

**BOE Policy Committee Agenda**  
**Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm**  
**Municipal Building, BOE Conference Room**  
**3 Primrose St. Newtown, CT 06470**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**APPROVE MINUTES** October 25, 2023

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Discussion and possible action:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Reports</b>
<b>Policy 1700 – Possession of Firearms or Deadly Weapons</b> On September 19 <sup>th</sup> , the Board approved authorization of school officials to allow off-duty police officers to carry a weapon on school grounds. M. Pompano, C. Melillo and T. Higgins will make necessary edits to Policy 1700 to confirm it aligns with state statute and the memorandum of understanding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• S. Connell will invite M. Pompano to this policy meeting.</li><li>• Discussion and Possible Action</li></ul>

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Discussion and possible action:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Reports</b>
<b>Policy 1314/1324 – Fundraising and Solicitation</b> The committee will review this edited policy draft.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion and Possible Action</li></ul>
<b>Policy 1325 – Advertising and Promotion</b> The committee will review this edited policy draft.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion and Possible Action</li></ul>

**UPDATE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

## Community Relations

### Policy Regarding Possession of Deadly Firearms or Deadly Weapons

#### I. Definitions

As used in this Policy 1700(a), the following terms have the meaning set forth herein:

- A. Deadly Weapon means any weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged, or a switchblade knife, gravity knife, billy, blackjack, bludgeon, or metal knuckles [Ref. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-3(6)]
- B. Firearm means any shotgun, sawed-off shotgun, machine gun, rifle, pistol, revolver, or other weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot or projectile may be discharged. [Ref: Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-3 (19)]
- C. Real Property means the land and all temporary and permanent structures comprising the Newtown Public School District's elementary and secondary schools, administrative office buildings, and operational facilities. Real Property includes, but is not limited to, classrooms, hallways, storage facilities, theaters, gymnasiums, fields, parking lots, and administrative offices.
- D. School-Sponsored Activity means any activity sponsored, recognized, or authorized by the Board of Education and includes activities conducted on or off school property. [Ref: Conn. Gen. Sta. § 10-23a(h)].

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#### II. Prohibition of Deadly Weapons and Firearms

In accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 29-28(e) and § 53a-217-b, the possession and/or use of a Deadly Weapon or Firearm on the Real Property of the Newtown Public School District, on school transportation, or at a School-Sponsored Activity, is strictly prohibited by the Board of Education, even if the person possessing the Deadly Weapon or Firearm has a permit for such item. Students and staff are prohibited by the Board of Education from possessing firearms or deadly weapons for any reason, whether otherwise lawful or not on the real property comprising the district's elementary or secondary schools or administrative office building, on school transportation, or at a school-sponsored activity as defined in Subsection (h) of Section 10-233a.

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The issuance of a permit to carry a pistol, revolver or other firearms or deadly weapon does not authorize the possession or carrying of a pistol, revolver or other firearms or deadly weapon on the real property of any school or administrative office building, on school transportation, or to a school-sponsored activity. The Board of Education prohibits such possession on school district property.

Entry into Board of Education Offices or onto school property by persons who hold a valid state or local permit to carry a firearm or deadly weapon and even if the person would otherwise legally traverse school property with an unloaded Firearm or Deadly Weapon for the purpose of gaining access to public or private lands open to hunting or for other lawful purposes, is prohibited by the Board of Education.

#### III. Limited Exceptions

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Notwithstanding the foregoing prohibition of Deadly Weapons or Firearms, a person in lawful possession of a Deadly Weapon or Firearm may possess such item on the Real Property of the Newtown Public School District, on school transportation, or at a School-Sponsored Activity pursuant to the following limited exceptions:

(A) Peace Officers

The person in lawful possession of a Deadly Weapon or Firearm bringing such item on the Real Property of the Newtown Public School District, on school transportation, or at a School-Sponsored Activity, is a peace officer, as defined by Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-3, and is engaged in the performance of his or her official duties; or

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(B) Armed School Security Officers

The person in lawful possession of a Deadly Weapon or Firearm bringing such item on the Real Property of the Newtown Public School District, on school transportation, or at a School-Sponsored Activity, is an armed security officer employed by the Board of Education to provide security services pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-244(a), and is engaged in the performance of his or her official duties; or

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(C) Off-Duty Qualified Newtown Law Enforcement Officers

The person in lawful possession of a Deadly Weapon or Firearm bringing such item on the Real Property of the Newtown Public School District, on school transportation, or at a School-Sponsored Activity, is an off-duty qualified Newtown law enforcement officer authorized by the Board of Education to do so pursuant to a written agreement between the Board of Education and the Newtown Police Department, provided such written agreement has been duly authorized and approved by the Board of Education; or

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(D) Other Specifically Authorized Persons

The person in lawful possession of a Deadly Weapon or Firearm bringing such item on the Real Property of the Newtown Public School District, on school transportation, or at a School-Sponsored Activity, is a person authorized to do so pursuant to a written agreement with such person and the Board of Education or a written agreement between such person's employer and the Board of Education, provided such written agreement has been duly authorized and approved by the Board of Education.

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IV. Consequences

Unless subject to one of the exceptions specifically set forth in this Policy, any person who possesses a Deadly Weapon or Firearm on the Real Property of the Newtown Public School District, on school transportation, or at a School-Sponsored Activity, whether or not the person is lawfully permitted to carry such Deadly Weapon or Firearm, will be immediately reported to law enforcement by school officials upon becoming aware of its possession.

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A student who possesses and/or uses any deadly weapon or firearm on the real property of the Newtown Public School District, on school transportation, or at a School-Sponsored Activity in violation of this Policy shall be disciplined in accordance with the Board of Education's

1700(a)

discipline policies.

~~The Board of Education may employ or enter into an agreement for public school security services with a firearm or deadly weapon, as defined in state law, only with a sworn member of a local police department or a retired state or local police officer, or retired federal law enforcement agents and retired police officers from an out-of-state police department, as stipulated in 10-244a.~~

~~A peace officer, as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-3, engaged in the performance of his or her official duties who is in lawful possession of a deadly weapon or firearm may bring such item on the real property of any school or administrative office building in this district, on school transportation, or to a school-sponsored activity.~~

The Board of Education reserves the right to forbid any person yone caught possessing a Deadly Weapon or Firearm in violation of this Policy on the Rreal Property of the Newtown Public School District of its school buildings or administrative office buildings, on school transportation, or at a School-Sponsored Activity, from entering the Real Property of the Newtown Public School District and/or from using any and all school facilities of the Newtown Public School District.

~~Students and staff are prohibited by the Board of Education from possessing firearms for any reason, whether otherwise lawful or not, in or on the real property comprising the public or private elementary or secondary school or at a school-sponsored activity as defined in Subsection (h) of Section 10-233a.~~

(cf. 5114 - Suspension/Expulsion/Exclusion/Removal)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
29-28 Permit for sale at retail of pistol or revolver. Permit to carry a pistol or revolver. Confidentiality of name and address of permit holder. (as amended by P.A. 98-129)  
29-33 Sale, delivery or transfer of pistol and revolvers. Documentation requirements. Waiting period. Exempted transactions. Penalty. (as amended by P.A. 98-129)

1700(b)

## **Community Relations**

### **Possession of Firearms or Deadly Weapons**

Legal Reference: (continued)

52a-3 Definitions.

53a-217b Possession of a weapon on school grounds: Class D felony. (as amended by P.A. 01-84)

P.A. 13-188 An Act Concerning School Safety

10-244a Employment of persons to provide security services in a public school while in possession of a firearm (as amended by P.A. 14-212 and P.A. 14-217)

Policy adopted: May 5, 2015 , Effective July 1, 2015

Policy revised: April 5, 2016, November 1, 2022

NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Newtown, Connecticut

## Policy 1314/1324

### Fundraising and Solicitation

Fundraising shall be authorized under conditions that do not conflict with instructional programs. Fundraising refers to the raising of non-appropriated funds for the educational benefit of students and their school funds.

Fundraising shall be permitted by Kindergarten through 12th grade students, provided such activities are approved in writing and carefully monitored and regulated by the school Principal or a designee.

Each Principal shall develop and maintain a list of all approved fundraising activities and report all activities to the Superintendent pursuant to procedures issued by the Superintendent.

Annually, the Superintendent will furnish the School Board with an up-to-date listing of all fundraising activities being conducted by the school district.

No organization or individual shall solicit funds, sell memberships, articles or in any other way collect or seek to collect money from the employees of the school system except with the approval of the Board of Education.

#### Athletics 7-12

Fundraising will take place only after the team roster has been finalized within the present school year with the following exception:

Teams that do not have Board of Education budget support for coaching, transportation or officials are the only teams allowed to fundraise with no Board of Education restrictions. [Note that the "restrictions" appear to include both start of the sentence (prior to the ":") and the following statements. This is awkward language, at best.]

Students shall not be required to participate in a fundraising activity as a condition for belonging to a team or group, nor shall a student's participation or lack thereof affect his/her play time or standing on said team or group.

Teams that did not cut during the previous two seasons are allowed to fundraise with no restrictions.

[Does this negate the above exceptions?]

#### My recommendation:

##### Athletics 7-12 Fundraising restrictions:

- Fundraising will take place only after the team roster has been finalized within the present school year.
- Students shall not be required to participate in a fundraising activity as a condition for belonging to a team or group.
- Students' participation or lack thereof shall not affect their play time or standing on said team or group.

**Comment [1]:** We might want to check with Matt Memoli to see how this impacts the teams?

**Comment [2]:** Note that this is preexisting in the original text above.

Such restrictions shall not apply for teams that do not receive Board of Education budget support for coaching, transportation, officials, or other costs associated with the team activities.

Parent Teacher Associations and Booster Clubs are not regulated by this policy as they stand outside School Board jurisdiction.

Policy adopted: May 5, 2015, Effective: July 1, 2015  
NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, Newtown, Connecticut  
Policy revised: April 5, 2016, March 7, 2017

[Does this add anything???? Suggest removal.]

Policy Administrative Regulation 1324

Community Relations

Fundraising and Solicitation

Guidelines Pertaining to 7-12 Athletics:

No freshmen are permitted to fundraise until the team is chosen.

It is understood and made clear that no student-athlete will be compelled or coerced to fundraise.

Regulation approved: April 5, 2016

NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, Newtown, Connecticut

Regulation revised: March 7, 2017

Inspiring Each Student to Excel

3 Primrose St., Newtown, CT 06470

Phone: 203-426-7600

Comment [3]: Seems redundant.

Draft

## Policy 1325

### Advertising and Promotion

The Board of Education recognizes that public schools should maintain careful controls on the way in which students are exposed to materials and announcements, other than those directly related to school sponsored programs and activities. Although school districts are public institutions, fully supported by public taxes, the Board has a clear responsibility to protect students and their families from exploitation by private interests including, but not limited to, commercial, cultural, economic, environmental, organizational and political exploitation.

There are situations, however, when it is educationally sound to make students more aware of the social environment and their roles as members of society. In such situations, judicious dissemination of information to students about community activities is warranted. Each situation requires individual consideration and the judgment of responsible school officials must be the decisive factor. Caution is to be exercised to prevent exploitation of the system and its students, who represent a large, and captive audience.

It is the policy of this Board that the students, the staff, or the facilities of the Newtown Public School District shall not be used to advertise or promote commercial, organizational, cultural, or other non-school interests except that the district may:

1. Utilize instructional aids furnished by private sources that complement approved District curriculum when the advertising content is reasonable in the judgment of the Superintendent.
2. Cooperate, through announcements and distribution of program material, with a town agency or non-profit community organizations that benefit the physical, social or emotional well-being of students and their families, when such cooperation will not interfere with the school program.
3. Permit student participation on an student-optionopt-in basis in essay, art, science, and similar contests sponsored by outside interests when such activities parallel the curriculum and contribute to the educational program.
4. ~~Accept limited advertising onwithin extracurricular activity schedules and programs at the discretion of the Principal of the school involved. [This does not seem to support advertising during the actual events. The Fundraising Policy 1314/1324, see below, does not appear to address this either. The Board may want to add language to allow activities like advertising during games, since this has been done in the past, from what I understand.]~~
5. ~~5. Permit other exceptions when, in the judgment of the Superintendent, students of the district will benefit. The Superintendent may, at his or her option, refer specific cases to the Board for decision.~~
6. ~~5. Allow temporary displays of advertising by community organizations utilizing school district facilities for community benefit outside the official school calendar year. All such displays shall be limited to the area being utilized and only for the duration of the activity. All such displays shall be removed prior to the start of school in the Fall.~~
7. ~~6. Allow advertising for the purchase of photographic services in connection with the class pictures and the services and goods deemed necessary by the Principal for the normal student activities of a high school.~~
8. ~~7. Permit other exceptions when, in the judgment of the Superintendent and approval of the Board of Education, students of the district will benefit.~~

An approved advertisement or promotion shall not impede the consideration and potential acceptance of other advertisements or promotions unless approved by the Board of Education with at least a super majority of 5 votes.

**Comment [1]:** Would this be for example, the scoreboard at the football field?

**Comment [2]:** My understanding is that exceptions would be for one-offs, not something that is a matter of course.

I think we should talk with Matt to better understand what normal means for fundraising are and if we are missing any.



It is the responsibility of the Superintendent to evaluate and act on all requests for the acceptance and use of material contributions involving advertising, to notify the Board of that action, and to refer to the Board all advertising issues he or she believes requires Board decision. The Superintendent is also authorized to arrange for appropriate public acknowledgment and recognition of contributions to the improvement of school programs and facilities.

Policy adopted: May 5, 2015  
NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, Newtown, Connecticut  
EFFECTIVE: July 1, 2015

Draft

Policy Administrative Regulation 1325

Advertising and Promotion

1. All requests to post, announce, or distribute information must be submitted to the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee. No announcement will be made until permission has been granted by the Superintendent.
2. Copies of posters, texts of announcements, or copies of flyers must be submitted as well. All material must be received by the Superintendent at least five (5) days prior to the desired date of announcement.
3. Material provided by groups for dissemination will not be directly distributed to students, but may be made available in a central location to those who are interested.
4. Material for distribution should be limited to flyers or other printed matter. Buttons, pennants, and other promotional objects may not be distributed in the schools.
5. Direct distribution of materials for school sponsored activities is allowed.
6. Educational material from private profit organizations which contains integral advertising may be utilized at the discretion of the Superintendent provided there is no active promotion of the organization or product advertised on school property.
7. The Superintendent may refer to the Board of Education any request to announce, distribute, or disseminate material containing advertising that he/she feels demands Board attention or decision.

Regulation approved: May 5, 2015  
NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, Newtown, Connecticut  
EFFECTIVE: July 1, 2015

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