

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

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on January 24, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 3 Primrose Street.

D. Zukowski, Chair	C. Melillo
J. Vouros, Vice Chair	A. Uberti
D. Ramsey, Secretary	T. Vadas
D. Cruson	15 Staff
J. Kuzma	
J. Larkin	
A. Plante	
K. Kunzweiler (absent)	
D. Godino (absent)	

Ms. Zukowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item 1 – Pledge of Allegiance

Item 2 – Newtown High School / Athletics Budget

Dr. Longobucco presented the high school budget and Mr. Memoli addressed athletics.

Mr. Melillo stated that the instructional core fits in with the student/teacher ratio. We make a conscious effort at all of the schools to ensure our students are in classes that are not overloaded. We looked at other ways to save and still meet our student needs.

Mr. Cruson asked the load for the in-school suspension tutor.

Dr. Longobucco said that some days we only have one student and some are just there for one period. It's been nice to have a consistent person but instead we will have teachers there.

Mr. Cruson asked the trend this year with office referrals.

Dr. Longobucco said that last year we had increased misbehaviors and very childish behaviors. This year has been significantly better.

Mrs. Kuzma remarked that we aren't offering buses for the middle school students.

Mr. Memoli said before Covid we had school buses transport middle and high school students to games but we don't have enough this year so parents now transport middle school students. We are working on reducing the use of coach buses by this spring.

Item 3 – Special Education and Item 4 – Pupil Personnel

Mrs. Petersen presented the special education budget which also includes out-of-district placements.

Mrs. Larkin asked what Mrs. Petersen needed.

Mrs. Petersen noted that each outplacement location regulates their tuition. Our caseloads are very manageable but there are a lot of special needs so we need the staff to help.

Mrs. Larkin asked how the special education para vacancies effect the ability to provide services for those students and if they were going unserved.

Mrs. Petersen stated they are not being underserved and we are not out of compliance. The teachers and some paras help to make sure the students get the coverage they need but it has been exhausting.

Mrs. Kuzma asked how many special education para positions were open now.  
Mrs. Petersen said there were 13 open and five behavior therapist positions open.

Mr. Melillo stated that we are using all of the resources we have to meet their needs. He thanked Mrs. Petersen and her team for providing what the students need.

Mrs. Plante asked about the reduction of a project challenge part time teacher.

Mrs. Uberti stated that she and Mrs. Petersen co-manage project challenge. We currently have a part time teacher at the middle school who also covers one elementary school part time. A retired teacher covers Middle Gate part time and she is in a one-year position. One full-time person is servicing two elementary schools.

Mr. Vouros felt it was great to have the same teachers with these students. We're hoping to have the enrichment program separate from gifted. He is concerned that too often we hear because we have a sub shortage that paras are teaching in the classroom. If so, who is working with their child and is it sub pay or para pay?

Mrs. Petersen noted that rarely a special education para will be pulled because they need to be with their student.

Mrs. Uberti said that happens very infrequently. It happened last year due to quarantining and illness. Regarding pay, there are different rates in their contracts.

Ms. Zukowski suggested having the list of out-of-district tuition by district to show the range during the budget discussion.

Mrs. Petersen would provide a comparison.

Ms. Zukowski referred to the list of grants.

Mrs. Petersen said with the grant money we wanted another teacher for the PAL program. We had a teacher last year for a month and they resigned. We decided to use the grant money for the lead BT position who has staff under them and has to train incoming staff.

#### Item 5 – Health Budget

Mrs. Petersen and Karen Powell, Nursing Supervisor, spoke about the Health Budget. From the start of this school year as of January 12, 2023, the school nurses have seen a total of 18,627 students. They also spoke about the difficulty maintaining full nurse coverage each day.

Mrs. Larkin was curious to see how this ties into an air study.

Mrs. Petersen was going to keep track of the nurse office numbers and noted that we might ask for additional nurses because Mrs. Powell is often called to fill in at the schools.

#### Item 6 – Curriculum Budget

Mrs. Uberti highlighted the curriculum and staff development budget.

Mr. Vouros thanked her for all she does to develop the staff professionally on a consistent basis.

Mrs. Larkin noted that she is valuable, touches so many in the district, and has done so much to improve how things are done. She asked where her professional development was for the new program.

Mrs. Uberti said she doesn't have a solid number yet and is working with the publisher now because it has to fit our timeline. Some may come out of her current budget. She doesn't anticipate doing much PD this year because it's too early and there is not much PD time left. Training will take place at the start of next year.

Mr. Melillo said we are looking to front load PD at the beginning of the year. Mrs. Uberti stated that the calendar will be designed for PD at the beginning of the year.

Ms. Zukowski said she was a bright spot in the district and has made an incredible impact.

Item 7 – Adoption of *Imagine Learning EL Education*

MOTION: Mrs. Kuzma moved that the Board of Education approve the one-year adoption of the Imagine Learning EL Education for grades K-4 for the 2023-2024 school year. Mrs. Larkin seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 8 – Public Participation

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

Item 9 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Donald Ramsey  
Secretary

# Newtown High School



2023-2024 Budget

# Budget Goals

- Align with school and district strategic plans, objectives and all State-mandates.
- Protect the instructional core.
- Ensure all programs have adequate resources to maintain a safe, inclusive, and a high level of instruction.
- Maintain adequate class sizes and enrollment across all disciplines.

# Proposed 2023-2024 Budget

## Budget Additions

- ❖ Salaries and Benefits
- ❖ Staff Training
- ❖ Contracted Services
- ❖ Transportation

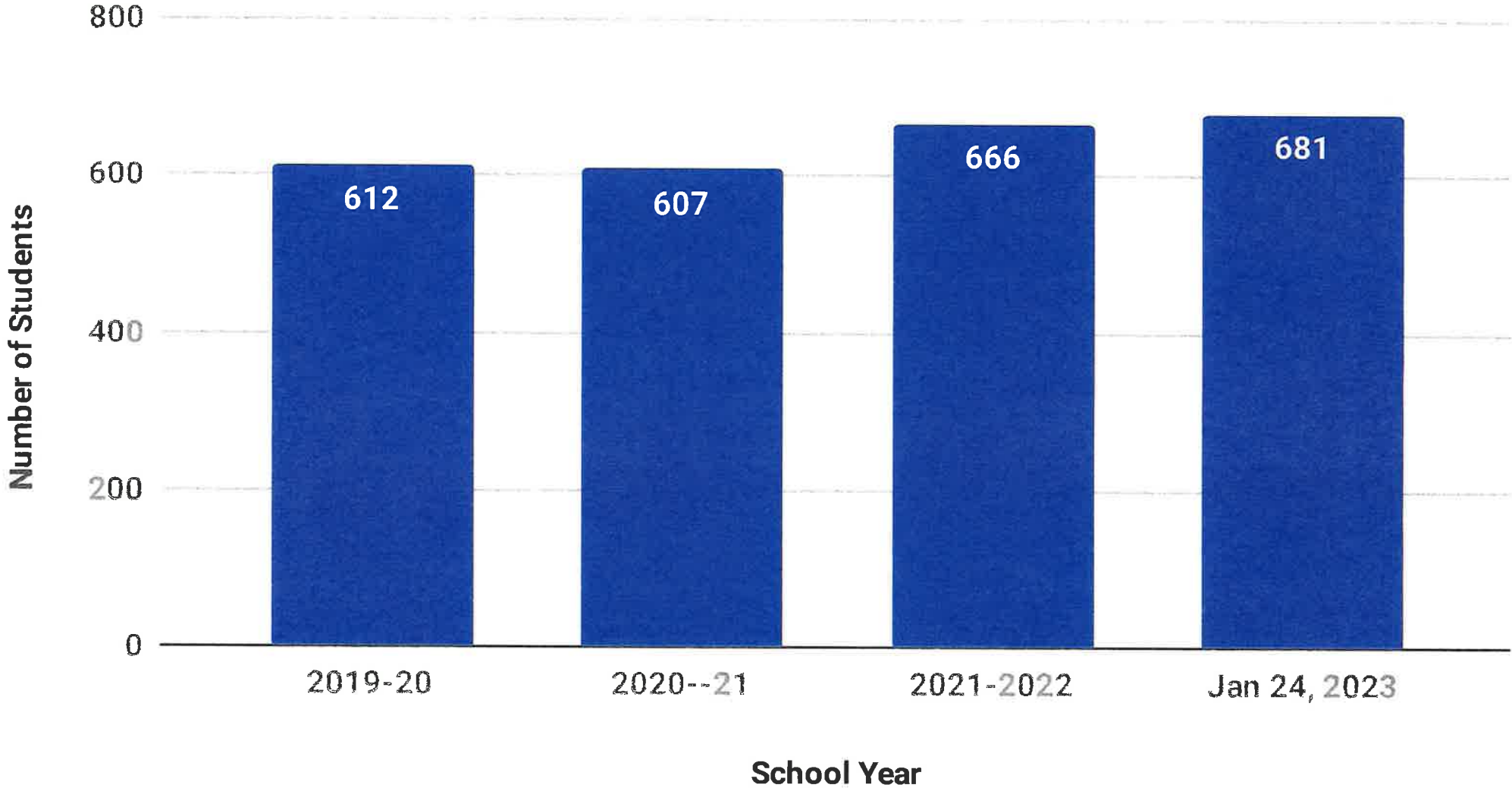
## Budget Reductions

- ❖ Communications
- ❖ Printing
- ❖ Supplies
- ❖ Tuition
- ❖ Tutor
- ❖ Textbooks

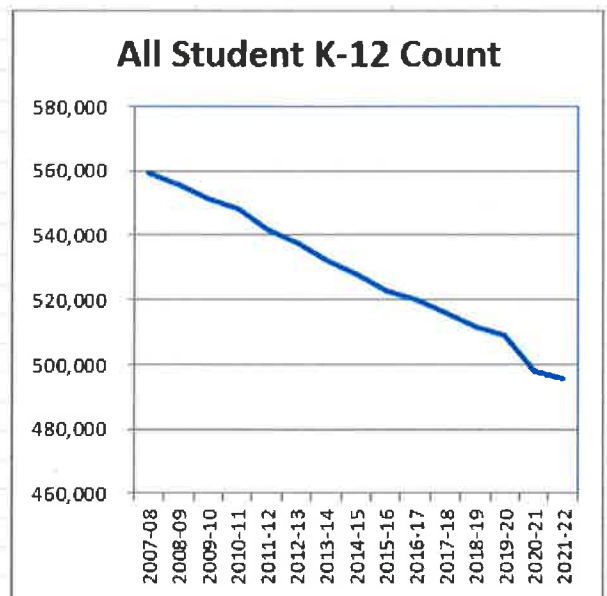
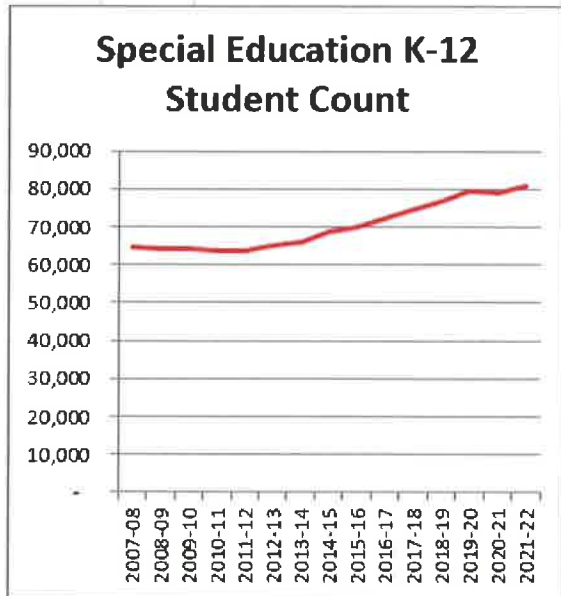
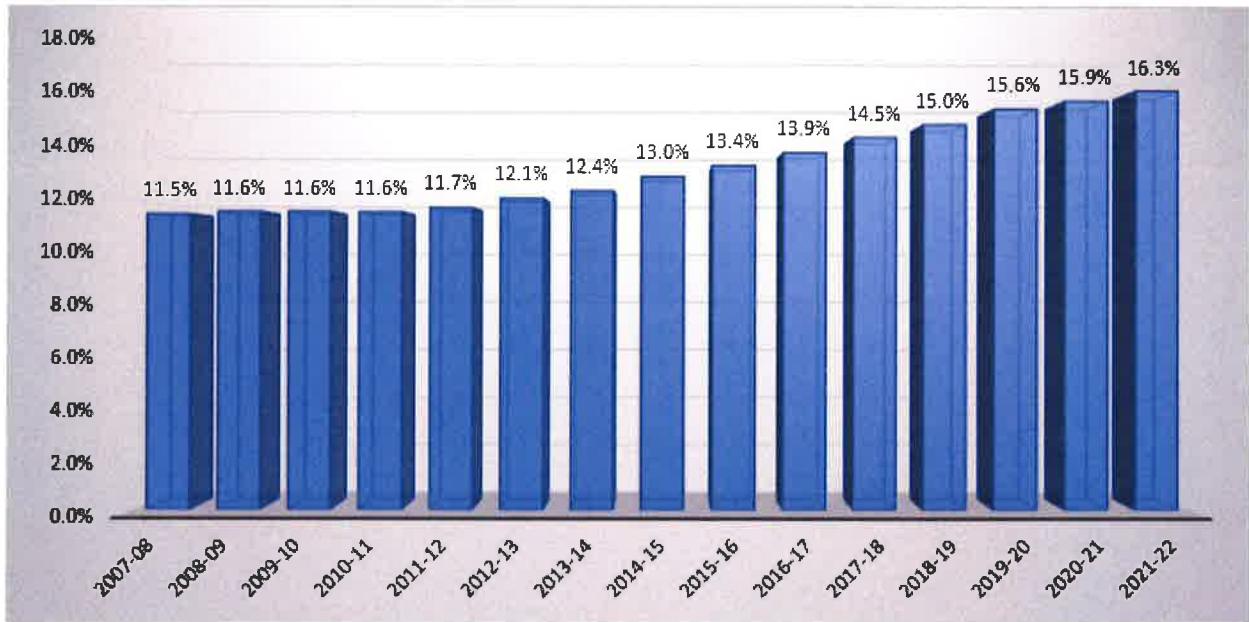
# Previous Reductions

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	Total
<b>Administration</b>							
Assistant Principal				1.0			1.0
<b>Teachers</b>							
English	0.50	1.00		0.60			2.10
Fine Arts		0.40	0.20				0.60
Math	0.50	1.00				1.00	2.50
Science	0.50	1.00	0.80		0.80		3.10
Social Studies	0.50				1.00		1.50
Tech Ed			0.20		0.50	0.40	1.10
World Language		1.00	0.28	1.00		1.00	3.28
<b>Support Staff</b>							
Career Center			0.50	0.50			1.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>4.40</b>	<b>1.98</b>	<b>3.10</b>	<b>2.30</b>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>16.18</b>

# District SPED Numbers









## NHS HEALTH OFFICE YEARLY SUMMARY 21/22

Number of student visits as of June 13, 2022- **8,226**

Top complaint upon arrival to Health office- **Headache (1,462)**

Medication administrations - **3,349**

Concussions - **25**

Field trips- **48**

### COVID!

Covid positive students reported over the past 2 years - **499**

Covid positive staff over the past 2 years - **87**

# of lines on the Nurses' Covid tracking spreadsheet for the past 2 years- **1985**

**SCHOOL YEAR  
NURSING  
2022-2023**

Visits to the nurses office as of **January 12, 2023**:

Newtown High School	<b>3,798</b>
Newtown Middle School	<b>2,052</b>
Reed Intermediate School	<b>3,980</b>
Hawley Elementary School	<b>2,130</b>
Head O'Meadow Elem School	<b>2,389</b>
Middle Gate Elementary School	<b>2,062</b>
Sandy Hook Elementary School	<b>2,216</b>

**Total # of Students seen** **18,627**

January 9, 2023 marked day #83 of the school year. Out of 83 days, **ONLY 18** of those days have had full nursing staff (each building nurse was in attendance).

As of January 19, 2023:

Nursing coverage (Karen as the Supervisor) has totaled **167.5 hours**. When divided by 7 (school day) equates to approximately **24 days**

# Curriculum & Staff Development Budget Proposal 2023-2024

Anne Uberti  
Assistant Superintendent  
Presentation to the Board of Education  
January 24, 2023

# Goals of the 23-24 Curriculum and Staff Development Budget

Strategic Plan: Objective 1, Strategy 1:

“We will develop and implement a rigorous academic curriculum and ensure that all staff use effective instructional tools, best practices, assessment data and intervention resources to improve academic standing and inspire students to excel.”

# Listening, Learning, Leading

*Identified priorities related to curriculum and instruction and staff development are derived from meaningful interactions with all stakeholders:*

- Districtwide curriculum committees
- Direct conversations with staff members
- Discussions with Board members in C&I
- Feedback from parents, students and fellow administrators
- Firsthand observations of classrooms
  - Collegial conversations with colleagues from other districts
- New state and/or federal initiatives
- Unanticipated conditions impacting student learning



# Curriculum and Staff Development Budget Sections

Staff & Curriculum Development  
Staff Training  
Contracted Services  
Textbooks



# Staff & Curriculum Development

## *Proposed Curriculum Development*

### ➤ **Reed/Middle**

- Computer Integration - Grades 5 & 6
- Science - Grades 5 - 8
- Spanish & French - Grades 7 & 8
- Band - Grades 5 - 12

### ➤ **High School**

- Linear Algebra
- Latin 3 & 4
- Middle Eastern Studies
- Asian Studies
- Philosophy
- Applied Research Design
- Anatomy and Physiology
- English I
- Sports Literature
- Travel & Tourism
- Architecture
- Theater Design



# Staff & Curriculum Development

## *Proposed Staff Development*

- Coordinators to develop and lead in-house training and support
- New Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM)
- Collaborative Planning Summer Meetings for K-4 Leadership Teams
- District Committees that provide leadership and direction in the following areas:
  - English Language Arts
  - Mathematics
  - Science
  - Social Studies
  - Digital Literacy & Technology
  - Curriculum Development
  - Professional Development and Evaluation

# Staff Training

## *Professional development opportunities provided by outside consultants*

- **Professional development supported by outside consultants**
  - Inquiry-based instruction training for Newtown Middle School Science & Social Studies Departments
  - Ongoing Training for Year-2 Implementation of Into Math
- **Fine Arts Professional Learning for K-8**
  - Attendance at various regional professional learning opportunities based on area of speciality
- **Attendance at Regional Conferences**
  - Language Arts Consultants - Connecticut Reading Association
  - Math Specialists - Association of Teachers of Mathematics in New England
- **English Language Learner (ELL) Training**
  - Provide support to our ELL teachers, as well as build capacity of staff who support ELLs on a daily basis
- **Speakers and Presenters for Professional Development Days**
  - District PD Days and District Professional Learning Community days

# Contracted Services

- **Rubicon Atlas**
  - Curriculum management platform
- **iReady**
  - iReady Reading and Math Assessment for Grades 2 through 8
  - Personalized Instruction Licenses to Support Intervention and Special Education
- **Dibels Next**
  - The Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills® (DIBELS) Next are a set of procedures and measures for assessing the acquisition of early literacy skills used as universal screening tool for early detection of possible reading disabilities for Grades K through 3 and selected intervention and special education students
- **BrainPOP**
  - Online platform that provides videos to help teachers deliver content in science, social studies, math, engineering and technology, health, and arts & music.
- **IXL**
  - Online math and language arts platform that evaluates proficiency in math and language arts and generates personalized guidance and practice for students and actionable analytics for teachers
- **Lexia**
  - Adaptive blended learning program that accelerates the development of literacy skills for students of all abilities
- **Newsela**
  - Features articles from major news and outlets that are adapted to multiple reading levels, used at NMS, science and social studies
- **Achieve 3000**
  - Differentiated language arts instruction that supports English language learners
- **Learning A to Z**
  - Digital supplemental literacy resource that supports reading, writing, science and vocabulary development
- **Mystery Science**
  - Online platform that supports K-5 Science

# Textbooks

- New K-4 Reading Resource
  - Implementation of EL Imagine Learning Reading Program in K through 4 (supplemented with Foundations and Heggerty)
- Updated Edition of Latin Textbook
- Classroom Libraries for New Teachers/Grade Change

Questions and/or comments...

