

THIS MEETING IS NOT BEING LIVE-STREAMED AND ACCESS BY PHONE IS NOT AVAILABLE

Board of Education Special Meeting
May 23, 2023

Reed School Library
6:30 p.m. Executive Session
7:00 p.m. Public Session

As citizens of our community, we will conduct ourselves in accordance with Newtown's Core Character Attributes as displayed in our character tree. We will be responsible for our actions and show respect for each other. We will interact peacefully, productively, and politely. We will be trustworthy and honest and show compassion toward others. Newtown's continued success is contingent upon our ability to persevere, to follow through with our commitments, and to stay focused on the greater good.

A G E N D A

- Item 1 EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - Personnel Request
- Item 2 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- Item 3 POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEM
- Item 4 CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE
 - Profiles in Professionalism
- Item 5 CONSENT AGENDA
 - Newtown High School Spain Student Exchange Program
 - Correspondence Report
- Item 6 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- Item 7 REPORTS
 - Chair Report
 - Superintendent's Report
 - Committee Reports
 - Student Representatives Report
 - Action on Financial Report and Transfers for Month Ending April 30, 2023
- Item 8 OLD BUSINESS
- Item 9 NEW BUSINESS
 - Discussion and Possible Action on Chartwells Contract Renewal
 - Discussion and Possible Action on Continuation of School Activities Fund Accounts
 - First Read of Policy 4-301 Appointment and Duties of School Medical Adviser – to be rescinded
 - First Read of Policy 4215.1 Evaluation of School Nurses
 - Action on Minutes of May 2, 2023
- Item 10 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- Item 11 ADJOURNMENT

***During the first Public Participation, the Board welcomes commentary regarding items on the agenda. After being recognized, please state your name and address for the record. We request that speakers be respectful and limit comments to not more than three minutes. The Board of Education does not discuss personnel items or student matters in public. During the second Public Participation, commentary may address the agenda or may introduce issues for the Board to consider in the future. The Board does not engage in dialogue during either public comment period. If you desire more information or answers to specific questions, please email the BOE: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us*

Spain Student Exchange Program
October 2023

Newtown High School students are invited to join in an exchange program with our sister school in Spain "IES las Encinas." The school is located in Villanueva de la Cañada, right outside of Madrid. We have had this partnership and exchange since 2014. Any student regardless of language taken in school, year of study, or abilities with the language was invited to apply. We would like to exchange 20 students. Twenty students from Spain would come to Newtown towards the end of October of 2023 to experience American culture for a little over a week, and likewise twenty students from Newtown would go to homestays in Madrid in April of 2024 for a little over a week. Elizabeth Ward-Toller and Paula Olmos-Valeri are overseeing the program.
Kim Longobucco

**NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT
APRIL 30, 2023**

SUMMARY

The tenth financial report for the year continues to provide year to date expenditures, encumbrances and information for anticipated obligations. Many of the accounts within our major objects have been forecasted as “full budget spend” in order to more accurately project an estimated year-end balance. These balances are monitored closely and adjusted each month in order to capture any changes and fluctuations that occur throughout the year.

During the month of April, the district spent approximately \$8.0M for all operations. About \$4.3M was spent on salaries with the remaining balance of \$3.7M on all other objects. Monthly expenditures appear to be within normal limits at this time.

The change over the last month’s year-end projection has resulted in decrease of -\$446,479 with a new estimated year-end balance of \$132,354.

The majority of this decrease is due to the inclusion of pre-purchased items from the 2023-24 budget. If you recall, our 23-24 budget was adjusted by the Legislative Council on April 5th in the amount of -\$550,000. As of April 30, we have identified items that are allowable for pre-purchases; such as textbooks, certain instructional supplies and equipment. These items have been included in this report in order to represent a more accurate year-end balance. *However, \$491,316 will be subject to board approval before these changes are officially made.* The items that are slated for pre-purchase are outlined in the box below (under transfers) and also included as a separate attachment to the financial summary.

TRANSFERS

We have broken the transfer request into two parts. Below lists the transfer requests for regular budget realignments and/or shortfalls. The transfers that are outlined in the following section identify items for pre-purchase as a result of the 2023-24 budget reduction

- \$7,715 from the Administrative and Teacher/Specialist salaries to the Administrative Salaries account to cover a vacation payout for the Middle School Principal and an overlap of salary for the HOM lead teacher;
- \$174,554 within various Teacher and Specialists salary accounts to adjust budgets due to staff turnover and leaves;
- \$105,000 from the Special Education services salaries to Contracted Services to move behavioral therapists’ salaries and substitute funds to cover contracted services for behavioral therapists;
- \$15,000 from Staff and Program Development to Textbooks in order to cover a portion of the cost for decodables to be used in conjunction with the new reading program;
- \$7,795 within high school music student travel to cover high school sports travel;
- \$100,000 from the SpEd contingency to Out-of-District Tuition to cover a portion of the deficit found in special education out-of-district tuition; and
- \$8,700 from B&G Rentals to cover additional costs for custodial equipment.

Transfer request is \$418,764

The following transfer requests are for pre-purchases. These are items that we are requesting to be removed from the 2023-2024 budget and include in the current year. For display purposes, and to provide an estimated year-end balance, these items have been included in the April financial statement.

- \$135,316 from Transportation Services to Contracted Services for the pre-purchase of online digital resources (I-ready, IXL, Lexia, Fun Hub and Learning A-Z);
- \$351,225 from Electric to Textbooks for the pre-purchase of curriculum textbooks associated with the new K-5 reading program; and
- \$4,775 from Electric to Textbooks for the pre-purchase of updated Latin textbooks for use at the high school.

Total transfer request for pre-purchased items: \$491,316

MAJOR MOVERS

SALARY OBJECT

The overall salary object currently displays a positive position of \$527,509, increasing by \$19,379 over the prior month. Various adjustments have been made throughout these accounts for the anticipation of filling open positions as well as the use of certified subs. All salary objects are now in good standing.

PURCHASED PROPERTY SERVICES – the overall position in this object shows a positive balance of \$11,216, having decreased over the prior month by -\$43,938.

- **Building & Grounds Contracted Services** – the balance in this sub-object has been reduced and now shows a negative position of -\$14,044. The primary factor in this change is due to the inclusion of unanticipated costs associated with the replacement of smoke detectors and panels at the Hawley School. The cost for this project was \$109,244 of which a majority was included as part of the CIP plan. Because some of the issues were outside of the scope of the original project and would have been replaced; such as replacement of fire panels, the BoE's portion of the cost is \$28,759. The majority of the cost has been captured in this account with the balance of \$12,129 captured in Building & Site, Hawley repair account.
- **Building, Site & Emergency Repairs** – the balance here has dipped into the negative due to a number of factors. A portion of the costs associated with the replacement of smoke detector panels has been included as well as costs associated with emergency repairs that are listed at the end of this report.

OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES – the overall position of this object is displaying a negative balance of -\$587,410, having increased over the prior month by -\$105,579. The additional expenses are a result of pre-purchases (see transfer request) for district-wide online digital resources.

- **Transportation Services** – this account includes a transfer request in the amount of \$135,316 (see transfers). In order to account for a portion of the Legislative Council’s approved 2023-24 budget reduction, this adjustment is necessary for the pre-purchase of online digital resources found in curriculum contracted services We will be pre-purchasing these items and removing them from next year’s budget and using the surplus that has been accrued in our local transportation account to pay for these items. The surplus found in this account was for the reduction of six buses in the beginning of the fiscal year.
- **Out-of-District Tuition** – this account now includes the State’s projected Excess Cost Grant adjustment. There was a lot of discussion earlier in the year around this grant and many districts were informed that they would be receiving a larger percentage. However, the State has now finalized their Excess Cost Grant budget allocations and Newtown will be reimbursed at a rate of 73.71%. This will provide approximately \$80K in additional revenue offset.

SUPPLIES – the overall balance has decreased over the prior month by -\$319,086 due to the pre-purchase of the new reading program as well as pre-purchase of classroom textbooks and supplies. This object still displays a positive position of \$81,914

- **Electric** – the net decrease found in this account is -\$257,000 and stems from the inclusion of a transfer request for the new K-5 reading program in the amount of \$351,775. In order to account for a portion of the Legislative Council’s approved 2023-24 budget reduction, this adjustment is necessary for the pre-purchase of textbooks. Also included in the is the pre-purchase of Latin textbooks for \$4,775. These additional costs combined with an uptick (approximately \$100k) found in our virtual net metering credits have decreased this account balance; however, we continue to show a surplus in electricity of \$130,000.
- **Other supplies & textbooks** – these sub-objects are now in the red as some of the materials for the 2023-24 budget have been pre-purchased. Approximately \$50,000 of costs for classroom instructional supplies and textbooks will be adjusted in the 2023-24 budget and pre-purchased as part of the Legislative Council’s approved budget reduction. Additional expenses found in these accounts are for supplies and textbooks associated with the Superintendent’s budget reduction that was established earlier in the year. These adjustments were made during budget deliberations with principals and directors. It was noted that providing there was funding at year-end, these items could be purchased in the 2022-23 fiscal year.

EMERGENCY REPAIRS

- The costs for the high school flood have come through, which include the water remediation, replacement of ceiling tiles, damaged computer and culinary equipment. The total costs of this claim came in at \$104,634.13. The Board of Education is only responsible for the deductible of \$25,000 which has been captured in this month’s financial report.
- Also included in this report is an encumbrance for the replacement of three security cameras at the Sandy Hook school These cameras were beginning to malfunction after enduring many rain storms and have been moved and replaced to an area that is not exposed to the elements. The cost for these cameras was \$7,491.
- We have also set aside \$5,000 in anticipation of a paved walkway that will access the Middle Gate upper field. This cost is included in our emergency repairs as this field is not ADA compliant. The cost is for the materials only and the Newtown Highway department will be performing the work.

REVENUE

The board of education received \$2,011.59 in tuition.

Tanja Vadas
Director of Business
May 18, 2023

**NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
2022-23 BUDGET SUMMARY REPORT
FOR THE MONTH ENDING APRIL 30, 2023**

OBJECT CODE	EXPENSE CATEGORY	2022 - 2023 APPROVED BUDGET	YTD TRANSFERS 2022 - 2023	CURRENT BUDGET	YTD EXPENDITURE	ENCUMBER	BALANCE	ANTICIPATED OBLIGATIONS	PROJECTED BALANCE	% EXP
GENERAL FUND BUDGET										
100	SALARIES	\$ 53,701,233	\$ (12,875)	\$ 53,688,358	\$ 38,678,391	\$ 14,234,550	\$ 775,417	\$ 247,909	\$ 527,509	99.02%
200	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$ 11,955,016	\$ 249	\$ 11,955,265	\$ 11,409,922	\$ 11,101	\$ 534,242	\$ 548,747	\$ (14,505)	100.12%
300	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$ 687,141	\$ (14,000)	\$ 673,141	\$ 410,506	\$ 51,411	\$ 211,224	\$ 192,357	\$ 18,867	97.20%
400	PURCHASED PROPERTY SERV.	\$ 1,814,663	\$ -	\$ 1,814,663	\$ 1,313,295	\$ 292,205	\$ 209,163	\$ 197,947	\$ 11,216	99.38%
500	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$ 10,095,326	\$ 26,626	\$ 10,121,952	\$ 8,359,889	\$ 2,134,717	\$ (372,654)	\$ 214,757	\$ (587,410)	105.80%
600	SUPPLIES	\$ 3,365,464	\$ -	\$ 3,365,464	\$ 2,507,181	\$ 219,156	\$ 639,127	\$ 557,213	\$ 81,914	97.57%
700	PROPERTY	\$ 339,710	\$ -	\$ 339,710	\$ 145,872	\$ 61,456	\$ 132,383	\$ 137,619	\$ (5,237)	101.54%
800	MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 76,086	\$ -	\$ 76,086	\$ 71,498	\$ 2,440	\$ 2,148	\$ 2,148	\$ -	100.00%
910	SPECIAL ED CONTINGENCY	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 100,000	0.00%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET		\$ 82,134,639	\$ -	\$ 82,134,639	\$ 62,896,555	\$ 17,007,035	\$ 2,231,049	\$ 2,098,695	\$ 132,354	99.84%
900	TRANSFER NON-LAPSING (unaudited)									
GRAND TOTAL		\$ 82,134,639	\$ -	\$ 82,134,639	\$ 62,896,555	\$ 17,007,035	\$ 2,231,049	\$ 2,098,695	\$ 132,354	99.84%

**NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
2022-23 BUDGET SUMMARY REPORT
FOR THE MONTH ENDING APRIL 30, 2023**

OBJECT CODE	EXPENSE CATEGORY	2022 - 2023		YTD TRANSFERS		CURRENT BUDGET	YTD EXPENDITURE	ENCUMBER	BALANCE	ANTICIPATED OBLIGATIONS	PROJECTED BALANCE	% EXP
		APPROVED BUDGET	YTD	2022 - 2023	2022 - 2023							
100	SALARIES											
	Administrative Salaries	\$ 4,312,038	\$ (121,271)	\$ 4,190,767	\$ 3,365,612	\$ 825,769	\$ (614)	\$ 4,310	\$ (4,924)	100.12%		
	Teachers & Specialists Salaries	\$ 33,817,522	\$ 149,271	\$ 33,966,793	\$ 23,563,072	\$ 10,399,726	\$ 3,995	\$ 42,782	\$ (38,787)	100.11%		
	Early Retirement	\$ 81,000	\$ -	\$ 81,000	\$ 89,000	\$ -	\$ (8,000)	\$ -	\$ (8,000)	109.88%		
	Continuing Ed./Summer School	\$ 97,846	\$ 1,161	\$ 99,007	\$ 88,741	\$ 9,771	\$ 494	\$ 494	\$ -	100.00%		
	Homebound & Tutors Salaries	\$ 189,413	\$ 45,185	\$ 234,598	\$ 130,460	\$ 32,368	\$ 71,770	\$ 16,000	\$ 55,770	76.23%		
	Certified Substitutes	\$ 742,610	\$ -	\$ 742,610	\$ 621,939	\$ 93,058	\$ 27,614	\$ 65,140	\$ (37,526)	105.05%		
	Coaching/Activities	\$ 737,184	\$ -	\$ 737,184	\$ 705,859	\$ 4,000	\$ 27,325	\$ 8,724	\$ 18,602	97.48%		
	Staff & Program Development	\$ 155,128	\$ -	\$ 155,128	\$ 54,075	\$ 81,080	\$ 19,973	\$ 1,933	\$ 18,040	88.37%		
	CERTIFIED SALARIES	\$ 40,132,741	\$ 74,346	\$ 40,207,087	\$ 28,618,757	\$ 11,445,772	\$ 142,558	\$ 139,383	\$ 3,174	99.99%		
	Supervisors & Technology Salaries	\$ 1,103,470	\$ 4,960	\$ 1,108,430	\$ 820,954	\$ 172,757	\$ 114,719	\$ 11,583	\$ 103,136	90.70%		
	Clerical & Secretarial Salaries	\$ 2,361,178	\$ 200	\$ 2,361,378	\$ 1,817,907	\$ 496,315	\$ 47,155	\$ 725	\$ 46,430	98.03%		
	Educational Assistants	\$ 2,965,151	\$ 47,602	\$ 3,012,753	\$ 2,233,489	\$ 665,145	\$ 114,119	\$ 10,300	\$ 103,819	96.55%		
	Nurses & Medical Advisors	\$ 902,273	\$ 31,615	\$ 933,888	\$ 620,385	\$ 267,329	\$ 46,175	\$ 5,600	\$ 40,575	95.66%		
	Custodial & Maint. Salaries	\$ 3,395,484	\$ (45,604)	\$ 3,349,880	\$ 2,564,272	\$ 691,538	\$ 94,070	\$ 13,294	\$ 80,777	97.59%		
	Non-Certified Adj. & Bus Drivers Salaries	\$ 155,981	\$ (155,981)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	#DIV/0!		
	Career/Job Salaries	\$ 171,116	\$ 4,257	\$ 175,373	\$ 106,834	\$ 58,359	\$ 10,180	\$ 8,613	\$ 1,567	99.11%		
	Special Education Svcs Salaries	\$ 1,456,181	\$ 20,937	\$ 1,477,118	\$ 1,045,205	\$ 308,806	\$ 123,107	\$ 2,223	\$ 120,884	91.82%		
	Security Salaries & Attendance	\$ 679,888	\$ 293	\$ 680,181	\$ 508,298	\$ 127,389	\$ 44,494	\$ 500	\$ 43,994	93.53%		
	Extra Work - Non-Cert.	\$ 109,770	\$ 4,500	\$ 114,270	\$ 82,753	\$ 1,141	\$ 30,376	\$ 15,400	\$ 14,976	86.89%		
	Custodial & Maint. Overtime	\$ 236,000	\$ -	\$ 236,000	\$ 232,749	\$ -	\$ 3,251	\$ 38,287	\$ (35,036)	114.85%		
	Civic Activities/Park & Rec.	\$ 32,000	\$ -	\$ 32,000	\$ 26,788	\$ -	\$ 5,212	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,212	89.96%		
	NON-CERTIFIED SALARIES	\$ 13,568,492	\$ (87,221)	\$ 13,481,271	\$ 10,059,633	\$ 2,788,778	\$ 632,860	\$ 108,525	\$ 524,334	96.11%		
	SUBTOTAL SALARIES	\$ 53,701,233	\$ (12,875)	\$ 53,688,358	\$ 38,678,391	\$ 14,234,550	\$ 775,417	\$ 247,909	\$ 527,509	99.02%		
200	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS											
	Medical & Dental Expenses	\$ 8,790,863	\$ (12,125)	\$ 8,778,738	\$ 8,769,764	\$ 30	\$ 8,944	\$ 6,145	\$ 2,799	99.97%		
	Life Insurance	\$ 87,000	\$ -	\$ 87,000	\$ 81,874	\$ -	\$ 5,126	\$ 14,000	\$ (8,874)	110.20%		
	FICA & Medicare	\$ 1,706,549	\$ -	\$ 1,706,549	\$ 1,252,452	\$ -	\$ 454,097	\$ 454,097	\$ -	100.00%		
	Pensions	\$ 852,347	\$ 25,000	\$ 877,347	\$ 847,421	\$ -	\$ 29,926	\$ 46,755	\$ (16,829)	101.92%		
	Unemployment & Employee Assist.	\$ 81,600	\$ -	\$ 81,600	\$ 34,529	\$ 11,071	\$ 36,000	\$ 27,750	\$ 8,250	89.89%		
	Workers Compensation	\$ 456,657	\$ (12,626)	\$ 424,031	\$ 423,881	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ -	\$ 150	99.96%		
	SUBTOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$ 11,955,016	\$ 249	\$ 11,955,265	\$ 11,409,922	\$ 11,101	\$ 534,242	\$ 548,747	\$ (14,505)	100.12%		

**NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
2022-23 BUDGET SUMMARY REPORT
FOR THE MONTH ENDING APRIL 30, 2023**

OBJECT CODE	EXPENSE CATEGORY	2022 - 2023 APPROVED BUDGET	YTD TRANSFERS 2022 - 2023	CURRENT BUDGET	YTD EXPENDITURE	ENCUMBER	BALANCE	ANTICIPATED OBLIGATIONS	PROJECTED BALANCE	% EXP
300	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES									
	Professional Services	\$ 493,643	\$ -	\$ 493,643	\$ 334,888	\$ 28,575	\$ 130,180	\$ 111,313	\$ 18,867	96.18%
	Professional Educational Serv.	\$ 193,498	\$ (14,000)	\$ 179,498	\$ 75,618	\$ 22,836	\$ 81,043	\$ 81,044	\$ (0)	100.00%
	SUBTOTAL PROFESSIONAL SERV.	\$ 687,141	\$ (14,000)	\$ 673,141	\$ 410,506	\$ 51,411	\$ 211,224	\$ 192,357	\$ 18,867	97.20%
400	PURCHASED PROPERTY SERV.									
	Buildings & Grounds Contracted Svc.	\$ 683,600	\$ -	\$ 683,600	\$ 530,000	\$ 101,944	\$ 51,656	\$ 65,700	\$ (14,044)	102.05%
	Utility Services - Water & Sewer	\$ 144,770	\$ -	\$ 144,770	\$ 94,913	\$ -	\$ 49,857	\$ 27,357	\$ 22,500	84.46%
	Building, Site & Emergency Repairs	\$ 450,000	\$ -	\$ 450,000	\$ 332,093	\$ 122,957	\$ (5,050)	\$ 39,895	\$ (44,944)	109.99%
	Equipment Repairs	\$ 269,051	\$ -	\$ 269,051	\$ 184,778	\$ 18,175	\$ 66,097	\$ 54,995	\$ 11,103	95.87%
	Rentals - Building & Equipment	\$ 267,242	\$ -	\$ 267,242	\$ 171,511	\$ 49,130	\$ 46,602	\$ 10,000	\$ 36,602	86.30%
	Building & Site Improvements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	SUBTOTAL PUR. PROPERTY SERV.	\$ 1,814,663	\$ -	\$ 1,814,663	\$ 1,313,295	\$ 292,205	\$ 209,163	\$ 197,947	\$ 11,216	99.38%
500	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES									
	Contracted Services	\$ 886,545	\$ 186,754	\$ 1,073,299	\$ 897,646	\$ 165,029	\$ 10,624	\$ 116,117	\$ (105,493)	109.83%
	Transportation Services	\$ 4,919,428	\$ (172,754)	\$ 4,746,674	\$ 3,645,815	\$ 689,853	\$ 411,006	\$ 363,322	\$ 47,684	99.00%
	Insurance - Property & Liability	\$ 422,766	\$ 12,626	\$ 435,392	\$ 443,289	\$ -	\$ (7,897)	\$ -	\$ (7,897)	101.81%
	Communications	\$ 152,524	\$ -	\$ 152,524	\$ 134,980	\$ 22,721	\$ (5,177)	\$ 10,592	\$ (15,768)	110.34%
	Printing Services	\$ 24,789	\$ -	\$ 24,789	\$ 14,127	\$ 6,873	\$ 3,789	\$ 2,531	\$ 1,258	94.93%
	Tuition - Out of District	\$ 3,450,187	\$ -	\$ 3,450,187	\$ 3,047,015	\$ 1,240,681	\$ (837,509)	\$ (318,014)	\$ (519,495)	115.06%
	Student Travel & Staff Mileage	\$ 239,087	\$ -	\$ 239,087	\$ 177,017	\$ 9,559	\$ 52,511	\$ 40,210	\$ 12,301	94.85%
	SUBTOTAL OTHER PURCHASED SERV.	\$ 10,095,326	\$ 26,626	\$ 10,121,952	\$ 8,359,889	\$ 2,134,717	\$ (372,654)	\$ 214,757	\$ (587,410)	105.80%
600	SUPPLIES									
	Instructional & Library Supplies	\$ 854,242	\$ -	\$ 854,242	\$ 720,227	\$ 131,902	\$ 2,113	\$ 77,891	\$ (75,778)	108.87%
	Software, Medical & Office Supplies	\$ 194,940	\$ -	\$ 194,940	\$ 165,331	\$ 15,732	\$ 13,877	\$ 35,339	\$ (21,462)	111.01%
	Plant Supplies	\$ 366,100	\$ -	\$ 366,100	\$ 334,064	\$ 44,022	\$ (11,987)	\$ 19,126	\$ (31,112)	108.50%
	Electric	\$ 1,022,812	\$ (93,500)	\$ 929,312	\$ 595,461	\$ -	\$ 333,851	\$ 203,851	\$ 130,000	86.01%
	Propane & Natural Gas	\$ 424,980	\$ 40,000	\$ 464,980	\$ 390,442	\$ -	\$ 74,538	\$ 80,538	\$ (6,000)	101.29%
	Fuel Oil	\$ 63,000	\$ 53,500	\$ 116,500	\$ 80,278	\$ -	\$ 36,222	\$ 20,222	\$ 16,000	86.27%
	Fuel for Vehicles & Equip.	\$ 216,258	\$ -	\$ 216,258	\$ 88,253	\$ -	\$ 128,005	\$ 39,315	\$ 88,690	58.99%
	Textbooks	\$ 223,132	\$ -	\$ 223,132	\$ 133,126	\$ 27,500	\$ 62,506	\$ 80,930	\$ (18,424)	108.26%
	SUBTOTAL SUPPLIES	\$ 3,365,464	\$ -	\$ 3,365,464	\$ 2,507,181	\$ 219,156	\$ 639,127	\$ 557,213	\$ 81,914	97.37%

**NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
2022-23 BUDGET SUMMARY REPORT
FOR THE MONTH ENDING APRIL 30, 2023**

OBJECT CODE	EXPENSE CATEGORY	2022 - 2023 APPROVED BUDGET	YTD TRANSFERS 2022 - 2023	CURRENT BUDGET	YTD EXPENDITURE	ENCUMBER	BALANCE	ANTICIPATED OBLIGATIONS	PROJECTED BALANCE	% EXP
700	PROPERTY									
	Technology Equipment	\$ 156,024	\$ -	\$ 156,024	\$ 96,139	\$ 42,102	\$ 17,783	\$ 17,783	\$ -	100.00%
	Other Equipment	\$ 183,686	\$ -	\$ 183,686	\$ 49,733	\$ 19,354	\$ 114,599	\$ 119,836	\$ (5,237)	102.85%
	SUBTOTAL PROPERTY	\$ 339,710	\$ -	\$ 339,710	\$ 145,872	\$ 61,456	\$ 132,383	\$ 137,619	\$ (5,237)	101.54%
800	MISCELLANEOUS									
	Memberships	\$ 76,086	\$ -	\$ 76,086	\$ 71,498	\$ 2,440	\$ 2,148	\$ 2,148	\$ -	100.00%
	SUBTOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 76,086	\$ -	\$ 76,086	\$ 71,498	\$ 2,440	\$ 2,148	\$ 2,148	\$ -	100.00%
910	SPECIAL ED CONTINGENCY	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 100,000	0.00%
	TOTAL LOCAL BUDGET	\$ 82,134,639	\$ -	\$ 82,134,639	\$ 62,896,555	\$ 17,007,035	\$ 2,231,049	\$ 2,098,695	\$ 132,354	99.84%
900	Transfer to Non-Lapsing									
	GRAND TOTAL	\$ 82,134,639	\$ -	\$ 82,134,639	\$ 62,896,555	\$ 17,007,035	\$ 2,231,049	\$ 2,098,695	\$ 132,354	99.84%

**NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
2022-23 BUDGET SUMMARY REPORT
FOR THE MONTH ENDING APRIL 30, 2023**

OBJECT CODE	EXPENSE CATEGORY	2022 - 2023	YTD	2022 - 2023	YTD	2022 - 2023	YTD	2022 - 2023	YTD	2022 - 2023	YTD	2022 - 2023	YTD	2022 - 2023	YTD	%	
		APPROVED BUDGET	TRANSFERS 2022 - 2023	CURRENT BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	ENCUMBER	BALANCE	ANTICIPATED OBLIGATIONS	PROJECTED BALANCE	% EXP							
<u>SPECIAL REVENUES</u>																	
EXCESS COST GRANT REVENUE																	
51266	Special Education Svcs Salaries ECG																
54116	Transportation Services - ECG																
54160	Tuition - Out of District ECG																
	Total	\$ (1,620,512)	\$ (1,825,987)	\$ (1,870,788)	\$ (1,870,788)	\$ (1,870,788)	\$ (1,870,788)	\$ (1,870,788)	\$ (1,870,788)	\$ (1,870,788)	\$ (1,870,788)	\$ (1,870,788)	\$ (1,870,788)	\$ (1,870,788)	\$ (1,870,788)	\$ (1,870,788)	115.44%
		\$ (13,000)	\$ (13,000)	\$ (13,000)	\$ (13,000)	\$ (13,000)	\$ (13,000)	\$ (13,000)	\$ (13,000)	\$ (13,000)	\$ (13,000)	\$ (13,000)	\$ (13,000)	\$ (13,000)	\$ (13,000)	\$ (13,000)	100.00%
<u>OTHER REVENUES</u>																	
SIDE MAGNET TRANSPORTATION GRANT																	
BOARD OF EDUCATION FEES & CHARGES - SERVICES																	
	LOCAL TUITION		\$32,430	\$32,430	\$32,430	\$32,430	\$32,430	\$32,430	\$32,430	\$32,430	\$32,430	\$32,430	\$32,430	\$32,430	\$32,430	\$32,430	106.74%
	HIGH SCHOOL FEES FOR PARKING PERMITS		\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	100.00%
	MISCELLANEOUS FEES		\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	262.81%
	Total		\$68,430	\$68,430	\$68,430	\$68,430	\$68,430	\$68,430	\$68,430	\$68,430	\$68,430	\$68,430	\$68,430	\$68,430	\$68,430	\$68,430	117.47%
<u>OTHER GRANTS</u>																	
214	ESSER II	\$625,532	\$573,735	\$16,243	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	98.31%
218	ESSER III (estimated \$809k for 21-22 use)	\$1,253,726	\$709,840	\$278,988	\$233,314	\$233,314	\$233,314	\$233,314	\$233,314	\$233,314	\$233,314	\$233,314	\$233,314	\$233,314	\$233,314	\$233,314	97.48%

**2022 - 2023
 NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
 TRANSFERS RECOMMENDED
 APRIL 30, 2023**

AMOUNT	FROM		TO		REASON
	CODE	DESCRIPTION	CODE	DESCRIPTION	
ADMINISTRATIVE					
\$2,794	100	ADMINISTRATIVE SALARIES	100	ADMINISTRATIVE SALARIES	TO COVER VACATION PAYOUT FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AND OVERLAP OF HEAD O'MEADOW LEAD TEACHERS
\$4,921	100	TEACHERS & SPECIALISTS SALARIES			
\$7,715					
\$174,554	100	TEACHERS & SPECIALISTS SALARIES	100	TEACHERS & SPECIALISTS SALARIES	TO ADJUST BUDGETS BETWEEN TEACHER ACCOUNTS DUE TO STAFF TURNOVER AND LEAVES
\$105,000	100	SPECIAL EDUCATION SVCS SALARIES	500	CONTRACTED SERVICES	TO MOVE BEHAVIORAL THERAPISTS SALARIES AND SUBSTITUTES FUNDS TO CONTRACTED SERVICES TO COVER UNFILLED BEHAVIORAL THERAPISTS
\$15,000	100	STAFF & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT	600	TEXTBOOKS	TO COVER THE COST OF DECODABLES
\$7,795	500	STUDENT TRAVEL & STAFF MILEAGE	500	STUDENT TRAVEL & STAFF MILEAGE	TO MOVE FUNDS BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC TRAVEL AND SPORTS TRAVEL
\$100,000	910	SPECIAL ED CONTINGENCY	500	TUITION - OUT OF DISTRICT	TO APPLY CONTINGENCY AGAINST SPECIAL EDUCATION TUITION DEFICIT
\$8,700	400	RENTALS - BUILDING & EQUIPMENT	700	OTHER EQUIPMENT	TO MOVE FUNDS FROM CUSTODIAL EQUIPMENT RENTAL TO CUSTODIAL EQUIPMENT
\$418,764					

TRANSFERS FOR PREPURCHASES OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM 2023-24 BUDGET (ALREADY INCLUDED IN FINANCIAL REPORT)

\$135,316	500	TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	500	CONTRACTED SERVICES	TO PREPURCHASE CURRICULUM SERVICES FOR IREADY, IXL, LEXIA, FUN HUB, AND LEARNING A-Z
\$356,000	600	ELECTRIC	600	TEXTBOOKS	TO PREPURCHASE CURRICULUM TEXTBOOKS FOR NEW READING PROGRAM K-5 AND LATIN
\$491,316					

\$910,080	TOTAL TRANSFERS REQUESTED				
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**2022 - 2023
NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
DETAIL OF TRANSFERS RECOMMENDED
APRIL 30, 2023**

OBJECT CODE		FROM	TO	OBJECT CODE	AMOUNT	
100	\$2,794	ADMINISTRATIVE SALARIES \$2,794 001750500000 - 51112 SP ED - ADMIN	ADMINISTRATIVE SALARIES \$5,968 001500010000 - 51112 M.S. - ADMIN	100	\$7,715	
100	\$4,921	TEACHERS & SPECIALISTS SALARIES \$4,921 001400380000 - 51121 HOM. - CLASSROOM	TEACHERS & SPECIALISTS SALARIES \$1,747 001400010000 - 51115 HOM. - ADMIN		\$7,715	
100	\$174,554	TEACHERS & SPECIALISTS SALARIES \$3,687 001300260000-51121 M.G. - READING \$2,955 001300380000-51121 M.G. - CLASSROOM \$32,258 001400380000-51121 HOM. - CLASSROOM \$69,603 001500100000-51121 M.S. - ENGLISH \$6,119 001500120000-51121 M.S. - WORLD LANG \$23,336 001750580000-51131 SP ED - SPEECH & HEAR \$4,309 001750600000-51121 SP ED - GATES \$18,554 001750610000-51126 SP ED - PREK-8 SP ED \$10,619 001750790000-51121 SP ED - SUMMER PROGRAM \$3,114 001760560000-51133 PUPIL SERV - PSYCH \$174,554	TEACHERS & SPECIALISTS SALARIES \$1,792 001100200000-51121 HAW. - MATH/SCI \$1,702 001200340000-51131 S.H. - LIBRARY \$32,547 001450380000-51121 RIS. - CLASSROOM \$4,082 001600200000-51121 H.S. - MATH \$3,582 001600280000-51121 H.S. - SCIENCE \$7,051 001600300000-51121 H.S. - SOC STUDIES \$7,803 001750610000-51120 SP ED - PREK-8 SP ED \$37,769 001750630000-51121 SP ED - H.S. SP ED \$8,457 001760530000-51133 PUPIL SERV - SOC WORKERS \$69,769 001840880000-51152 DISTRICT - OTHER SERV \$174,554	100	\$174,554	TEACHERS SPECIALISTS TEACHERS TEACHERS TEACHERS TEACHERS TEACHERS - PRESCH TEACHERS TEACHERS SPECIALISTS - ELEM SAVINGS FROM TURNOVER
100	\$105,000	SPECIAL EDUCATION SVCS SALARIES \$99,000 001750610000 - 51266 SP ED - PREK-8 SP ED \$6,000 001750610000 - 51366 SP ED - PREK-8 SP ED \$105,000	CONTRACTED SERVICES \$105,000 001750610000 - 54000 SP ED - PREK-8 SP ED	500	\$105,000	
100	\$15,000	STAFF & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT \$15,000 001800800000 - 51421 DISTRICT - CURRICULUM	TEXTBOOKS \$15,000 001800800000 - 56900 DISTRICT - CURRICULUM	600	\$15,000	
500	\$7,795	STUDENT TRAVEL & STAFF MILEAGE \$7,795 001600220000 - 54300 H.S. - MUSIC	STUDENT TRAVEL & STAFF MILEAGE \$7,795 001600320000 - 54300 H.S. - SPORTS	500	\$7,795	
910	\$100,000	SPECIAL ED CONTINGENCY \$100,000 001750500000 - 59100 SP ED - ADMIN	TUITION - OUT OF DISTRICT \$100,000 001750520000 - 54160 SP ED - OUT OF DISTRICT	500	\$100,000	
400	\$8,700	RENTALS - BUILDING & EQUIPMENT \$8,700 001900960000 - 53400 B&G - CUSTODIAL	OTHER EQUIPMENT \$8,700 001900960000 - 57200 B&G - CUSTODIAL	700	\$8,700	
	\$418,764				\$418,764	

TRANSFERS FOR PREPURCHASES OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM 2023-24 BUDGET (ALREADY INCLUDED IN FINANCIAL REPORT)

500	\$135,316	TRANSPORTATION SERVICES \$135,316 001920870000 - 54110 DISTRICT - TRANSPORT	TRANSPORTATION SERVICES \$135,316 001800800000 - 54000 DISTRICT - CURRICULUM	500	\$135,316
600	\$356,000	ELECTRIC \$26,200 001900960000 - 56201 B&G - CUSTODIAL \$18,000 001900960000 - 56202 B&G - CUSTODIAL \$15,500 001900960000 - 56204 B&G - CUSTODIAL \$67,200 001900960000 - 56205 B&G - CUSTODIAL \$13,000 001900960000 - 56206 B&G - CUSTODIAL \$216,100 001900960000 - 56207 B&G - CUSTODIAL \$356,000	CONTRACTED SERVICES \$135,316 001800800000 - 56900 DISTRICT - CURRICULUM TEXTBOOKS \$356,000 001800800000 - 56900 DISTRICT - CURRICULUM	600	\$356,000
	\$491,316				\$491,316
	\$910,080	TOTAL TRANSFER REQUEST	TOTAL TRANSFER REQUEST		\$910,080

2023-24 Budget Reductions & 2022-23 Pre-Purchase Plan

2023-24 Pre-Purchase Curriculum / District Wide	23-24 Budget Reduction	22-23 Spend	Transfer Information (see notes on page 2)
Reading Program K-5	\$194,000	\$351,225	From Energy accounts (various) to Textbooks
Latin Textbook	\$4,775	\$4,775	From Energy accounts (various) to Textbooks
iReady	\$89,700	\$99,256	From Local Transportation to Contracted Service:
IXL	\$25,600	\$14,850	From Local Transportation to Contracted Service:
Lexia	\$55,340	\$15,100	From Local Transportation to Contracted Service:
Fun Hub	\$0	\$2,940	From Local Transportation to Contracted Service:
Learning A-Z	\$26,500	\$3,170	From Local Transportation to Contracted Service:
Total Curriculum	\$395,915	\$491,316	
Middle Gate			
Science kits	\$9,000	\$9,000	No transfer necessary - encumbered in April/May
Head O'Meadow			
Textbooks for all grades	\$6,158	\$6,158	No transfer necessary - encumbered in April/May
Textbooks for science lab	\$2,000	\$2,000	No transfer necessary - encumbered in April/May
Reed			
Bridges Math program	\$7,000	\$7,000	No transfer necessary - encumbered in April/May
Middle School			
Digital Access for Teachers	\$1,207	\$1,207	No transfer necessary - encumbered in April/May
Spanish Workbooks	\$7,980	\$7,980	No transfer necessary - encumbered in April/May
Rosetta Stone	\$9,000	\$9,000	No transfer necessary - encumbered in April/May
Discovery Ed Science	\$6,250	\$6,250	No transfer necessary - encumbered in April/May
Variable Scroll Saw	\$2,216	\$2,216	No transfer necessary - encumbered in April/May
Total Classroom	\$50,811	\$50,811	
Subtotal 23-24 Pre-Purchases	\$446,726	\$542,127	

2023-24 Budget Reductions

Decodables - Middle Gate	\$7,350	CUT
Total Classroom	\$7,350	
Technology		
Network Specialist	\$85,000	CUT - unable to fill position
ERGO	\$10,722	CUT - no longer required with contracted service
Contracted Services	-\$54,722	ADD - network monitoring service contract
Total Tech	\$41,000	
Subtotal 23-24 Budget Reducatio	\$48,350	\$0

Total 23-24 Budget Reductions	\$495,076	\$542,127
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Additional amount required for ad \$54,924

*LC reduced BoE budget by \$550,000

Additional requirements for 23-24 budget

Secretary Union Salary (adt'l requir	\$26,000
Custodial & Maint Salay (adt'l requ	\$33,000
Other non-union salary adjustments	\$27,000
Total additional needs	\$140,924

** estimates based on current union contracts

2023-24 Budget Reductions & 2022-23 Pre-Purchase

2023-24 Pre-Purchase Curriculum / District Wide	23-24 Budget Reduction	22-23 Spend	Notes
Reading Program K-5	\$194,000	\$351,225	Unfunded mandate (K-3) would like to implement K-5, 3-yr contract
Latin Textbook	\$4,775	\$4,775	Updated edition of textbook for the high school
iReady	\$89,700	\$99,256	Grades 2-8 (opt. gr 1) student access to personalized pathways
IXL	\$25,600	\$14,850	RIS 15 SPED licenses, NMS/NHS will have supplemental access
Lexia	\$55,340	\$15,100	Grades 5-8 reading intervention - will be using less licenses
Fun Hub	\$0	\$2,940	Grades K-2 for teachers, online version of foundations
Learning A-Z	\$26,500	\$3,170	ELA consultants and ELL - will be shared at RIS
Total Curriculum	\$395,915	\$491,316	
Middle Gate			
Science kits	\$9,000	\$9,000	Purchased using CY funds from various MG accounts
Head O'Meadow			
Textbooks for all grades	\$6,158	\$6,158	Purchased using CY funds from various HOM accounts
Textbooks for science lab	\$2,000	\$2,000	Purchased using CY funds from various HOM accounts
Reed			
Bridges Math program	\$7,000	\$7,000	Purchased using CY funds from RIS accounts
Middle School			
Digital Access for Teachers	\$1,207	\$1,207	Online digital access for 6 world language teachers
Spanish Workbooks	\$7,980	\$7,980	Consumable workbooks for Spanish
Rosetta Stone	\$9,000	\$9,000	75 student licenses
Discovery Ed Science	\$6,250	\$6,250	On-line science textbooks
Variable Scroll Saw	\$2,216	\$2,216	Equipment used in the tech ed department (4 saws)
Total Classroom	\$50,811	\$50,811	
Subtotal 23-24 Pre-Purchases	\$446,726	\$542,127	

2023-24 Budget Reductions

Decodables - Middle Gate	\$7,350	Already included in curriculum budget
Total Classroom	\$7,350	
Technology		
Network Specialist	\$85,000	Reduce position and move towards contracted services model
ERGO	\$10,722	Contracted service (included in Total Communication's cost)
Contracted Services	-\$54,722	Contract \$33,810 + \$5,000 billable hours + \$15,912 contingency
Total Tech	\$41,000	
Subtotal 23-24 Budget Reducatio	\$48,350	\$0

Total 23-24 Budget Reductions	\$495,076	\$542,127
Additional amount required for ad	\$54,924	

*LC reduced BoE budget by \$550,000

Additional requirements for 23-24 budget

Secretary Union Salary (adt'l requir	\$26,000
Custodial & Maint Salay (adt'l requ	\$33,000
Other non-union salary adjustments	\$27,000
Total additional needs	\$140,924

** estimates based on current union contracts

**NPS
Newtown Public Schools
Activity Accounts
Period Ending March 31, 2023**

Hawley School
Acct# 729519990
Managed by: Secretary
Approved by: Principal
Current Balance: \$6,203.03

Middle School
Acct# 729519974
Managed by: Secretary
Approved by: Principal
Current Balance: \$67,462.33

Sandy Hook School
Acct# 729519931
Managed by: Secretary
Approved by: Principal
Current Balance: \$3,704.48

High School
Acct# 729519624
Managed by: Secretary
Approved by: Principal
Current Activity Balance: \$760,049.26
Bond: \$195,742.22
Total Account: \$956,234.48

Middle Gate School
Acct# 701053826
Managed by: Secretary
Approved by: Principal
Current Balance: \$8,078.88

Custodial Account
Acct# 729516781
Managed by: Assistant Business Director
Approved by: Director of Business
Current Balance: \$57,503.03

Head O'Meadow
Acct# 729519851
Managed by: Secretary
Approved by: Principal
Current Balance: \$3,059.58

Continuing Education
Acct# 729519755
Managed by: Bookkeeper
Approved by: Director of Continuing Ed
Current Balance: \$111,371.83

Reed Intermediate
Acct# 729519966
Managed by: Secretary
Approved by: Principal
Current Balance: \$37,890.10

APPOINTMENT AND DUTIES OF SCHOOL MEDICAL ADVISER

Subject to the provisions of Section 10-205 of the General Statutes, the Board of Education shall appoint a medical adviser who shall perform such duties as outlined in Section 10-207.

Reference: CGS 10-205, 10-207

Adopted 10/10/61

Updated 5/24/77, 10/10/95

Existing policy, presently numbered 4-302 adopted 10/10/95, appropriate as renumbered except for update to legal reference.

Personnel -- Non-Certified

Evaluation of School Nurses

All full-time and part-time nurses employed by the Board of Education shall be evaluated annually as to their overall performance. ~~The evaluation shall be made by the school building administrator or his/her designee with assistance from the School Health Nurse Supervisor.~~ The evaluation shall be made by the district nursing supervisor in collaboration with the school building administrator or his/her designee.

The evaluation shall be in writing and pertain to relationships with students, parents, staff members, ~~teachers,~~ and administration as well as to knowledge, competency, overall performance, and fulfillment of required State Department of Health and State Department of Education mandates.

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes

10-212 School nurses and nurse practitioners

Policy adopted:

NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Newtown, Connecticut

EVALUATION OF SCHOOL NURSES

All full-time and part-time nurses employed by the Board of Education shall be evaluated annually as to their overall performance. The evaluation shall be made by the school building administrator or his/her designee with assistance from the School Health Nurse Supervisor.

The evaluation shall be in writing and pertain to relationships with students, parents, staff members, teachers, and administration as well as to knowledge, competency, overall performance, and fulfillment of required State Department of Health and State Department of Education mandates.

Reference: CGS 10-212

Adopted 6/16/70

Updated 11/23/76, 6/12/90, 10/10/95

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

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on May 2, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 3 Primrose Street.

D. Zukowski, Chair	C. Melillo
J. Vouros, Vice Chair	A. Uberti
D. Ramsey, Secretary	T. Vadas (absent)
D. Cruson	12 Staff
J. Kuzma	70 Public
J. Larkin	1 Press
A. Plante	
K. Kunzweiler (absent)	
D. Godino (absent)	

MOTION: Mrs. Plante moved that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter and invite Mr. Melillo. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 1 – Executive Session

The Board went into executive session at 6:32 p.m. and discussed the personnel matter.

Ms. Zukowski called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

MOTION: Mrs. Plante moved to add the discussion and possible action on a full year English/Language/Arts program for grades 6 through 8. Mr. Cruson seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 2 – Pledge of Allegiance

Item 3 – Action on Executive Session Item

MOTION: Mrs. Plante moved that the Board of Education support, as recommended by the Superintendent, Kymberly Noone's request pertaining to Article 31.2 of the teacher contract. Mrs. Kuzma seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 4 – Consent Agenda

MOTION: Mrs. Plante moved that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda which includes the donation to Newtown High School. Mrs. Larkin seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 5 – Public Participation

Please click [here](#) to view the public participation.

Joseph Crosby spoke about book challenges.

Sarah Beyers, 7 Yogananda Street, Library Media Clerk at Reed Intermediate School, spoke about book challenges.

Michelle Buzzi, 38 Obtuse Road, spoke about book challenges.

Dan Rosen, 62 Pine Tree Hill Road, spoke about book challenges.

Katherine Lye spoke about book challenges.

Beatrice Cardamone spoke about book challenges.

Terry Scinto, 37 High Rock Road, spoke about book challenges.

Cynthia Gaffney, 15 Ridge Road, spoke about book challenges.

Elenda Calderbank, 8 Forest View Drive, spoke about book challenges.

Abbey Chinault, 32 Ridge Road, spoke about book challenges.

Matt Bracksieck, 68 Walnut Tree Hill Road, spoke about book challenges.

Kristin English, NHS English teacher, spoke about book challenges.

Wendy LaBarge, NHS English teacher, spoke about book challenges
Timothy Stan, 6 Monitor Hill Road, spoke about book challenges.
Barbara Woycik, 25 Horseshoe Ridge Road, spoke about book challenges.
Beth Murphy, Head 'Meadow School Library Media Specialist, spoke about book challenges.
Suzanne Hurley, Middle Gate School Library Media Specialist, spoke about book challenges
Sarah Wasley, Reed Intermediate School LibraryMedia Specialist, spoke about challenges.
Kathy Swift, NHS English teacher, spoke about book challenges.
Christine Wilford, 30 Georges Hill Road, talked about book challenges.
Jacqui Kaplan, 34 Osborne Hill Road, spoke about book challenges.
Edie Kaplan spoke about book challenges.
Rachel Heggland, 26 Shepherd Hill Road, spoke about book challenges.
Andrew SanAngelo, middle school Library Media Specialist, spoke about book challenges.
Lahja Kurjiaka, 10 Checkerberry Lane, spoke about book challenges.
Brian Tenney NHS English teacher, spoke about book challenges.
Trent Harrison, 59 Platts Hill Road, cited the CAFE Code of Ethics, the Board should follow.
Matthew Cavalaro 18 Birch Rise Drive, spoke about book challenges
Kate McGrady, 26 Philo Curtis Road, spoke about book challenges and her daughter speaking at the last meeting.

Item 6 – Presentations

Reading Program:

Mrs. Uberti spoke about looking at programs for grades 5 through 8 and chose Imagine Learning EL Education Reading Program for grade 5.

MOTION: Mrs. Plante moved that the Board of Education approve the Imagine Learning EL Education Reading Program for Grade 5 for the 2023-2024 school year. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Plante moved that the Board of Education approve the full year pilot English/Language/Arts program for grades 6 through 8. Mr. Cruson seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Mrs. Uberti said they chose two programs Imagine Learning EL Education Reading Program and Into Reading for next year and will do an evaluation during the year. The pilot is little to no charge and the grade 5 program will be paid from funds in this school year. Motion passes unanimously.

Presentation of Special Review Committee Report about Challenged Books and Superintendent Recommendation:

Mrs. Uberti reported that this committee was convened to be in compliance with Board Policy 8-302 which provides guidance for selection of library materials and procedures for book challenges. The committee reviewed *Flamer* and *Blankets* and shared their opinions as to whether the two materials in question should remain part of the collection of the Newtown High School Library. Regarding the book *Flamer*, the committee's unanimous opinion was that the book is positive and despite language and images that some may find offensive, the book promotes empathy, acceptance, understanding, and resilience and should remain in circulation in the Newtown High School Library. Regarding the book *Blankets*, it was the committee's unanimous opinion that while this book contains language and images that may be offensive to some, it is an artistic work that tells the worthwhile story of a young man coming to terms with his family struggles and transcending them and should remain in circulation in the Newtown

High School Library. Mrs. Uberti respectfully submitted this report on behalf of the review committee.

Mrs. Uberti read her personal statement regarding the community's concerns about books besides *Flamer* and *Blankets* and she sincerely appreciated the parent's involvement as their opinions matter. We will work with our library media specialists to listen with an open mind and work together for a resolution. This comes down to library media specialist judgements and they take their responsibilities very seriously. There are three more books being objected to at Newtown High School. She met with the library media specialists on how to address both sides and hopes to come together to put an end to this controversy and find common ground.

Mr. Melillo read his statement and thanked our teachers, especially our library media specialists, and administrators for their efforts, time and commitment to our community. He also thanked the families and community members for providing civil discourse and input in this process. Thanks as well to the Board of Education members for their service towards helping students thrive and fulfill their greatest potential. He initially questioned the appropriateness of these books but changed his mind after reading them. His recommendation to the Board of Education is to uphold the special committee's recommendation to keep the books in the media center.

Ms. Zukowski noted that the Board will not have enough time to fully deliberate the matter tonight so action will be taken at the next meeting. Members of the Special Review Committee were asked to reconsider the shelving of the challenged books and whether they should be allowed to remain in the library as before or should be removed. She thanked Mrs. Uberti, NHS Principal, Dr. Longobucco, NHS Library Media Specialist, Ms. Zandonella, and NHS teachers Mr. Foss and Mrs. Marks for this difficult assignment, and Mr. Melillo for his recommendation and comments.

MOTION: Mrs. Plante moved to amend the agenda to include a vote on the Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Library Media Materials as required by Policy 8-302. Mr. Cruson seconded.

Mrs. Plante read the *Bee* article and the committee report and feels comfortable to vote tonight.

Mrs. Larkin would not support that motion. Voting tonight was not consistent with the Board as we always vote twice on policies and curriculum. We should be able to hear the second public participation also. For a decision this size we need to take time to review the report.

Mr. Cruson was comfortable voting tonight to put this behind us as a Board and community. He feels strongly we will be able to move on this and get back to the work of the district.

Mrs. Kuzma agreed with Mrs. Larkin for a lot of her reasons. She has some questions and needs time to process the comments as well as hearing the second public participation.

Mr. Ramsey said the review committee did their best in the confines of the policy. Because of that, there is more to be heard from the public. He wants to review Mr. Melillo's report more. It's prudent to delay the vote until the next meeting.

Mr. Vouros agreed with Mrs. Plante and Mr. Cruson.

Ms. Zukowski said the policy doesn't specify when the Board has to act on the committee report. Also, policies and curriculum go to the Board twice before approval and feels she cannot support the motion.

Vote: 3 ayes, 4 nays (Ms. Zukowski, Mr. Ramsey, Mrs. Kuzma, Mrs. Larkin) Motion fails.

Ms. Zukowski spoke about the challenge forms and that pornography and sexually inappropriate content were the reasons the books were challenged. Regarding the book *Flamer*, she agreed with the committee that some students might benefit from reading about the issues in the book but was concerned about the graphic representations that might be seen by younger students. What age is appropriate for this material and how do we respect the differing perspectives families may have about the sexual content.

Mr. Ramsey read both books and in *Flamer* he was concerned about students seeing pictures out of context which could make a major impact on a student.

Mrs. Kuzma said that regarding the book *Flamer* it was hard to ignore the sexually explicit images and words. She questioned what was age appropriate but did see the value in the story.

Mr. Cruson has read case studies and would like to not read his comments tonight for additional editing.

Mrs. Larkin also read the books. She believe the book can potentially save a life but other material has inappropriate images and vulgarity.

Mrs. Plante read the books. She appreciates the teachers and library media specialists for coming to the meeting. She disagrees with the decision to not go forward tonight. We have to uphold the First Amendment.

Mr. Vouros reserved his comments for the next meeting.

Ms. Zukowski said that regarding the book *Blankets*, she agrees that some students may benefit reading the issues in this book but for some students the graphic representations are not educationally suitable.

Mr. Ramsey said there were complex themes in *Blankets* dealing with religion and aspects of coming of age and first love which are challenging topics but it does have literary value.

Mrs. Kuzma said *Blankets* has some literary value but the one objector was sexually explicit images, vulgarities and body parts on numerous pages.

Mr. Cruson will hold his statement until the next meeting.

Mrs. Larkin said her objection in *Blankets* are the sexually explicit images.

Mrs. Plante said, as with most things in life, this is not a black and white decision. Does the value of these outweigh the risks that some parents see? Our role is to ensure the policy is followed.

Mr. Vouros will hold his comments until the next meeting.

Mrs. Kuzma asked Mrs. Uberti if she believed that removing a book from the library shelf is in violation of the first amendment rights.

Mrs. Uberti spoke to our attorney and any time you wade into any type of restriction you never know how the court is going to decide on first amendment rights. She referred to a case where a high school library was ordered to keep material defined as obscene because it was viewed as a violation of first amendment rights. There is also a case about a restriction piece with the book *Harry Potter* and the school put the book on a separate shelf. The parents had to send a note to allow their child to read it. The parent sued because she felt it was stigmatizing to her daughter and the court found in her favor. She cautioned that schools could be viewed as government controlled so when we make decisions about what students can read we are venturing into troubled waters when it comes to First Amendment rights.

Mrs. Kuzma asked where in the First Amendment does it say the administration can remove books but the Board of Education cannot.

Mrs. Uberti said it was in two places. Library media specialists are designated to purchase books for the libraries. They also review books and make the decision to remove it. They are trained to make those decisions.

Mrs. Larkin said there was a recent case that dealt with these books that a school has the right to keep vulgar material away from students. The Board has to have information on the first amendment. The Board can benefit from the same legal guidance Mrs. Uberti and Mr. Melillo had and should have access to that information. She is in support of the First Amendment rights and would never want to do something to compromise one of them.

Mrs. Uberti stated that the Board Chair has access to the information from our attorney. Ms. Zukowski stated that she had that information and would share it with the Board as well as other court cases and will talk directly to our counsel.

Mr. Cruson noted that we had an executive session with our attorney and she provided us with a document Mr. Melillo has and it was available for us to review.

Mrs. Uberti said her only communication with our attorney was to see if she could share her report with the Board but she advised her not to share the report with the Board as it was not her read on the policy.

Mr. Ramsey said the librarians can't possibly read every book they order so they may have to depend on reviews of the books.

Mrs. Uberti said our policy can be improved. There is additional guidance if you go to the American Library Association website with a section on additional guidance. The library media specialists follow the suggested criteria on that website. As a result of this they have been going through their collection and making sure they are age appropriate according to reputable reading resources.

Mr. Ramsey said it upsets him to see communications depicting librarians as something other than the most dedicated wonderful people doing the best they can and we are very fortunate to have gifted people. The term book banning has been exaggerated a bit. Book banning is when a BOE might create a list of books to bring into the library. In this case, if a book is brought up to a challenge and the librarian and principal decide to remove the book they would not be book banners.

Mrs. Uberti said they would not because it's their job to decide. She also feels the people challenging the book should be on the review committee. She understands the trouble with the word ban but we currently have ten other challenges.

Mr. Ramsey said the word banned has been used to impugn the Board of Education. If we decide these books are not appropriate, we are not banners. We are reacting to challenges that came to us.

Mr. Cruson disagreed on making a list of books we don't want in our schools. As a legislative body and we make a list, it would be banning them.

Ms. Zukowski asked Mrs. Uberti for the next meeting to see how much of a cache of books there are to support our LGBTQ students who are going through issues that would be more suitable for students. She also wants to know what books that have sexual content are appropriate for students ages 8 through 13.

Mrs. Plante said age appropriate is a great question but none of us are experts. Our policy states the freedom to read. It's a professional judgement.

Mrs. Larkin agreed and said removing a book means we will make a reconsideration. She said another book was removed which had similar content and asked what brought the decision to remove that book over these two books. What are the guiding principles if we have sexual content in a book and what is age appropriate?

Mrs. Uberti said the standard comes from the lists she mentioned in her report. It comes down to judgement. People in the school know where the students are regarding reading the books. There have been multiple books that have been reviewed by library media specialists and they are making judgements when to remove or replace.

In closing, Ms. Zukowski encouraged our library media specialists to continue supporting our students by including a broad range of age appropriate books to help better deal with difficult situations and topics they may be experiencing in their lives. She thanked the members of the Special Review Committee and everyone who provided their concerns to the Board.

Item 7 – Old Business

MOTION: Mrs. Plante moved that the Board of Education approve the Integrated Physical and Earth Science Curriculum. Mrs. Larkin seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 8 – New Business

Minutes of April 18, 2023:

MOTION: Mrs. Plante moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of April 18, 2023.

Mr. Ramsey seconded.

MOTION: Ms. Zukowski moved to amend the motion to replace the date March 21, 2023 with April 4, 2023 in Item 8. Mrs. Kuzma seconded.

Amendment passes unanimously.

Main motion passes unanimously.

Minute of April 24, 2023:

MOTION: Mrs. Plante moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of April 24, 2023.

Mr. Ramsey seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 9 – Public Participation

Kara Dogali, 2 Monitor Hill Road, spoke about behavior in a Middle Gate classroom.

Christine Tisi, 1 Megans Circle, spoke about behavior in a Middle Gate classroom.

Jessica Milakso, 23 Brushy Hill Road, spoke about book challenge.

Jeanette McCambely, 35 Hosey Coach Road, spoke about behavior in a Middle Gate classroom.

Motion: Mr. Vouros moved to adjourn. Mr. Cruson seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 10 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Donald Ramsey
Secretary