
12	333	0	0	333	336	0	3	333
Total High	1,274	3	3	1,274	1,278	11	15	1,274
<u>Special Education</u>								
Pre-Kdg	65	2	1	66	55	14	3	66
NCP, RISE, PAL	33	1	0	34	34	1	1	34
Out-of-Town	41	1	1	41	40	6	5	41
Total Enrollment	3,987	11	14	3,984	3,972	54	42	3,984
	=====	===	===	=====	=====	===	===	=====
<u>ENROLLMENT BY SCHOOL</u>								
Hawley	289	0	0	289	288	3	2	289
Sandy Hook	356	0	0	356	351	6	1	356
Middle Gate	418	0	0	418	415	3	0	418
Head O' Meadow	319	2	3	318	319	3	4	318
Total	1,382	2	3	1,381	1,373	15	7	1,381
Reed Intermediate	581	0	3	578	582	2	6	578
Middle School	611	2	3	610	610	5	5	610
High School	1,274	3	3	1,274	1,278	11	15	1,274
<u>Special Education</u>								
Pre-Kdg	65	2	1	66	55	14	3	66
NCP, RISE, PAL	33	1	0	34	34	1	1	34
Out-of-Town	41	1	1	41	40	6	5	41
Total Enrollment	3,987	11	14	3,984	3,972	54	42	3,984
	=====	===	===	=====	=====	===	===	=====
(e) = End Of Month								
check	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Newtown, Connecticut**

ELEMENTARY CLASS SIZES AS OF December 31, 2023

Grade	Hawley	Sandy Hook	Middle Gate	Head O' Meadow	Reed	TOTAL
<b>Pre K</b>		<b>66</b>				<b>66</b>
<b>K</b>	16 17 15 16	14 15 15 15	19 19 18 18 18	15 16 15 16		
<b>Total K</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>62</b>		<b>277</b>
<b>1</b>	20 21	15 16 15 17	17 19 15 18	17 17 17 16		
<b>Total 1</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>67</b>		<b>240</b>
<b>2</b>	17 17 17 17	21 21 21 21	18 18 18 16 19	18 19 21		
<b>Total 2</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>58</b>		<b>299</b>
<b>3</b>	19 19 19	25 25 23	22 23 18 22	24 23 24		
<b>Total 3</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>71</b>		<b>286</b>
<b>4</b>	20 19 20	20 18 19 20	20 21 21 21	21 20 19		
<b>Total 4</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>60</b>		<b>279</b>
<b>Total K-4</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>318</b>		<b>1,381</b>

check  
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