

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

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting on February 19, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Reed Intermediate School Library.

D. Leidlein, Chair	J. Reed
L. Roche, Vice Chair (absent)	L Gejda
K. Hamilton, Secretary	R.Bienkowski
K. Alexander (6:10 p.m.)	1 Press
J. Vouros	
D. Freedman	
M. Ku	

Mrs. Leidlein called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Item 1 – Pledge of Allegiance

Item 2 – Consent Agenda

MOTION: Ms. Hamilton moved to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes of February 6 and February 11, 2014, the leave request and high school spring coaches.

Mr. Vouros seconded.

MOTION: Ms. Hamilton moved to remove the minutes of February 6 and February 11, 2014 and the leave request. Mr. Freedman seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Vote on the high school spring coaches: Motion passes unanimously.

Item 3 – Public Participation

Item 4 – Reports

Correspondence Report: Ms. Hamilton read the attached list of correspondence.

Chair Report: Ms. Leidlein mentioned the Board of Finance public hearing on the budget was Thursday night at 7:00 p.m. February 24 will be the Board of Education budget presentation to the Board of Finance at 7:00 p.m. and their meeting on February 27 will discuss security and enrollment.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Reed met with Tom Kuroski to discuss possible teacher retirements and is expecting information from the union. He referred to a document written by CAFE, CASBO, CAPSS and CAS regarding state funding for public schools. He shared with the Board a draft regional calendar from Education Connection for the 2015-2016 school year. He said during the next charter revision to propose that the referendum date be changed because of the number of families that travel over the April break.

Dr. Reed spoke about the budget and the impact of the Sandy Hook tragedy on our school system, our students, staff and families. This has also had a short term impact on people moving into this town and no one can determine the scope of that impact during the next three to five years. In a video sent to parents he stated the next 15 months is the most important time for parents to be involved in the Town. There's a lot at stake. Enrollment is a variable we have to deal with. Redistricting should not occur until the opening of the new school.

Mr. Vouros commented that the visiting priest from Scotland said it has been 17 years since their school tragedy and they are still dealing with it.

February 6, 2014 Minutes:

Ms. Hamilton referred to her correction on page six where the vote on the amendment was listed twice and her additional comments on page 7 as follows.

*Ms. Hamilton said that this is saying that there is this other ancillary budget. We don't know whose budget it is going to go into and we are going to leave it up to the Board of Finance to decide? I don't understand why we haven't decided this with the Board of Selectman prior to getting to this point.*

*Ms. Hamilton said that my impression of pulling this information out was to understand what the costs were not to present it as a separate budget.*

*Ms. Hamilton said that I would have recommended that we had decided this prior to and does not think this is a good way to go.*

The following sentence was eliminated on page 7 before Mrs. Leidlein's first statement.

*Ms. Hamilton said we don't know whose budget it will go into and asked why this hadn't been decided.*

MOTION: Ms. Hamilton moved to approve the amended minutes of February 6, 2014.

Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Dr. Reed stated he believed the minutes should reflect action and cannot capture all comments at a meeting. The meetings are recorded for that purpose.

Mr. Freedman questioned Dr. Reed's concern regarding changing the minutes.

Vote on amended minutes: motion passes unanimously.

Minutes of February 11, 2014:

Ms. Hamilton referred to her additional sentence at the beginning of her comments on page 3 as follows.

*Ms. Hamilton said that the motion read does not represent my views about this situation.*

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved to approve the amended minutes of February 11, 2014.

Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Freedman wanted more information involving the leave of absence request and asked if this had any impact on the budget.

Dr. Reed said this could not be addressed in public session. The leave has no impact on the budget. We have numerous teachers who will lose their jobs because of the reduction of teaching positions and the approval of the leave would keep one of those teachers employed.

MOTION: Ms. Hamilton moved to table the leave request until the next regular meeting.

Mr. Freedman seconded.

Mrs. Ku asked if there was any effect if we wait until the next meeting.

Dr. Reed doesn't know what the effects would be.

Mr. Vouros felt this should have been investigated prior to the meeting. This is important and many things are considered before someone requests a leave. If it is tabled now and he was the teacher, he would be offended.

Mr. Freedman had concerns and wanted more information that he didn't feel he would get prior to the meeting and would prefer to wait.

Dr. Reed said this recommendation is his best judgment.

Mrs. Leidlein was not in favor of tabling the motion. This is a quality teacher we would be lucky to have back and he wants to come back. This has no impact on the budget.

Ms. Hamilton said if Board members aren't comfortable they should be able to ask questions and it should be in public.

Vote on motion to table the request: 2 ayes, 4 nays (Mrs. Leidlein, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Vouros, Mrs. Ku) Motion failed.

Vote on approval of the leave request: 4 ayes, 2 nays (Ms. Hamilton, Mr. Freedman) Motion passes.

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved to approve the financial report for the month ending January 31, 2014. Mrs. Ku seconded.

Mr. Bienkowski presented the financial report. There are no transfers this month as a result of the time constraints in preparing the 2014-2015 budgets. The Town of Monroe included gallons of oil for Chalk Hill and sent us the bill. Our budget estimate is 21,000 gallons and Monroe's was 44,000 gallons. It would be prudent to include an estimate for Chalk Hill.

Ms. Hamilton asked if we could make up the oil usage when we top off the tanks over the summer.

Mr. Bienkowski said we could do that based on available funds prior to the end of the fiscal year.

Motion passes unanimously.

February 4, 2014 Minutes:

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved to approve the minutes of February 4, 2014. Mr. Freedman seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 7 – Public Participation

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved to adjourn. Mr. Freedman seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 8 - Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Kathy Hamilton  
Secretary

BOE Communications Report, 2/19/2014  
 Kathy Hamilton, Board of Education Secretary

<b>From</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Michelle Hankin	02/06/2014	Budget - Support of armed officers for 2014-15 school year
Karen Roszman	02/06/2014	Budget – Support of continued security and class size
Kerry Knop	02/06/2014	Budget - Support of continued security
Brian Jackson	02/06/2014	Budget - Support of SSOs
Neasa Waaler	02/06/2014	Budget - Support of police in schools not SROs
Victoria Ricks	02/06/2014	Budget - Support of continued armed security
Suzanne & Robert Murray	02/06/2014	Budget - Support of SSOs and education budget
Jennifer Stolz	02/06/2014	Budget – Make security highest priority
Sarah Engle	02/06/2014	Budget – Wants police officers not retired police officers
Hillary Bateman	02/06/2014	Wants SROs as opposed to SSOs
Courage to Speak Foundation	02/07/2014	Invitation to their drug free family night
Edmon Berry	02/09/2014	Bergen County Academies High School junior in NJ offering programming opportunity to high school students
Pat Llodra via Debbie	02/11/2014	Letter asking the BOE to hold off any final decisions about security funding until the budgets reach the BOF.
Bob Tait	02/11/2014	Budget for medical health insurance
Lilly Rose	02/14/2014	Sharing a song written by Paul Kirkland, Jr. in memory of those who lost their lives at SHS.
Steve Hinden	02/18/2014	Advocating for BOE budget
Beth Hegarty	02/18/2014	Advocating for BOE budget

**Board of Education  
Newtown, Connecticut**

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting on February 6, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers, 3 Primrose Street.

D. Leidlein, Chair	J. Reed
L. Roche, Vice Chair	L. Gejda
K. Hamilton, Secretary	R. Bienkowski
K. Alexander	9 Staff
J. Vouros	4 Public
D. Freedman	2 Press
M. Ku	

Mrs. Leidlein called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Item 1 – Pledge of Allegiance

Item 2 – Public Participation

Laura Terry, 64 Robin Hill Road, expressed support for continued armed officers in our schools and requested a motion for the SRO and SSO positions to be a function of the Newtown Police Department. SSO's are a great cost effective way to protect the students. The police department could also utilize these positions instead of using police officers. She also asked to use the contingency fund as a savings to taxpayers.

Karyn Holden, Berkshire Road, thanked Dr. Reed and the administration for putting forth a conservative and responsible budget to support the schools. The solution to hire armed retired police officers is the right decision. She urged the Board to support the budget as submitted and have SSO's in our schools.

Kristen Elesovitch, 16 Fieldstone Drive, feels it is critical to maintain a police presence at the schools and asked to keep the expense on the Town side of the budget.

Bob Merola, 22 Ashford Lane, is a member of the Legislative Council but his comments do not reflect their opinion. He feels the high school is overstaffed. He asked the Board to consider reducing staff at the high school.

Item 3 – Discussion and Possible Adoption of 2014-2015 Budget

Mrs. Ku requested reviewing the Board budget goals.

Goal 1: Meet student and staff needs resulting from the events of December 14, 2012. As a result of the Sandy Hook tragedy, the mental health, safety and academic needs of district staff and students are of great importance and are reflected in this budget.

Mrs. Leidlein said that Dr. Reed stated in his presentation that we are planning to meet the needs of the students.

Mrs. Roche said she has received emails regarding third grade class size going up to 23 and 24 students at Head O'Meadow School.

Dr. Reed stated that the other grade levels in that school are at the other end of the guidelines. Head O'Meadow enrollment has increased by six students since October.

Goal 2: Support the Newtown High School preparation for the 2015-2016 NEASC accreditation. The preparation process for the NEASC committee visit includes the completion of a lengthy self-study report and collection of artifacts that substantiate the high school's efforts in meeting the accreditation standards.

Dr. Reed said there are not a lot of financial costs right now. More would be the following year for the visitation.

Mr. Alexander asked if reducing staff at the high school would affect the NEASC accreditation. Dr. Reed said he wasn't here when the last NEASC accreditation was held but they did touch upon class size.

Goal 3: Provide an educational infrastructure to support the maintenance of existing and expanding technology requirements (including Bring Your Own Device), mandated implementation and assessment of new standards (Common Core State Standards), implementation of recommended security measures, and mandated educator evaluation plans.

Mrs. Leidlein said the technology budget takes care of the obsolescence to be able to administer the new assessments, we will work on our curriculum to meet common core state standards, and security measures and mandated educator evaluation plans are also in our budget.

Mrs. Ku stated the implementation of a new testing program and electronic devices in the schools puts a strain on the IT department.

Dr. Reed said this was an identified problem area. We need to look at the structure of our staffing. The Town has two vacancies in their tech department but there could be some unification. We also have a number of high school students we are using now which may expand.

Mrs. Leidlein asked if there was funding in the grants for technology maintenance.

Mr. Bienkowski said there was \$12,000 for licensing our radios, keyless entry and surveillance systems.

Goal 4: Implement all activities listed in the Newtown Public Schools Coherence Plan. Highlights of the Coherence Plan include oversight, guidance and management of the new Sandy Hook School construction process; the implementation of the School Emergency response to Violence (SERV) Grant; and development of a coherent, focused, constancy of organizational purpose.

Mrs. Leidlein stated this document addressed many items including goals for learning, curriculum and instruction, assessment and data.

Mrs. Ku said it also mentioned the evaluation of the gifted and talented program. It is important that this remains something we are dedicated to.

Dr. Reed said this program is always discussed at budget time. The vision we have is once the recommendations come forth there should be an effort to engage the community to explain why it's a necessary program.

Goal 5: Plan for future needs of the Newtown Public School system. Through strategic planning an updated enrollment projection study, data will be gathered for informed decisions concerning efficient use of facilities, technology and security needs.

Mrs. Leidlein said we've included the enrollment study, strategic plan, are looking to continue the discussion for efficiencies with the Town side and continuous evaluation of our technology and security needs in the district.

Ms. Hamilton addressed Laura Terry's comments. We all support the security initiatives and they will continue to evolve overtime. For next year it sounds like our plan will be to use the SSO's with the SRO's. She suggested checking with Pat Llodra on the use of the \$347,826.

Mrs. Ku spoke about five-year planning for facilities and technology.

Dr. Reed said this five-year plan is a good start. We may need an architect to revisit estimates in the CIP a year before they are to be acted upon.

Goal 6: Investigate the possible collaboration with municipal government to look for ways to provide better efficiencies and more transparent operations in administrative overhead areas.

Mrs. Leidlein said Dr. Reed and Mrs. Llodra have been having ongoing discussions regarding efficiencies. A previous study made recommendations regarding the financial systems. Mrs. Ku thanked Dr. Reed, Dr. Gejda and the administrators for putting together a thoughtful budget and making hard choices.

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved to adopt the Superintendent's recommended budget for a total of \$71,580,034. Mrs. Ku seconded.

Dr. Reed listed the possible deductions from the Department of Justice Grant which include \$207,500 for locking mechanism replacement, \$67,856 for voice over IP for the intermediate school, and \$22,000 for special education tuition which also includes transportation. Additional potential reductions would include the truck because the frame has significantly weakened. That cost is \$30,000. The sewer assessment is \$15,393, the cost for the strategic plan consultant is \$25,000 and the enrollment study would be \$17,500. These could be paid from this year's budget.

MOTION: Ms. Hamilton moved to amend the main motion to reduce the approved budget by \$395,249. Mr. Alexander seconded.

Ms. Hamilton asked if there was any word on the \$511,000.

Dr. Reed said it came in after the fiscal year and deposited in an account Bob Tait maintains.

Mr. Bienkowski said the Town is the applicant for the DOJ Grant. The first phase was the crisis phase for \$511,000. The Town has \$120,000 for the crisis phase. The consequence phase is an 18 month program and they are in the final stage of actively reviewing this grant.

Ms. Hamilton said the \$511,000 is supposed to reimburse the school district for expenses during the crisis phase but it didn't come in until after the year closed. It was put into an account to hold. We are looking at how to get the money to us legally.

Vote on amendment for the \$395,249 reduction: motion passes unanimously.

Ms. Hamilton said last year during the budget discussion there was a suggestion to have a set budget number for maintenance and technology costs for them to expect every year which would be easier for budget planning.

MOTION: Ms. Hamilton moved to amend the main motion to reduce technology equipment by \$50,000. Mr. Freedman seconded.

Ms. Ku would propose adding money into the technology budget rather than take out. Mr. Alexander requested we put in a policy to spend half a percent on technology in the budget so it would no longer be a talking point. He prefers to leave this line item as is.

Dr. Gejda stated we are in the midst of scheduling the SBAC testing for March. Mrs. Amodeo has been testing our computers for the assessment. The elementary schools will take a test every day for three weeks. During that time, the computers will not be available for other types of instruction.

Mr. Freedman asked how the 1,035 ipads we received are being used. Mrs. Amodeo said this summer we had close to 200 ipads used by administrators, special education staff and students. Over the summer we received 835 which were distributed to each regular education K-8 teacher and a number of ipad carts went to the buildings for student use. The 91 in the budget are part of the purchase three years ago.

Mr. Freedman would recommend we reduce the ipads to 45 from 91. Ms. Hamilton asked if all 91 failed or is it the three-year mark. Mrs. Amodeo said we may have time.

Mrs. Leidlein mentioned that it might be better to make a recommendation for an amount to be reduced but leave where it will be reduced to whoever was in charge of that area.

Vote: 3 ayes, 4 nays (Mrs. Roche, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Vouros, Mrs. Ku) Motion failed.

Ms. Hamilton had a similar suggestion for building and site maintenance projects. She looked at what we've spent since 2000-2001 through 2013-2014 which was an average of \$450,000 and would like to level set what the spending is.

MOTION: Ms. Hamilton moved to amend the main motion to reduce building and site maintenance projects by \$50,000. Mr. Freedman seconded.

Dr. Reed said the challenge will be using past expenditures on the sole guide is new needs that will become part of the maintenance budget spending related to security. Such were not a part of the budget two years ago. The locks were done because of security. The technology budget has the same challenge.

Mr. Alexander said the areas of building and site would be good to have a policy for also. We are cutting in an area where the needs don't change. He is not in favor of making this reduction.

Mr. Freedman asked if we could use nonrecurring money for any of these projects. Mr. Bienkowski stated we could.



Vote: 2 ayes, 5 nays (Mrs. Leidlein, Mrs. Roche, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Vouros, Mrs. Ku) Motion failed.

Ms. Hamilton thanked Dr. Reed and the staff and principals for working so hard on the budget which reflects more appropriate staffing levels. This is a respectful budget which takes into account what has been happening over the last couple of years. People are concerned about staffing at the high school. The NEASC report in 2005 cited deficiencies included alignment of policies, overcrowding, the need for more opportunities for teachers to collaborate, lack of technology and lack of space for kids to eat lunch to name a few. We were put on warning status. After two years there was a report in October 2007 in which we had to state where we were in addressing the deficiencies. In 2006 we added 3.5 teachers and in 2007 added additional 3.4 teachers to address overcrowding in some classes. At the same time we were trying to do the high school addition. Presentations indicated we were going to have over 2000 students in the high school and the number of staff needed. All of this was based on an enrollment study showing more students at the high school. We are back to where we were in 2007-08. She would like to see staff reduced at the high school

MOTION: Ms. Hamilton moved to amend the main motion to reduce the certified salary line by \$300,000 which is five teaching positions. Mr. Freedman seconded.

Mr. Vouros was concerned there wasn't enough information on how this would affect students and their course loads.

Mr. Alexander was concerned about courses being available and did not feel qualified to suggest a reduction there.

Mrs. Ku suggested Dr. Reed analyze these numbers. It's not good to compare from the 2006 school year.

Mr. Vouros asked to look at having a teacher teach an extra class instead of hiring a teacher. Dr. Gejda said adding a sixth class is extremely taxing for the teacher. When this does occur it is usually a temporary position.

Mrs. Leidlein said if we reduce teachers we could have that scenario again and have deficiencies. She was concerned about specifying a particular area before finding the impact on the students and courses they want to take.

Ms. Hamilton went through the schedule and merged the classes that had multiple levels. She was concerned seeing class sizes much lower than at the other schools. Some are higher but quite a few lower and she questioned the need for some of these classes. She questioned running the Yearbook course this spring with six students in one and seven in the other.

Mr. Alexander said we've explained why the high school had these increases. Times have changed. We offer more courses because that's what we do in this country in the high schools. We haven't given the high school the chance to answer that question.

Mr. Vouros asked why there were combined classes.

Dr. Reed said there are several at the high school because we are trying to find a way give the courses students need and staff efficiency.

Mr. Freedman stated we need \$139,481 to get to a flat budget. He suggested Dr. Reed work with that amount and decide where it would come from.

Vote on amendment: 2 ayes, 5 nays (Mrs. Leidlein, Mrs. Roche, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Vouros, Mrs. Ku) Motion failed.

MOTION: Mr. Freedman moved to amend the main motion to reduce an additional \$139,481 at the discretion of the Superintendent. Mrs. Hamilton seconded.

Mrs. Ku was not in favor of targeting a zero percent increase. We trust Dr. Reed to make good decisions as to where to make reductions. She isn't going to reduce it anymore.

Mr. Alexander is also willing to trust Dr. Reed and Dr. Erardi to work those numbers in.

Mr. Vouros want to be sure we have money for GATES if the committee wants to expand the program.

Mrs. Leidlein also was trusting Dr. Reed with the reductions.

Vote on amendment: 5 ayes, 2 nays (Mr. Vouros, Mrs. Ku) Motion passed.

Original motion: approve proposed budget as amended 71,045,304

Mr. Alexander restated the reason he chose to go with this number was because it is very much supporting what the Superintendent has selected and gives him minor discretion in reaching the bottom number.

Roll call vote on main motion for budget adoption:

Mrs. Ku – aye                      Ms. Hamilton - aye

Mr. Freedman – aye              Mrs. Roche – aye

Mr. Vouros – aye                Mrs. Leidlein - aye

Mr. Alexander - aye

Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved that the Board of Education direct the business office to prepare the final budget and authorize the Director of Business to make any technical or arithmetical changes necessary. Mrs. Roche seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Mrs. Leidlein referred to the security document proposed for our consideration. It was recommended that these numbers be removed from our budget and be presented separately. We do have to pass the bottom line onto the Board of Finance. There could be some adjustments made to the bottom line figure.

MOTION: Mrs. Ku moved that the Board of Education adopt a security budget for personnel and arming equipment in the amount of \$540,562 with the acknowledgement that \$324,525 of this request is in the Board of Education's adopted budget above and that the district has applied for \$209,024 in potential offsets through the SERV Grant and DOJ Victims Grant program, and further resolves that a security projects budget request in the amount of \$2,440,650 as reviewed by the Board of Education (Schedule A) and the majority submitted to the DOJ Victims Grant program as part of this action which is respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Finance. Our understanding is that the decision about the specific determinations about placement of expenditures in the Town or the Board of Education budget will be made at a later date.

\$ 540,562	Armed and Non-armed Security Guards
-324,525	Included in BOE Budget 2014-2015
-209,024	Guard Grant Requests – SERV and DOJ
2,440,650	Security Projects Total
-1,757,606	Potential Grants and Funds from 2012-2013
<u>\$ - 646,166</u>	From Donations
\$ 43,891	Balance

Mr. Freedman seconded.

Dr. Reed said the security budget Mr. Bienkowski provided gives information if we don't get the grants what would be needed. It is likely we will get these grants but also lists 243,000 if we didn't get the grants. The Board of Education is taking this on with the Board of Selectman. This type of safety function is normally taken on by the municipal side.

Ms. Hamilton said that this is saying that there is the other ancillary budget. We don't know whose budget it is going to go into and we are going to leave it up to the Board of Finance to decide? I don't understand why we haven't decided this with the Board of Selectman prior to getting to this point.

Mrs. Leidlein said discussions were ongoing but the other boards wanted to look at it and discuss it with the Board of Selectman and Board of Education.

Ms. Hamilton said that my impression of pulling this information out was to understand what the costs were not to present it as a separate budget. She asked if the Board of Finance could add it to our budget.

Mrs. Leidlein said they would make a recommendation to the Legislative Council.

Ms. Hamilton said that I would have recommended that we had decided this prior to and does not think this is a good way to go.

Mrs. Roche was also concerned. We don't know the cost after next year. How will this play out in the years to come?

Mrs. Leidlein said the Legislative Council will make that determination based on the recommendation of the Board of Finance to add the \$43,891 to our budget.

Mr. Freedman wants to make sure steps are taken to see if we will be able to sustain this.

Dr. Reed didn't know who was going to be in the group to decide. The Board of Education will turn to the Town for cooperation.

Ms. Hamilton was not comfortable leaving a decision like this to another board besides our board. That means we are taking on the cost. This should be in our budget or there should be a discussion between Mrs. Leidlein, Dr. Reed and Mrs. Llodra to determine what goes where. We should be working with the Board of Selectman.

Mr. Alexander said having the SSO's has not been a Board of Education decision. It was brought by the First Selectman and Dr. Reed.

Mr. Bienkowski said the motion brings together all the discussion we've had about security so when we do sit down we have a defined set of parameters to deal with.

Ms. Hamilton said once we pass it on we have no vote left. This should not be left up to the other boards. We should move to table whether this will be the process.

Dr. Reed said it is very important that the funding that is being spent from the Selectman's current budget be clearly understood so that it doesn't appear to the public that the school security officer program requires new funding. There needs to be a partnership.

Mr. Alexander wants to make sure it comes across that we want to provide the best security for our students. There is a lot of support for armed security. Some were concerned if the Board of Education should provide it. We need to make it clear if we want to turn this over to the security committee.

MOTION: Ms. Hamilton moved to table the motion. Mr. Alexander seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

#### Item 4 – Public Participation

Laura Terry was confused that the Board went to a zero percent increase because we aren't done with reductions. It was not our job just to be concerned about the taxpayers.

Marabeth Pereira, 33 Pocono Road, as a tech liaison she said it varies from school to school as to what their job involves. When technology fails it is a problem. At their PTA meeting they supported the presented budget but not with a reduction of \$138,000. If security is part of the Board of Education budget she feels there will be reductions.

Dr. Gejda informed the Board of the Southern Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair being held at Newtown High School this Saturday from noon until 1:30 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved to adjourn. Mrs. Roche seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

#### Item 5 - Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Kathy Hamilton  
Secretary

**Board of Education  
Newtown, Connecticut**

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting on February 11, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Reed Intermediate School Library.

D. Leidlein, Chair	J. Reed
L. Roche, Vice Chair	L. Gejda
K. Hamilton, Secretary	R. Bienkowski
K. Alexander	2 Public
J. Vouros	2 Press
D. Freedman	
M. Ku	

Mrs. Leidlein called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Mrs. Roche questioned why there was no public participation on the agenda  
Mr. Alexander thought normally it's not on the agenda for special meetings.

MOTION: Mrs. Roche moved to go into executive session to interview the candidate for the Interim Principal of Newtown High School and invited Dr. Reed, Dr. Gejda and Jeff Jaslow.  
Mr. Freedman seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 1 – Executive Session

The Board interviewed the candidate.

Item 2 – Public Session

MOTION: Mrs. Roche moved that the Board of Education appoint Jeffrey Jaslow Interim Principal of Newtown High School to begin February 19, 2014. Salary will be on a per diem basis according to the administrators' contract. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously

Item 3 – Discussion and Possible Action on Security Budget

Mrs. Leidlein addressed a question from Ms. Hamilton regarding the document which didn't agree with what was in the budget book.

Dr. Reed said he had given out an update on security to Board of Education members only that was incorrect. The numbers in the budget from the previous meeting were correct.

Ms. Hamilton said the budget stated that for the current year we have eight security staff and the note says six guards are under the SERV Grant and four from the DOJ Grant. She asked if that was ten plus eight for the current year.

Mr. Bienkowski that was correct with 18 guards.

Ms. Hamilton asked what the total number would be for the 2014-2015 school year.

Dr. Reed stated there were 14 security guards to provide for the operating budget. When the 14 were proposed we already had three for a total of 17 for this year plus the Director of Security position. The confusion is what was to be charged to the operating budget and what was to the grants.

Ms. Hamilton would rather see the total number.

Mr. Bienkowski provided a document comparing Board of Education security staff and Newtown Police in our schools from 2010-2011 through the 2014-2015 school year. We don't have a number from the Monroe Police Department at Sandy Hook School for next year as that has not been determined.

Ms. Hamilton questioned why there were two security guards at each elementary school except for Sandy Hook, which only has one.

Dr. Reed said that was because was because of the Monroe Police.

Bob Tait told him the Town has been notified by the auditor that he can set up a fund for \$511,000 for the Board of Education to draw from for future needs. That money could be available if we ran into future problems with grant funding. Mr. Tait also doesn't feel we need a resolution tonight.

Below is Mrs. Llodra's letter.

*Good morning.*

*I understand that the BoE is meeting this evening to discuss security. Just a few thoughts here for your consideration if that is the case.*

*First of all, I understand your anxiety about where in the town or education budget security items will be represented. I have the same anxiety. I believe we have the same goal, that is to develop and fund the right and best plan for safety in our schools. I have confidence in the outcome of that effort for security knowing that we all are committed to same good end result. However, I am concerned that our process for getting to that end is fracturing. To any extent i have contributed to that fracture i am sorry.*

*As you know, I have supported from the outset the notion that items related to security would be documented separately by the BoE and BoS and then discussed collaboratively with the BoF and/or LC to resolve the question about where the funding for those items should reside. My position remains that it is a shared responsibility (education and municipal) as some items make more sense to be in the education budget and other costs should be borne by the BoS budget. You may not agree with that statement but I feel strongly in the power of a partnership for security in schools.*

*So I ask again that you please wait until we can discuss these issues in true collaboration as our budgets come together at the BoF level. I know full well that you (BoE and superintendent) want to be at the table when these decisions are made - as you should be. The same holds for the BoS. We should have the opportunity to be engaged in that discussion before decisions are made that affect our budget. I anticipate that we might take on significant and appropriate funding responsibility - i have no problem with that. So, let's talk together and lets involve the BoF and/or LC. I value the role these other boards can play.*

*Also, there is a benefit in having those leaders engage - it ups their commitment to the outcome and begins to set the stage for the long term planning we need to do.*

*I am interested in your thoughts on this. I am traveling today but will check my email frequently.*

*Please share this in full text prior to the meeting tonight with every member of the BoE. I am copying the BoS, the chair of BoF and chair of LC.*

*Pat*

Dr. Reed read the following possible motion.

Move that the Board of Education adopt a security budget for personnel and arming equipment in the amount of \$540,562 with the acknowledgement that \$324,525 of this request is in the Board of Education's adopted budget above and that the district has applied for \$209,024 in potential offsets through the SERV Grant and DOJ Victims Grant program impacting the 2014-2015 school year.

The Board's action assumes a partnership with the First Selectman and the Board of Selectman pertaining to future funding of this program based upon the recognition that dollars for armed police protection at our schools is currently provided from within the Selectman's budget. The proposed program for armed school safety officers will be more cost effective than the current practice and the Board of Education believes that future costs for the SSO program should, in some way, be paid for by funds currently allotted for police officers in our elementary schools.

Dr. Reed used the example of when Parks and Rec took over maintaining the school fields from the Board of Education. All of the money for their functions in the Board of Education budget was transferred to Parks and Rec.

Ms. Hamilton said that the motion read does not represent my views about this situation. Security is necessary and she doesn't think it matters where it goes. A decision has been made to follow the North Branford model for SSOs for security in our schools. That model is the SSOs will report to the school district but have training through the police department. As far as paying for the SSOs, whoever is in charge of managing the program should be the ones paying for the program. If we want to add an SSO, she doesn't want an issue regarding how it will be funded. If we take on the program, we should pay for it and manage the whole piece.

Dr. Reed's recommendation is to take no further action at this time. People need to see how this will be cooperatively developed. If grants come in short we need to know who will be paying the next year which should be the Town. He believed that Mrs. Llodra's letter addresses this cooperative responsibility in a very positive fashion.

Mr. Alexander agreed with Dr. Reed. He doesn't want to pass a motion that may undercut any previous motion. Our budget includes what we expected to cover for security.

Mrs. Roche asked if Mrs. Leidlein had reached out to other board chairs. Mrs. Leidlein spoke to Mrs. Llodra who said staffing was in the Board of Selectman budget and they didn't need to have a motion and vote on it. She had stated, "We fully expect for costs for materials will rightly find way into municipal budget." She is fully prepared when the budget goes to the next level that her budget will be increased to meet costs.

Mrs. Leidlein also spoke with John Kortze who said that all are committed to making sure going forward in planning for other years there will be a committee with members of all boards to discuss funding. He also didn't feel we needed a motion at this time.

Mr. Vouros expressed his concern on where the money will come from if one of the budgets failed and the funds have to be removed. It can't be taken from security.

Ms. Hamilton said we have the \$511,000 that we will have access to for education purposes until it runs out. We heard we will have some excess money from this year between \$500,000 and \$600,000. There is also \$209,000 in grants. She was concerned that we don't see specific documentation that will cover the SSOs.

Dr. Reed said it was imperative we be the judge of how many armed guards we need. We are still in a transition time with sensitivity to this. We have to trust we aren't going to get into a situation where someone else knows best what we need.

Mrs. Roche asked to have Mrs. Llodra's letter and the motion written into the minutes.

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

Item 4 - Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Kathy Hamilton  
Secretary



Consent Agenda  
February 19, 2014

- Minutes of February 6 and 11, 2014
- Request for leave of absence extension for Ted Varga
- Newtown High School Spring Coaches



Suzanne Deramo &lt;deramos@newtown.k12.ct.us&gt;

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**Fwd: Ted Varga's Intent to Return Response**

1 message

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**John Reed** <reedj@newtown.k12.ct.us>

Sun, Feb 2, 2014 at 1:40 PM

To: Suzanne Deramo &lt;deramos@newtown.k12.ct.us&gt;

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Theodore Varga** <vargat@newtown.k12.ct.us>

Date: Sat, Feb 1, 2014 at 3:46 AM

Subject: Ted Varga's Intent to Return Response

To: John Reed &lt;reedj@newtown.k12.ct.us&gt;

Dear Dr. Reed,

I am writing this email to request an extension on my leave of absence from the Newtown Public School system for the 2014-2015 school year. As you know, I am currently teaching third grade at the International School of Stavanger (ISS) in Norway. I have been offered the opportunity to extend my position at this school for one more year as I simultaneously work on completing my Master's Degree online through Quinnipiac University. Not only do I feel that I am gaining invaluable experience while working at ISS, but I feel that by having one more year to grow as an educator at this international school I will then be able to return to the Newtown Public School system with more knowledge and tools to help the students grow socially, academically, and globally.

Please consider my request to extend my leave of absence for the 2014-2015 school year. Upon returning, I will have my Master's Degree completed and I will have the ability to offer my students perspectives that I have only been able to gain by educating students internationally for two years.

Please contact me via email at Theodore.varga@issstavanger.no regarding your decision. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Ted Varga

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*Ted Varga, 4th Grade Teacher  
Sandy Hook School  
Dickinson Drive  
Sandy Hook, CT 06482*

# SPRING COACHES ROSTER 2014 UPDATED 2/11/14

NAME	SPORT	STEP
BILL FLOOD	GOLF--RETURNING	3
BRETT TEOLIS	BOYS TENNIS—NEW COACH	2
MAUREEN MAHER	GIRLS TENNIS-- RETURNING	3
DOUG RUSSELL	GIRLS TRACK-- RETURNING	3
TARA ALLEGRETTO	ASSISTANT GIRLS TRACK-- RETURNING	3
LAURA MCLEAN	ASSISTANT GIRLS TRACK-- RETURNING	3
TOM BRANT	BOYS TRACK—NEW COACH FORMER ASST. COACH	3
LIZ LINFANTE	ASSISTANT BOYS TRACK—NEW COACH TEACHER AT H.S.	1
	ASSISTANT BOYS TRACK	
BOB GUERRERA	SOFTBALL-- RETURNING	3
TOM KUROSKI	J.V. SOFTBALL-- RETURNING	3
TONY METZ	FRESHMAN SOFTBALL-- RETURNING	3
MATT MEMOLI	BASEBALL-- RETURNING	3
JOE CRIMI	J.V. BASEBALL-- RETURNING	3
MIKE LAGO	FRESHMAN BASEBALL-- RETURNING	3
GLENN ADAMS	BOYS LACROSSE-- RETURNING	3
BRIAN GILDAE	J.V. BOYS LACROSSE—NEW COACH	1
xxxxxxxxxx	FRESHMAN BOYS LACROSSE	xxxxxxxxxx
MAURA FLETCHER	GIRLS LACROSSE-- RETURNING	3
STEPHANIE PAPROSKI	J.V. GIRLS LACROSSE—NEW COACH—VARSITY FIELD HOCKEY COACH	2

## VOLUNTEER COACHES

STEFANIE CLAVETTE--- OUTDOOR TRACK-- RETURNING  
 JIM KENNING ----GIRLS LACROSSE-- RETURNING  
 BETSY VENDEL ----GIRLS LACROSSE—NEW COACH  
 MAXX ZIMMER ----GIRLS TENNIS—NEW COACH  
 LINN HERTBERG----SOFTBALL-- RETURNING  
 TRACY GUERRERA----SOFTBALL-- RETURNING  
 JOE LIZZA---BASEBALL-- RETURNING  
 RICH SANDLER----BASEBALL—NEW COACH  
 JEREMY O'CONNELL---GOLF-- RETURNING  
 JUSTIN MONROE ----BOYS LACROSSE—FORMER JV BOYS LACROSSE COACH  
 JUSTIN BROPHY----BOYS LACROSSE—NEW COACH  
 ADAM ROSTEN-----BASEBALL—NEW COACH—M.S. TEACHER

**NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT  
JANUARY 31, 2014**

**SUMMARY**

The attached is the seventh financial report for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. During the month of January, the Board of Education spent approximately \$6.4M; \$3.3M on salaries, \$2.1M on benefits, including our third \$2.0M payment to the Self-Insurance Fund, and \$1.0M for all other objects. All the main object accounts on the first page remain in a positive balance position with the exception of Other Purchased Services and Property. The excess cost and agency placement grants will be received shortly and will be more than adequate to cover the need represented for the Out of District Tuition and the property will be covered when we receive the technology grant the district was awarded.

The negative balance in sub-accounts are those that will be expected to receive an excess cost, agency placement and technology grant revenue offset.

The areas that have changed from the prior month are many and are further detailed below.

There are no current transfers recommendations this month because of the time constraints resulting from the 2014-2015 budget development requirements. The Projected balance has declined significantly due to a number of different issues during this period.

This budget is still in a positive position and will need to be more carefully monitored. The overall anticipated balance has declined to approximately \$160,000. Due to this condition, I believe it is imperative that we do not make additional commitments to this budget until we get a few months further into this year. Forecasting anticipated obligations will be ongoing from now on and will modify the balances required to end the fiscal year within the allotted budget. The details of what has changed follows:

**EXPENSE CATEGORY CONDITIONS**

**100 SALARIES**

The total salary budget anticipated to be spent has increased overall by approximately \$32,000. This is due to added requirements in administrative salaries due to an interim and the change from an interim to a permanent Superintendent.

Homebound tutoring services have also increased and will require approximately \$31,000 to bring us to the end of the year primarily at the High School.

Educational Assistants expenses are expected to be approximately \$40,000 higher due to two new one-on-one aides and another full time required Special Education aide.

Custodial salaries will produce an additional balance of approximately \$35,000 due to a current vacancy which will not be filled. Other special education service salaries have gone down by \$31,000 due to turnover, vacancies, leaves, and reassignments of some of these services to professional services.

### **200 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

Current estimates indicate an increased positive balance. \$9,000 from dental, \$11,000 from FICA and Medicare, \$12,000 from pensions and \$5,000 from Employee Assistance; (additional EAP expenses will begin to be charged to the DOJ Grant).

### **300 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Current estimates indicate a need of approximately \$17,000. This is due to the reassignment of the Strategic Planning expense proposed for 2014-2015 to the current year.

### **400 PURCHASED PROPERTY SERVICES**

The overall expected expense here has gone down by approximately \$28,000 due to reducing the estimates for emergency repairs. This category includes the \$574,000 of Building and Site Improvement projects which are still expected to be completed.

Emergency repairs which occurred this month included; boiler relief valve replacement at Sandy Hook/Chalk Hill \$3,786, tie in paging/intercom to new phone system at Middle School \$4,305, domestic hot water repair at Reed \$3,720, and repair and repaint in lobby pipe leak and roof leaks at the High School \$4,850. Overall, we continue to experience a larger number of emergency repairs. We are now in the winter months where many more repairs become necessary during this period. If the same rate of emergency repairs is required for the balance of the year the budget could be exceeded by approximately \$82,000 which is reflected in the anticipated obligation column.

### **500 OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES**

Contracted services now have a need of about \$15,000 due to the reassignment of the \$17,500 enrollment study from the proposed to the current operating budget.

Transportation has been thoroughly reviewed and indicates a balance of about \$23,000, but this is based on inclusion of the excess cost and agency placement revenue which has been included since initial estimates. This is adjusted below the line in the excess cost grant revenue offset.

This amounts to the (\$344,647) anticipated obligation, represented in the summary on the first page.

The Tuition account is about \$5,000 greater than last month's shortage. Overall, this large shortage will still be covered by the excess cost grant which is due shortly.

### **600 SUPPLIES**

Current estimates continue to be on track for most of the supply accounts. This group of accounts includes the electricity, gas, and fuel accounts which have been reviewed. Electricity continues to be tight and could exceed the budget by \$6,000 plus. Propane and Natural Gas was expected to be within the budget and we felt confident in December that we transferred money out. Natural gas prices are escalating rapidly which may have made this adjustment premature.

Oil is now projecting a \$51,000 plus shortage due to a couple of factors, one being a much colder winter, so far, and two being that the Town of Monroe included gallons for Chalk Hill in their oil contract and have forwarded the bills to us for payment. This is an item that needs more careful investigation but is prudent to include as reasonable an estimate as possible at this time to provide for this oil.

### **700 PROPERTY**

Capital/equipment accounts are now \$55,000 in need due to the reassignment of Sandy Hook School sewer assessment of \$15,393 and \$40,000 for a maintenance vehicle both from the 2014-2015 budget to the current budget.

### **800 MISCELLANEOUS**

Current estimates continue to be on track with no change.

The budget will continue to be carefully monitored and any subsequent issues or opportunities will be presented as necessary. As part of the budget discussion, certain balance opportunities will be further vetted.

### **REVENUES**

There were no revenues received in January.

Ron Bienkowski  
Director of Business  
February 14, 2014

## TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

The Newtown Board of Education's Monthly Financial Report provides summary financial information in the following areas:

- Object Code – a service or commodity obtained as the result of a specific expenditure defined by eight categories: Salaries, Employee Benefits, Professional Services, Purchased Property Services, Other Purchased Services, Supplies, Property, and Miscellaneous.
- Expense Category – further defines the type of expense by Object Code
- Expended 2012-13 – actual (unaudited) expenditures of the prior fiscal year (for comparison purposes)
- Approved Budget – indicates the town approved financial plan used by the school district to achieve its goals and objectives.
- YTD Transfers - identified specific cross object codes requiring adjustments to provide adequate funding for the fiscal period. This includes all transfers made to date.
- Current Transfers – identifies the recommended cross object codes for current month action. (No current transfers indicated)
- Current Budget – adjusts the Approved Budget calculating adjustments (+ or -) from transfers to the identified object codes.
- Year-To-Date Expended – indicates the actual amount of cumulative expenditures processed by the school district through the month-end date indicated on the monthly budget summary report.
- Encumbered – indicates approved financial obligations of the school district as a result of employee salary contracts, purchasing agreements, purchase orders, or other identified obligations not processed for payment by the date indicated on the monthly budget summary report.
- Balance – calculates object code account balances, subtracting expenditures and encumbrances from the current budget amount, indicating unobligated balances or shortages.
- Anticipated Obligation – is a column which provides a method to forecast expense category fund balances that have not been approved via an encumbrance, but are anticipated to be expended or remain with an account balance to maintain the overall budget funding level.
- Projected Balance – calculates the object code balances subtracting the Anticipated Obligations. These balances will move up and down as information is known and or decisions are anticipated or made about current and projected needs of the district.

NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

BUDGET SUMMARY REPORT

FOR THE MONTH ENDING - JANUARY 31, 2013

OBJECT CODE	EXPENSE CATEGORY	EXPENDED 2012 - 2013	YTD				YTD EXPENDITURE	ENCUMBER	BALANCE	ANTICIPATED OBLIGATIONS	PROJECTED BALANCE
			APPROVED BUDGET	TRANSFERS 2013 - 2014	CURRENT TRANSFERS	CURRENT BUDGET					
<b><u>GENERAL FUND BUDGET</u></b>											
100	SALARIES	\$ 43,732,472	\$ 45,076,226	\$ (118,800)	\$ -	\$ 44,957,426	\$ 21,738,370	\$ 22,381,204	\$ 837,852	\$ 950,408	\$ (112,556)
200	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$ 10,341,864	\$ 10,675,831	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,675,831	\$ 7,872,825	\$ 2,004,391	\$ 798,615	\$ 744,785	\$ 53,830
300	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$ 885,059	\$ 920,517	\$ (1,200)	\$ -	\$ 919,317	\$ 441,134	\$ 257,146	\$ 221,037	\$ 233,810	\$ (12,773)
400	PURCHASED PROPERTY SERV.	\$ 2,156,695	\$ 2,393,290	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,393,290	\$ 1,157,798	\$ 281,026	\$ 954,466	\$ 1,034,601	\$ (80,135)
500	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$ 6,526,747	\$ 6,851,622	\$ 96,565	\$ -	\$ 6,948,187	\$ 4,461,214	\$ 2,571,104	\$ (84,131)	\$ 890,535	\$ (974,666)
600	SUPPLIES	\$ 4,428,579	\$ 4,554,880	\$ 5,435	\$ -	\$ 4,560,315	\$ 2,094,620	\$ 192,466	\$ 2,273,228	\$ 2,328,414	\$ (55,186)
700	PROPERTY	\$ 206,463	\$ 497,748	\$ 18,000	\$ -	\$ 515,748	\$ 268,767	\$ 264,140	\$ (17,159)	\$ 38,469	\$ (55,628)
800	MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 71,081	\$ 75,190	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,190	\$ 66,593	\$ 463	\$ 8,134	\$ 7,200	\$ 934
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET</b>		<b>\$ 68,348,959</b>	<b>\$ 71,045,304</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 71,045,304</b>	<b>\$ 38,101,321</b>	<b>\$ 27,951,941</b>	<b>\$ 4,992,042</b>	<b>\$ 6,228,222</b>	<b>\$ (1,236,180)</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 68,348,959</b>	<b>\$ 71,045,304</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 71,045,304</b>	<b>\$ 38,101,321</b>	<b>\$ 27,951,941</b>	<b>\$ 4,992,042</b>	<b>\$ 6,228,222</b>	<b>\$ (1,236,180)</b>
<i>(Unaudited)</i>											
Excess Cost Grant Reimbursement Offset			75.00%			\$ 1,452,304		T.B.D.	\$ 1,741,239	\$ (344,647)	\$ 1,396,592
Net Projected Balance											\$ 160,412



## NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

## BUDGET SUMMARY REPORT

FOR THE MONTH ENDING - JANUARY 31, 2013

OBJECT CODE	EXPENSE CATEGORY	EXPENDED 2012 - 2013	YTD			YTD			ANTICIPATED OBLIGATIONS	PROJECTED BALANCE
			APPROVED BUDGET	TRANSFERS 2013 - 2014	CURRENT TRANSFERS	CURRENT BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	ENCUMBER		
<b>100</b>	<b>SALARIES</b>									
	Administrative Salaries	\$ 2,905,110	\$ 2,826,231	\$ 73,000	\$ 2,899,231	\$ 1,612,631	\$ 1,286,172	\$ 427	\$ 70,268	\$ (69,841)
	Teachers & Specialists Salaries	\$ 30,174,314	\$ 30,919,957	\$ (308,351)	\$ 30,611,606	\$ 14,139,253	\$ 16,370,377	\$ 101,976	\$ 66,406	\$ 35,570
	Early Retirement	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ -	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Continuing Ed./Summer School	\$ 74,383	\$ 84,903	\$ 855	\$ 85,758	\$ 67,132	\$ 18,453	\$ 174	\$ -	\$ 174
	Homebound & Tutors Salaries	\$ 249,524	\$ 211,664	\$ 77,245	\$ 288,909	\$ 165,461	\$ 122,221	\$ 1,227	\$ 44,506	\$ (43,279)
	Certified Substitutes	\$ 589,183	\$ 645,725	\$ 1,200	\$ 646,925	\$ 268,858	\$ 120,015	\$ 258,052	\$ 252,095	\$ 5,957
	Coaching/Activities	\$ 534,475	\$ 532,749	\$ -	\$ 532,749	\$ 139,441	\$ 30,484	\$ 362,824	\$ 361,657	\$ 1,167
	Staff & Program Development	\$ 116,368	\$ 167,891	\$ -	\$ 167,891	\$ 113,278	\$ 40,495	\$ 14,118	\$ 14,118	\$ 0
	<b>CERTIFIED SALARIES</b>	<b>\$ 34,659,356</b>	<b>\$ 35,405,120</b>	<b>\$ (156,051)</b>	<b>\$ 35,249,069</b>	<b>\$ 16,522,054</b>	<b>\$ 17,988,217</b>	<b>\$ 738,798</b>	<b>\$ 809,050</b>	<b>\$ (70,252)</b>
	Supervisors/Technology Salaries	\$ 612,272	\$ 622,327	\$ 6,347	\$ 628,674	\$ 349,447	\$ 279,226	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ 1
	Clerical & Secretarial salaries	\$ 1,913,153	\$ 1,985,904	\$ (15,000)	\$ 1,970,904	\$ 1,054,300	\$ 902,564	\$ 14,040	\$ 3,500	\$ 10,540
	Educational Assistants	\$ 1,783,332	\$ 1,843,658	\$ 93,000	\$ 1,936,658	\$ 991,498	\$ 995,978	\$ (50,818)	\$ 22,631	\$ (73,449)
	Nurses & Medical advisors	\$ 665,534	\$ 683,022	\$ -	\$ 683,022	\$ 368,587	\$ 335,257	\$ (20,822)	\$ 258	\$ (21,080)
	Custodial & Maint Salaries	\$ 2,759,414	\$ 2,898,325	\$ (20,571)	\$ 2,877,754	\$ 1,591,970	\$ 1,256,889	\$ 28,895	\$ (6,718)	\$ 35,613
	Bus Drivers salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Career/Job salaries	\$ 109,211	\$ 108,501	\$ 1,897	\$ 110,398	\$ 63,165	\$ 44,504	\$ 2,729	\$ 2,700	\$ 29
	Special Education Svcs Salaries	\$ 659,495	\$ 824,820	\$ (28,422)	\$ 796,398	\$ 402,433	\$ 421,232	\$ (27,267)	\$ 21,492	\$ (48,759)
	Attendance & Security Salaries	\$ 207,942	\$ 380,071	\$ -	\$ 380,071	\$ 172,458	\$ 155,816	\$ 51,797	\$ 3,995	\$ 47,802
	Extra Work - Non-Cert	\$ 76,256	\$ 71,115	\$ -	\$ 71,115	\$ 47,921	\$ 1,520	\$ 21,674	\$ 15,000	\$ 6,674
	Custodial & Maint. Overtime	\$ 242,452	\$ 210,363	\$ -	\$ 210,363	\$ 146,823	\$ -	\$ 63,540	\$ 63,500	\$ 40
	Civic activities/Park & Rec	\$ 44,055	\$ 43,000	\$ -	\$ 43,000	\$ 27,714	\$ -	\$ 15,286	\$ 15,000	\$ 286
	<b>NON-CERTIFIED SALARIES</b>	<b>\$ 9,073,115</b>	<b>\$ 9,671,106</b>	<b>\$ 37,251</b>	<b>\$ 9,708,357</b>	<b>\$ 5,216,316</b>	<b>\$ 4,392,987</b>	<b>\$ 99,054</b>	<b>\$ 141,358</b>	<b>\$ (42,304)</b>
	<b>SUBTOTAL SALARIES</b>	<b>\$ 43,732,472</b>	<b>\$ 45,076,226</b>	<b>\$ (118,800)</b>	<b>\$ 44,957,426</b>	<b>\$ 21,738,370</b>	<b>\$ 22,381,204</b>	<b>\$ 837,852</b>	<b>\$ 950,408</b>	<b>\$ (112,556)</b>

## NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

## BUDGET SUMMARY REPORT

FOR THE MONTH ENDING - JANUARY 31, 2013

OBJECT CODE	EXPENSE CATEGORY	EXPENDED 2012 - 2013	YTD				YTD EXPENDITURE	ENCUMBER	BALANCE	ANTICIPATED OBLIGATIONS	PROJECTED BALANCE
			APPROVED BUDGET	TRANSFERS 2013 - 2014	CURRENT TRANSFERS	CURRENT BUDGET					
<b>200</b>	<b>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>										
	Medical & Dental Expenses	\$ 7,918,730	\$ 8,213,013	\$ -	\$ 8,213,013	\$ 6,334,474	\$ 1,845,873	\$ 32,666	\$ 24,961	\$ 7,705	
	Life Insurance	\$ 83,605	\$ 86,226	\$ -	\$ 86,226	\$ 50,399	\$ -	\$ 35,827	\$ 36,691	\$ (864)	
	FICA & Medicare	\$ 1,305,853	\$ 1,359,593	\$ -	\$ 1,359,593	\$ 672,876	\$ -	\$ 686,717	\$ 675,000	\$ 11,717	
	Pensions	\$ 487,540	\$ 462,466	\$ -	\$ 462,466	\$ 431,340	\$ 30,597	\$ 529	\$ (11,867)	\$ 12,396	
	Unemployment & Employee Assist.	\$ 76,081	\$ 98,120	\$ -	\$ 98,120	\$ 42,389	\$ 21,330	\$ 34,401	\$ 20,000	\$ 14,401	
	Workers Compensation	\$ 470,055	\$ 456,413	\$ -	\$ 456,413	\$ 341,347	\$ 106,591	\$ 8,475	\$ -	\$ 8,475	
	<b>SUBTOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>	<b>\$ 10,341,864</b>	<b>\$ 10,675,831</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 10,675,831</b>	<b>\$ 7,872,825</b>	<b>\$ 2,004,391</b>	<b>\$ 798,615</b>	<b>\$ 744,785</b>	<b>\$ 53,830</b>	
<b>300</b>	<b>PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</b>										
	Professional Services	\$ 722,630	\$ 675,542	\$ -	\$ 675,542	\$ 357,974	\$ 195,727	\$ 121,841	\$ 138,810	\$ (16,969)	
	Professional Educational Ser.	\$ 162,429	\$ 244,975	\$ (1,200)	\$ 243,775	\$ 83,160	\$ 61,419	\$ 99,196	\$ 95,000	\$ 4,196	
	<b>SUBTOTAL PROFESSIONAL SVCS</b>	<b>\$ 885,059</b>	<b>\$ 920,517</b>	<b>\$ (1,200)</b>	<b>\$ 919,317</b>	<b>\$ 441,134</b>	<b>\$ 257,146</b>	<b>\$ 221,037</b>	<b>\$ 233,810</b>	<b>\$ (12,773)</b>	
<b>400</b>	<b>PURCHASED PROPERTY SVCS</b>										
	Buildings & Grounds Services	\$ 665,862	\$ 670,300	\$ -	\$ 670,300	\$ 421,349	\$ 155,102	\$ 93,848	\$ 90,200	\$ 3,648	
	Utility Services - Water & Sewer	\$ 107,302	\$ 117,000	\$ -	\$ 117,000	\$ 62,348	\$ -	\$ 54,652	\$ 56,400	\$ (1,748)	
	Building, Site & Emergency Repairs	\$ 533,970	\$ 460,850	\$ -	\$ 460,850	\$ 332,806	\$ 17,257	\$ 110,787	\$ 193,000	\$ (82,214)	
	Equipment Repairs	\$ 252,231	\$ 270,975	\$ -	\$ 270,975	\$ 141,562	\$ 34,741	\$ 94,672	\$ 92,600	\$ 2,072	
	Rentals - Building & Equipment	\$ 303,229	\$ 300,165	\$ -	\$ 300,165	\$ 192,212	\$ 62,298	\$ 45,655	\$ 47,549	\$ (1,894)	
	Building & Site Improvements	\$ 294,100	\$ 574,000	\$ -	\$ 574,000	\$ 7,520	\$ 11,629	\$ 554,852	\$ 554,852	\$ (0)	
	<b>SUBTOTAL PUR. PROPERTY SER.</b>	<b>\$ 2,156,695</b>	<b>\$ 2,393,290</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,393,290</b>	<b>\$ 1,157,798</b>	<b>\$ 281,026</b>	<b>\$ 954,466</b>	<b>\$ 1,034,601</b>	<b>\$ (80,135)</b>	

## NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

## BUDGET SUMMARY REPORT

FOR THE MONTH ENDING - JANUARY 31, 2013

OBJECT CODE	EXPENSE CATEGORY	EXPENDED 2012 - 2013	YTD			YTD			ANTICIPATED OBLIGATIONS	PROJECTED BALANCE
			APPROVED BUDGET	TRANSFERS 2013 - 2014	CURRENT TRANSFERS	CURRENT BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	ENCUMBER		
<b>500</b>	<b>OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES</b>									
	Contracted Services	\$ 401,159	\$ 360,504	\$ (435)	\$ 360,069	\$ 211,741	\$ 63,878	\$ 84,450	\$ 99,500	\$ (15,050)
	Transportation Services	\$ 3,607,120	\$ 3,640,547	\$ 95,000	\$ 3,735,547	\$ 1,983,699	\$ 1,236,447	\$ 515,401	\$ 492,239	\$ 23,162
	Insurance - Property & Liability	\$ 291,106	\$ 299,135	\$ 2,000	\$ 301,135	\$ 238,502	\$ 64,749	\$ (2,116)	\$ -	\$ (2,116)
	Communications	\$ 121,183	\$ 129,209	\$ -	\$ 129,209	\$ 72,702	\$ 32,318	\$ 24,189	\$ 23,000	\$ 1,189
	Printing Services	\$ 32,447	\$ 42,382	\$ -	\$ 42,382	\$ 10,320	\$ -	\$ 32,062	\$ 31,000	\$ 1,062
	Tuition - Out of District	\$ 1,896,112	\$ 2,152,926	\$ -	\$ 2,152,926	\$ 1,837,817	\$ 1,131,056	\$ (815,947)	\$ 169,796	\$ (985,743)
	Student Travel & Staff Mileage	\$ 177,622	\$ 226,919	\$ -	\$ 226,919	\$ 106,433	\$ 42,656	\$ 77,830	\$ 75,000	\$ 2,830
	<b>SUBTOTAL OTHER PURCHASED S</b>	<b>\$ 6,526,747</b>	<b>\$ 6,851,622</b>	<b>\$ 96,565</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 6,948,187</b>	<b>\$ 4,461,214</b>	<b>\$ 2,571,104</b>	<b>\$ (84,131)</b>	<b>\$ 890,535</b>
<b>600</b>	<b>SUPPLIES</b>									
	Instructional & Library Supplies	\$ 934,107	\$ 939,666	\$ 435	\$ 940,101	\$ 604,461	\$ 78,260	\$ 257,379	\$ 255,000	\$ 2,379
	Software, Medical & Office Sup.	\$ 144,536	\$ 184,465	\$ -	\$ 184,465	\$ 73,584	\$ 42,280	\$ 68,601	\$ 67,000	\$ 1,601
	Plant Supplies	\$ 337,919	\$ 376,100	\$ -	\$ 376,100	\$ 232,335	\$ 28,005	\$ 115,760	\$ 114,500	\$ 1,260
	Electric	\$ 1,357,321	\$ 1,401,255	\$ -	\$ 1,401,255	\$ 709,300	\$ -	\$ 691,955	\$ 698,000	\$ (6,045)
	Propane & Natural Gas	\$ 291,923	\$ 326,370	\$ (15,000)	\$ 311,370	\$ 122,205	\$ -	\$ 189,165	\$ 188,000	\$ 1,165
	Fuel Oil	\$ 619,965	\$ 575,466	\$ 5,000	\$ 580,466	\$ 135,797	\$ -	\$ 444,669	\$ 495,446	\$ (50,777)
	Fuel For Vehicles & Equip.	\$ 554,631	\$ 486,739	\$ 15,000	\$ 501,739	\$ 81,797	\$ -	\$ 419,942	\$ 424,710	\$ (4,768)
	Textbooks	\$ 188,178	\$ 264,819	\$ -	\$ 264,819	\$ 135,141	\$ 43,920	\$ 85,758	\$ 85,758	\$ (0)
	<b>SUBTOTAL SUPPLIES</b>	<b>\$ 4,428,579</b>	<b>\$ 4,554,880</b>	<b>\$ 5,435</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 4,560,315</b>	<b>\$ 2,094,620</b>	<b>\$ 192,466</b>	<b>\$ 2,273,228</b>	<b>\$ 2,328,414</b>

NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

BUDGET SUMMARY REPORT

FOR THE MONTH ENDING - JANUARY 31, 2013

OBJECT CODE	EXPENSE CATEGORY	EXPENDED 2012 - 2013	YTD				YTD EXPENDITURE	ENCUMBER	BALANCE	ANTICIPATED OBLIGATIONS	PROJECTED BALANCE
			APPROVED BUDGET	TRANSFERS 2013 - 2014	CURRENT TRANSFERS	CURRENT BUDGET					
<b>700</b>	<b>PROPERTY</b>										
	Capital Improvements (Sewers)	\$ 124,177	\$ 124,177	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 124,177	\$ -	\$ 0	\$ 15,393	\$ (15,393)	
	Technology Equipment	\$ 51,953	\$ 325,559	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 99,888	\$ 260,032	\$ (34,361)	\$ (34,600)	\$ 239	
	Other Equipment	\$ 30,333	\$ 48,012	\$ 18,000	\$ -	\$ 66,012	\$ 4,108	\$ 17,202	\$ 57,676	\$ (40,474)	
	<b>SUBTOTAL PROPERTY</b>	<b>\$ 206,463</b>	<b>\$ 497,748</b>	<b>\$ 18,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 515,748</b>	<b>\$ 268,767</b>	<b>\$ 264,140</b>	<b>\$ (17,159)</b>	<b>\$ 38,469</b>	<b>\$ (55,628)</b>
<b>800</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>										
	Memberships	\$ 71,081	\$ 75,190	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66,593	\$ 463	\$ 8,134	\$ 7,200	\$ 934	
	<b>SUBTOTAL MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>\$ 71,081</b>	<b>\$ 75,190</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 66,593</b>	<b>\$ 463</b>	<b>\$ 8,134</b>	<b>\$ 7,200</b>	<b>\$ 934</b>	
	<b>TOTAL LOCAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 68,348,959</b>	<b>\$ 71,045,304</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 71,045,304</b>	<b>\$ 38,101,321</b>	<b>\$ 27,951,941</b>	<b>\$ 4,992,042</b>	<b>\$ 6,228,222</b>	<b>\$ (1,236,180)</b>

NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

BUDGET SUMMARY REPORT

FOR THE MONTH ENDING - JANUARY 31, 2013

OBJECT CODE	EXPENSE CATEGORY	EXPENDED 2012 - 2013	YTD			YTD EXPENDITURE	ENCUMBER	BALANCE	ANTICIPATED OBLIGATIONS	PROJECTED BALANCE
			APPROVED BUDGET	TRANSFERS 2013 - 2014	CURRENT TRANSFERS					
<b><u>SCHOOL GENERATED FEES</u></b>		<b>RECEIVED 2012-2013</b>								<b>% RECEIVED</b>
<u>HIGH SCHOOL FEES</u>										
	NURTURY PROGRAM	\$8,000				\$8,000	\$8,000.00	\$0.00		100.00%
	PARKING PERMITS	\$20,000				\$20,000	\$20,000.00	\$0.00		100.00%
	PAY FOR PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS	\$84,800				\$84,800	\$38,711.00	\$46,089.00		45.65%
		\$112,800				\$112,800	\$66,711.00	\$46,089.00		59.14%
<u>BUILDING RELATED FEES</u>										
	ENERGY - ELECTRICITY	\$0				\$313	\$0.00	\$313.00		0.00%
	HIGH SCHOOL POOL - OUTSIDE USA	\$1,100				\$1,100	\$0.00	\$1,100.00		0.00%
		\$1,100				\$1,413	\$0.00	\$1,413.00		0.00%
	MISCELLANEOUS FEES	\$185				\$75	\$139.50	(\$64.50)		186.00%
<b>TOTAL SCHOOL GENERATED FEES</b>		<b>\$114,085</b>				<b>\$114,288</b>	<b>\$66,850.50</b>	<b>\$47,437.50</b>		<b>58.49%</b>

**Board of Education  
Newtown, Connecticut**

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers, 3 Primrose Street.

D. Leidlein, Chair	J. Reed
L. Roche, Vice Chair (absent)	L. Gejda
K. Hamilton, Secretary	R. Bienkowski
K. Alexander	10 Staff
J. Vouros	8 Public
D. Freedman	1 Press
M. Ku	

Mrs. Leidlein called the meeting order at 7:34 p.m.

Item 1 – Pledge of Allegiance

Item 2 – Consent Agenda

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes of January 23 and 28, 2014. The donation to Sandy Hook School, the donation from Ingersoll Auto of Danbury to the Newtown High School Drama Program, and the resignation for retirement of Jose Lebron, custodian. Mr. Vouros seconded.

MOTION: Ms. Hamilton moved to amend the motion to remove the minutes of January 23, 2014. Mr. Alexander seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Vote on the original motion: passes unanimously.

Ms. Hamilton asked to remove the minutes of January 23 because the correspondence report was not attached. Ms. June stated they are attached to the minutes when posted.

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved to approve the minutes of January 23, 2014. Ms. Hamilton seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 3 – Public Participation

Lisa Wallace, 43 Mile Hill South, was there representing the PTA presidents and stated they supported Dr. Reed's proposed education budget. It is fiscally responsible and reflects many changes impacting our school district but does keep us whole. Please send it to the Board of Finance without reductions. This statement was endorsed by Maggie Conway, Denise Tramosch, Tracey Jaeger, Marabeth Pereira, Rebekah Harriman-Stites, Vickie Ricks, Stephanie Burns and her.

Jen Scarangella, 14 Morehouse Road, was there in support of the Newtown Middle School budget and spoke on behalf of the Newtown Middle School PTA Executive Board. They respectfully request that the Board of Education not make any changes in the proposed middle school budget prepared by Mr. Einhorn and endorsed by Dr. Reed. Mr. Einhorn has already taken into account declining enrollment by removing four teachers which is the equivalent of one cluster. Further cuts would mean a further reduction in staff and another increase in class size. We respectfully request that you endorse it as submitted.

Item 4 – Reports

Correspondence Report: Ms. Hamilton read the attached list of correspondence.

Chair Report: Mrs. Leidlein met with Dr. Erardi. She also met with John Kortze from the Board of Finance which will be discussed later in the meeting.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Dr. Reed stated that he will be using a consultant to aid in the recruitment and selection of the high school principal.

Dr. Erardi and Dr. Abbey are in agreement. He will use Dr. Jackie Jacoby as the consultant since she has a comprehensive understanding of our school system.

There were no committee reports.

Mrs. Leidlein introduced First Selectman Pat Llodra spoke about security and collaboration with the police department.

Mrs. Llodra reviewed the steps taken to determine a short term solution to security in the schools. The State legislators and State Police created a model for School Safety Officers (SSO). The School Resource Officers (SRO) are greatly valued in the curriculum. Our short term plan this year was to use police officers on an overtime basis. The SSO's have been piloted in other districts. She prefers to not have full uniformed police in the schools. The cost is not sustainable. If we assigned permanent police in the elementary schools we would have the challenge of how to incorporate them into the department the rest of the year. We decided to use the overtime option this year. Because we didn't get the COPS Grant we decided to look into having SSO's. We went to North Branford and Enfield to see their programs. The North Branford officers are supervised by the Board of Education and Enfield's are supervised by their police department. She recommends using SSO's in the schools to be compensated at an hourly rate and continue the SRO's at the intermediate, middle and high schools.

Mrs. Ku asked the difference in pension plans.

Mrs. Llodra said the Town police are full time with benefits. The SSO's already receive retirement benefits so they would just receive an hourly pay.

Ms. Hamilton asked if they have the power to detain someone.

Mrs. Llodra said they could but not arrest anyone.

Ms. Hamilton asked if they could get the North Branford policies.

Dr. Reed said the next level of planning is looking at the state standards and security that will be the norm. Decisions about security at Sandy Hook School will lead us to see what is transferable to the other schools. We have a partner in the Town to deal with this situation.

**Item 5 – Old Business**

Discussion of 2014-2015 Budget:

Mr. Bienkowski reviewed the summary of updates to the budget books.

Mr. Freedman referred to the donation of services for technology installation and asked for an estimated cost of that time.

Dr. Reed said we don't know what the cost was. We will call the contributors and ask whether they have that information and attach a dollar estimate to their hours.

Mrs. Amodeo said the advanced security technology project is still ongoing. She doesn't think they can give us a complete estimate but may be able to let us know what they expended to date. Cisco was here many Saturdays and Sundays and this time was donated by their employees.

Mr. Freedman felt it would be good for the community to know the significance of the donation.

Ms. Hamilton asked if Mr. Pompano could attend the meeting Thursday night. She asked for clarification on security dollars and if it is all included in the .75% decrease or are we counting on grants to supply most of that.

Dr. Reed said the direction from the Town was to separate the security budget from our budget. Anything that is a new expense is all in a separate budget looked at separately by the Town.

Ms. Hamilton asked to review the security budget.

Mr. Bienkowski said the \$324,525 is in the Superintendent's budget and would fund 11 unarmed security guards and nine armed which is the total number we had in police this school year. To bring it to a full armed level have \$151,000 from the SERV Grant and \$57,000 from the DOJ Grant. The total on Mr. Pompano's sheet is \$540,000, of that, \$324,000 is in the budget. We would have to fund \$216,000 from other sources which are the SERV Grant and DOJ Grant. This would drop the overall need to \$7,013.

Dr. Reed said the expenditure can be arranged with the other boards. It should be a separate document. Mrs. Llodra said that budget would also be adopted by the Selectman and Board of Education.

Mr. Freedman feels it is important for the public to know the number they will vote on. He wants to have a conversation on sustainability over the next years.

Mrs. Leidlein said she would email other boards suggesting a task force be formed to investigate that issue.

Dr. Reed said that possible adjustment if we receive the DOJ Grant include \$207,500 for partial locking mechanism replacement, \$67,856 for voice over IP for the intermediate school, and \$22,000 for partial special education tuition reimbursement.

Ms. Hamilton asked if we would have an answer on the DOJ Grant before the April vote.

Dr. Reed felt we would.

Mr. Bienkowski said they reviewing our submissions now. There is no indication there is any concern for our proposed expenses.

John Reed said if our goal is to try and minimize things he would consider the replacement of the truck, pay the sewer assessment, initiate the contract with strategic plan consultant and the enrollment study costs being undertaken in this year's budget. The population study should come from the enrollment the second week in September.

Ms. Hamilton asked about the \$511,000 grant we haven't spent yet.

Dr. Reed said it was given to us for specific expenditures.

Mr. Bienkowski said these expenses occurred prior to June 30. All items were very specific expenses.

Dr. Reed said that Mrs. Llodra and Mr. Tait speculated some type of security account could be established.

Mrs. Leidlein questioned the increases in teachers at the high school since 2007. The enrollment since then has been flat and this year there are three less students than in 2007. She asked why we had more science teachers than in history, English or math.



Mr. Dumais said outside the science department teachers teach 5 classes and inside the science department they teach 4 classes because they also teach a lab. Science class sizes are a maximum of 24 and other areas have a maximum class size of 30 students. The health class is taught by a science teacher.

Mr. Freedman said since 2006-07 there are 13 additional teachers at the high school with only three more students. This is a significant increase in staffing but is not balanced with the enrollment.

Mr. Dumais said much is based on student choices. Not all positions affect class size. Culinary had to be modified to accommodate students. As interventions and programs change we need to modify. Not all will go to classroom instruction.

Ms. Hamilton said we needed 9.8 teachers to fill the requirement for the high school addition. It was based on a different enrollment figure. She questioned the number of staff added.

Mr. Vouros felt it would be helpful to discuss course requirements in 2006-07 which would affect the staffing number.

Mr. Dumais stated decisions are made according to student requests and class size. We could look at how class size has changed over the years and pull out pieces not directly related to classes.

Ms. Hamilton requested that the Board have a copy of the security report.

Dr. Reed preferred to wait until the consultants reviewed the report.

#### Board of Finance Communication:

Mrs. Leidlein met with Mr. Kortze regarding his letter. She asked for the enrollment data she received is shared with the other Board members. The letter asked how we were going to address enrollment and building usage. The facilities study will be completed in March 2015 and the enrollment study will be completed by November 1, 2014. A decision will be made using that data. We need to present it to the Board of Finance on March 12 or 13. She asked Dr. Reed to have a document for them.

Dr. Reed said the Board of Education has to define the school systems needs. We aren't going to open Sandy Hook School until August 2016 and he assumed the possible closing of a school will have to wait until then. For many scenarios there could be redistricting. We should engage the community with this information. We also need to talk about if the building will be leased, sold, or given to the Town for another use with the possibility of getting it back to reopen as a school.

Mrs. Leidlein said Mr. Kortze also address the non-recurring account. She asked to see what other towns were doing.

Mrs. Ku provided examples from other towns.

Ms. Hamilton said there was a statute about consolidating town and board of education services.

Dr. Reed said Dr. Erardi would have discussions with Mrs. Llodra on this topic.

Ms. Hamilton asked Mrs. Leidlein to forward her information to the Board of Finance and Board of Education members.

Approve minutes January 30, 2014:

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved to approve the minutes of January 30, 2014. Mr. Vouros seconded. Vote: 5 ayes, 1 abstained (Ms. Hamilton)

Item 7 – Public Participation

MOTION: Mrs. Ku moved to go into executive session for the discussion of a leave request and invited Dr. Reed. Ms. Hamilton seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 8 – Executive Session

Item 9 – Public Session

MOTION: Mr. Freedman moved to grant the leave request for the staff member for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

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

Item 10 - Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.10:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Kathy Hamilton  
Secretary

# EDUCATION CONNECTION PROPOSED REGIONAL CALENDAR 2014-2015

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
August 27	First Day of School for Students
November 4	Regional PD
December 22-23	Schools in Session
December 24-January 2	Winter Recess
February 13	Regional PD
February 16-17	February Recess
April 13-17	April Recess

August 2014						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2014						
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28	29	30				

October 2014						
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November 2014						
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30						

December 2014						
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28	29	30	31			

January 2015						
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February 2015						
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March 2015						
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29	30	31				

April 2015						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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26	27	28	29	30		

May 2015						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2015						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2015						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30	31	



# What will our children

# lose?

ated by the collaborative efforts of



## WWOCL POSITION ON STATE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

School year 2014-15 will be the first year when full implementation of the new principal and teacher evaluation and support system and full implementation of the Common Core of State Standards will take place. Both reforms require every school district in CT to allocate resources to the implementation of the reforms.

This comes at a time when CT school districts have, for the most part, just begun to recover from five straight years when, in effect, the State of CT did not increase funding for public schools. From school year 2008-09 through school year 2011-12, the Education Cost Sharing Program (ECS), the vehicle whereby the State helps municipalities cover the costs of the school systems that serve those municipalities, was level funded. During those years, the State used CT's over \$1B from the federal recession recovery program to supplant state funds in ECS. The last year when the State received these federal funds was 2011-12.

In 2012-13, the state allocated the funds needed to plug the funding hole in ECS that had been caused by the practice in previous years. While the What Will Our Children Lose (WWOCL) coalition was appreciative of this action by the Governor and the Legislature, the action still resulted in a fifth straight year of level funding in non-local money for public education.

During these five years, costs in public schools have increased on the average approximately 3% a year. So over five years, there has been an approximate 15% increase in the cost of public education all of which had to be covered by local municipalities.

In the present school year, 2013-14, there has been an increase in state funding for public education but many districts did not receive any increase in state funds. So, we still are nowhere near recovering for public schools the buying power that they lost over the previous five years. The result in terms of the impact on children has been program elimination and/or reduction and increases in class size.

This situation alone calls for an increase in state funding for education in school year 2014-15. The required implementation of the evaluation system and the Common Core, however, raises the need for an increase in state funding from a needed action to one that is absolutely required if the new reforms are to be implemented well if at all.

Specifically, then, WWOCL calls for:

- A 3% increase in the ECS Program. Such an increase would at least be commensurate with the projected increase in expenses for state school districts. While buying power would not be restored to what it was six years ago, there would be no additional loss of buying power.
- Removal of the cap from the State's excess special education cost grant program. Particularly expensive mandated placements for children who have special needs noticeably reduce the capacity of school districts to serve well all of the students enrolled in the district. Presently, the state places an arbitrary cap on the amount that it will pay for these expensive placements. Removal of this cap is required to enable districts to meet their mandated obligations not only to all their special needs students but also the obligations that districts have to their regular needs students as well.

#### **ABOUT THE COALITION**

Created by the collaborative efforts of the Connecticut Association of Board of Education, Connecticut School Business Officials, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents and Connecticut Association of Schools. As advocates for public education, these organizations pledge to provide information to the community and statewide education leaders in order to find attainable results for their school districts.

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