

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

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting on February 4, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers at 3 Primrose Street.

K. Alexander, Chair	J. Erardi
M. Ku, Vice Chair	J. Davila
D. Leidlein, Secretary	R. Bienkowski
K. Hamilton	21 Staff
J. Vouros	25 Public
R. Harriman-Stites	1 Press
A. Clure	

Mr. Alexander called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Item 1 – Pledge of Allegiance

Item 2 – Public Participation

Karyn Holden, 68 Berkshire Rd., read an email from Kathryn Golda and Susie DeYoung regarding the reduction of mental health coverage at Newtown High School next year.

Item 3 – Discussion and Possible Action on Board Charge on Facilities and Enrollment

MOTION: Mrs. Ku moved that the Board of Education approve the charge for administration to continue work on the issues of facilities and enrollment. Mrs. Leidlein seconded.

Mr. Alexander spoke about the updated charge.

Ms. Hamilton asked for an explanation on #2 in part one regarding how current program requirements affect space requirements and in the paragraph addressing the final recommendation report she would like to add timing to the district and the town for each.

Mr. Alexander said that our current enrollment numbers don't match the projection numbers. Mrs. Ku said there is more than just numbers that needs to be part of the discussion such as programs we now have and that the new Sandy Hook School is a different size than the old school.

Ms. Hamilton said what is missing is what is needed in the schools in order for them to be effective.

Mr. Alexander was hoping the capacity was part of the details in the first report.

Ms. Hamilton feels strongly that these should be public meetings that could be broadcast for the community.

Mr. Alexander would include that the meetings will be open to the public but there will be no public participation.

Mrs. Leidlein suggested adding to have a discussion on how current program requirements affect space requirements.

Mr. Vouros asked what would be the effect on the children's education.

Mrs. Leidlein said the wording addresses the current programs effect on space requirements.

Mrs. Harriman-Stitkes suggested wording on cost savings, time and educational impact.

Vote on revised document: Motion passes unanimously.

Item 4 – Discussion and Possible Action on 2016-2017 Budget

MOTION: Mrs. Ku moved that the Board of Education adopt the Superintendent's recommended budget for a total of \$74,361,623. Mrs. Leidlein seconded.

Dr. Erardi provided requested information from the Board regarding the Newtown Early Learning Center, the pre-school program, the Chinese course, high school administrator information, technology grant information, unified arts staffing, prioritized staff information and project adventure.

Regarding the reduction of the 1.0 substance abuse counselor, new legislation will direct schools to do something different pertaining to drugs. Also, in light of what we believe are trending times in high schools, we want to relook at that position with possible funding through a grant or unencumbered funding source. We are holding this position for now. Regarding the middle school moving up ceremony the new high school auditorium will be on line. He wants to have a conversation with parents on this issue. It's \$5,600 to use the O'Neill Center. SERV grant staff information was provided.

Regarding the Board Certified Behavior Analyst, we have two that are full time in the district. Because of the need we are advertising for an additional .5 position to be shared by the four elementary schools. Our starting point tonight reflects a reduction of \$182,557 for a 3.62% increase.

Mr. Bienkowski summarized the adjustments which include fuel oil, snow plowing, the pool scoreboard as Parks and Rec may pay the total cost, coaching and advisors adjustments, technical adjustments, technology equipment due to the receipt of the grant, diesel fuel reduction, and a natural gas reduction at the new Sandy Hook School. Concern with SHS is we don't know what it will take to heat the building. Reed has a dual capability with oil and gas and at times we switch. We will know better after a year. These total a reduction of \$182,557.

MOTION: Mrs. Leidlein moved to amend the original motion as described in item #1 for fuel oil reducing the amount by \$58,800. Ms. Hamilton seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Leidlein moved to reduce the total budget amount in #2 for snow plowing for Sandy Hook School by \$20,000. Ms. Hamilton seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Leidlein moved to reduce the total amount in #3 for the pool scoreboard to be paid by Parks and Rec in the amount of \$14,625. Ms. Hamilton seconded.

Dr. Erardi has not spoken directly to Parks and Rec but we have been led to believe they are in a position to pay the total cost.

Ms. Hamilton and Mr. Clure thanked them for picking up this cost for us.

Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Leidlein moved to increase the total budget amount in #4 for coaching and advisors adjustments by \$10,300. Mrs. Ku seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Leidlein moved to reduce the total amount by the technical adjustments in #5 by \$32,892. Mrs. Ku seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Leidlein moved that the total amount in #6 be reduced by \$50,000 for technology equipment adjustments based on a grant receipt. Mrs. Ku seconded.

Ms. Hamilton said this allocation was approved by the Board for the \$103,000 grant to replace obsolete inventory and increase internet bandwidth.

Mrs. Amodeo said the intent of the grant was to help reach six year obsolescence. We didn't have enough and this grant would tide us over. As we went into the year we couldn't hold off on some equipment purchases. We used funds to buy desktops and laptops. We would like to take a portion to use for purchases this year and the reminder next year.

Vote: 5 ayes, 2 nays (Mr. Vouros, Mr. Clure) Motion passes.

MOTION: Mrs. Leidlein moved to reduce the budget by \$10,540 per #7 diesel fuel \$2.25 to \$2.15 per gallon. Mrs. Ku seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Leidlein moved to reduce the total budget amount by \$6,000 per #8 for natural gas for Sandy Hook School. Mrs. Ku seconded.

Mr. Faiella said the amount we will use is an unknown with the new school. It should be fuel efficient but we wanted to have enough to cover it.

Motion passes unanimously.

Mrs. Ku asked what type of things came out of the middle school budget requests. The .2 math and the dean of students were removed.

Mr. Einhorn said the students the .2 math teacher was for will now receive help from the academic resource center. The teacher there is in a grant funded position to provide support for students struggling academically during the school day. It has been successful this year so we hope it continues. These are regular ed students and some have 504s but no IEPs.

Ms. Ku asked why the dean position was eliminated.

Mr. Einhorn said that position would help the principal and assistant principal help with teacher evaluations, low level discipline and the day to day business of running the school. Our aspiring administrators have been helping this year.

Mr. Clure commented on project adventure moving to PE with an increase.

Mr. Bienkowski said these were always identified separately. We took the salary for the project adventure teacher and moved that up to the PE program. There was also a reassignment of one teacher..

Mr. Clure asked what we were saving.

Dr. Erardi said the present instructor is a veteran teacher. With a reduction of one FTE we will have a fairly new teacher with a lesser salary and expect to save \$56,569. The administration is committed to bringing this program to the high school as it is an enormous piece to social emotional learning there.

Mr. Alexander asked about the middle school moving up ceremony.

Dr. Erardi said the thought was having it at the high school but there needs to be a conversation with staff and then back to the Board. There would be a potential savings of \$3,500.

Mr. Clure asked about the middle school baseball and softball coaches.

Mr. Einhorn said we are requesting an additional assistant coach to ensure safety in supervising students.

MOTION: Mr. Clure moved to add an assistant baseball and softball coach for the middle school to the 2016-2017 budget for \$4,548. Mrs. Harriman-Stites seconded.

Mr. Einhorn said we normally have one coach.

Mr. Ross stated that there are usually 15 to 18 students per team for a total of approximately 30 students.

Vote: 2 ayes, 5 nays (Mr. Alexander, Mrs. Ku, Mrs. Leidlein, Ms. Hamilton, Mrs. Harriman-Stites) Motion fails.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites questioned SERV staffing and the reduction of 2.6 paraprofessionals at Sandy Hook School.

Dr. Gombos said they were here since January of 2013 to help in kindergarten because at Chalk Hill there are no bathrooms in their rooms and they have to use the stairs. She is fine with two full time in kindergarten next year.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites also questioned the transition coordinator for fourth grade.

Mrs. Uberti said the .29 transition coordinator has been providing academic support to those from Sandy Hook School.

Dr. Erardi feels confident the fourth graders will be prepared for fifth grade next year.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites asked about the Clifford Beers clinicians for students and staff and was concerned about the reduction to .5 for next year.

Dr. Gombos said Clifford Beers pursued two grants to fund the other half.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites was in favor of restoring that to a full time position.

Dr. Erardi said we are confident after hearing from Clifford Beers that our .5 and their .5 will be in place next year.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites asked about the psychologist at Reed.

Mrs. Uberti said their net loss in support staff is one school counselor. She only had one social worker for part of this year but feels they have adequate support staff. Losing one psychologist still provides enough coverage.

MOTION: Mrs. Harriman-Stites moved to increase the budget to include two full time clinicians funded by Newtown Youth and Family Services.

Mrs. Leidlein said she is uncertain we will receive funding for this. It's difficult adding \$113,000 to the budget.

Ms. Hamilton feels we should wait to get more information from Newtown Youth and Family Services.

Dr. Erardi said there will be a reduction of services from year three to year four. This gives the Board time to act appropriately as the grant won't come in until March. If you feel strongly that this is an important piece to recovery it will go forward either way.

Vote: 3 ayes, 4 nays (Mr. Alexander, Mrs. Ku, Ms. Hamilton, Mr. Vouros) Motion fails.

Ms. Hamilton spoke about the Chinese program at the high school which has very low enrollment and is not a good use of our dollars. That program could be added as an after school program taken at other locations. There is also an online program in Middlebury.

Dr. Rodrigue said Mandarin is a challenging course. This year we expanded the teacher to the TAP program for those who need a language. We are also looking into more funding by our sister school and Hanban. Our students think it's worthy. Online programs are difficult because the conversational piece is important. It isn't consistent with teachers so that has to do with a drop in enrollment. We usually get a new teacher every one or two years.

Ms. Hamilton also has the same issue with the yearbook class which should be a club. We need to look at classes we are offering that are still relevant. Teaching typing when children are learning to type in the elementary schools is a waste of our resources.

Mr. Clure asked if there were other ways to get revenue besides parking permits and pay to play fees.

Ms. Hamilton asked how many parking spaces were at the high school.

Mr. Pompano said there were roughly 400 spaces and the parking permit is \$85.

Ms. Hamilton asked to see all the revenues that come into the high school and where they go on a spreadsheet.

Mr. Bienkowski said the snack shack is run by the Booster Club.

Dr. Rodrigue said that was given over to culinary.

Mr. Bienkowski said all those revenues are related to student activity accounts and they are audited. The audit report doesn't break it down. The high school has more than 100 student activities.

Mrs. Davila spoke about the typing course at the high school. There is a different level of complexity in courses at the high school compared to the lower grades. She suggested that the Curriculum & Instruction Committee possibly review this course.

Ms. Harriman-Stites asked about the \$20,000 going to the town for parking fees.

Mr. Bienkowski said the parking has been fixed at \$20,000 for a number of years. It goes into the general fund and is applied to the Board of Education revenue account. There are also significant contributions by the town to the Board of Education. They plow our parking lots and maintain our athletic fields. The town contributes a lot more to our operation without asking for those funds.

Ms. Hamilton said the town helps with the fields and parking lots and provides money needed to put on new additions paying for the debt service. It's not fair to talk about giving money to the town.

Ms. Hamilton-Stites agreed with not being divisive and asked why this amount is just a Board of Education contribution and will be the same amount each year. If we reduce pay to play does the amount we give stay the same?

Dr. Erardi said he and the First Selectman agreed to collaboratively bring the same information to the Board of Selectman and Board of Education in the next couple of weeks.

Ms. Harriman-Stites asked about behavioral challenges in Kindergarten at Middle Gate School. Mr. Geissler said there are also challenges in the other grade levels. Having a .5 BCBT will be helpful providing training for staff also. We need the training in place and work with the new director of pupil services.

MOTION: Mrs. Harriman-Stites moved to add a .5 BCBA to the budget. Mrs. Ku seconded. Dr. Erardi said we have no candidates for this position. This is a new position evolving in our district. The hope was to get mid-year graduates to apply. He is not opposed to adding this .5 position.

Ms. Hamilton prefers to take a small step with this putting this .5 position in the budget.

Vote: 4 ayes, 3 nays (Mr. Alexander, Ms. Hamilton, Mr. Clure) Motion passes.

Mr. Clure asked about the PE functions in the elementary schools and how their teaching time is decided.

Dr. Erardi said their placement is decided around the number of periods per day. We have people who travel between schools for art and music also.

Ms. Hamilton asked for clarification of the lead teacher and assistant principal at Sandy Hook School.

Mr. Bienkowski said Sandy Hook School originally had a lead teacher which was changed to an assistant principal when enrollment was high. The assistant principal was hired in May 2013. The SERV grant initially paid for the differential between the lead teacher and assistant principal. There was an error on the organizational chart for the grants. We will adjust that going forward showing the assistant principal in the principal's line. There is no change in dollars.

Ms. Hamilton asked why we have an assistant principal instead of a lead teacher with the lower enrollment.

Dr. Erardi said he would support the realignment in two or three years because of post tragedy. It's a different skill set in that school.

Ms. Hamilton said our biggest cost is staffing. We increased 14 positions in the special ed area. We are currently at 708 positions.

Dr. Erardi said the add-ons are nearly all non-certified positions by the PPT process. We made significant reductions in paraprofessionals but the need has come back as was in the 2014-2015 year. This is happening throughout the state. We are budgeting for what we know.

Ms. Hamilton spoke about the out of district tuition costs over \$400,000 and would like a better understanding of these issues.

Dr. Erardi hopes the new director will look at what we can do to keep students in the district.

Mr. Vouros asked for the average out placement cost.

Dr. Erardi said \$100,000. We are good for the first \$75,000.

Mr. Clure asked about reducing the pay to play costs.

MOTION: Mr. Clure moved to reduce the pay to play amounts by half. Mrs. Ku seconded.

Mr. Alexander said if we reduce the prices we will take in half of the \$157,000 in our budget but it won't change our overall costs. This is cutting a revenue stream.

Mr. Bienkowski said we have to adjust the amount paid to the town which will be \$77,450.

Mr. Clure was concerned that student won't be able to participate.

Mrs. Ku would not recommend cutting the amount to the town but we could consider it.

Dr. Rodrigue said they get four or five students per season per sport through a guidance counselor or social worker.

Mr. Bienkowski said this is the first year we are reducing the amount we are paying.
Ms. Hamilton said almost every high school has this to help defray costs of the sports program.
She would not want to add more expenses to our budget.

Vote: 1 aye, 6 nays (Mr. Alexander, Mrs. Ku, Mrs. Leidlein, Ms. Hamilton, Mrs. Harriman-Stites, Mr. Vouros) Motion fails.

MOTION: Mrs. Ku moved to amend the original motion to adopt the Superintendent's recommended budget for a total of \$74,215,066. Mrs. Leidlein seconded.

Ms. Hamilton said this is a large increase over last year's budget and it affects the taxpayers and increases our per pupil spending to \$18,000 per student. We will have to pay a higher amount before the state helps us out with costs. Most costs are in staff and benefits. We have to be smart on how we use our facilities and be as efficient as possible. She looks at sharing personnel between schools because there isn't enough work for them in one school. We are not being efficient in using our space. It's better to have fewer facilities. She will vote no on the bottom line.

Mrs. Leidlein said that looking at the budget as a whole and the history of areas over time special ed has doubled over the last 10 years. This is a nationwide problem. Certain costs are out of our control.

Mr. Vouros said we need to understand that this budget has efficiency in it with tremendous education gains with efficiency of staff. He is grateful and, on behalf of the children, thanked them all.

Mr. Alexander thanked the new Board members. CABE recommends putting away our tools after this budget and getting on with our work. We need to get behind this budget.

Vote: 6 ayes, 1 nay (Ms. Hamilton) Motion passes.

MOTION: Mrs. Leidlein moved that the Board of Education direct the business office to prepare the final budget and authorize the Director of Business to make any technical or arithmetical changes necessary. Mrs. Ku seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 5 – Public Participation

Laura Terry, 64 Robin Hill Road, was in favor of the moving up ceremony being held in town, is not a fan of parking fees, the keyboarding course is important, and shared services may save money. The town collects a lot of money for mowing. We are turning \$150,000 to the town and we don't generate money.

MOTION: Mrs. Leidlein moved to adjourn. Mrs. Ku seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 6 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Debbie Leidlein
Secretary

Board of Education District Facilities Committee
January 2016

The Board of Education Charges the Superintendent to create a District Facilities Committee to research the use of School Facilities in light of Projected Enrollment Changes in Newtown.

The Board of Education asks the District Facilities Committee to produce a report back to the Board of Education by July 1, 2016. The report should include the following items:

1. Details from 2015 District Facilities study
2. Discussion of why numbers from peak enrollment are not comparable to numbers now (full day kindergarten, SHS has fewer classrooms, RW libraries, computerized testing)
3. Next steps regarding potential future usage by BOE for existing school facilities/spaces made available due to declining enrollment.

Additionally, the report should include a final recommendation and analysis regarding the following facility configurations including an outline of the cost/savings to district and the town for each:

1. No change in number of Facilities used by the District from the 2016-2017 school year to the end of the Enrollment Study.
2. Return of the Middle School Facility to the Town at some point after the end of the 2016-2017 school year
3. Return of an Elementary School Facility to the Town at some point after the end of the 2016-2017 school year

The District Facilities Committee will be facilitated by the Superintendent and should include members of the district staff (chosen by the Superintendent), up to three representatives from the Board of Education (assigned by the BOE Chair), and three representatives from the community (appointed by BOE Chair and Superintendent).

Newtown Early Learning Center

Projected balance to the end of this year will be approximately \$24,000.

Revenue from Pre School

Budgeted revenue offsetting Special Education Teacher is \$36,000.

Chinese Teacher

Schedule-2016-2017

(1) Section of Chinese Language and Cultural Topics	9th Grade
(1) Section of Chinese Language and Cultural Topics	TAP
(1) Section of Chinese Language II	10th Grade
(1) Section of Chinese Language III	11th Grade
(1) Section of Chinese Language IV/AP	12th Grade

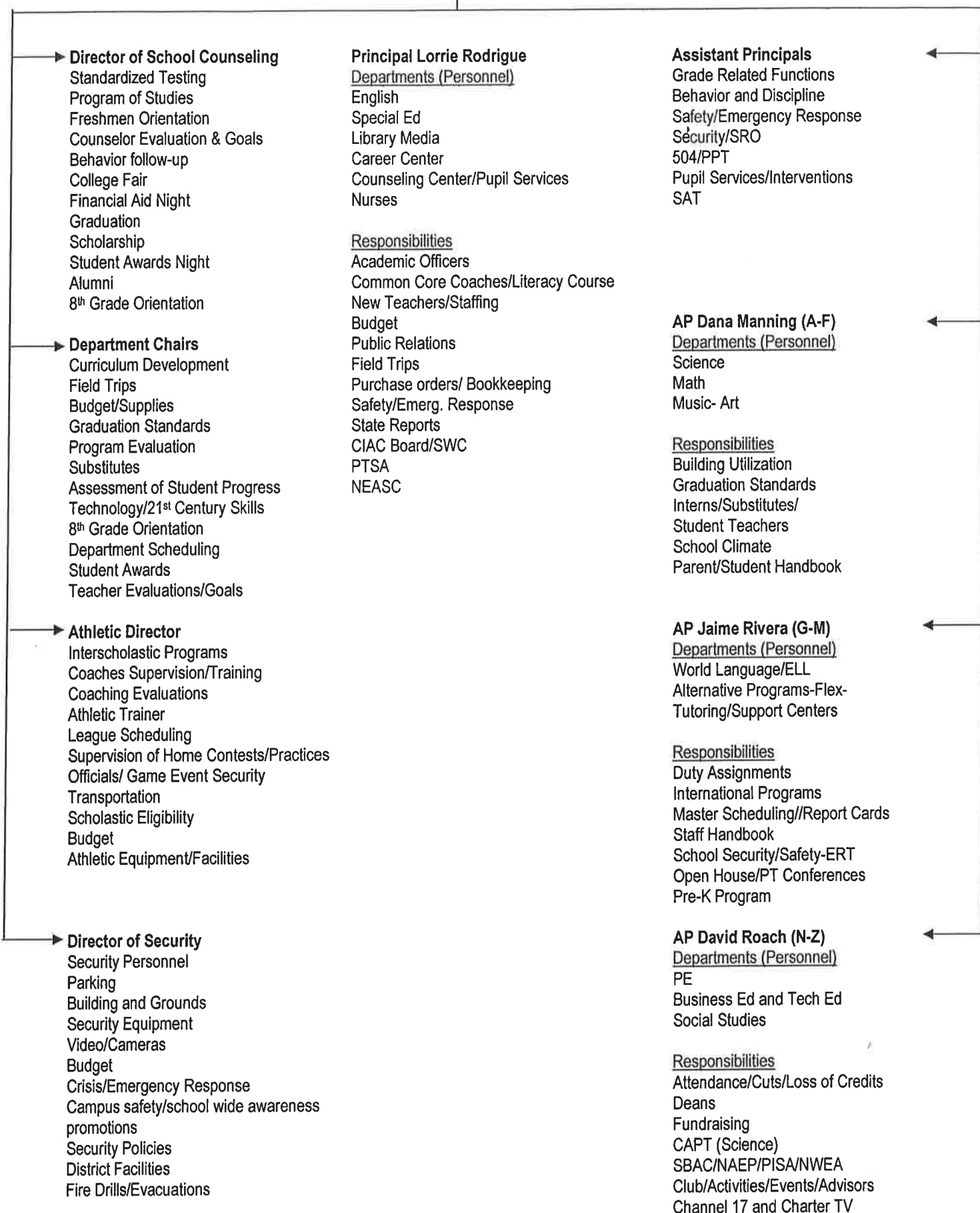
Salary- Bachelor Step 2

\$ 48,066.00

\$ 13,000.00 Paid by Hanban

\$ 35,066.00 Paid by Newtown

Principal, Lorrie Rodrigue



Director of School Counseling

Standardized Testing
Program of Studies
Freshmen Orientation
Counselor Evaluation & Goals
Behavior follow-up
College Fair
Financial Aid Night
Graduation
Scholarship
Student Awards Night
Alumni
8th Grade Orientation

Principal Lorrie Rodrigue

Departments (Personnel)
English
Special Ed
Library Media
Career Center
Counseling Center/Pupil Services
Nurses

Responsibilities
Academic Officers
Common Core Coaches/Literacy Course
New Teachers/Staffing
Budget
Public Relations
Field Trips
Purchase orders/ Bookkeeping
Safety/Emerg. Response
State Reports
CIAC Board/SWC
PTSA
NEASC

Assistant Principals

Grade Related Functions
Behavior and Discipline
Safety/Emergency Response
Security/SRO
504/PPT
Pupil Services/Interventions
SAT

Department Chairs

Curriculum Development
Field Trips
Budget/Supplies
Graduation Standards
Program Evaluation
Substitutes
Assessment of Student Progress
Technology/21st Century Skills
8th Grade Orientation
Department Scheduling
Student Awards
Teacher Evaluations/Goals

AP Dana Manning (A-F)

Departments (Personnel)
Science
Math
Music- Art

Responsibilities

Building Utilization
Graduation Standards
Interns/Substitutes/
Student Teachers
School Climate
Parent/Student Handbook

Athletic Director

Interscholastic Programs
Coaches Supervision/Training
Coaching Evaluations
Athletic Trainer
League Scheduling
Supervision of Home Contests/Practices
Officials/ Game Event Security
Transportation
Scholastic Eligibility
Budget
Athletic Equipment/Facilities

AP Jaime Rivera (G-M)

Departments (Personnel)
World Language/ELL
Alternative Programs-Flex-
Tutoring/Support Centers

Responsibilities

Duty Assignments
International Programs
Master Scheduling//Report Cards
Staff Handbook
School Security/Safety-ERT
Open House/PT Conferences
Pre-K Program

Director of Security

Security Personnel
Parking
Building and Grounds
Security Equipment
Video/Cameras
Budget
Crisis/Emergency Response
Campus safety/school wide awareness
promotions
Security Policies
District Facilities
Fire Drills/Evacuations

AP David Roach (N-Z)

Departments (Personnel)
PE
Business Ed and Tech Ed
Social Studies

Responsibilities

Attendance/Cuts/Loss of Credits
Deans
Fundraising
CAPT (Science)
SBAC/NAEP/PISA/NWEA
Club/Activities/Events/Advisors
Channel 17 and Charter TV

February 3, 2016

Technology Questions

Question 1:

Please provide greater detail for the \$80,000 of new proposed spending.

Answer:

The itemized list is on page 228 in the budget book.

Question 2:

Please indicate how the technology grant \$\$ will be placed either in this year or the 16-17 budget:

Answer from the CT State Department of Education:

- The funds will be available as soon as the awards letter is received.
- The funds need to be spent by June 30, 2016
- The funds can not be used to reimburse already expended dollars (State will verify this)
- The funds will need to be spent in the category that they are identified in the grant but the actual items can be varied. It may need to be filed as a variance.

Carm indicated if the grant funds need to be expended meeting this guidance, She does have a few items that were deferred when the funds did not come in the beginning of this school year. She would like to use some of the funds to cover those items. The remainder would be used to offset the needs for next year. She estimates that would be \$50,000

Sandy Hook Gas

The new Sandy Hook School will be heated entirely by natural gas. We estimated the energy usage for Sandy Hook by using the Reed School energy profile. Reed school is heated both by natural gas and oil for a total energy cost of \$105,195. The total estimated energy cost for Sandy Hook is \$89,408. Because this is the first school in the district to be heated solely by natural gas, we needed to be cautious in our estimates for consumption despite the competitive natural gas prices. Also taken into consideration was the contemporary design of the school (2 stories, large open spaces), and the unknown nature of the new heating/cooling systems and equipment.

TO: Dr. Joe Erardi, Superintendent
FROM: Suzanne D'Eramo, HR Coordinator
RE: Unified Arts Staff by Building
DATE: February 3, 2016

c: Dr. David Abbey, Interim Director of HR and Jean Evans Davila, Assistant Superintendent

As requested, below is a chart indicating our unified arts staff who teach in more than one school, and the buildings in which they teach.

In addition, the attached page indicates a roster of our entire unified arts staff, organized by building.

As always, please let me know if you are in need of any additional information.

ART	SCHOOL
Kim Hossler	HAW/SHS
Donna Perugini	HAW/HOM
Jean Walter	SHS/MGS
MUSIC	
Jill Marak	RIS/NHS
PE	
Tony Sortino	HAW/MGS
Matt Memoli	SHS/NMS

UNIFIED ARTS STAFF BY BUILDING-2015-16

HAW	Art	Music	PE	Library Media
	K. Hossler (.4)	B. Kowalsky (.8)*	D. Michlovitz	S. Wasley
	D. Perugini (.3)		T. Sortino (.4)	

SHS	Art	Music	PE	Library Media
	K. Hossler (.6)	M. Kristopik	J. Lloyd	B. Murphy
	J. Walter (.2)		M. Memoli (.5)	

MGS	Art	Music	PE	Library Media
	J. Walter (.8)	T. Jones	L. Cooper	S. Hurley
			T. Sortino (.6)	

HOM	Art	Music	PE	Library Media
	D. Perugini(.7)	C. Holberg	S. Dreger	B. Bjorklund
			A. Amaru (.2)*	

RIS	Art	Music	PE	Library Media
	A. Choniski	P. Beierle	A. Blank	P. Ledina
	M. Ginand	J. Marak (.8)	B. Gattey	
		B. Nolte		
		M. Smith		
		M. Tenenbaum		

NMS	Art	Music	PE	Library Media
	L. Coles	K. Hedin	M. Fontaine	J. Bugay
	K. Ladue	G. Heiter	K. Kantor	
		L. Ianello	J. LaRosa	
		M. Mahoney	M. Memoli (.5)	
		J. Pope		

NHS	Art	Music	PE/HEALTH	Library Media
	C. Cardillo-Skolas	K. Eckhardt	M. Childs	M. Biddle
	C. Pelligra	C. Lee	K. Davey	L. Zandonella
		J. Marak (.2)	C. Lombardo	
		J. Matson	L. McLean	
			J. O'Connell	
			C. Strait	

* less than 1.0 FTE-does not travel between schools

Subject: Requested Information – Order Sequence

***This was compiled by Jean Evans Davila with input from the leadership team -
Prioritization of the list on pages 303-306:***

- ***Priority # 1: Behavioral Analyst***
- ***Priority # 2: 0.2 math teacher for NMS***
- ***Priority # 3: Dean of Students for NMS***
- ***Priority # 4: Early intervention reading teacher increased, Educ. Assist. for math, Educ Asst for K, Educ Asst for computer lab***
- ***Priority # 5: 21st Century Stem curriculum for NMS***
- ***Priority # 6: Substance abuse counselor services - Pupil Services***
- ***Priority # 7: Additional driveway at MGS***

Impact and rationale of integrating Project Adventure with P.E. at NMS:

The instructional rationale for the integration of Project Adventure (PA) into the Physical Education (PE) curriculum at the middle school level is based on several goals and objectives which are shared between both curricula: i.e., teamwork, collaboration, critical thinking, problem-solving, physical fitness, etc. These similarities result in an integrated PA/PE model quite typically being implemented in other school districts, as well.

Also, discussions about the possible extension of the PA to the Newtown High School in the future have centered upon this integrated model for these same reasons. An added instructional benefit of the integrated model is that it provides increased flexibility during non-winter months for the scheduling of the High Ropes Course element of PA at times when it would not be practical to be outside with the students working on this component.

A combination of fiscal responsibility and instructional integrity in providing and maintaining programs for students is another basis for the rationale to integrate PA with PE at the middle school level. This plan allows the administration to be responsive to class size guidelines and concurrently preserve students' opportunity to participate in PA, a curriculum that adds greatly to students' educational experience. Without this integrated model which retains PA, one of the other four remaining rotation classes would need to be eliminated to meet class size guidelines. With this integrated model that reduces the schedule to four rotations, instructional time will be increased by five minutes per class in all rotations, including the PE class which integrates the PA curriculum. In the currently proposed, more cost-efficient, model of integrated PA/PE that would only require a four rotation schedule, students will not lose any educational opportunities to experience all five of the curricula they presently are offered. Also, it is important to note that the model maintains the paraprofessional who currently serves in PA. Certified staff in PE will be trained to implement the PA curriculum, which allows us to expand professional learning of our faculty, as well as ensuring that students who participate in the integrated model will have the same quality experience with the PA curriculum as their peers have had in previous years.

If we were to maintain PA as its own separate course as it currently exists within a five class rotation, \$56,569.00 would need to be added to the 2016-17 proposed budget for Newtown Middle School to cover salary of an instructor at the MA4 level. In the integrated PA/PE model, a teacher with seniority is maintained at the salary of \$93,113.00 while an MA4 salary position at \$56,569.00 has been reduced for the resulting cost savings.

Operational Plan for 2016-17

	2015-16 Approved Budget	Cumulative Adjustment	Percent of Decrease	Balance	Percent Change	Increase
2016-17 Superintendent's Proposal	71,587,946	2,773,677			3.87%	
<u>Adjustments</u>						
	0	0	0.00%	74,361,623	3.87%	
1 Fuel Oil - reduce price per gallon from \$2.00 to \$1.65 Current market conditions favorable (Bid due 2/25)	(58,800)	(58,800)	-0.08%	74,302,823	3.79%	2,714,877
2 Snow plowing - SHS Elementary	(20,000)	(78,800)	-0.11%	74,282,823	3.76%	2,694,877
3 Pool Scoreboard - payment by Park & Rec	(14,625)	(93,425)	-0.13%	74,268,198	3.74%	2,680,252
4 Coaching & Advisors adjustments	10,300	(83,125)	-0.12%	74,278,498	3.76%	2,690,552
5 Technical adjustments	(32,892)	(116,017)	-0.16%	74,245,606	3.71%	2,657,660
6 Technology equipment	(50,000)	(166,017)	-0.23%	74,195,606	3.64%	2,607,660
7 Diesel fuel 2.25 to 2.15 per gallon	(10,540)	(176,557)	-0.25%	74,185,066	3.63%	2,597,120
8 Natural gas SHS	(6,000)	(182,557)	-0.26%	74,179,066	3.62%	2,591,120
		(182,557)	-0.26%	74,179,066	3.62%	2,591,120