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Board of Education Budget Meeting
January 18, 2024

Reed Intermediate School Library
3 Trades Lane, Newtown, CT
6:00 p.m.-Executive Session
7:00 p.m.-Public Session

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 EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - Discuss Superintendent's Mid-year Evaluation
- Item 2 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- Item 3 CONSENT AGENDA
 - Donation to Newtown High School
 - Newtown High School April 2025 ACIS Trip
 - Correspondence Report
- Item 4 SECOND READ AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON POLICY 1700 POSSESSION OF DEADLY FIREARMS OR DEADLY WEAPONS
- Item 5 SUPERINTENDENT'S OVERVIEW OF THE 2024-2025 BUDGET
- Item 6 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUDGETS
- Item 7 REED INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL BUDGET
- Item 8 NEWTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL BUDGET
- Item 9 TECHNOLOGY BUDGET
- Item 10 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- Item 11 ADJOURNMENT

***The Board encourages the public to share thoughts and concerns regarding agenda items during Public Participation. After being recognized, please state your name and address for the record. We request that speakers be respectful and limit comments to three minutes. The Board of Education does not discuss personnel items or student matters in public nor does it engage in dialogue during the public comment period. If you desire more information or responses to specific questions, please email the Board.*

Proposed Motions January 18, 2024

- Move that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda which includes the donation to Newtown High School, the Newtown High School April 2025 ACIS trip, and the correspondence report
- Move that the Board of Education approve Policy 1700 Possession of Deadly Firearms or Deadly Weapons



Newtown High School

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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

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