

# BUDGET NEWS 2015-2016

## NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

### BOARD OF FINANCE DELIBERATION

The Board of Education presented the district budget to the Board of Finance on Feb. 19, 2015. The Board of Finance deliberated the education budget on Mar. 2, 2015. Read the [minutes](#) and watch [video](#) of the meetings.

Questions included discussion around transportation, special education and employee benefits. Additionally, the Board of Finance asked about grants that have expired and what expenses the district is now responsible for that total \$76,445. Staffing and classroom sizes at all levels were discussed and the final questions regarded technology and maintenance costs. See answers to the BOF questions from [Feb. 19](#) and [Mar. 2](#).



The Superintendent announced additional savings as a result of the elimination of one bus (\$62,200) and a lower contracted price for diesel fuel than was originally anticipated (\$50,589). The Board of Finance will continue their deliberations on Monday, Mar. 9th at 7:30p.m. at the Municipal Center.

#### MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2015

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#### Upcoming Budget Meetings

- Mar. 9 7:30pm—Board of Finance Deliberations
- Mar. 12 7:30pm—Board of Finance Vote on Budget Recommendation**
- Mar. 18 7:30pm—Legislative Council Board of Finance Presentation
- Mar. 25 7:30pm—Legislative Council Public Hearing on Budget**

### SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Dear Parents and Community Members:

The Board of Education continues to do all that they can to inform voters on their proposed 2015-2016 operational plan. The information sharing is intended to make sure that all questions are answered and that every voting member in the community knows exactly what they are planning to vote on for the new school year. To date, the process has been deep in partnership as elected and appointed officials have worked in harmony for the best of children. My office remains open to you at your convenience. I would welcome a call, or if preferred, a meeting to personalize any thoughts you may have on what I believe is a plan that moves Newtown one step closer to a district of academic distinction.

I look forward to hearing from you as we, together, look to make a difference.....one student at a time.

Respectfully,  
Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr.,  
Superintendent of Schools

## BUDGET QUESTIONS

### Open Budget Hour

Thursdays 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
in March and April:

3/12, 3/19

4/2, 4/9

Board of Education Offices

Dr. Erardi will also be attending faculty meetings, parent meetings, civic group meetings, and visiting community organizations during the budget season.

Dr. Erardi will continue to be available most days during his open office hour at 6:30am at the Board of Education Offices.

If you would like to meet with Dr. Erardi privately, please contact Kathy June at 203-426-7620.



## BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

The Superintendent's Office continues to refine estimates and help bring any improved information to the town throughout the budget process.

From the time the Superintendent's Budget Proposal was presented to the Board of Education to the date it was voted on, there were \$145,698 of adjustments recommended by the Business Manager and Superintendent which the Board approved.

After the budget was presented to the Board of Finance, the Superintendent's office coordinated with our transportation provider for a reduction and received final pricing for diesel fuel for a combined further reduction to the budget of \$112,809. The town also received a recommendation from the Employee Medical Benefits Board for a reduction to insurance funding based on claim experience and trends. This represents a further reduction to the Board of Education Budget of \$225,000.

Assuming that the Board of Finance agrees and incorporates these changes to their budget recommendation, the Board of Education budget would move forward at \$71,915,679, a \$570,375 (0.80%) increase over 2014-2015.

## POINTS OF PRIDE

- ↑ In Fall 2013, Newtown High School students, Sonya Stanczyk and Matthew Baldino, were recognized as Student Hunger Action Heroes by the Connecticut Food Bank for connecting our Culinary program and the Feed the Need program to provide meals to local homeless shelters.
- ↑ In 2014, Newtown Middle School's *Opus Optima* received an Excellence in Student Literary Magazines award from the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

## MORE INFORMATION

**Contact** the Newtown Board of Education by email: [newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us)

**Get** the latest budget updates on twitter: [@NewtownBOE](https://twitter.com/NewtownBOE)

**Check** the town meeting calendar: <http://tiny.cc/nboe1503n1tc>

**View** town board meeting videos: <http://tiny.cc/nboe1503n1va>

**Look** over the Board of Education's 2015-2016 Proposed Budget: <http://tiny.cc/nboe1503n1br>

**Access** BOE Agenda and Minutes: <http://tiny.cc/nboe1503n1am>

**Find** BOE Budget Information including the Budget Calendar: <http://tiny.cc/nboe1503n1bi>

**See** the Board of Finance Questions: 2/19 <http://tiny.cc/nboe1503n1fq1> 3/2 <http://tiny.cc/nboe1503n1fq2>