

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

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting on January 11, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 3 Primrose Street.

M. Ku, Chair	L. Rodrigue
R. Harriman-Stites, Vice Chair	J. Evans Davila
D. Cruson, Secretary	R. Bienkowski
D. Leidlein (absent)	10 Staff
J. Vouros (absent)	2 Public
A. Clure	1 Press
D. Delia	

Mrs. Ku called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Item 1 – Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Ku stated that there is a regular Board meeting Tuesday, January 16 and the next budget workshop will be held Tuesday, January 23 at Reed. The January 30 public hearing and budget discussion will be January 30 with the budget adoption meeting on February 1.

Dr. Rodrigue spoke about requests from the previous meeting which included information on the textbooks and supplies which were pre-purchased. There were corrected pages on enrollment as well as a list of the supplies for Sandy Hook and Head O'Meadow Schools.

Mr. Bienkowski provided the corrected technology page which changed the amount in the Superintendent's adjustments on page 199.

Item 2 – Newtown High School Budget

Mr. Roach spoke about the points of pride for the high school. Communication is top notch, the safety of the building is most important, Project Lead the Way is continuing, Project Adventure continues to be successful, and our athletic, music, theater, and unified sports program are competitive.

Budget drivers include school improvements to meet State mandates, having resources needed to maintain a high level of quality, class size and enrollment across the disciplines, and contractual obligations.

Mr. Delia noted that travel and mileage was up \$22,000.

Mr. Roach said that the contractual rates and mileage costs increase each year.

Mr. Bienkowski said a big driver for high school travel is the sports program and this year we used pay for play money to subsidize some of the sports and will use it again next year. There is a need to boost the local contribution for these trips and there is a 3% rate increase built in.

Mr. Cruson thought pay for play was going to zero.

Mr. Bienkowski said it was going to zero on the revenue side of the budget so we don't need to give any money to the town.

Mr. Clure asked how losing a teacher would factor in with subjects as math seems to have the most crowded classes.

Mr. Roach said we have many different levels and sections. You look at the overall numbers.

Dr. Rodrigue said when you pull a teacher at the high school there are so many sections in a course we know we will be alright with average class size.

Mr. Delia asked how the decision is made on how much money to pay for a sport and if it was even across the boards.

Mr. Roach said that every sport is different and the costs depend on the sport. Football uses more equipment so the cost is more than for cross country which has light uniforms and no equipment. Not every sport needs as much money for their season. Also some sports have competitions which need to cover those costs.

Dr. Rodrigue stated that some have more meets and championships. All sports are not equal with equipment and travel.

Mr. Clure asked if adding another trainer was discussed. Contact sports are held at Treadwell and the high school at the same time.

Dr. Rodrigue said it would be based on need but there are no issues and an additional trainer was not requested.

Mr. Clure said a girls' field hockey player was hurt this fall at Treadwell. It might be good to have an EMT there.

Dr. Rodrigue feels we should discuss what the trainer's role is because there is a distinct difference in what she does compared to medical personnel.

Mr. Clure asked for a discussion to see if there was a need.

Mrs. Ku also asked for this information.

Mr. Clure spoke about the high cost to participate in ice hockey and thought there might be a way to help parents with this cost.

Dr. Rodrigue would like Matt Memoli to weigh into this subject.

Mr. Clure also asked about the expense for participation in the marching band.

Mr. Bienkowski said we do fund instruments and the big cost items but not the day-to-day operation.

Dr. Rodrigue said we support the large instruments with the highest costs by leasing them.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites referred to the instructional supplies cost for the biomedical courses.

Mr. Roach confirmed that and mentioned that we received a \$9,900 grant toward that program.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites asked what was important to him that did not get in the high school budget.

Mr. Roach said this is a fair budget and the high school was in a very good spot.

Mr. Clure thought the Athletic Director's salary was part of central office.

Mr. Bienkowski said it is included in the high school budget.

Mr. Delia asked if he played a role in the middle school sports.

Mr. Bienkowski said his position is not accounted for in the middle school budget.

Mr. Clure asked if he could be listed in the middle school and high school.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites felt it just matters what his job description is and that he reports to the superintendent.

Mr. Delia thought that if we pull a little money from the high school budget that savings could go into the sports program.

Mrs. Ku suggested looking into that for the last discussion.

Item 3 – Special Education Budget

Mrs. Petersen spoke about the special education budget. As of this week we have 581 special education students which are 13% of our school population. We are following the state trend of going up.

Mr. Delia asked what steps we can take to address the cost of tuition.

Mrs. Petersen said we piloted two programs to address students out-placed and both have been very successful. Due to the Novo Grant we implemented a program at the high school level and were able to hire another special education teacher to help students in the district.

Mrs. Ku asked if it also affected the homebound tutoring costs.

Mrs. Petersen said we have reduced homebound tutoring but many have medical issues where they cannot come to school.

Item 4 –Pupil Personnel Budget

Mrs. Petersen added two of the four elementary counselors to her budget. Two are from the Novo Grant. The Reed counselor, also on a grant, was moved to her budget.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites said it would be helpful to get a clearer picture of the services at each school, what we are offering in our budget or a grant, and also for how many years the positions are funded.

Mr. Delia asked if we were prepared for the ELL students.

Mrs. Petersen said we currently have two students from Puerto Rico. She is the homeless liaison for the district which is why she had to report it to the state.

Mrs. Ku asked if there was anything she wanted in her budget.

Mrs. Petersen said this was a good budget and is proud of what we have maintained. She would only look to have a program with other districts.

Item 5 – Health Budget

Head Nurse, Anne Dalton, spoke about the health budget. There are nine nursing offices in the district and they continue to see a high volume of students but it is coming down gradually. Most of the budget changes are extra time for nurses. Unified sports need nurses and they are also sending nurses to Washington with the middle school trip.

Mr. Clure said more students at the middle school are involved in sports which could cause a possible increase in visits to the nurse's office.

Mrs. Dalton said she expected that they have seen some sports injuries. At this time we do not have a nurse at the middle school for afterschool sports.

Mr. Delia spoke about unified sports starting at the middle school.

Mrs. Dalton said a nurse is required for the high school group because there are a number of students who have active seizure disorders.

Item 6 – Curriculum Budget

Mrs. Evans Davila said this budget has been planned according to needs in the district and leadership goals around social emotional learning and concept based instruction as well as preparation of NGSS and the expansion of world language.

Mr. Cruson questioned the elementary foreign language curriculum writing and if it would be less hours if both the grade three and grade four Spanish curriculum writing was done at the same time.

Mrs. Evans Davila said we were taking an existing curriculum and converting it to concept-based over the summer. That would not work for this year.

Mr. Delia asked about the TEAM program for provisional certification which is not being funded any longer and if we will do this in-house.

Mrs. Evans Davila said there was conflicting information coming to us. It is staying in place and we have been given different pathways to do what we are doing now, go with something the RESCS have developed or develop our own pathway.

Mr. Clure asked if any of the workshops included things that other districts are doing that they are getting success with possibly related to social media and cell phones.

Mrs. Evans Davila said that tech is involved in legal seminars and share with the A-team and security. In Title IX coordinator training we discuss whether the SEL curriculum had addressed interacting with others. She is not looking to sending people to those.

Dr. Rodrigue said that principals bring in consultants to faculty meetings and professional development days have had speakers. Staff could also put in for a conference that fits their needs.

Mr. Delia asked who was being paid to attend the NGSS summer institutes.

Mrs. Evans Davila said the Connecticut Science Center is coming to Newtown.

#### Item 7 – Public Participation

Mr. Delia complimented the departments for their collaboration on the budget and consideration of the Board.

MOTION: Mr. Clure moved that the meeting adjourn. Mrs. Harriman-Stites seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

#### Item 8 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Daniel J. Cruson, Jr.  
Secretary

## Newtown High School



### 2018-2019 Budget Presentation

## Budget Drivers

- Needs based on school improvements and recommendations and State-mandates
- Ensure all programs have adequate resources to maintain a high level of quality
- Class size and enrollment across the disciplines
- Contractual (certified and non-certified contracts, increases in other contracts such as transportation and insurance)

## Proposed 2018-2019 Budget

### Reductions

- ❖ 4.00 FTE
  - ✓ 1 FTE- English Teacher
  - ✓ 1 FTE -Science Teacher
  - ✓ 1 FTE- Math Teacher
  - ✓ 1 FTE -World Language Teacher- (*Chinese*)

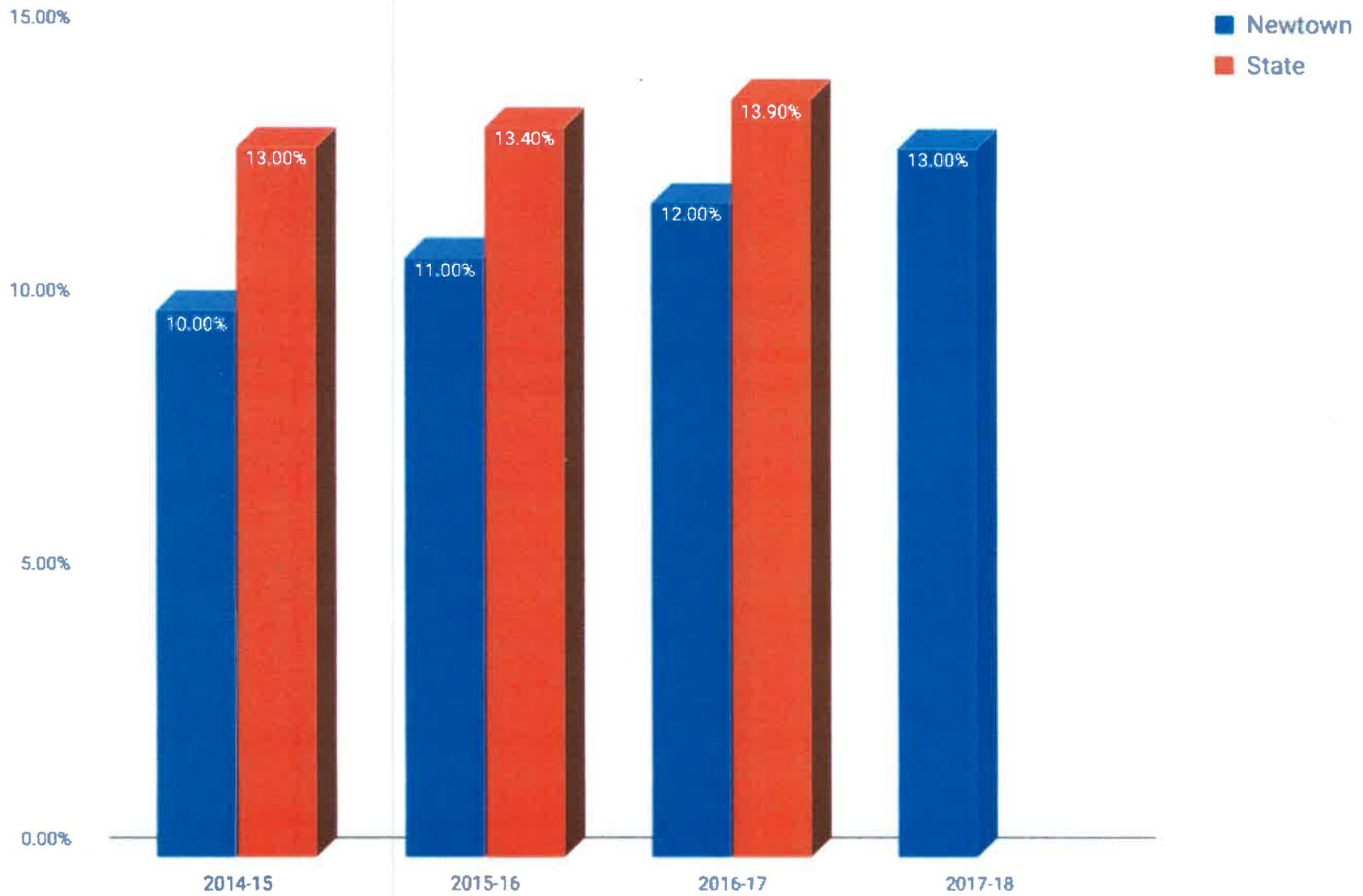
### Adds

- ❖ Athletics
  - ✓ Cross Country Assistant Coach (*Girls Team*)
  - ✓ Golf Cart
- ❖ Music
  - ✓ Double Bass
  - ✓ Bass Clarinet
- ❖ Course
  - ✓ Project Lead the Way- (*Bio Medical*)

## Class sizes and enrollment

Department	2017-2018 Actual ( 1625 Students)			2018-2019 Projected ( 1565 Students)		
	Students (FTE)	Sections (FTE)	Average	Students (FTE)	Sections (FTE)	Average
English	1661	78.5	21.2	1597	73.5	21.7
Math	1621	79.0	20.5	1565	74.0	21.1
Science	1752	86.0	20.4	1685	82.0	20.5
Social Studies	1721	77.0	22.4	1655	77.0	21.5
World Language	1211	62.0	19.5	1164	58.0	20.1

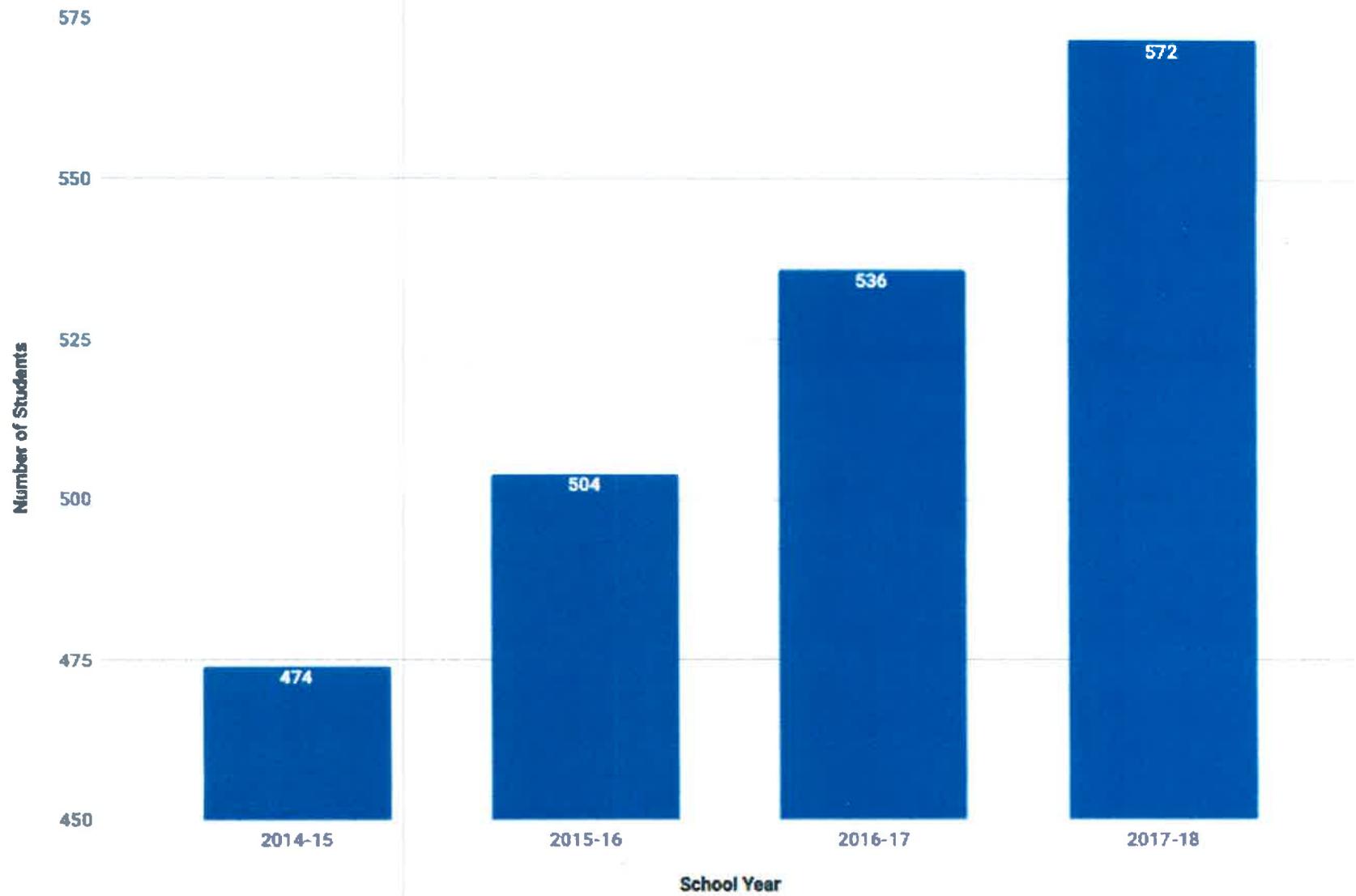
## Percentage of District SPED Students Compared to State



\*2017-18 State Percentage unavailable until 5/2018

Chart indicates October 1, 2017 Sped #'s reported to state

## District SPED Numbers



\*\*\*1/11/18- 581 Students

\*\*29 students moved into district since 7/1/17

<b>BUDGET DIRECTION FOR \$265,000 OF PURCHASES FROM THIS YEARS EXPENDITURE BALANCE TO REDUCE NEXT YEARS BUDGET (2017-18)</b>
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<b>Approvals Granted 4/7/17</b>	<b>17-18 Reductions</b>
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Phase I

HAW	Supplies - Paper	\$ 1,982
Tech	Supplies - Sophos	\$ 28,000
MS	Textbooks	\$ 10,408
Curriculum	Textbooks	\$ 69,000
HS	Equip - Science microscopes	\$ 3,756
HS	Equip - Music instruments	\$ 10,228
Security	Equip - Radios, batteries	\$ 2,814
Plant	Equip - 2 snow blowers	\$ 8,000
Plant	Equip - HAW Tables & chairs	\$ 5,500
<b>Phase I Total</b>		<b>\$ 139,688</b>

<b>Approvals Granted 4/26/17</b>
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Phase II

MS	Repairs - Art Kiln	\$ 2,000
MS	Supplies - Tech Printerbot	\$ 2,394
MS	Supplies - Math Document camera	\$ 225
MS	Supplies - PE	\$ 1,000
Security	Supplies - guide booklets	\$ 1,158
Plant	Equip MG - Replace Café tables	\$ 22,000
<b>Phase II Total</b>		<b>\$ 28,777</b>

<b>Approvals Granted 5/8/17</b>
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Phase III

HAW	Textbooks	\$19,105
SHS	Textbooks	\$14,000
MG	Textbooks	\$13,748
HOM	Textbooks	\$11,634
RIS	Textbooks	\$10,910
HS	Textbooks	\$17,130
MS	Equip - Stand up desks	\$7,658
Tech	Equip - Technology	\$2,350
<b>Phase III Total</b>		<b>\$ 96,535</b>

<b>Total to date</b>	<b>\$ 265,000</b>
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<b>Still to determine (part of \$265,000 reduction)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
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**BUDGET DIRECTION FOR \$265,000 OF PURCHASES FROM THIS YEARS EXPENDITURE  
BALANCE TO REDUCE NEXT YEARS BUDGET (2017-18)**
**Supplies & Repair in 2016-17**

HAW	Supplies - Paper	\$1,982
MS	Repairs - Art Kiln	\$2,000
MS	Supplies - Tech Printerbot	\$2,394
MS	Supplies - Math Document camera	\$225
MS	Supplies - PE	\$1,000
Tech	Supplies - Sophos	\$28,000
Security	Supplies - guide booklets	\$1,158
		\$36,759

**Textbooks in 2016-17**

HAW	Textbooks	\$19,105
SHS	Textbooks	\$14,000
MG	Textbooks	\$13,748
HOM	Textbooks	\$11,634
RIS	Textbooks	\$10,910
MS	Textbooks	\$10,408
HS	Textbooks	\$17,130
CURR	Textbooks	\$69,000
		\$165,935

**Equipment in 2016-17**

MS	Equip - Stand up desks	\$7,658
HS	Equip - Science microscopes	\$3,756
HS	Equip - Music instruments	\$10,228
Tech	Equip - Technology	\$2,350
Security	Equip - Radios, batteries	\$2,814
Plant	Equip - 2 snow blowers	\$8,000
Plant	Equip - HAW Tables & chairs	\$5,500
Plant	Equip MG - Replace Café tables	\$22,000
		\$62,306

<b>Total to date</b>	<b>\$265,000</b>
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**NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT**

**FY 2017 BUILDING & SITE MAINTENANCE PROJECTS -**

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Balance</u>
<i>Acct # 1-001-90-094-3501-0000</i>				
<b>HAWLEY SCHOOL</b>				
REPLACE CARPETING IN LIBRARY AND MAIN OFFICE	\$ 18,000		\$ 21,881	\$ (3,881)
PAVE DRIVE REAR 48 WING TO ESCAPE PATH	\$ 25,000		\$ 24,500	\$ 500
	\$ 43,000	\$ -	\$ 46,381	\$ (3,381)
<i>Acct # 1-001-90-094-3502-0000</i>				
<b>SANDY HOOK SCHOOL</b>				
NONE	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Acct # 1-001-90-094-3503-0000</i>				
<b>MIDDLE GATE SCHOOL</b>				
REPLACE STAGE LIGHTING	\$ 6,000		\$ 6,000	\$ -
REPAINT OVERHANGS AT ENTRANCES	\$ 15,000		\$ 12,000	\$ 3,000
DUCTLESS SPLITS - LIBRARY	\$ -		\$ 23,500	\$ (23,500)
	\$ 21,000	\$ -	\$ 41,500	\$ (20,500)
<i>Acct # 1-001-90-094-3504-0000</i>				
<b>HEAD O'MEADOW SCHOOL</b>				
REPAIR PAVING AND INSTALL CURBING NEXT TO CATCH BASIN	\$ 15,000		\$ 18,243	\$ (3,243)
DECOMMISSION PRESSURIZED WATER VESSEL / INSTALL VFD MOTORS	\$ -		\$ 44,000	\$ (44,000)
	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ 62,243	\$ (47,243)
<i>Acct # 1-001-90-094-3505-0000</i>				
<b>REED INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL</b>				
REPLACE CAFÉ' SOUND SYSTEM	\$ 22,000		\$ 21,324	\$ 676
SCRAPE AND PAINT EXTERIOR LINTELS - WINDOWS AND DOORS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ (30,000)
REFINISH HARDWOOD STAGE AND STAIRS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,000	\$ (18,000)
	\$ 22,000	\$ -	\$ 69,324	\$ (47,324)

**NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT**

**FY 2017 BUILDING & SITE MAINTENANCE PROJECTS -**

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Balance</u>
<i>Acct # 1-001-90-094-3506-0000</i>				
<b>MIDDLE SCHOOL</b>				
INSTALL TWO CARD ACCESS READERS	\$ 6,000		\$ 7,513	\$ (1,513)
UPGRADE C-WING BATHROOMS - MAIN FLOOR	\$ 18,000		\$ 16,613	\$ 1,387
REPLACE STAIR TREADS AT A-WING FRONT STAIR	\$ 10,000		\$ 7,300	\$ 2,700
REMOVE 2000 GALLON OIL TANK	\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	\$ -
REPLAGE A GYM SOUND SYSTEM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,188	\$ (8,188)
REPLACE CAFE' SOUND SYSTEM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,482	\$ (10,482)
INSTALL CURBING AND PAVING AT C WING - DETERIORATED	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 49,000	\$ (49,000)
	\$ 44,000	\$ -	\$ 109,096	\$ (65,096)
<i>Acct # 1-01-90-094-3507-0000</i>				
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b>				
REPAINT LOCKERS - MULTI YEAR PROJECT	\$ 15,000		\$ 15,000	\$ -
REPLACE STAIR TREADS / LANDING C-WING STAIRWELL	\$ 10,000		\$ 9,278	\$ 722
REPLACE AUTO CHLORINATOR - SWIMMING POOL	\$ 12,000		\$ 11,420	\$ 580
REPLACE BRADLEY SINKS - BOYS LOCKER ROOM IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 10,000		\$ 10,700	\$ (700)
REPLACE STAIR TREADS / LANDING B-WING FRONT	\$ -		\$ 10,000	\$ (10,000)
REPAINT LOCKERS - MULTI YEAR PROJECT	\$ -		\$ 15,000	\$ (15,000)
REPLACE LOBBY FLOORING	\$ -		\$ 40,000	\$ (40,000)
	\$ 47,000	\$ -	\$ 111,398	\$ (64,398)
<i>Acct # 1-001-90-094-3508-0000</i>				
<b>SYSTEM WIDE</b>				
REPAVE WHAREHOUSE PARKING LOT, DRIVE AND STAIRS	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL BUILDING &amp; SITE MAINTENANCE PROJECTS</b>	<b>\$ 192,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 439,942</b>	<b>\$ (247,942)</b>

2017-18 Projects Completed \$ 248,169

2017-18 Remaining Projects \$ 23,773 MS Doors

Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Eide) MR. FILIATO MOVED THAT THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUDGET BE REDUCED BY \$188,406 FROM THE DEBT SERVICE LINE ITEM AND \$10,000 FROM THE OUTSIDE AGENCY EDMOND TOWN HALL FOR A TOTAL OF \$198,406. SECOND BY MR. FERGUSON. ALL IN FAVOR.

MR. WIEDEMANN MOVED TO REDUCE \$250,000 FROM DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS AND \$20,000 FROM POLICE CONTRACTURAL SERVICES. SECOND BY MS. DESTEFANO. Mr. Lundquist asked about the reduction in road improvements and what work will not be done. Ms. Llodra explained that work will be prioritized. Mr. Eide expressed concern over underfunding road improvements. Ms. Jacob explained that 1 or 2 road projects out of 19 may not get done. MR. EIDE MOVED TO AMEND AND DIVIDE THE MOTION INTO TWO MOTIONS. SECOND BY MS. DESTEFANO. MOTION TO AMEND FAILED. 10-2 (Mr. Eide and Ms. DeStefano) MOTION TO REDUCE \$250,000 FROM DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS AND \$20,000 FROM POLICE CONTRACTURAL SERVICES. MOTION PASSES 11-1 (Opposed: Mr. Eide)

MR. CHAUDHARY MOVED TO REDUCE THE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET BY A TOTAL OF \$800,000: \$265,000 (USE OF THE ANTICIPATED 2016/17 SURPLUS), \$272,000 (DELAYED MAINTENANCE REPAIRS), \$35,000 (DELAY THE PAY-TO-PARTICIPATE CHANGES), \$173,000 (MEDICAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTION BASED ON CLAIMS HISTORY), \$55,000 (PENSION FUND CONTRIBUTION DELAYED). SECOND MR. FILIATO. Mr. Filiato expressed appreciation on the input from Dr. Erardi and the Board of Ed. Dr. Erardi thanked Mr. Chaudhary for high level of conversation and cooperation, the \$800,000 reduction does not impact teaching or staffing. Mr. Eide asked about the impact in future years. Mr. Knapp said this is one way to mitigate the impact to the taxpayers, regarding state budget concerns going forward. Ms. DeStefano expressed concern over maintenance, said that she would like to see the maintenance repairs pulled out. Dr. Erardi explained that they will not be compromising school safety related to maintenance projects. Mr. Lundquist expressed reluctance to supporting reductions, but this particular year poses challenges that need to be addressed. Mr. Eide said that he could not support this as it seems like there is a need to pay now rather than later. Mr. Ferguson suggested taking a leadership position in reducing expenses. MS. DESTAFANO MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION BY PULLING OUT THE \$272,000 (DELAYED MAINTENANCE REPAIRS). SECOND BY MR. EIDE. MOTION TO AMEND FAILED 9-3 (Ms. DeStefano, Mr. Eide, Mr. Honan). MOTION TO REDUCE THE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET BY A TOTAL OF \$800,000: \$265,000 (USE OF THE ANTICIPATED 2016/17 SURPLUS), \$272,000 (DELAYED MAINTENANCE REPAIRS), \$35,000 (DELAY THE PAY-TO-PARTICIPATE CHANGES), \$173,000 (MEDICAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTION BASED ON CLAIMS HISTORY), \$55,000 (PENSION FUND CONTRIBUTION DELAYED). MOTION PASSES 9-3 (Opposed: Ms. DeStefano, Mr. Eide, Mr. Honan)

Ms. Jacob asked Mr. Tait for the total of reductions:  
 Total budget decreased (from prior year) -0.6%  
 BOS = 0.0%  
 BOE = -0.9% (decrease)  
 mill rate = 33.91 (prior year = 33.60  
 represents a 0.93% tax increase (less than 1%)