

**Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut**

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting on January 5, 2017 in council chambers, 3 Primrose Street.

K. Alexander, Chair	J. Erardi
M. Ku, Vice Chair	J. Davila
D. Leidlein, Secretary(absent)	R. Bienkowski
J. Vouros	16 Staff
R. Harriman-Stites	10 Public
A. Clure	1 Press
D. Cruson	

Mr. Alexander called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Item 1 – Pledge of Allegiance

Item 2 – Newtown Middle School Budget

Dr. Erardi thanked Jim Ross and Terri Greenfield for being at the meeting for Mr. Einhorn who was sick.

Mr. Ross spoke about the middle school budget and proposed staffing needs for next year. Grade eight will have four clusters with four teachers in each. This year there was one cluster with six teachers due to enrollment. That shows a two teacher reduction for next year. We would like the Academic Resource Center to operate the entire school year. An Academic Dean of Students was also requested. Our full time social worker funded by the SERV grant is not in the budget but we asked that the Board allow this position to continue next year.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites asked about the academic dean position.

Mr. Ross said it would be ideal to have someone to assist with lower level student discipline and support in some of the classrooms. It's a challenge sometimes for him and Mr. Einhorn to get to everything that needs their attention.

Mr. Vouros asked the difference in salary between the academic dean and lead teacher.

Dr. Erardi stated that a lead teacher remains in the teacher grid for salary. The assistant principal is a fixed number.

Mrs. Ku asked for the actual difference in pay for those positions.

Mr. Ross said that one-third of the time he and Mr. Einhorn are involved in evaluations.

Mr. Clure asked if the academic dean could be a half-time position.

Dr. Erardi said that could be possible. The middle school has a number of aspiring administrators so we may be able to have help from the existing staff. This was not included in the budget because as we relooked at the plan there is less administrative involvement as in the past and the middle school is looking at a decline with the elimination of two teachers. He hoped to make it work with the existing staff.

Mr. Vouros asked if it was possible to have a full time person split between the middle school and Reed.

Dr. Erardi said he will come back with accurate ratios to look at regarding this conversation. We should also talk about the existing staff.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites thought the person being in Reed and the middle school would help with the transition.

Mr. Alexander asked how the academic resource center was funded this year.

Mr. Ross said it was founded for half of the year. We are also looking for grants for funding to the end of the year.

Dr. Erardi said it was fully funded for next year.

Mr. Alexander asked the services of the resource center.

Mr. Ross stated that we wanted to build some time into the school day for students not getting work done. We have been looking at a program called Hops which is an eight-session program where students learn about time management and organization. We want to build those skills for when they go back into the classroom.

Mr. Clure asked about girls' basketball.

Mr. Memoli, Athletic Director, said there was one girls' basketball team because there were only enough students to field one team instead of the usual two.

Mr. Clure noted that there is a request for an additional baseball and softball coach. He asked if there would be two coaches for two separate teams.

Mr. Memoli said we wouldn't have two coaches per team because most schools only have one team per sport. Although having two coaches is invaluable we would have to look at it to decide whether to implement that practice.

Item 3 – Newtown High School Budget

Dr. Rodrigue spoke about the high school budget.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites asked who coordinated the student internships.

Dr. Rodrigue said there is a work study program where they get paid and there are also junior senior projects. Fourteen students participate.

Mrs. Ku asked about the pay to play family cap.

Dr. Rodrigue said that currently it is \$450 but will be decreased over the next five years.

Mr. Clure asked if there was anything Mr. Memoli wanted but was not included. He noted that there isn't a location for parents to access the various events.

Mr. Memoli said there is a website that has upcoming events. The biggest request is a stipend for the coach for JV volleyball.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites said some high schools have a data base where they get schedules out to parents.

Mr. Memoli said we spoke to tech about the program which is Infosnap. The yearly cost is \$5,100.

Mr. Alexander said our student representatives mentioned Capstone. This is a change to the senior projects. Their impression was that all students will have a chance but are not required.

Dr. Rodrigue said that normally it is required for all seniors. We've put a moratorium on graduation requirements as they are being revised. It's called Senior Experience.

Item 4 – Special Education, Pupil Personnel and Health Budgets

Mrs. Petersen has requested a job coach for the age 18 to 21 transition program which also has two students from another district and an increase in supplies for the gifted and talented

program. Middle Gate School has nine new students and four will join her department. We are at 538 special ed students in the district which is similar to surrounding districts.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites noted a decrease in school tutors.

Mrs. Petersen said there was a lot of tutoring for homebound students so we brought it back to our teachers to reduce the cost.

Mrs. Ku asked if the excess cost grant was a concern.

Dr. Erardi spoke to the Commissioner and was told that \$160,000 was not being returned to our community. The excess cost figure will not be favorable. The Commissioner's direction is to try to be patient as the turbulence becomes known. We should not make any adjustment to our budget until we know more.

Mr. Alexander asked about the out of district placement and keeping the number of students in the district.

Mrs. Petersen said we brought back three students and will be bringing an additional one back.

Pupil Personnel:

Mrs. Harriman-Stites was concerned about the SERV grant reductions and the social worker positions at Reed and the middle school. How will their work be divided with the existing staff?

Mrs. Petersen spoke to Mrs. Uberti who feels confident in her support staff and that without the social worker they will be able to pick up the caseload. She also spoke to Mr. Einhorn who would need two psychologists.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites asked the difference between the social worker and psychologist in those two schools.

Mrs. Petersen said the full time staff does some PPTs. Those who are part time will do more around evaluations. With two psychologists next year they can do the counseling and testing.

Mrs. Ku referred to the School Based Health Center as a good resource for mental health.

Mr. Ross said the number of students going there has been growing with 260 students using the services offered.

Mrs. Ku asked if this center would be expanded to other schools.

Dr. Erardi stated that we have not had that conversation. He will connect to Ms. Bonjour for that discussion.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites feels that even though they are grant funded positions there is a demonstrated need for the social workers in the schools.

Mr. Vouros agrees. We don't know the severity of the students being seen and should not be compromising in this area.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites said the middle school social worker is also working with the parents.

Mrs. Petersen clarified that the school social workers and school psychologists are not therapists.

Mr. Vouros said we must also remember the counselors are dealing with 504 referrals.

Mr. Clure noted that a nurse moved from Reed to the high school.

Anne Dalton, Head Nurse, said the Starr Program was housed at Reed and half of that nursing position was moved to the high school.

Mr. Clure asked if the staff in the guidance offices see each student.

Mr. Ross said it's difficult to have one-on-one meetings but more often they meet in groups. They do spend time with students that have the need.

Mrs. Petersen said the guidance counselors get to the clusters also.

Mr. Clure stated that he would like each child to be spoken with at least once a year.

Mr. Vouros added that because we have clusters in the middle school the teachers get to know the students very well. Some don't need the counselors because they have relationships with their cluster teachers.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites noted a reduction of autism services.

Mrs. Petersen said that at times we used outside agencies but some are no longer needed.

Dr. Erardi summarized the requested information which includes the dollar amount difference between the lead teacher and assistant principal in the three elementary schools, the ratio of staff to administrator at all levels pertaining to teacher evaluation, and to check on the expansion of the health center.

Mr. Clure referred to the moving up ceremony and that we had thought the high school auditorium would have been ready. He asked if it was too late to move it back to WesConn. Dr. Erardi would check as the auditorium is off line until July.

Item 5 – Public Participation

Joanna Rosen, 60 Sugar Lane, was concerned about mental health services being cut. She wanted to be sure the sixth graders mental health is looked at as they will be going to the middle school.

Susan Connelly and Tina Broccolo, guidance counselors at the middle school, referred to the letter they sent to the Board regarding the loss of the social worker. Families are also affected and she works with them too. Ms. Broccolo said we are seeing an increase in students who need support. We have classroom lessons as well as individual and we have more parents asking for us to see their students. They advocated keeping the level of support with the social worker.

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

Item 6 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Keith Alexander
Chair



2017-18 Budget

Newtown High School

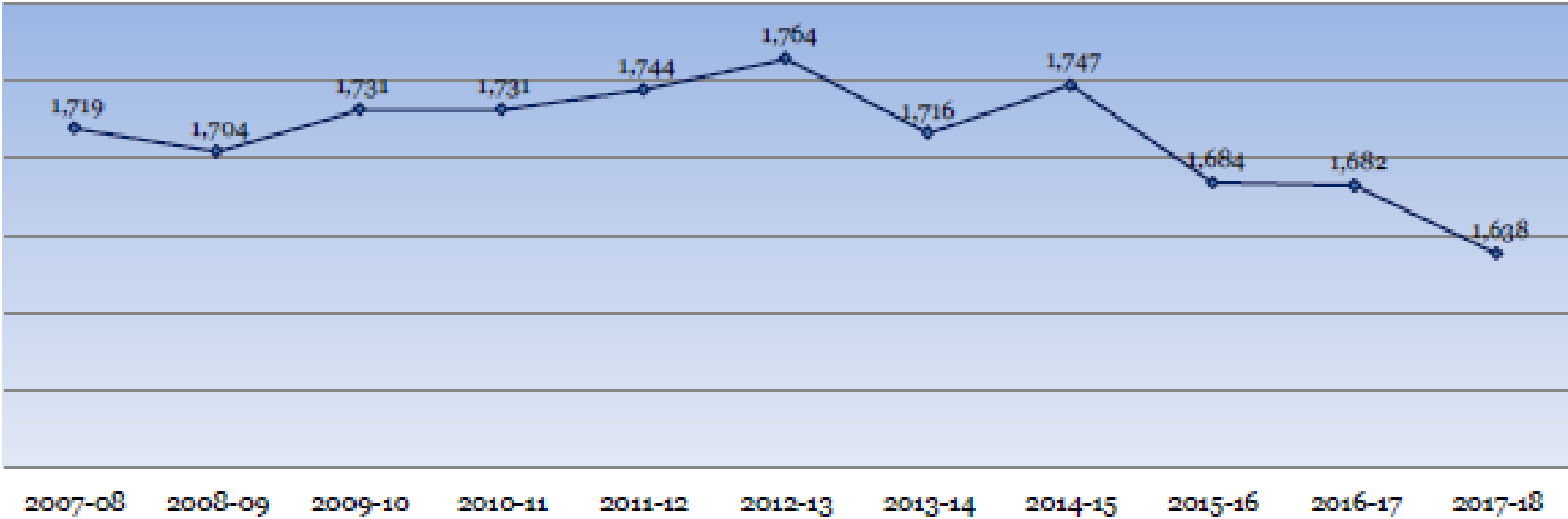
NHS School Improvement Goals

- To evaluate and **revise the NHS student learning expectations** (writing, info literacy, critical thinking, oral communication).
- To embed consistent, **effective, instructional practices that engage** all students in critical thinking and learning.
- We will develop and implement **communication practices that build trust, improve relationships, and support students in their learning.**
- To **increase a sense of social, emotional, and physical safety** and well-being within the school community.

Budget Considerations...

- ❑ Goals in our school improvement plan and NEASC recommendations
- ❑ Maintain quality educational programming and services to meet our students' needs
- ❑ Ensure staffing and resources appropriate for high school course selection and scheduling to remain competitive for college, career
- ❑ Contractual needs (certified and non-certified contracts, increases in other contracts such as buses for athletics)

Newtown High School Enrollment



* Loss of 44 students

Newtown High School Average Class Sizes

	2011-2012			2012-2013			2013-2014			2014-2015			2015-2016			2016-2017		
	Students (FTS)	Sections (FTS)	Average	Students (FTS)	Sections (FTS)	Average	Students (FTS)	Sections (FTS)	Average	Students (FTS)	Sections (FTS)	Average	Students (FTS)	Sections (FTS)	Average	Students (FTS)	Sections (FTS)	Average
AP Level																		
English	230	11	20.9	271	11	24.6	268	13.0	20.6	227	10.0	22.7	199	9.0	22.1	191	9.0	21.2
Math	79	3.0	26.3	109	5.0	21.8	108	5.0	21.6	103	5.0	17.2	127	6.0	21.2	118	7.0	16.9
Science	162	9.0	18.0	196	11.0	17.7	140	9.0	15.6	183	11.0	16.6	152	9.0	16.9	173	10.0	17.3
Social Studies	286	12.0	23.8	307	14.0	21.9	302	13.0	23.2	329	14.0	23.5	298	13.0	22.9	280	12.0	23.3
World Language	63	3.0	21.0	109	6.0	18.2	66	6.0	14.2	63	6.0	10.5	79	7.0	11.3	74	4.0	18.5
HON Level																		
English	703	31.0	22.7	718	33.0	21.7	668	30.5	21.9	673	29.5	22.8	679	30.5	22.3	692	29.5	23.5
Math	370	16.0	23.1	376	14.0	26.9	410	17.0	24.1	409	15.0	27.2	460	16.0	28.5	421	18.5	22.8
Science	537	27.0	19.9	663	29.0	22.5	663	30.0	22.1	662	31.0	22.0	702	32.0	21.9	679	30.0	22.6
Social Studies	607	34.5	23.4	620	36.0	22.6	640	36.0	23.3	644	36.0	23.4	611	36.0	21.3	660	34.0	25.0
World Language	404	17.0	23.8	463	20.0	23.2	491	23.0	20.9	439	21.0	20.9	436	20.0	21.9	362	18.0	20.1
CPA Level																		
English	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Math	922	42.0	22.0	864	38.0	22.5	894	39.0	22.7	880	41.0	21.5	774	37.0	20.9	831	36.0	23.7
Science	360	16.0	21.9	341	15.5	20.6	223	12.0	18.6	163	10.0	16.3	172	10.0	17.2	158	8.0	19.8
Social Studies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
World Language	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CPB Level																		
English	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Math	306	17.0	18.0	342	21.0	16.3	247	16.0	15.4	263	16.0	16.4	288	16.0	18.0	272	17.0	16.0
Science	194	10.0	19.4	97	6.0	16.2	121	7.0	17.3	90	5.0	18.0	66	6.0	14.7	63	5.0	16.6
Social Studies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CP Level																		
English	767	42.0	18.7	723	36.0	20.1	667	33.5	19.9	640	34.0	18.8	644	32.0	20.1	594	29.0	20.5
Science	462	24.0	19.3	464	24.0	19.9	569	27.0	21.1	528	26.0	21.1	518	25.0	20.7	567	24.0	23.2
Social Studies	660	32.5	20.0	624	31.0	20.1	569	26.0	21.0	566	31.0	18.9	570	30.0	19.0	647	27.5	19.9
World Language	701	33	21	633	32	20	662	33	20	606	31	20	637	34.0	18.7	569	30.0	19.6
Combined Levels																		
English	37	1.5	24.3	111	5.0	22.1	142	6.5	21.8	220	9.5	23.1	162	9.0	20.2	207	10.5	19.7
Science	61	5.0	16.2	100	6.0	16.7	69	5.0	13.8	133	6.0	16.6	129	6.0	16.1	166	9.0	16.3
Social Studies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
World Language	196	11.0	18.0	139	6.0	23.2	47	3.0	15.7	124	6.0	20.7	66	4.0	22.0	191	11.0	17.4
No Level																		
Social Studies	220	9.0	24.4	167	7.0	23.9	215	10.5	20.4	121	6.0	20.1	117	5.0	23.4	111	4.5	24.6

Staffing

STAFFING – HIGH SCHOOL

NEWTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STAFFING SUMMARY

SUPERINTENDENTS REQUESTED STAFFING for the NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS														
			2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2016-17	2017-18	
	Classification		Staffing	Staffing	Staffing	Staffing	Staffing	Staffing	Staffing	Staffing	Budget	Current	Requested	Change
111	Principals		4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	-
111	Teachers		109.44	114.17	116.30	118.24	118.17	118.17	116.71	117.76	115.48	114.39	113.39	(1.00)
111	Specialists		2.15	2.15	2.15	2.15	2.15	2.15	2.15	2.19	2.09	2.06	2.06	-
112	Clerical/Secretarial		8.28	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	9.00	9.00	9.78	9.78	-
112	Paraeducators		1.49	0.00	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	-
112	School To Career Coordinator		0.86	0.86	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-
112	Athletic Trainer	Contracted		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-
112	Job Coach		1.28	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	-
	Total		127.50	131.04	134.24	136.18	136.11	136.11	134.65	136.74	134.36	134.02	133.02	(1.00)

Breakdown of High School Budget Increase

Personnel/contractual increases	81.7%	\$319,183
Travel/Transportation (field trips, athletics)	5.7%	\$ 22,355
New Equipment	3.6%	\$ 13,984
• Musical instruments		
• New microscopes		
Instructional supplies, texts, repair, membership	5.2%	\$ 20,204
Tuition Students (Aces, CES, Region 14, Fairchild Wheeler Magnet)@36	3.8%	\$ 14,904
	<hr/> 100.0%	<hr/> \$390,630

We're Proud of...

Quality Programs and Services

- Class sizes that allow for personalized learning
- A selection of rigorous core academics
- Choice of electives: arts and music, theater, world language
- STEM Programs – Advanced Freshman Partnership (Engineering), Digital Arts and Science courses
- Interdisciplinary courses, such as Humanities, American Studies
- Entrepreneurships – culinary, greenery, business & technology
- Partnerships and co-teaching to support struggling learners
- Future opportunities on the horizon for seniors (senior year experience)

Questions...