

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

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on January 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Reed Intermediate School library, 3 Trades Lane.

A. Plante, Chair	C. Melillo
J. Vouros, Vice Chair	A. Uberti
D. Ramsey, Secretary	T. Vadas
T. Higgins	12 Staff
S. Tomai	2 Public
C. Gilson	
D. Linnetz	

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss the Superintendent's mid-year evaluation. Mr. Higgins seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 1 – Executive Session

Executive session began at 6:00 p.m. and ended at 7:05 p.m.

Mrs. Plante called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Item 2 – Pledge of Allegiance

Item 3 – Consent Agenda

MOTION: Mr. Higgins moved that the Board of Education Move that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda which includes the donation to Newtown High School, the Newtown High School April 2025 ACIS trip, and the correspondence report. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 4 – Second Read of Policy 1700 Possession of Deadly Firearms or Deadly Weapons

MOTION: Mr. Higgins moved that the Board of Education approve Policy 1700 Possession of Deadly Firearms or Deadly Weapons. Mrs. Linnetz seconded.

Mr. Higgins reported this policy was discussed at the last Board meeting. We received a comment from Mr. Gilson regarding the possible inclusion of “electronic weapons” in this policy but when we conferred with counsel they told us we couldn't include that because it was not part of the State Statute.

Motion passes unanimously.

Item 5 – Superintendent's Overview of the 2024-2025 Budget

Mr. Melillo presented his 2024-2025 budget.

Mrs. Plante thanked everyone who worked to prepare this presentation and welcomed questions from the Board.

Mr. Higgins asked for information on how the budget makes allocations tied to the strategic plan and if it represents incremental spending, reallocation of resources, or are we already doing that.

Mr. Melillo noted that when the elementary schools added the math specialists and the ESSR money ended, we worked with principals to see if we should allocate those positions. We have an investment in the K-5 program, there's an investment in textbooks for AP courses at the high school and Spanish courses at the middle school, and a grant investment in career pathways. We are also looking at investing in professional development opportunities for teachers to look

at the instructional core which include student engagement, strong curriculum or content, and practice. Instructional rounds and investing in curriculum and instruction and professional development will improve student outcomes.

Mr. Higgins asked if he could quantify into dollars the incremental investment in activities that are new and tied to concrete objectives.

Mr. Mellilo would get him numbers on that and break it out.

Mr. Ramsey referred to expendable and non-expendable supplies and asked if the principal in each school can transfer monies from one area to areas in greater need of expendable materials.

Mrs. Vadas said we did that during Covid and she can go back and look at any transfers which we bring to the Board.

Mrs. Plante referred to unfunded mandates and how it might impact our budget.

Mr. Melillo said in the current budget year we had the Right to Read legislation that came out so we are sitting on the K-5 reading program. Elementary amounts are higher because they are expendables that go along with the programs. We are not mandated but it makes sense to look at the middle school programs so we have continuity from grade five through eighth grade. The unfunded mandates pushed us through that. Last year he provided a list of State unfunded mandates to the Board, which is over one hundred.

Mr. Higgins noted that on June 27 Mr. Melillo explained the strategic plan and discussed the lack of granularity in the plan in identifying concrete objectives, where we were, where we wanted to go and how we were going to assess whether we were making progress. He explained this was the first step and it would be developed over the summer. The beginning of September we talked about the status of that plan. He said work was going on and it would be coming. He repeated that on September 19. We still have not seen any updates or articulation of the objectives and if we are getting there. Can the Board expect to see an update to the strategic plan and the incremental investment we are making for each objectives and what we are trying to achieve? It's hard to see where he is making strategic investments and if we are doing enough. He wants to know if that will include the amplification of the strategic plan we have been discussing.

Mr. Melillo spoke to the Chair about presenting the strategic plan to the Board. We are scheduled to have a mid-year update with our administrators in February. Once we tie down that update we will come to the Board and update school by school.

Mr. Higgins asked for the articulation of the district goals which is what he's looking for in the budget and is part of annual goals.

Mr. Melillo would get the information and speak about that in policy.

Item 6 – Elementary School Budgets

Mr. Napolitano began by speaking about the success of the new programs and they were thankful for the Board's continued support.

Mr. Ramsey asked if there was flexibility in transferring money within your buildings and how teachers felt about their instructional supplies.

Mr. Moretti said that because Hawley was split between Sandy Hook School and Reed Intermediate School they were able to use supplies at these location but next year will be a restocking year for us. The teachers fill out a budget and ask for what they need. He feels the line items are accurate.

Dr. Gombos said her classroom teachers are very supportive of their supplies. She asked that they ask before they buy anything.

Mr. Napolitano noted that each budget is a little different each year. Our music, art and Spanish teachers work in two buildings.

Mr. Geissler agreed with Mr. Moretti and Mr. Napolitano that teachers feel they are very supported. We also have very generous PTAs.

Mr. Vouros asked how things were in the library media specialist areas.

Mr. Moretti noted that they picked up our enrichment and students are excited and collaborative with each other on lessons. The request for opting out of books has been very minor.

Mr. Geissler feels our media centers are wonderful and the hub of the school.

Mr. Vouros asked if there was enough staffing in that area.

Mr. Geissler said there was.

Mr. Higgins said that in looking at performance gaps, early intervention strategies come up again and again. Regarding the math specialists and being able to keep them he asked if that was part of keeping the level of support. Are we doing enough to support the intervention strategies and are you resourced enough to make an impact? Do you have the resources regarding interventions?

Mr. Napolitano said we do have the staff to support interventions for students. We have reading, math, and behavior support and are having successes. Regarding people to support the program and the money, we are fortunate to have the staff we have right from kindergarten. We analyze data during the year.

Mr. Higgins asked if you were satisfied and if you are tracking the students. Would more resources enable us to move faster?

Mr. Napolitano said we have seen excellent student growth but we will look at information to see if we need more resources.

Mr. Moretti agreed with Mr. Napolitano. What we are learning is that it is best for students to be in a classroom. We would like the teachers to supply more Tier 1 support on how to analyze data and interventions. We are very grateful to have the regular education BCBA's in our buildings to help with classroom behaviors. We started the dialogue of a social worker at the elementary level to help with needs in the community.

Dr. Gombos noted that it was impactful for her interventionists to go in the classroom. We are getting better at data which helps us support them but there are still behavior concerns. Our math scores are going in the right direction.

Mr. Moretti said that regarding addressing the strategic plan, we are writing goals about student improvement and move students if necessary. It is helpful to share data between schools.

Mrs. Plante noted that Middle Gate School will have 12 new students next year and asked if there was enough space.

Mr. Geissler said they have limited capacity to provide classrooms. The reading department has one classroom for four teachers. He has the possibility to reconfigure one room for a classroom if necessary.

Item 7 – Reed Intermediate School

Dr. Correia spoke about the Reed budget.

Mr. Ramsey commented on the atmosphere in the Reed office and the warmth of the secretaries to the people coming in. He asked if they are meeting the needs of the students dealing with English as a second language.

Dr. Correia said it's challenging but you see the improvement because we have excellent resources in our ELL department.

Mr. Gilson asked about computer education at Reed and if he had enough funding with changing technology.

Dr. Correia said the fifth and sixth grade technology curriculum is being rewritten and he is fine where he is.

Item 8 – Newtown Middle School Budget

Mr. Ross thanked the Board for their commitment to our schools and spoke about the middle school budget.

Mr. Ramsey complimented Mr. Ross and Mr. Walsh as the school has grown tremendously the last two years. There have been huge results in student achievement. Regarding Project Adventure, he asked if there was value in having two certified teachers, which would enhance the program.

Mr. Ross noted that Project Adventure has a profound impact on social emotional learning. He feels we are in a good place with one certified teacher and para for our program. The resources we have are adequate and effective.

Mr. Higgins said that from 2017 to now there has been about a 15% decline in enrollment and asked what kind of effect it has made in the middle school. He also asked if there was anywhere he had needs.

Mr. Ross stated that declining enrollment comes with challenges and it impacts staff morale. Also, educators have to deal with issues if positions are eliminated such as having to teach in other areas which might be difficult and will affect students. There is a gap at the middle school so we have two supports for ELA and a math and language arts interventionist. There were growing pains but it lead to opportunities.

Regarding middle school needs, ELA is a need we are addressing and he expects to see students with grade level opportunities. We want to be sure we are giving her staff the necessary tools to help the students. They are reviewing the scores and feel more work needs to be done. We have to improve in our practices.

Mr. Vouros asked the cost of removing the para from Project Adventure and putting in a teacher.

Mr. Ross said it would be about \$45,000.

Mr. Vouros commented that Mr. Walsh has been an amazing addition in helping us move teaching and learning forward in the middle school. He has a great commitment to students and families.

Item 9 – Technology Budget

Mr. Colclough presented the technology budget.

Item 10 – Public Participation

MOTION: Mr. Higgins moved to adjourn. Mrs. Linnetz seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 11 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Donald Ramsey
Secretary



Newtown High School

12 Berkshire Road
Sandy Hook, CT 06482
(203) 426-7646
FAX (203) 426-6573

November 21, 2023

Dear School Board Members,

My name is Elizabeth Mouchantat. I have been teaching social studies at Newtown High School for 4 years including Government, Economics, U.S. History, World Religions, Asian Studies, and Western Studies. In addition, I am an alumni graduating with the class of 2012.

This April I am bringing 28 students to Italy with ACIS (American Council for International Studies) from April 12-20, 2024. In order to allow more students the opportunity, and families to financially plan ahead, I am writing to ask for your approval to bring students in April Break of 2025 on a trip with ACIS to Paris, Switzerland, and Munich.

ACIS is the country's leading sponsor of educational tours. Its programs are fully insured, and its nationwide reputation is based on 35 years of experience with more than 500,000 student and adult travelers. They have a 24-hour, 365-day support network staffed by ACIS employees, both in the U.S. and overseas. They use only three- and four-star hotels in popular and safe areas and the best sources of local transportation. Newtown High School traveled with ACIS for 6 years prior to pausing the partnership during the pandemic.

Our group will have an ACIS Tour Manager who is a highly-trained, multilingual guide and educator. Our tour manager will not only explain what we are seeing, but how it came to be and why it matters. ACIS Tour Managers are renowned for bringing a unique perspective to their tours, combined with a love of teaching and an irresistible enthusiasm for the regions they describe. Our tour manager will serve as an accessible, authoritative source of information, helping students form a basis for exploration. His or her expertise will certainly enhance all that my colleagues and I have taught our students at home.

The ten day trip will include tours of Paris, Engelberg, Munich, and Salzburg. Students will have the opportunity to explore not only the cities themselves, but learn the culture and history first hand as we explore the Louvre and see Renaissance Art like the Mona Lisa, take a lesson on how to play the Alpenhorn, and any student learning french will be able to practice with many native speakers as we explore.. In addition to the cultural connections, students will have the opportunity to tour Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial and learn more deeply about the experience of the Holocaust and effects they studied throughout this history curriculum at the high school. This is a wonderful cross disciplinary opportunity for our students.

My experience so far with ACIS has shown me they are experts in international travel and will support our students and chaperones leading up to, and on this trip and this has been confirmed by the teacher who worked with them for 6 successful years. The continued support of the Newtown Board of Education is what makes these types of travel trips so accessible to students and I ask you to approve this travel request for April Break of 2025. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at mouchantate@newtown.k12.ct.us

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Mouchantat

NHS Social Studies Department



Paris, Switzerland, Munich Itinerary and Included Experiences

Day 1: Depart from NHS

- Fly out of JFK

Day 2-4: Paris

- Guided Sightseeing tour of Paris including Arc de Triumph, Notre Dame
- Timed Entrance to the Louvre, then climb the Eiffel Tower and an evening Boat Cruise on the Seine River
- Tour King Louis XIV's Palace of Versailles

Day 5-6: Engelberg

- Cable Car and Cog Railway up Mount Pilatus
- Explore Lucerne and then enjoy an Alpine Hut Dinner and Alpenhorn Lesson

Day 7-8 Munich

- See the famous Neuschwansein fairy tale castle
- Guided sightseeing tour of Munich
- Afternoon tour of Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial

Day 9: Saltzberg

- Guided tour of Saltzberg including some famous Sound of Music Sites
- Explore the Hallein Salt Mine

Day 10: Depart for NHS

*Ultimate Plus Protection Plan

Health Coverage

24/7 medical assistance, consultation, monitoring, and emergency evacuation where deemed necessary

- Coverage up to \$50,000 no deductible
- Team Assists will pay up to \$1,500 for immediate family member to travel to trip destination in the event a participant under 21 is hospitalized more than 48 hours

Cancellation Protection

Cancel for any reason and receive 100% cash refund (minus the cost of the plan) up to 4 days before departure



10 Day Tour Cost

Trip Cost - \$5,170

Ultimate Plus Insurance* - \$500

If Registered by 2/1/2024

Cost Includes

- Round Trip Tickets
- Breakfast and Dinners
- Hotels
- All local transportation
- Tour Guides
- All Museum and Entrance Tickets listed in Itinerary
- Tip for guides and drivers

Not Included in Cost

- Lunches (est. 10-15 Euro per lunch)
- Souvenirs/Spending money/Extras the group/student decides to do
- Charter to and from airport
 - Price depends on the number of students traveling (Estimated \$100-160)



Correspondence Report
12/19/2023 – 01/17/2024

Date	Name	Subject
12/19/2023	Donald Ramsey	Correspondence Report for the BOE Meeting 12/19/2023
12/19/2023	June, Kathy	December 5 Minutes Error
12/24/2023	Melillo, Chris	12/24 Superintendent's Sunday Update
12/26/2023	Plante, Alison	Sunday Update – Week of December 26
12/31/2023	Melillo, Christopher	12/31/23 Superintendent's Sunday Update
12/31/2023	Plante, Alison	December 31 – Week in Preview
01/02/2024	June, Kathy	January 4 BOE Special Meeting
01/02/2024	Acox134957	Staff Thankyou
01/03/2024	Christopher Gilson	CABE Area 5 Legislative Breakfast
01/05/2024	Melillo, Christopher	School Buiding Closed on Sunday
01/07/2024	Melillo, Christopher	1/7/24 Superintendent's Sunday Update
01/07/2024	Plante, Alison	January 7 – Week in Preview
01/08/2024	Melillo, Christopher	NHS Facilities
01/08/2024	Jeff Capeci	Bob Tait Retirement
01/09/2024	Melillo, Christopher	Evening Activities
01/09/2024	Plante, Alison	Please Read: Meeting Tonight
01/11/2024	June, Kathy	Budget Books
01/12/2024	June, Kathy	BOE Mailing – January 16, 2024
01/14/2024	Melillo, Christopher	1/14 Superintendent's

Community Relations

Possession of Deadly Firearms or Deadly Weapons

I. Definitions

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

- A. Deadly Weapon means any weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged, or a switchblade knife, gravity knife, billy, blackjack, bludgeon, or metal knuckles [Ref. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-3(6)]
- B. Firearm means any sawed-off shotgun, machine gun, rifle, shotgun, pistol, revolver, or other weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged. [Ref: Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-3 (19)]
- C. Real Property means the land and all temporary and permanent structures comprising the Newtown Public School District's elementary and secondary schools, administrative office buildings, and operational facilities. Real Property includes, but is not limited to, classrooms, hallways, storage facilities, theaters, gymnasiums, fields, and parking lots.
- D. School-Sponsored Activity means any activity sponsored, recognized, or authorized by the Newtown Board of Education and includes activities conducted on or off school property. [Ref: Conn. Gen. Sta. § 10-233a(h)].

II. Prohibition of Deadly Weapons and Firearms

In accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 29-28(e) and § 53a-217b, the possession and/or use of a Deadly Weapon or Firearm on the Real Property of the Newtown Public School District, on school transportation, or at a School-Sponsored Activity, is strictly prohibited by the Board of Education, even if the person possessing the Deadly Weapon or Firearm has a permit for such item, and even if the person intends to traverse school property with an unloaded Firearm or Deadly Weapon for the purpose of gaining access to public or private lands open to hunting or for other lawful purposes.

III. Limited Exceptions

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

(A) Peace Officers

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

(B) Armed School Security Officers

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

(C) Off-Duty Qualified Law Enforcement Officers

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

(D) Other Specifically Authorized Persons

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

IV. Consequences

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

A student who possesses and/or uses any Deadly Weapon or Firearm on the Real Property of the Newtown Public School District, on school transportation, or at a School-Sponsored Activity in violation of this policy shall be disciplined in accordance with the Board of Education's discipline policies.

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


P1700(c)

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


Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
29-28 Permit for sale at retail of pistol or revolver. Permit to carry a pistol or revolver. Confidentiality of name and address of permit holder. Permits for out-of-state residents
29-33 Sale, delivery or transfer of pistol and revolvers. Procedure. Penalty
53a-3 Definitions.
53a-217b Possession of a weapon on school grounds: Class D felony
P.A. 13-188 An Act Concerning School Safety
10-233a Definitions
10-244a Employment of persons to provide security services in a public school while in possession of a firearm

Policy adopted: May 5, 2015 , Effective July 1, 2015
Policy revised: April 5, 2016, November 1, 2022

NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Newtown, Connecticut




Newtown Public Schools
**Superintendent's
 2024-2025
 Operational
 Budget Plan**



**PROPOSED BUDGET
 2024-2025**

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Alison Plante, Chair **John Vouros, Vice Chair** **Don Ramsey, Secretary**

Todd Higgins **Shannon Tomai** **Christopher Gilson** **Doria Linnetz**

CENTRAL OFFICE

Christopher Melillo~ Superintendent of Schools
Anne Uberti ~ Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Tanja Vadas Director, Business & Finance	Deborah Mailloux-Petersen Director, Pupil Services	Kara DiBartolo Director, Teaching & Learning	John Barlow Director, Operations
Dennis Colclough Director, Technology	Mark Pompano Director, Security	Suzanne D'Eramo Director, Human Resources	Michelle Hiscavich Director, Performing and Fine Arts

PROPOSED BUDGET 2024-2025

Newtown Middle School



Jim Ross
Principal
Brian Walsh
Assistant Principal

Newtown High School



Dr. Kim Longobucco
Principal
Assistant Principals
Paul Ribeiro
David Roach
Athletic Director
Matthew Memoli

Reed Intermediate School



Dr. Matthew Correia
Principal
Jenna Connors
Assistant Principal

Hawley Elem School



Christopher Moretti
Principal
Carla Tischio
Lead Teacher

Sandy Hook Elem School



Dr. Kathy Gombos
Principal
Kelly MacLaren
Lead Teacher

Middle Gate Elem School



Christopher Geissler
Principal
John Sullivan
Lead Teacher

Head O'Meadow Elem School

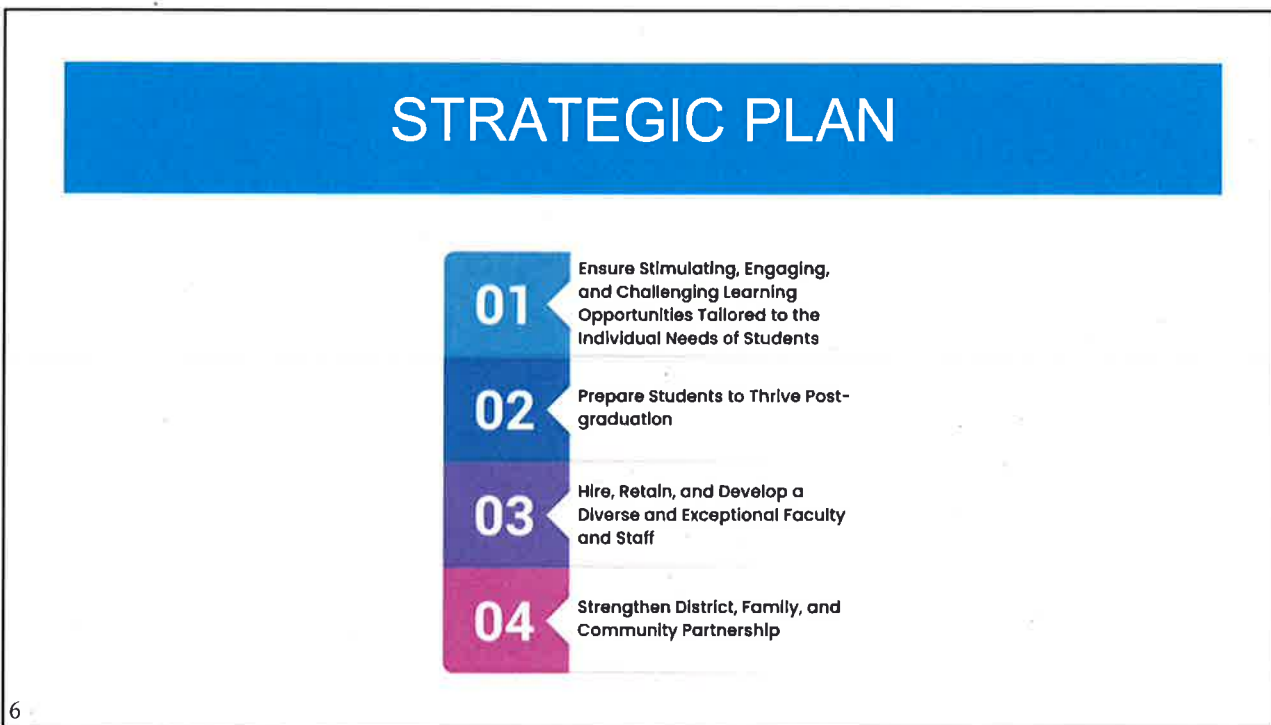
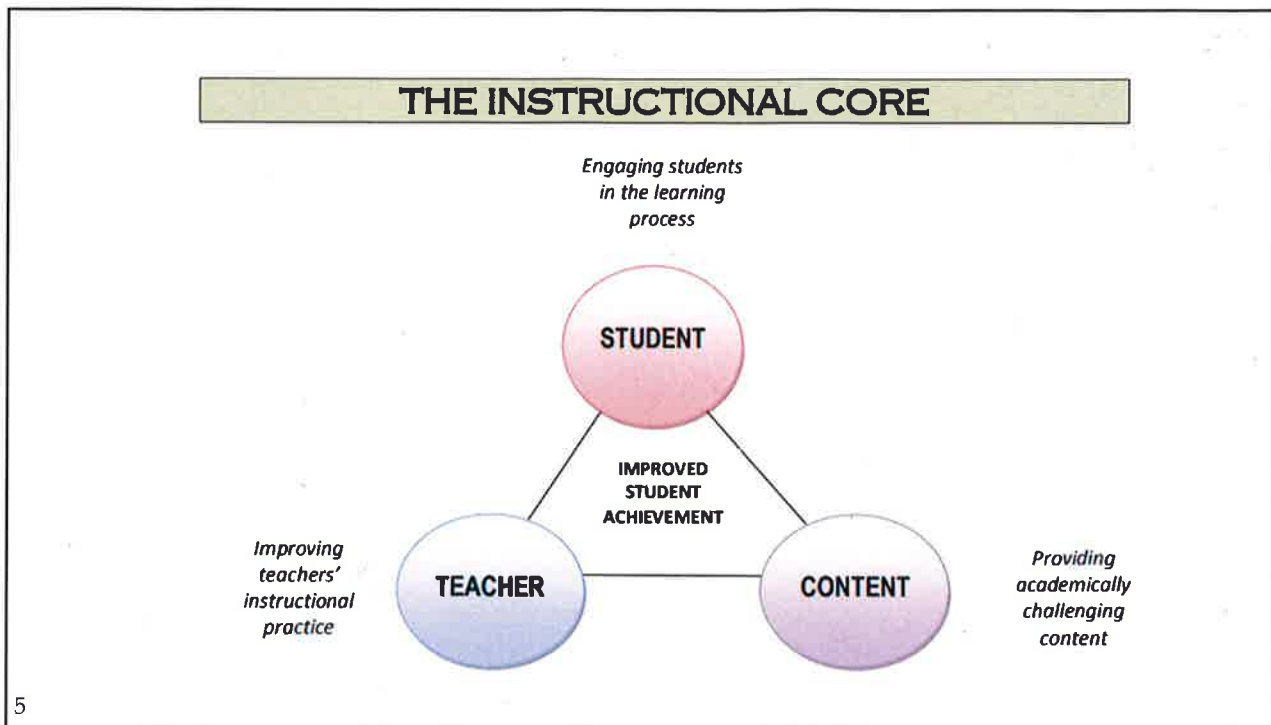


Tim Napolitano
Principal
Karen Dreger
Lead Teacher

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INVESTING IN OUR STUDENTS





STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: ENSURE STIMULATING, ENGAGING, AND CHALLENGING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Acquiring materials and providing professional development for the new 6-8 reading program
- Investing in continued professional learning and supplemental materials for new K-5 reading program
- Facilitating curriculum and planning committees (PDEC, Curriculum Council, Elementary Cross Grade Level Meetings)
- Delivering DEAI professional learning opportunities across the district
- Offering grades 5-8 Inquiry training for science and social studies teachers
- Expansion of career pathways (Grant Funded)
- Providing multiple tiers of academic support (MTSS) for students needing support
- Curriculum enhancement to better meet the evolving needs of students, align with up to date knowledge and skills, and foster a more engaging and effective learning experience.
- Implementing a pilot Kindergarten Readiness program
- Purchasing of new world language programs at NHS and NMS

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STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: PREPARE STUDENTS FOR LIFE BEYOND GRADUATION

- Enhancing professional learning on the Portrait of the Graduate at Newtown High School involves providing educators opportunities for skill development, collaboration, and reflection to align instructional practices with the school's vision
- Offering students the opportunity to visit colleges and universities provides them with first hand exposure to campus life, academic programs, and the overall collegiate experience
- Provide Career Days at NMS and NHS which allow students to explore diverse career paths through interactive workshops and networking opportunities
- Expanding dual-enrollment courses providing students with and early exposure to higher education and a head start on their academic and career pathways (grant funded)
- Offering more clubs and activities to enrich educational experiences, leadership qualities, and interpersonal skills
- Authors' visits and support of our fine arts programming.
- Equip students with skills and opportunities to real world applications and programming
- Supporting internships at NHS by forging meaningful partnerships with local businesses and organizations to provide students with professional exposure

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STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: HIRE, RETAIN, AND DEVELOP A DIVERSE AND EXCEPTIONAL FACULTY AND STAFF

- Train hiring committees to ensure fair evaluations and reviews
- Requiring support and training for new teachers and create mentorship programs to encourage staff growth
- Continue to develop orientation protocols and enhancing the training for support staff
- Hire, retention and development plan for paraprofessionals and job coaches
- Provide professional learning opportunities to teaching and support staff for continuous learning and growth
- Attend various career fairs to compete for the very best candidates
- Develop an Increasing Education Diversity Plan and Committee

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STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: STRENGTHEN DISTRICT, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

- Establish clear and consistent communication channels between the school district, families, and the community by utilizing newsletters, websites, and social media.
- Actively involve parents and community members to community forums where diverse perspectives can be shared and considered
- Enhance website design and development
- Upgrading the school district's messaging software aims to enhance communication by providing a more streamlined and efficient platform that will lead to improved engagement and information dissemination between educators, parents, and the community
- Develop community partnerships through programming that incorporates career pathways.
- Supporting internships at NHS by forging meaningful partnerships with local businesses and organizations to provide students with professional exposure

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The 2024-2025 Budget: A Closer Look



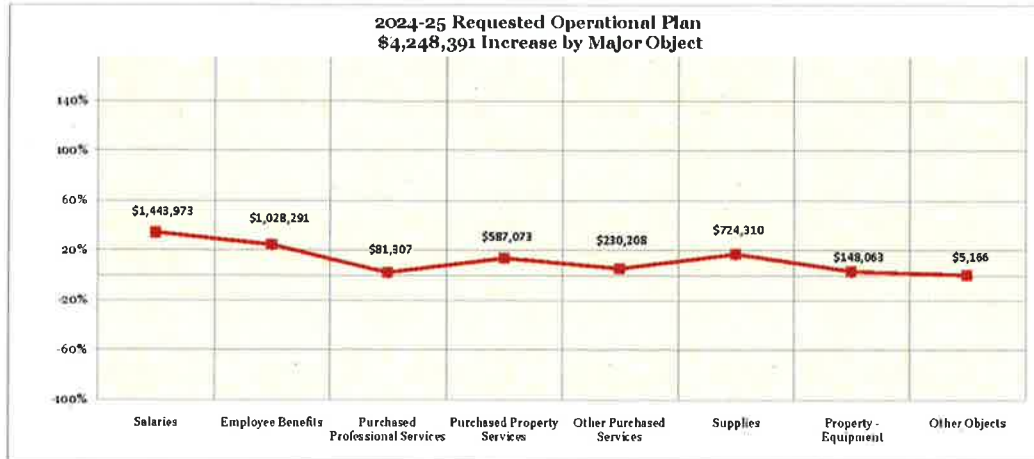
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Budget Drivers

- Salaries are expected to increase by \$1,443,973
- Benefits are expected to increase by \$1,028,291
- Supplies are anticipated to increase by \$724,310
- Purchased Property Services are increasing by \$587,073
- Other Purchased Services are expected to increase by \$230,208
- Property and Equipment is anticipated to increase by \$148,063

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OBJECT SUMMARY



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SALARIES AND BENEFITS DRIVERS

Contractual Salary Increases

Salaries are expected to increase by 2.61%. This equates to \$1,443,973 and represents 33.99% of the total budget increase.

- Teachers Union will receive 1.50% and 2.0% for top step only
- Administrator Union will receive a 2.75% wage increase
- Custodial and Maintenance Union will receive 3.0% wage increase
- Educational Personnel Union (Secretaries) will receive 3.0% wage increase.
- Nurses union will be undergoing negotiations.
- Paraeducator Union will receive 2.0% with step movement.

Benefits

Benefits are expected to increase by 8.04%. This equates to \$1,028,291 and represents 24.20% of the total budget increase.

- Medical & Dental self funded health insurance are expected increase by \$847,816 or just under 9%.
- Pensions are expected to increase by \$89,270 or 9.37%. This increase comes primarily from our defined contribution or 401(a) plan.
- FICA & Medicare expenses are expected increase by \$84,538 or 4.97%
- Other accounts include premiums & fees, life insurance, tuition reimbursement, unemployment, workers compensation and employee assistance program all of which account for a total increase of \$6,667

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SUPPLIES DRIVERS

Supplies are expected to increase by 22.80%. This equates to \$724,310 and represents 17.05% of the budget increase.

Drivers behind this increase include:

- Textbooks are requiring \$598,530 or 14.09% of the total increase.
- This area was subject to a reduction initiated by the Legislative Council during our budget process last year. In order to accommodate this adjustment, the BOE had to pre-purchase \$220,183 worth of materials.
- Instructional and office supplies are expected to increase by \$130,511 or 3.07% of the requested increase. Similar to textbooks, \$27,187 was pre-purchased to fulfill a portion of the Legislative Council's reduction and \$65,000 was reduced by the superintendent.
- The increase in these two areas represents the reinstatement of spending levels plus educational enhancements and anticipated needs.

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PURCHASED PROPERTY SERVICES DRIVERS

This area of the budget is expected to increase by \$587,073 and makes up 13.82% of the requested budget increase.

Drivers behind this increase include:

- Building & Site Maintenance Projects request at \$455,911
 - These projects occur each year as repair and replacements are required to maintain all of our schools. The costs for these projects typically average around \$500,000.
 - For the past several years, the Town has funded these projects in full (with the exception of the current year that was reduced by the Board of Finance by \$185,000)

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OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES

This area of the budget is expected to increase by \$230,208 and makes up 5.42% of the requested budget increase.

Drivers behind this increase include:

- Transportation is expected to increase by \$222,747 increasing by 4.54% over the current year.
 - 2024-25 will be the third year of a five year contract for our local in-district transportation. The main in-district portion of this contract calls for an increase of 3.83%
 - Out-of-district transportation is expected to increase by \$19,972. This increase is based on the number of vehicles required for our special education students that require education outside of NPS. EdAdvance provides for many of these students and we are in our final year of a five year contract with them.

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Revenue & Special Revenue Offsets



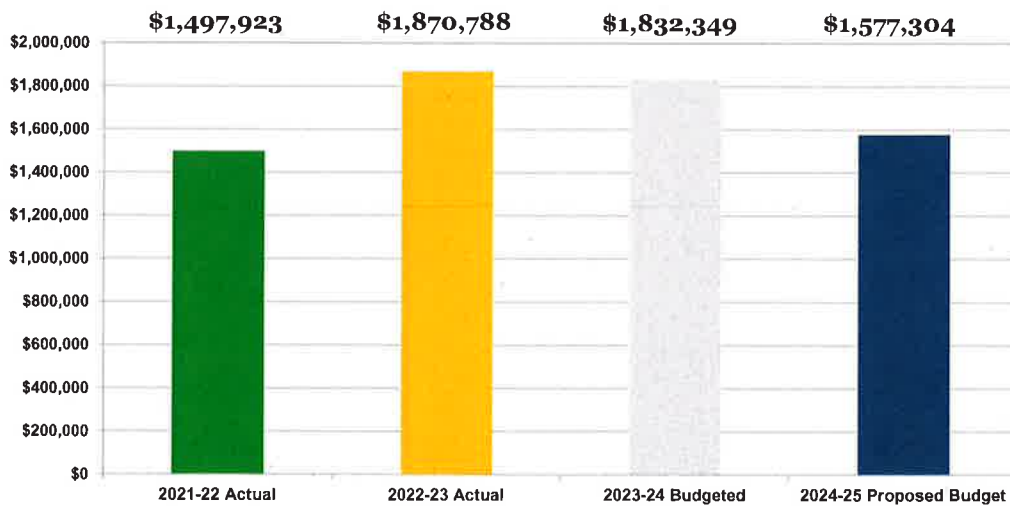
18

BUDGET REVENUE SOURCES

	2022-23-Received		2023-24-Approved		2024-25-Requested	
	Revenue \$	% of Total Budget	Revenue \$	% of Total Budget	Revenue \$	% of Total Budget
Tax Revenue	77,458,340	94.31%	80,470,343	94.59%	84,723,029	94.86%
Education Cost Sharing	4,484,684	5.46%	4,495,691	5.28%	4,495,691	5.03%
Other Grants	29,997	0.04%	29,997	0.04%	29,997	0.03%
Local Tuition	37,620	0.05%	37,620	0.04%	33,325	0.04%
Parking Permits	30,000	0.04%	30,000	0.04%	30,000	0.03%
Miscellaneous Fees	93,998	0.01%	6,000	0.01%	6,000	0.01%
Total Funding Sources	\$82,134,639		\$85,069,651		\$89,318,042	

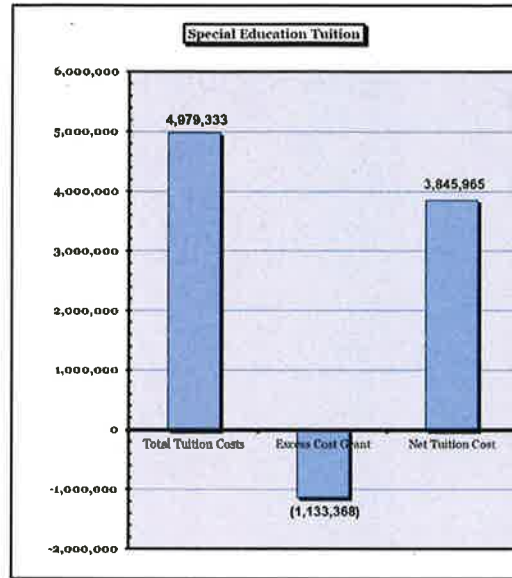
19

Special Education Excess Cost Grant - completed



20

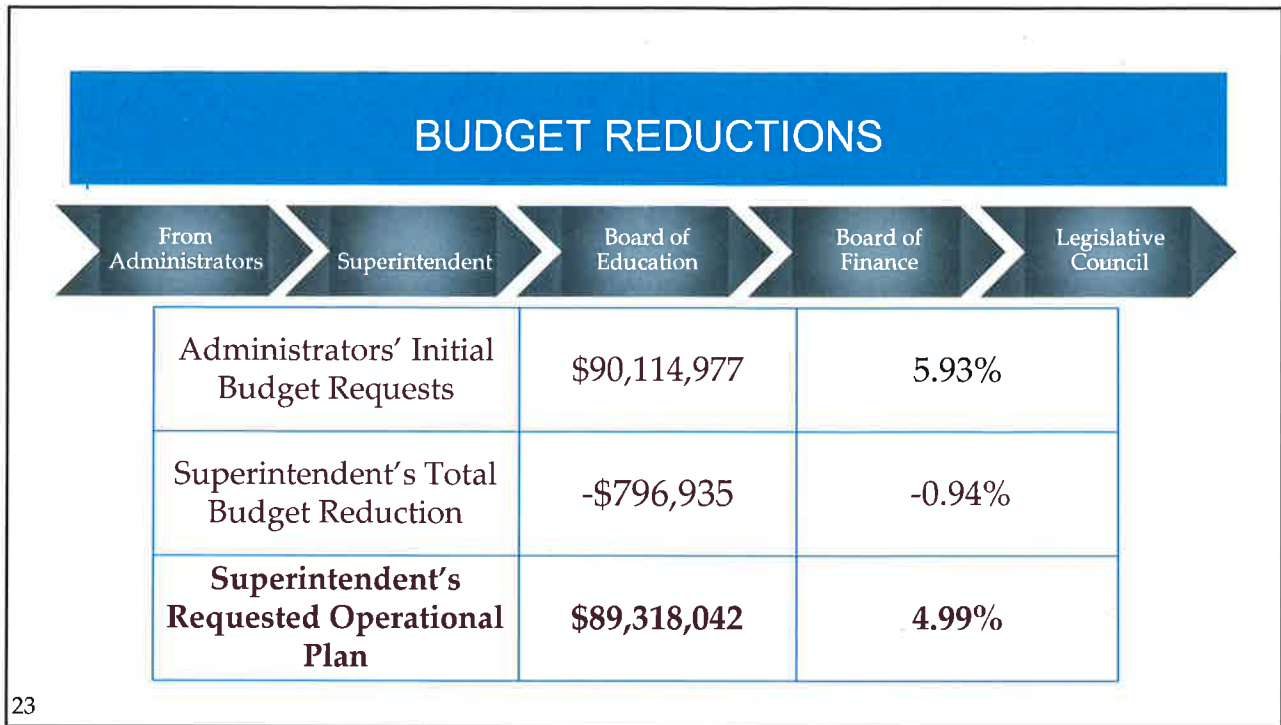
SPECIAL EDUCATION TUITION



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**2024-25 SUPERINTENDENT'S
OPERATIONAL REQUEST**

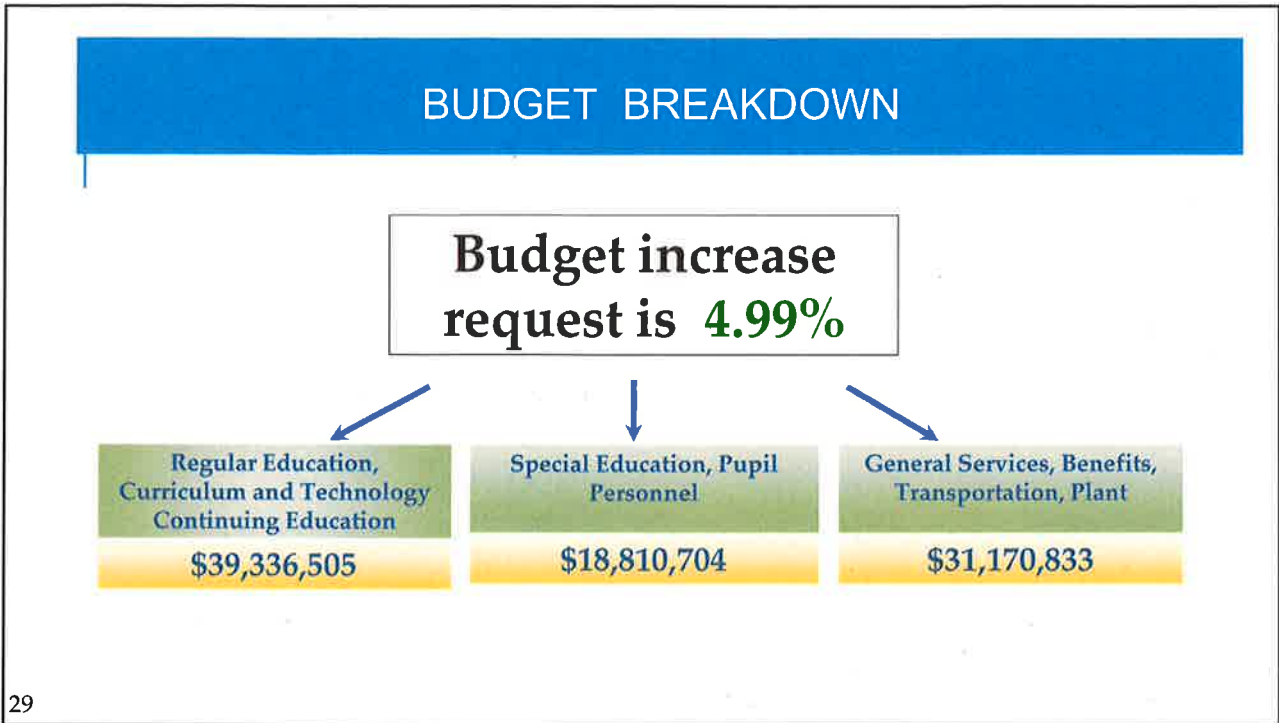
22



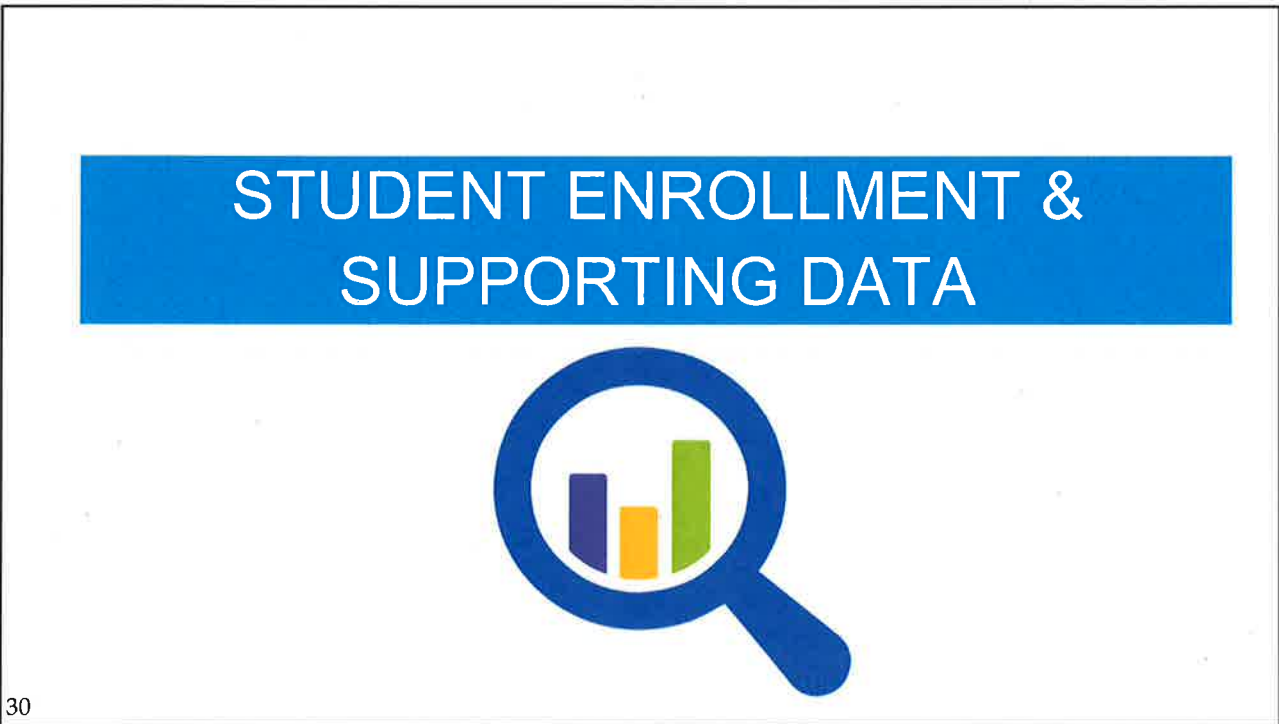
SUPERINTENDENT'S BUDGET – MAJOR OBJECTS 2024-2025

MAJOR OBJECT	2024-25 REQUEST	\$ INCREASE	% INCREASE
Salaries	\$56,721,342	\$1,443,973	2.61%
Employee Benefits	\$13,825,469	\$1,028,291	8.04%
Purchased Professional Services	\$678,730	\$81,307	13.61%
Purchased Property Services*	\$2,395,055	\$587,073	32.47%
Other Purchased Services	\$11,087,142	\$230,208	2.12%
Supplies*	\$3,900,520	\$724,310	22.80%
Property & Equipment*	\$528,707	\$148,063	38.90%
Other Objects	\$81,077	\$5,166	6.81%
Special Education Contingency	\$100,000	\$0	0.00%
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	\$89,318,042	\$4,248,391	4.99%

24



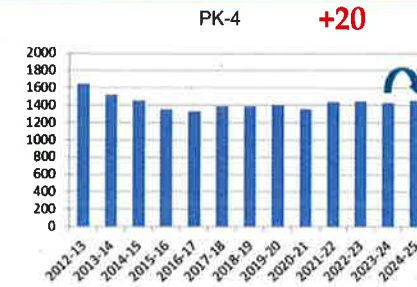
29



30

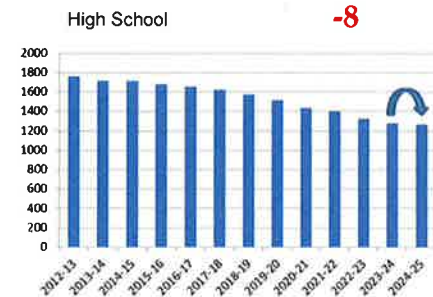
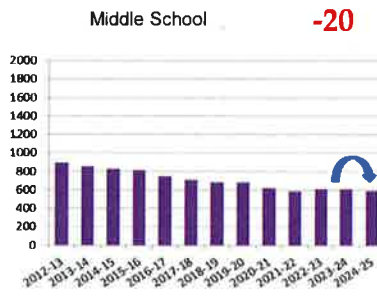
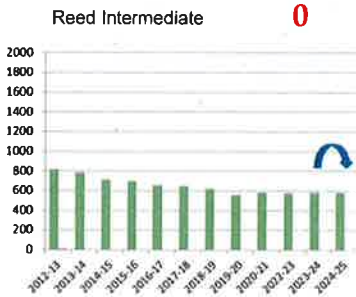
ENROLLMENT OVERVIEW

In District Enrollment
 2023-24 actual: **3,902**
 2024-25 projected: **3,894**



-8 Decrease

Hawley	290
Sandy Hook	348
Middle Gate	428
Head O'Meadow	331
PreK	57



CURRENT EXPENDITURE PER PUPIL Expenditure DRG-B

District	PPE
Greenwich	\$26,696.00
Madison	\$23,497.00
Fairfield	\$22,440.00
Region 5	\$21,374.00
New Fairfield	\$21,332.00
Newtown	\$20,728.00
Guilford	\$20,688.00
Woodbridge	\$20,224.00
Glastonbury	\$20,048.00
Granby	\$19,972.00
West Hartford	\$19,748.00
Orange	\$19,670.00
Avon	\$19,650.00
Simsbury	\$19,517.00
Farmington	\$19,443.00
Cheshire	\$19,189.00
Brookfield	\$19,095.00
Bethany	\$18,964.00
Monroe	\$18,449.00
Trumbull	\$18,062.00
South Windsor	\$16,830.00

CURRENT EXPENDITURE PER PUPIL Expenditure Area Districts

District	PPE
Region 9	\$29,001.00
Redding	\$28,648.00
Region 12	\$25,656.00
Weston	\$25,528.00
Region 14	\$24,821.00
Wilton	\$23,343.00
Region 17	\$22,850.00
Ridgefield	\$22,655.00
Fairfield	\$22,440.00
Region 15	\$21,978.00
Newtown	\$20,728.00
Brookfield	\$19,189.00
Oxford	\$19,081.00
Monroe	\$18,449.00
New Milford	\$18,180.00
Trumbull	\$18,062.00
Bethel	\$17,749.00
Shelton	\$17,188.00
Seymour	\$17,104.00
Danbury	\$14,611.00

District	PPE	District	PPE	District	PPE	District	PPE
Sharon	\$47,998.00	Region 18	\$23,081.00	Bolton	\$20,678.00	Colchester	\$18,799.00
Region 1	\$37,621.00	Clinton	\$23,071.00	Berlin	\$20,671.00	Montville	\$18,771.00
Region 12	\$36,741.00	New Canaan	\$23,054.00	Derby	\$20,558.00	Stratford	\$18,611.00
Kent	\$36,714.00	Litchfield	\$23,038.00	Portland	\$20,510.00	Sterling	\$18,570.00
Comwall	\$36,184.00	Lebanon	\$22,980.00	Windsor	\$20,412.00	Bristol	\$18,500.00
Canaan	\$35,679.00	Easton	\$22,947.00	Somers	\$20,326.00	Thomaston	\$18,497.00
Norfolk	\$31,769.00	Region 17	\$22,850.00	Norwalk	\$20,317.00	Monroe	\$18,449.00
Salisbury	\$30,462.00	Andover	\$22,837.00	New London	\$20,276.00	Plymouth	\$18,358.00
Westbrook	\$30,091.00	New Hartford	\$22,817.00	Woodbridge	\$20,224.00	Putnam	\$18,351.00
Region 9	\$29,001.00	Branford	\$22,660.00	East Haddam	\$20,198.00	Region 10	\$18,384.00
North Canaan	\$28,910.00	Ridgefield	\$22,655.00	Newington	\$20,063.00	Cantebury	\$18,351.00
Redding	\$28,648.00	Eastford	\$22,521.00	Glastonbury	\$20,048.00	Cromwell	\$18,337.00
Hampden	\$28,438.00	Middletown	\$22,452.00	Granby	\$19,972.00	Sprague	\$18,319.00
Essex	\$27,911.00	Mansfield	\$22,441.00	Canton	\$19,947.00	Vernon	\$18,261.00
Hartland	\$27,543.00	Hartford	\$22,330.00	Watertown	\$19,795.00	Manchester	\$18,242.00
Colebrook	\$27,481.00	Willington	\$22,270.00	Preston	\$19,793.00	New Milford	\$18,180.00
Region 6	\$27,150.00	Voluntown	\$22,222.00	West Hartford	\$19,748.00	Trumbull	\$18,062.00
Deep River	\$26,964.00	Region 15	\$21,978.00	Marlborough	\$19,702.00	East Haven	\$18,000.00
Chaplin	\$26,683.00	Union	\$21,937.00	Orange	\$19,670.00	Coventry	\$17,983.00
Scotland	\$26,636.00	Hamden	\$21,805.00	Windham	\$19,667.00	Wethersfield	\$17,977.00
Region 4	\$26,418.00	Region 8	\$21,702.00	Avon	\$19,658.00	Lisbon	\$17,960.00
Region 13	\$26,272.00	East Granby	\$21,679.00	Simsbury	\$19,517.00	Groton	\$17,917.00
Old Saybrook	\$25,708.00	Wallingford	\$21,635.00	Columbia	\$19,483.00	North Stonington	\$17,831.00
Region 11	\$25,656.00	Stonington	\$21,566.00	Farmington	\$19,443.00	Tolland	\$17,790.00
Weston	\$25,528.00	Region 19	\$21,572.00	Torrington	\$19,399.00	Bethel	\$17,749.00
Region 7	\$25,516.00	Windsor Locks	\$21,565.00	New Haven	\$19,395.00	Southington	\$17,402.00
Westport	\$24,871.00	Winchester	\$21,523.00	Pomfret	\$19,271.00	Ansonia	\$17,419.00
Sherman	\$24,830.00	Region 5	\$21,374.00	Cheshire	\$19,189.00	Shelton	\$17,188.00
Region 14	\$24,821.00	Meru Fairfield	\$21,332.00	Salem	\$19,178.00	Plainfield	\$17,095.00
Chester	\$24,775.00	Waterford	\$21,323.00	Franklin	\$19,176.00	Ellington	\$17,081.00
Borah	\$24,642.00	Stamford	\$21,023.00	Rocky Hill	\$19,155.00	Seymour	\$17,014.00
East Windsor	\$24,436.00	Norwich	\$20,849.00	Brookfield	\$19,095.00	Griswold	\$16,916.00
Darien	\$24,069.00	Stafford	\$20,788.00	Oxford	\$19,081.00	Ledyard	\$16,971.00
Barkhamsted	\$24,012.00	Newtown	\$20,728.00	Suffield	\$19,068.00	South Windsor	\$16,880.00
Milford	\$23,732.00	Hebron	\$20,717.00	Plainville	\$19,019.00	Eastfield	\$16,747.00
Madison	\$23,497.00	East Lyme	\$20,689.00	Bathany	\$18,964.00	Wolcott	\$16,705.00
Bloomfield	\$23,480.00	East Hampton	\$20,688.00	North Haven	\$18,959.00	Bridgeport	\$16,501.00
Ashford	\$23,388.00	Southingford	\$20,688.00	Region 16	\$18,930.00	Waterbury	\$16,390.00
Wilton	\$23,343.00	North Branford	\$20,666.00	Killingly	\$18,794.00	West Haven	\$16,312.00
						East Hartford	\$16,311.00
						Naugatuck	\$16,290.00
						New Britain	\$16,230.00
						Middletown	\$16,199.00
						Danbury	\$16,161.00

STATEWIDE NET
CURRENT PER
PUPIL
EXPENDITURES
NEWTOWN NET
PPE
IS RANKED
73 OUT OF 166
DISTRICTS



Newtown High School
Ranked 36 in Connecticut
Top 9% Nationally



Newtown Middle School
Ranked 72 in Connecticut
Top 13% in Connecticut



Athletic Department
Michael's Cup Sportsmanship
Award



18th Best School District in Connecticut



Hawley School
Connecticut Department of
Education
School of Distinction



Head O' Meadow School
Connecticut Department of
Education
School of Distinction



Sandy Hook School
Connecticut Department of
Education
School of Distinction



Newtown Public Schools
NAMM Foundation
Best for Music Education

A Budget Commitment



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