

***In consideration of public health and open meeting requirements, this meeting will include an option for the public to live-stream or phone in to listen to the audio of the meeting. Please note that public comment will be received by phone at the beginning and end of this meeting. Alternatively, the Board encourages the public to email any comments for Board consideration to [NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us)***

**To view this meeting, the live stream link is <https://bit.ly/3qWLOIZ>**

**For public participation and to listen to the meeting, please call 1-646-558-8656**

**PIN 851 8666 6449 #**

Board of Education Budget Virtual Meeting  
January 28, 2021

7:00 p.m.

*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                    PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
  
- Item 2                    PUBLIC HEARING ON 2021-2022 BUDGET
  
- Item 3                    DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SUSPEND THE BOARD'S POLICIES AND REGULATIONS PURSUANT TO POLICY 9314. (The policy to be suspended is 3323. The suspension shall be for the specified purpose of opting into the state's waiver that allows for the extension of the Board's food service contract for one additional year. Such suspension shall only be for the meeting held on January 28, 2021).
  
- Item 4                    DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON FOOD SERVICES CONTRACT
  
- Item 5                    BUDGET DISCUSSION
  
- Item 6                    \*\*PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
  
- Item 7                    ADJOURNMENT

***\*\*During 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. The Board does not engage in dialogue during the public comment period. If you desire more information or answers to specific questions, please email the BOE: [NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us)***

**NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BUSINESS OFFICE**

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** January 27, 2021  
**TO:** Newtown Board of Education, Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue, Superintendent  
**FROM:** Tanja Vadas, Director of Business & Finance   
**SUBJECT:** Food Service Waiver

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Under normal operating conditions, our food service contract would require going out to bid after five years. Due to the many interruptions caused by the pandemic, the USDA Food and Nutrition service has given districts in Connecticut the option to apply for a one year waiver of this regulation. The State of Connecticut was approved for this waiver, giving Newtown the opportunity to extend our existing contract with Whitson's for one more year.

There are a number of reasons that I would recommend extending our contract with Whitson's for an additional year.

- We are very pleased with the level of service that Whitson's has proved, especially through the pandemic. They have developed cost mitigation strategies by providing their services to other community members.
- Whitson's has been in place for five years and they are very familiar with our operation. If we were to assign a new food service management company, it would take time for them to become familiar with our operations which would include a possible walk-through. Also, not knowing how the pandemic will play forward, I feel this would place more disruptions during these times of uncertainty.
- This is an extension of the original contract which was originally put forth as a "breakeven" guarantee. There will be no purchasing of goods or services as it is a self-funded activity that resides outside of the general fund.

If agreed to this waiver, a renewal/amendment to the contract will be forthcoming. The State is working through this and will be sending the renewal/amendment process out sometime in March/April. At that time, we will review the guarantee and the financial budgets submitted by Whitson's.

Thank you for assistance on moving this forward,