

Attendance:

Laura Roche, Board of Education
Debbie Leidlein, Board of Education

Keith Alexander, Board of Education
Kinga Walsh, public

• **CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Education communication subcommittee meeting was called to order at 5:45 pm.

• **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Kinga Walsh submitted a statement idea she drafted. The draft is included in the minutes

• **NEW BUSINESS - Discussion and Possible Action regarding Board of Education Budget Communication**

Keith shared a draft statement with the committee that was put together with feedback from board members. The committee reviewed the draft and made a few minor changes.

A motion by Ms. Leidlein and seconded by Mr. Alexander.
Move that the communication committee except the statement as drafted in support of the budget to be reviewed by the full board at our next meeting.
Motion passes 3-0

• **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - No public participation.**

• **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion by Mr. Alexander and seconded by Ms. Leidlein was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 pm.
All in favor.

Action Items:

Bring Draft to the special meeting for board approval. The approved communication subcommittee draft is included in the minutes

Submitted: Laura Roche, Communication Committee Chair

Draft statement from Board of Education in support of budget.

We, the Board of Education, fully support the Board of Education budget as presented to the Board of Finance. We believe this budget addresses both the educational needs of our district as well as the declining enrollment. It is the collective work of the Superintendent and the Board of Education to present a fiscally responsible budget. We realize that there may be necessary adjustments to the budget due to realized differences in costs and we would support any mutually-recognized adjustments due to findings during the review by the Board of Finance. As we move forward, the Superintendent and the Board of Education will continue to examine the school system for efficiencies, as stated in our board goals, along with a continuous review of the effects of declining enrollment.

We respectfully ask the Board of Finance to collaborate with us to support this budget.

Questions/issues:

- 1) Too little too late? Missed opportunity?
- 2) Health insurance
- 3) Security
- 4) ECS reimbursements
- 5) Potential new "savings" gained from new information during the budget process (e.g., oil, electricity)
- 6) Simple terms vs. legal language

We, the Newtown Board of Education, want to ensure that the public clearly understands our position on the proposed 2014-15 education budget. On February 24th, we presented our budget to the Board of Finance as the next step in the budget approval process. At that time, and still today, we firmly believe in and support the efforts of Dr. Reed, his staff and all the district staff and administration to put forth a fair, balanced, and strategically aligned budget. Our unanimous vote to move this budget forward reinforces this viewpoint. We hope that you, the residents, are united with us in this support.