

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

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting on February 7, 2017 in the council chambers, at 3 Primrose Street.

K. Alexander, Chair	J. Erardi
M. Ku, Vice Chair	J. Davila
D. Leidlein, Secretary(absent)	R. Bienkowski
J. Vouros (absent)	7 Staff
R. Harriman-Stites	11 Public
A. Clure	1 Press
D. Cruson	
D. Lew	

Mr. Alexander called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: Mrs. Ku moved that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss non-union compensation in the Business and Finance Department and for the athletic trainer and invited Dr. Erardi, Mr. Bienkowski, Mrs. Davila, Mr. Memoli and Kimberly Beck. Mr. Cruson seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 1 – Executive Session

The Board came out of executive session at 7:21 p.m.

Item 2 – Pledge of Allegiance

Item 3 – Celebration of Excellence

Dr. Erardi spoke about the three community members of the future forecast committee who added extraordinary expertise to the group. Tonight we recognize Karyn Holden Dr. Linda Weidenhamer and Robert Morey for their work on the committee. Mr. Alexander thanked them as community members and shared the Board's appreciation for their work.

Item 4 – Consent Agenda

MOTION: Mrs. Ku moved that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda which includes the amended minutes of January 17, 2017, the donation to Sandy Hook School, the high school field trip, and the resignations of Melissa Caioppo and Catherine Dube-Meisenholder. Mr. Cruson seconded. Mr. Cruson's changes were on page 5. The paragraph should read, "Mr. Cruson said his concerns are mostly to point **1 and 2** in the letter. He hoped Trump would remove his support. **#3** would be agreeable to him."

Motion passes unanimously.

Item 5 – Public Participation

Item 6 – Reports

Chair Report: Mr. Alexander thanked the Board members for their attendance at the retreat on Saturday with a number of seniors attending and included a discussion on sleep study considerations and what we might do with the extra space in our schools.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Erardi highlighted our relationship with the Booth Library who will be at the kindergarten parent night where each student will be able to get a library card.

There will be a meeting to discuss middle school sports on February 14 with information being provided at the March 7 Board meeting.

Dr. Erardi shared an article written by Dr. Rodrigue which was published in the magazine *Principal Leadership* which is quite a tribute.

The community talking points from the January 25 community forum were shared.

The February 23 forum will be facilitated by Deborah Petersen and dedicated to the process of a PPT.

February 13 the Board of Education will co-present their budget with the Board of Selectman to the Board of Finance. A more detailed presentation will take place February 23.

#### Committee Reports:

Mrs. Ku said the Policy Committee reviewed fundraising, absenteeism, truancy and more student based policies. We finished the 3000 series. The Curriculum and Instruction Committee discussed the Acting 2 pilot program, transitions from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to the high school, and the K-12 foreign language curriculum. Nurses negotiations will also be starting shortly.

Mr. Clure said he and Mr. Cruson met with Mrs. Amodeo at Head O'Meadow regarding cell phone coverage and also discussed service at Reed Intermediate School. He wants parents to know they are working on improving the service.

Mr. Cruson attended the Head O'Meaw PTA meeting where Dr. Erardi discussed the budget. Mrs. Harriman-Stites attended the Hawley PTA meeting where the budget was discussed.

#### Student Representatives:

Dylan Lew: 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents attended orientation last night which provided a great introduction to the high school.

Simran Chand: Boy's ice hockey held a benefit for the Wounded Warriors, boys' basketball honored seniors, the debate team will attend a competition at Harvard, a blood drive was held, the Snowball Dance would be held this Friday.

Dylan: Families in Newtown had an event where Valentine's Day cards were made for the military. The National Honor Society had election of officers for next year.

Simran: Regarding the aftermath of the presidential election, there has been much discussion in the school which translates to political contention between students. Teachers have attempted to encourage students to argue the ideas and not the people presenting the ideas.

Dylan: Government and social science classes encouraged students to express what their views were without being self-conscious.

Dr. Erardi said that the last part of their report was thoughtful and spot-on and hopes adults model that behavior.

Mrs. Ku said that CABA recently had a retreat for members and had an anti-defamation league speak about opening boards up to these conversations.

#### Item 7 – Old Business

##### High School Auditorium Project Update:

Dr. Erardi thanked Mr. Faiella and Ms. Hiscavich for covering the Public Building & Site Commission meeting.

Mr. Faiella said the GMP was accepted and Ms. Hoerauf would be working on contracts this week. Construction should start February 23. There is no updated schedule yet. Ms. Hoerauf will provide that information and he is hopeful that we will remain on track.

Dr. Erardi said the reason for the delay was because PB&S had to cancel their last two meetings due to weather.

Mr. Faiella explained GMP, Gross Maximum Pricing, which is accepting the money we expected.

Mr. Alexander asked the impact to students once the construction starts.

Ms. Hiscavich said we were able to move classes and made an adaptation to one of our drama classes.

Mr. Faiella doesn't foresee any problems with physical noise.

Mr. Clure asked if anyone came forward to request any of the seats.

Ms. Hiscavich said she was uncomfortable doing that because they are so old and someone could get hurt using them.

Mr. Alexander asked about purchasing extra equipment.

Mr. Bienkowski said we would make a request to the Board of Finance for funds and they will forward it to the Legislative Council. July 1 the finance office will release funds for that. We should get prices in May or June so we can put things in motion.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites requested that for the next update to have those directly involved in managing the project attend the meeting.

Dr. Erardi would have one or both attend.

MOTION: Mr. Clure moved that the Board of Education approve the College Math Options course and the Algebra 1 Foundations 1 and 2 course. Mr. Cruson seconded.

Mrs. Davila spoke about both courses.

Mr. Clure referred to the algebra course and asked how the teachers knew where the students from Reed and the middle school were as far as being ready to take the course.

Dr. Erardi said the actual placement to math going to 7<sup>th</sup> grade is done by the middle school after looking at assessment data.

Lauren Dominick, math department chair, said it will be based off middle school teacher recommendations.

Mr. Clure feels it's helpful for the high school teachers to know about each student.

Ms. Dominick said the high school has been meeting with middle school teachers.

Dr. Rodrigue said the high school has two freshman counselors that only work with freshman.

The counselors talk to parents also. The academic officers go to the middle school to recommend students who need specialized placements.

Motion passes unanimously.

2017-2018 and 2018-2019 School Calendars:

MOTION: Mrs. Ku moved that the Board of Education adopt the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school calendars. Mr. Cruson seconded.

Mr. Clure asked what the decision process was behind deciding whether there would be a delayed opening or an early dismissal for professional development.

Dr. Erardi said we shared the parents perspective with Mr. Kuroski and the opinion was split down the middle. Mrs. Davila spent a significant amount of time to find dates that work for professional development and conferences. This is the best final standing recommendation around conferences and professional development which has been well received.

Mr. Clure surveyed 11 school districts in the area and 10 of them have Columbus Day off. He likes the Veteran's Day programs in the school but wanted to incorporate Columbus Day to use as a teaching tool.

Dr. Erardi said the issue is around weather with the conversation centering on how to get us out early in June due to the heat in the schools. Veteran's Day is a celebration of the veterans in our schools. He agrees that if we go to school we offer opportunities for students that day. If it's a difficult winter we have to worry about how long we go in June.

Mr. Cruson said years ago other districts also dropped Columbus Day. He can see a good reason for adding it back.

Mrs. Ku said it was a Federal and State holiday with Newtown offices closed. She is not in favor of making it a holiday because there is a huge value having students in school and learning what role Columbus played. Most businesses are open and working parents don't have it off so it puts them in a bind.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites said if we keep it as a school day there should be teaching and learning about Columbus.

Mr. Cruson agreed there should be instruction about Columbus if we are off or have school.

Mr. Alexander said the decision to have school on Veteran's Day is a win-win and a day of learning for the students. He prefers to keep the day and the administration work the curriculum around that day.

MOTION: Mr. Clure moved to amend the motion to add Columbus Day and rename it Discovery Day. Mr. Cruson seconded.

Mr. Alexander said a day in school with more education is better and felt the administration could make it more educational.

Vote: 2 ayes, 3 nays (Mr. Alexander, Mrs. Ku, Mrs. Harriman-Stites)

Motion fails.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites referred to a parent email to move the two-hour delayed opening on the Monday after the Superbowl.

Mr. Cruson would rather see more full-day professional development.

Mrs. Ku said our purpose is to educate children and teachers still need to have professional development. That change goes against what we should be doing.

Dr. Erardi was not sure if it's a reoccurring date and was not comfortable moving our calendar around sporting events.

Mr. Alexander agreed.

Mr. Clure asked why we did a two-year calendar.

Dr. Erardi said it's a courtesy to parents and helpful in planning vacations. A great many districts have two-year calendars. It's important to lock in start dates.

Mr. Clure said he would move the April break because it's the most expensive week to travel.

Dr. Erardi said there were issues around surrounding districts when the weeks were not the same. The break is now aligned regionally which locks us in. The same dates are also around President's Day.

Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Ku moved that the Board of Education approve the amended minutes of February 1, 2017. Mr. Cruson seconded. Mrs. Harriman-Stites amendment is on page 4, third paragraph. The word "not" was added for the sentence to read "Mrs. Harriman-Stites said the

letter is **not** meant to protect the 26 families.” Mr. Cruson’s amendments are on page four, second paragraph which should read “Mr. Cruson agrees to standing up to the bullying but the way the letter is worded he feels we will **not be the ones taking** the brunt of what may happen and is concerned it will hurt the families. **Additionally**, should begin the second sentence. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Ku moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of February 2, 2017. Mr. Cruson seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Ku moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of February 4, 2017. Mr. Cruson seconded. Mr. Clure appreciated everyone who attended this meeting. Motion passes unanimously.

#### Item 8 – New Business

Course Pilot: Acting 2

Mrs. Davila said this course was proposed because students have made requests to go beyond the Acting 1 course.

Ms. Hiscavich referred to the students who attend the arts magnet school. Some have taken our courses but they don’t have time to be in our musicals.

Dr. Rodrigue said it’s been limited at the high school so we have more students that want to go to the magnet school.

Mr. Alexander asked the budget behind this as a course.

Ms. Hiscavich said there was no additional cost.

Mr. Alexander questioned if we have staff coverage.

Ms. Hiscavich said we have to see what the numbers are but hoped it would work in

Ms. Gabriel’s schedule.

Dr. Erardi said the course is coming forward with no additional staffing. There will be students who may not have the opportunity to take both. For the following school year we may have to make a staff recommendation.

#### Item 9 – Public Participation

MOTION: Mr. Clure moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cruson seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

#### Item 10 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Keith Alexander  
Chair

12 Dickinson Drive  
Sandy Hook, CT 06482  
(203) 426-7657



# Memo

**To:** Kathy June  
**From:** Erin Ardino  
**cc:**  
**Date:** January 30, 2017  
**Re:** Donation

Kathy-

Enclosed please find a letter and a \$15 donation from Kathleen Zorn.

With the Board's approval, we would like this check deposited into the SHS Gift Account.

Thank you.

Erin

KATHLEEN ZORN 08-14 65-272/550 497  
123 SACRED HEART LANE  
REISTERSTOWN, MD 21136

DATE 1/30/17 PMP

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Sandy Hook Elem. \$15.00  
fifteen and 00/100 DOLLARS ← Heat Reactive Ink

FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK  
Fowlesburg, Maryland 21155

MEMO: \_\_\_\_\_ MP

⑆055002723⑆ 40236384⑈ 0497

LOOK FOR FRAUD-DETECTING FEATURES INCLUDING THE SECURITY SQUARE AND HEAT-REACTIVE INK. DETAILS ON BACK.



# All-Star Transportation

31 Pecks Lane  
Newtown, CT 06470  
(203) 304 - 9778  
Fax: (203) 304 - 9776

Principal Approval: L. Rodriguez ✓

## NO BUS NEEDED

### CHARTER BUS REQUEST

Person requesting: JILL MARAK School: NHS

Class: Orchestra Date of trip: May 11-12

Pickup time: 9:30 AM /  PM Destination: Hershey PA

Address of destination: Harrisburg PA

Leave time from destination: 5:00 AM /  PM Snow/Rain date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher in charge of trip: JILL MARAK

No. students: 43 No. staff: 2 No. parents (if applicable): 5

Do any students have special needs for transportation? Yes  No

If **yes**, what is required? (wheel chair, harness, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

If multiple students have special needs requirements, please list: \_\_\_\_\_

Party responsible for payment: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: JILL MARAK Phone No.: 203-218-5710

*If additional space required for listing, please include separate page*

- A minimum of **two weeks** is needed to place a reservation. Please understand that availability of a date decreases the later you wait.
- Average capacity is 50 students per bus. Capacity decreases for older students and adult-sized passengers.
- Students with special needs requirements (wheel chair, harness) will require a Type II bus as full-size buses cannot accommodate.
- If trip is being paid through a grant, school is still **responsible for payment for service**.
- Please fax this request with all completed information. A confirmation will be faxed back to you with all costs.
- We reserve the right to have buses back in town for school dismissal schedule.
- Cancellation or postponement of a reserved trip requires a minimum of two hours' notice on a school day; one day prior if a weekend trip. Failure to notify may incur a cost for time bus ran.

## OVERNIGHT

21 Corona Drive  
Milford, CT 06460  
January 19, 2017

Dr. Joseph Erardi  
Newtown Public Schools  
3 Primrose Street  
Newtown, CT 06470

Dear Dr. Erardi

It is with a very heavy heart that I am writing this letter. I have spent 15 years building my career and making many friends here at Newtown High School. I have decided to accept a position with Foran High School in Milford and have agonized over this decision. I am not leaving Newtown because I am unhappy by any means. This is about my family and my commitment to students. Being so close to home I can be more involved with the students outside of school which is what I want to do. I will miss so much about NHS and the amazing colleagues I have had throughout my years here.

Everyone at Newtown High School has been so supportive through the good and bad times in my life. I have been given many opportunities to grow here and I will take all that I have learned to my new school and begin a new chapter in my life. I know I will not be leaving immediately but I do need to let Foran High School know when I will be available to begin.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa Cacioppo". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Melissa Cacioppo



Chris Geissler  
Middle Gate Elementary School Principal

Newtown Public School District  
7 Cold Spring Road  
Newtown, Connecticut 06470

January 25, 2017

Dear Chris Geissler,

I am honored to be working for the Newtown Public School District. I have learned a great deal during my time here at Middle Gate and I am grateful for the opportunities that I have been given. However, this letter is to inform you that I have accepted a new position at a private school and that I will be resigning from my position as a Special Education Teacher here at Middle Gate. I believe that this decision is necessary for my personal and professional development. As the private school is a 220 day school, I ask you to waive my contract with Newtown and that my last day be February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

During my last two weeks, I will do what is necessary to help in any transitions to fill my position. Please let me know how I can be more helpful in this process.

The District of Newtown will continue to hold a special place in my heart. I will value my time here with high regard and pray for the administration, teachers, and students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Catherine L. Dube-Meisenholder".

Catherine L. Dube-Meisenholder ME. Special Education

**NEW PROGRAM/PILOT and RESEARCH PROJECT APPLICATION**  
Newtown Public Schools  
**ALL new programs/pilots and research projects MUST be approved by the  
Newtown BOE.**

**What will the program/pilot or research project be called?**

College Math Topics

**Give a brief description of the program/pilot or research project:**

This course would replace the current Intermediate Algebra class. Topics will include, linear expressions, linear equations, systems of equations, graph analysis, problem solving, data analysis, quadratic and exponential functions. Time will also be spent on financial and math applications of the real world. This course will be offered for students who leave Algebra 2 and would like an alternate course to Pre-calculus or CPA Statistics. Problem solving techniques relating algebra to real world applications and standardized test preparation would be incorporated throughout the course.

**PLANNING**

**Please answer the following questions:**

- 1. What is the documented need for the program/pilot or research project?**

This course would replace the Intermediate Algebra Class. The students who are currently enrolled in the Intermediate Algebra Class were enrolled on the promise of potential college credit. This college credit is no longer offered to students. This College Math Topics Class would be offered in place of the Intermediate Algebra Class as a more useful course for the students. It would open up opportunities for students to form a broader perspective of mathematical concepts that will both engage students as well as provide them with a wider overview of essential topics they can use in the real world.

- 2. What research is available about the effectiveness of this program/pilot or research project?**

This course would be offered as an alternative class for students who have taken Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry, but have not shown a desire to continue with Pre-calculus or Statistics. Currently, more and more students are taking four years of math.

In 2010-2011, just seven years ago, of the 400 graduating seniors, 297 of these students took four years of math (74.25%).

This current school year, 2016-2017, of the anticipated 431 graduating seniors, 361 of these students currently take four years of math (83.75%).

Over seven years, the percentage of students who have taken four years of math has grown 9.5%.

**3. How does the program/pilot or research project align with the core beliefs of the Newtown Public Schools?**

This course relates directly to the Mission Statement of Newtown Public Schools: "The mission of the Newtown Public Schools, a partnership of students, families, educators, and community, is to inspire each student to excel in attaining and applying the knowledge, skills and attributes that lead to personal success while becoming a contributing member of a dynamic global community..."

This course is also correlated with Newtown High School's Problem Solving 21<sup>st</sup> century learning expectation: "Newtown students will demonstrate and apply appropriate procedures to solve and communicate an authentic problem or situation."

**4. Who have you communicated with about the program/pilot or research project and what are the responses? (ex. Building leadership team, department chair)**

This idea was brought up and discussed as a whole by the NHS math department. We wrote the reasoning together and this reasoning was presented to Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue, followed by Jean Davila. After positive feedback about this proposal this course was discussed with the Newtown High School leadership team, followed by the Curriculum and Instruction committee.

**5. Was the program/pilot or research project critiqued by a curriculum committee? What were their comments?**

No.

**6. Which staff and students will participate in the first year of the program/pilot or research project? How will they be selected?**

One or two staff members will be needed to teach the three sections of this course that are being proposed. The students who are apt to take this class are the students who would have taken our Intermediate Algebra class.

**7. What are the staffing implications?**

Currently we have two teachers teaching Intermediate Algebra. We would need one or two of these teachers to teach the three sections proposed of this class.

**8. Do you anticipate that this will become a mandated program/pilot or research project?**

No. However, this is an alternative class for students who would like to take four years of math.

**9. When and how will the initial, start-up curriculum be written prior to initiation of the program/pilot or research project?**

It is proposed that two-three teachers as well as myself are relieved of a duty responsibility during semester two of the 2016-2017 school year to write this curriculum.

**10. What is the plan for pre-implementation training and follow-up training?**

None.

**11. What are the projected costs for planning and future implementation? (i.e. curriculum development, instruction recourses, staff training)**

None.

**MEASURING EFFECTS**

**12. How will you measure the program/pilot or research project effectiveness?**

This course will be measured on how effective it is based off of student enrollment. Additionally, student success will be measured through ongoing evaluation of homework/classroom instruction, classroom formative assessments, common summative assessments (mid-year and final exams), student progress reports/grades, student self-reflection and teacher anecdotal information.

**13. Who will use the information to decide if the program/pilot or research project will be continued?**

The math department as well as the Newtown High School Administration.

**14. When and how will the results be communicated to the Board?**

Both results can be communicated to the Board in late Fall of 2017.

**CONTACT PERSON** Lauren Dominick (High School Math Department Chair)

**DATE** November 30, 2016

**NEW PROGRAM/PILOT and RESEARCH PROJECT APPLICATION**  
Newtown Public Schools  
**ALL new programs/pilots and research projects MUST be approved by the  
Newtown BOE.**

**What will the program/pilot or research project be called?**

Algebra 1 Foundations 1/Algebra 1 Foundations 2

**Give a brief description of the program/pilot or research project:**

This course accommodates those students whose organizational skills and basic mathematical skills need reinforcement. Algebra 1 topics will be covered over a two year time span with Algebra 1 Foundations 1 course being the first of the two courses and Algebra 1 Foundations 2 being the second of the two courses. Topics will include: operations under the real number system, properties of Algebra, linear equations, inequalities and their applications, arithmetic and geometric sequences, scatter plots and trend lines, piecewise and absolute value functions, fitting function to data, systems of linear equations, inequalities and their applications, introduction to polynomials, quadratic functions, factoring, solving quadratic equations and rational expression. Problem solving techniques relating algebra to real world applications and standardized test preparation are incorporated throughout the course.

These courses are recommended to be co-taught classes. We anticipate the students leaving these courses will find greater success in the higher level math classes.

**PLANNING**

**Please answer the following questions:**

- 1. What is the documented need for the program/pilot or research project?**

This course would be offered to the group of students that struggle with foundational math concepts. Algebra 1 is the most essential math course students take. It is their building block and foundation, and, therefore, time should be spent solidifying that foundation for future courses. Currently, there are many students who are enrolled in our CPB level math courses that have not mastered foundational math concepts. Therefore, a great deal of instructional time is lost re-teaching these skills. This course created would be called Algebra 1 Foundations 1 and Algebra 1 Foundations 2. It would take the Algebra 1 content and spread it out over two years with extra time to embed a deeper explanation of foundational math concepts.

**2. What research is available about the effectiveness of this program/pilot or research project?**

Data has been collected for each of the CPB classes being offered. The data collected is: how many students are enrolled in this course, how many students are receiving a C or below at the end of the second quarter, and what that number is as a percent. This data can be seen in the table below.

<b>Course</b>	<b>Total amount of students in course</b>	<b>Total amount of students in the course receiving a C or below</b>	<b>Percentage of students in the course receiving a C or below</b>
CPB Algebra 1	91	38	41.76 %
CPB Geometry	94	25	26.6%
CPB Algebra 2	71	25	35.21%

As seen in the table, the greatest numbers of students struggling are in the Algebras. These skills need to be reinforced for some students over a two year period.

**3. How does the program/pilot or research project align with the core beliefs of the Newtown Public Schools?**

This course relates directly to the Mission Statement of Newtown Public Schools: The mission of the Newtown Public Schools, a partnership of students, families, educators, and community, is to inspire each student to excel in attaining and applying the knowledge, skills and attributes that lead to personal success while becoming a contributing member of a dynamic global community...

This course is also correlated with Newtown High School's Problem Solving 21<sup>st</sup> century learning expectation: Newtown students will demonstrate use of the scientific method and apply appropriate procedures to solve and communicate an authentic problem or situation.

**4. Who have you communicated with about the program/pilot or research project and what are the responses? (ex. Building leadership team, department chair)**

This idea was brought up and discussed as a whole by the NHS math department. We wrote the reasoning together and this reasoning was presented to Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue, followed by Jean Davilla. After positive feedback about this proposal this course was discussed with the Newtown High School leadership team, followed by the Curriculum and Instruction committee.

5. **Was the program/pilot or research project critiqued by a curriculum committee? What were their comments?**

No.

6. **Which staff and students will participate in the first year of the program/pilot or research project? How will they be selected?**

One staff member will be needed to teach the one section of this course that is being proposed. The students who would take this class would be on a recommendation basis. Additionally, this course is recommended to be a co-taught class.

7. **What are the staffing implications?**

This class would reduce the sections of CPA/CPB Algebra 1 which would not cause any implications.

8. **Do you anticipate that this will become a mandated program/pilot or research project?**

No.

9. **When and how will the initial, start-up curriculum be written prior to initiation of the program/pilot or research project?**

It is proposed that two-three teachers as well as myself are relieved of a duty responsibility during semester two of the 2016-2017 school year to write this curriculum.

10. **What is the plan for pre-implementation training and follow-up training?**

None.

11. **What are the projected costs for planning and future implementation? (i.e. curriculum development, instruction recourses, staff training)**

None.

## **MEASURING EFFECTS**

12. **How will you measure the program/pilot or research project effectiveness?**

This course will be measured on how effective it is based off of student success over three years of math. This student success will be based off of ongoing evaluation through homework/classroom instruction, classroom formative assessments, common summative

assessments (mid-year and final exams), student progress reports/grades, student self-reflection and teacher anecdotal information.

- 13. Who will use the information to decide if the program/pilot or research project will be continued?**

The math department as well as the Newtown High School Administration.

- 14. When and how will the results be communicated to the Board?**

Results of semester averages of these students can be communicated to the BOE.

**CONTACT PERSON** Lauren Dominick (High School Math Department Chair)

**DATE** November 30, 2016



# NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2017-2018 SCHOOL CALENDAR

## AUGUST 4(7)

M	T	W	TH	F
		<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

**23-All Teachers Report**  
**23, 24 & 25 -Staff Development Days**  
**28 Students Report**

## SEPTEMBER 19(19)

M	T	W	TH	F
				<b>1</b>
--	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	--	<b>22</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

**4-Labor Day, Schools Closed**  
**21-Rosh Hashanah-Schools Closed**

## OCTOBER 22(22)

M	T	W	TH	F
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>*6</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

**6 - 2-hr. delay - Staff Dev.**

## NOVEMBER 19(20)

M	T	W	TH	F
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>6</b>	--	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>*22</b>	--	--
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	

**7-Election Day-Schools Closed For Students, Staff Development Day**  
**22-Early Dismissal for Thanksgiving**  
**23-24-Thanksgiving Recess**

## DECEMBER 16(16)

M	T	W	TH	F
				<b>1</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>*6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>*22</b>
--	--	--	--	--

**\*6-Early Dismissal-Staff Dev.**  
**\*22-Early Dismissal for holiday**  
**25-29-Holiday Recess**

## JANUARY 21(21)

M	T	W	TH	F
--	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>*12</b>
--	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

**1-New Year's Day**  
**\*12-Early Dismissal-Staff Dev.**  
**15-Martin Luther King Day, Schools Closed**

## FEBRUARY 18(18)

M	T	W	TH	F
			<b>1</b>	<b>*2</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
--	--	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>		

**\*2 - 2-hr. delay-Staff Dev.**  
**19-20-Schools Closed**

## MARCH 21(21)

M	T	W	TH	F
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>*13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	--

**\*13-Early Dismissal-Staff Dev.**  
**30-Good Friday, Schools Closed**

**Student Days - 183**  
**Teacher Days - 187**

## APRIL 16(16)

M	T	W	TH	F
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>*4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
--	--	--	--	--
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>30</b>				

**\*4-2-hr. delay - Staff Dev.**  
**16-20- Schools Closed**

## MAY 22(22)

M	T	W	TH	F
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>*18</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
--	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

**\*18-2-hr. delay - Staff Dev.**  
**28-Memorial Day- Schools Closed**

## JUNE 5(5)

M	T	W	TH	F
				<b>1</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	☀ <b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	■ <b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

☀-Projected last day of school without emergency closing days  
 ■-Projected last day of school if the 5 built-in days are used

*The calendar builds-in five emergency closings, with the last day of school projected as June 14th. Unused closings will be deducted from this date. Extra closings will be added on June 15, 18, 19 and 20 with additional days taken from the April break starting with 4/20, 4/19, etc.*

### Open House Dates:

Elementary - Sept. 5 & 6  
 Reed Intermediate - Sept. 7 gr. 5 / Sept. 21 gr. 6  
 Middle School - Aug. 30 gr. 7 / Aug. 31 gr. 8  
 High School - Sept. 14

### Conference Dates/Early Dismissal Times:

Elementary - Oct. 24, 25, 26 & 27 - 1:07 p.m. dismissal.....Mar. 15 & 16 - 1:37 p.m. dismissal  
 Reed Intermediate - Oct. 24, 25, 26 & 27 - 12:20 p.m. dismissal.....Mar. 15 & 16 - 12:49 p.m. dismissal  
 Middle School - Oct. 24, 25, 26 & 27 - 11:42 a.m. dismissal.....Mar. 15 & 16 - 12:02 p.m. dismissal  
 High School - Nov. 14, 15, 16 & 17 - 12:02 p.m. dismissal.....Mar. 15 & 16 - 12:02 p.m. dismissal

Adopted: February 7, 2017

# NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2018-2019 SCHOOL CALENDAR

## AUGUST 5(8)

M	T	W	TH	F
		<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

**22-All Teachers Report**  
**22, 23 & 24 -Staff Development Days**  
**27 Students Report**

## SEPTEMBER 17(17)

M	T	W	TH	F
--	4	5	6	7
--	11	12	13	14
17	18	--	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

**3-Labor Day, Schools Closed**  
**10-Rosh Hashanah-Schools Closed**  
**19-Yom Kippur-Schools Closed**

## OCTOBER 23(23)

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	*5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

**5 - 2-hr. delay - Staff Dev.**

## NOVEMBER 19(20)

M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	--	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	*21	--	--
26	27	28	29	30

**6-Election Day-Schools Closed For Students, Staff Development Day**  
**\*21-Early Dismissal - Thanksgiving**  
**22-23-Thanksgiving Recess**

## DECEMBER 15(15)

M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	*5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	*21
--	--	--	--	--
--				

**\*5-Early Dismissal-Staff Dev.**  
**\*21-Early Dismissal for holiday**  
**24-31-Holiday Recess**

## JANUARY 21(21)

M	T	W	TH	F
	--	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	*11
14	15	16	17	18
--	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

**1-New Year's Day**  
**\*11-Early Dismissal-Staff Dev.**  
**21-Martin Luther King Day, Schools Closed**

## FEBRUARY 18(18)

M	T	W	TH	F
				*1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
--	--	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	

**\*1- 2-hr. delay-Staff Dev.**  
**18-19-Schools Closed**

## MARCH 21(21)

M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	*12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

**\*12-Early Dismissal-Staff Dev.**

## APRIL 17(17)

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	*3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
--	--	--	--	--
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

**\*3-2-hr. delay - Staff Dev.**  
**15-19- Schools Closed**

## MAY 22(22)

M	T	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	*17
20	21	22	23	24
--	28	29	30	31

**\*17-2-hr. delay - Staff Dev.**  
**27-Memorial Day- Schools Closed**

## JUNE 5(5)

M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	☀7
10	11	12	13	■14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

☀-Projected last day of school without emergency closing days  
 ■-Projected last day of school if the 5 built-in days are used

**Student Days - 183**  
**Teacher Days - 187**

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 Middle School - Oct. 23, 24, 25 & 26 - 11:42 a.m. dismissal.....Mar. 14 & 15 - 12:02 p.m. dismissal  
 High School - November 13, 14, 15 & 16 - 12:02 p.m. dismissal.....Mar. 14 & 15 - 12:02 p.m. dismissal

**Adopted: February 7, 2017**

**NEW PROGRAM/PILOT and RESEARCH PROJECT APPLICATION**  
Newtown Public Schools  
**ALL new programs/pilots and research projects MUST be approved by the**  
Newtown BOE

**What will the program/pilot or research project be called?**

ACTING 2

**Give a brief description of the program/pilot or research project:**

*Acting 2* focuses upon intermediate theatre topics designed to build upon skills developed in Acting 1. The focus of this course's work is on the scripted word, and how the actor interprets and presents the words of others on stage. There will also be a script-writing component as well as more in depth work in the area of stage combat. Students must have completed Acting 1 in order to take this course.

This will be a semester course that is offered for .5 credit.

**PLANNING**

**Please answer the following questions:**

**1. What is the documented need for the program/pilot or research project?**

Newtown High School offers an Acting 1 class with no follow through to more advanced levels. Students are requesting additional theatre classes and made it a point to visit the Principal requesting Acting 2 specifically.

**2. What research is available about the effectiveness of this program/pilot or research project?**

The Theatre offerings at Newtown High School are minimal in comparison to schools in our DRG-B and that of DRG-A (with whom our students compete). Our history has shown that many NHS graduates are pursuing careers in theatre (theatre tech, writing, composing, acting). Our current program needs to be expanded to enable students to build their skills and experience to be prepared for college auditions as well competitively compete for the limited number of spaces in theatre programs.

The Fine Arts Department would like to eventually expand course offerings to include classes such as Shakespeare, Theater Management, Directing, Audition Techniques, Script Writing, Puppeteering, Acting for Camera, Improv and Comedy, and Dance.

**3. How does the program/pilot or research project align with the core beliefs of the Newtown Public Schools?**

This program is centered on our core beliefs:

- Recognizing that each individual is unique and has value;
- It takes effort and persistence to achieve one's full potential;
- High expectations inspire higher levels of performance;
- Honesty, integrity, respect and open communication build trust;
- Quality education expands the opportunities for individuals and is vital to the success of the entire community; and
- Continuous improvement requires the courage to change.

**4. Who have you communicated with about the program/pilot or research project and what are the responses? (ex. Building leadership team, department chair)**

The Fine Arts Dept./Michelle Hiscavich (Dept. Chair) has followed protocol of discussing with Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue (NHS Principal) and Jean Davila (Asst. Superintendent). Both were supportive of adding an Acting 2 course to expand the theatre program.

**5. Was the program/pilot or research project critiqued by a curriculum committee? What were their comments?**

That is our next step. Meeting with C & I Committee on Jan. 20, 2017.

**6. Which staff and students will participate in the first year of the program/pilot or research project? How will they be selected?**

The Acting 2 course will be piloted in the 2017-18 school year. We anticipate a very positive response based on student interest and requests for a higher level Acting course.

**7. What are the staffing implications?**

Janice Gabriel is currently a full time staff member. This semester course will be worked into her schedule in the 2017-18 school-year and will focus her teaching assignment in Theatre (currently teaching 2 English courses).

**8. Do you anticipate that this will become a mandated program/pilot or research project?**

No. Theatre courses are part of the NHS elective offerings. This course will offer more Theatre course options and could potentially be a pre-requisite for other Theatre courses in the future. This essential class will also provide more training for students pursuing a Theatre major in college and career in that field.

**9. When and how will the initial, start-up curriculum be written prior to initiation of the program/pilot or research project?**

Curriculum will be written during early release days and PD days at no cost to the District.

10. **What is the plan for pre-implementation training and follow-up training?**  
Additional training is not needed at this time. As there is currently only one Acting course, the teacher is differentiating and personalizing learning to meet all student needs at all levels. By separating levels 1 and 2 the teacher will be able to bring the curriculum to greater depth and rigor, creating a better learning environment and meeting the needs of Acting 2 students.
11. **What are the projected costs for planning and future implementation? (i.e. curriculum development, instruction recourses, staff training)**  
Resources are teacher generated and accessed online.

### MEASURING EFFECTS

12. **How will you measure the program/pilot or research project effectiveness?**
- Number of students enrolled in the program
  - Student mastery of learning expectations and meeting learning goals
13. **Who will use the information to decide if the program/pilot or research project will be continued?**  
Theatre teacher in collaboration with Fine Arts Dept. Chair, NHS Principal and Asst. Superintendent
14. **When and how will the results be communicated to the Board?**  
An update will be provided to the C & I Subcommittee on or before January 2018.

CONTACT PERSON Michelle Hiscavich DATE 1/18/17