

**Board of Education  
Newtown, Connecticut**

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, November 6, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Reed Intermediate School Library.

D. Leidlein, Chair	J. Reed
L. Roche, Vice Chair	L. Gejda
R. Gaines	R. Bienkowski
W. Hart	2 Staff
K. Alexander	20 Public
J. Vouros	5 Press
D. Freedman	

Mrs. Leidlein called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

MOTION: Mrs. Roche moved that the Board of Education add discussion and possible action regarding the Superintendent Search Committee to the agenda. Mr. Hart seconded.

Vote: 6 ayes

Mr. Alexander joined the meeting after the first motion.

Item 2 – Student Recognition

Mr. Dumais, principal of Newtown High School, spoke about student academic achievements. He introduced two seniors, Don Sun who achieved the perfect score of 2400 on the SAT and Anne Beier who achieved the perfect score of 36 on the ACT which is a preparedness test for college.

Item 1 – Svigals + Partners & Consigli Construction

Mrs. Leidlein invited representatives from Svigals and Consigli to speak about the new Sandy Hook School.

Barry Svigals, managing partner of Svigals + Partners introduced GERALYN HOERAUG who is with Diversified Project Management. Julia McFadden is the associate principal and project manager and Jay Brotman is one of the partners at Svigals. Aaron Krueger and Mike Walker are with Consigli Construction. Ms. McFadden gave an update on the project. The first phase was the abatement and now they are in the next phase which is program validating and they are working with the community to confirm that ed specs are correct for the school. They are also working to develop site diagrams and will review those with the Board of Education.

Mr. Krueger said they mobilized on the site on October 7. The interior abatement work is complete and 2/3 of the building is demolished. We are on schedule and will be completed before the anniversary date. They are also involved with the design team.

Mr. Svigals said they will be finalizing their meetings with the various town groups over the next few weeks. The design is beginning and schematic designs will be completed by the end of January. There will be an interim review at some point with the Board. Ms. McFadden will present revisions to the ed specs to the Board in two weeks. Mid December they expect to bring three different concepts to the Public Building and Site Commission to discuss with the Board. They will be back in January for another review with additional updates March through June.

Mrs. Leidlein was contacted by Bob Mitchell who requested that some meeting will be joint meetings.

Mr. Hart asked the completion date.

Mr. Walker said the target for completion is May 2016. There is a 20-month window for construction. The state has given us times they will review the documents which will allow the process to move quicker.

Mr. Hart asked the probability of coming in under the \$50M.

Mr. Brotman said it was a little early to estimate. We have a new road to deal with, wetlands, and a security system to install. We do have the right amount in the budget for the school. We will have a better picture after the schematic designed is decided in February.

Mrs. McFadden said they would be looking into sustainable systems which could be more expensive.

Mr. Gaines said we have offers from security firms and asked if they would be involved in looking at them.

Mr. Brotman said they were working with the state security group that made recommendations throughout the state. They look at security for the whole district, not just Sandy Hook School. Mr. Vouros understood it would be ready by January 2016. They may not have the summer to work.

Ms. Hoerauf said it would not be possible to complete the school by January 2016. The school system was not going to move students mid-year. This gave us additional time to factor in the entrance. Will be substantially ready by May 1 and hope to be able to use parts of the building. There are numerous things involved such as moving from Chalk Hill, teachers setting up their rooms, etc. They expect it to be ready by the end of August.

Dr. Reed stated that he didn't say we would not move the students in January.

Mr. Vouros said this is now a concern as it is the first time he heard the school wouldn't be ready finished until May. He stressed that the budget be adhered to as we can't go over this amount.

### Item 3 – Consent Agenda

The minutes of October 16, 2013 were removed.

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved to approve the consent agenda which included the iPad donations to Hawley and Middle Gate Schools, appointment of Dr. David Abbey as Interim Director of Human Resources, the resignation of Kathy Nostrand, Reed School, the Newtown High School winter coaches, the donation of 10 Toshiba laptops to Newtown High School, the Weller Foundation donations to each school library and the Weller Foundation technology grant, industrial arts grant, and music/performing arts/drama grant for Newtown High School.

Mr. Gaines seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved to approve the minutes of October 16, 2013. Mr. Gaines seconded. Vote: 5 ayes, 2 abstained (Mrs. Roche, Mr. Freedman)

Mrs. Leidlein introduced David Freedman who is filling the position left by Cody McCubbin. Kathy Hamilton and Michelle Ku would join the Board in December.

Item 3 – Public Participation

Don Leonard, 38 Liberty at Newtown, said they are trying to keep their costs under control but the recent revaluation has weighed heavily on seniors in Newtown. He asked how the Board saw things moving in next year's budget due to the declining enrollment and ongoing increases in running the school system.

Dr. Reed offered to meet with his group to discuss the Board of Education budget.

Item 4 - Reports

Correspondence: Mrs. Leidlein said there was an email from an owner/operator regarding their contract.

Chair Report: Mrs. Leidlein said she received correspondence from Bob Mitchell who requested that their board have a joint meeting with the Board of Education regarding Sandy Hook School. She and Dr. Reed attended the Board of Finance meeting regarding the CIP and would go back to it discuss further.

Mrs. Roche stated that the superintendent search was extended to November 15 to be able to complete the focus groups.

## Superintendent's Report:

- Dr. Reed said it was important for all school systems to look at mental health support. We are looking at the concept of depression in children. Recent statistics for our state indicate that 24% of students are dealing with depression. It's easier to get involved when this issue is first developing. We are looking at some programs along with our health curriculum regarding depression. Most school systems in the country are addressing this.
- Regarding security, the architects hired a consultant who is looking at the district for standards for security. We need to begin to define what we need for the district. Right now public buildings are safer than schools. Within the next few months he hopes to have defined standards of security. He met with two national/international security firms specializing more in our region. A group from Arizona will be coming to train our security team. We have confidential results from the security analysis that was done. We need to work with the Board of Finance and Legislative Council to acknowledge this and put in placeholders for the cost as these are new expenses for us. We haven't received official news on the Department of Justice Grant but feel it will be a modest fraction of what we requested. Mr. Bienkowski will submit information as to where we are taking money to pay for the security modifications.
- We received a note from the College Board organization on being selected for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual AP District Honor Roll. A total of 477 school districts across the United States and Canada are included with 18 districts in Connecticut having met the criteria scores of three or higher on AP exams.
- The legislature passed a law stating that beginning with the next school year the local regional education service center, Education Connection for us, will develop a regional calendar for 2014-15 but we have the choice to using that one. However, in 2015-16 all regions must adopt the regional calendar. They are doing it in part so vacations are similar.

Mrs. Leidlein asked that regarding security standards if the state was passing any criteria schools have to meet, if there was a projected date they might do so, and if it would affect our building project.

Dr. Reed said someone from Svigals is on the committee. Some may be requirements for new construction. We visited North Branford where retired police go through a training program and are armed which is more economical than having a policeman at each school. The four police officers at each elementary school are working an overtime shift. Now that we are securing school entrances we have to be concerned about weekend use. A basketball league plays at the high school on Sunday night when there are no security officers. One of those nights the parents went in for the game but their child didn't want to and we had a theft that night. We need controls.

Assistant Superintendent's Report:

NWEA Update:

Dr. Gejda spoke about the professional development that took place the day before. Stepping Stones math program had training for teachers in grades kindergarten through fourth which was held at Sandy Hook School. Middle School and Reed School teachers met with staff members of NWEA regarding the administration of their online assessment program. Reed used laptops and other schools used desktops. We are going to give the assessment three times this year. The middle school will also test in the reading component of language arts. The high school had six or eight offerings for teachers.

#### Item 6 – Old Business

Budget Goals for 2014-2015:

Ms. Hamilton and Mrs. Ku joined the discussion.

Mrs. Leidlein carried forward some of the goals from last year's budget with the most important to continue funding for the recovery process from the event of December 14 and meeting the recovery needs of staff and students both ongoing and those that will be identified. The NEASC accreditation and funding is ongoing and needs to be done by the committee. She also referred to the education infrastructure, mandated programs supporting our students in assessments needed for teacher evaluation, the common core state standards, and technology requirements. She wants to make sure our budget is reflective of our declining enrollment and passing forward a budget that is fiscally responsible looking for a low budget increase but not reducing programs unless they are deemed unneeded.

Mr. Alexander wanted last year's goals also. It is not a great time to add new initiatives. He wants to make sure we keep the full day kindergarten program and need to keep that in mind during the budget process.

Mrs. Leidlein said class sizes for kindergarten are reflective of what our guidelines are. In many cases our class sizes were not reflective of our guidelines and we need to meet those.

Mr. Alexander spoke about special education students in classes because there have been comments that we are required by the state to distribute our special education students in classrooms. We have to make sure we don't lose that. Rapid change at this point might not be a great idea with reasonable change only if necessary.

Mr. Hart feels we need to keep class sizes as a goal. Regarding elementary school reductions there would be only three or four to take out. That will not make a major impact on a \$70M budget. Where are there opportunities to make reductions without impacting programs? There is the possibility of outsourcing our maintenance.

Ms. Hamilton agreed that our class sizes should reflect our guidelines unless there are special circumstances. She is concerned about the security piece and was surprised that we have spent that much on security. Technology and maintenance have been an issue. We have to look at the declining enrollment in lowering the budget. We can add programs if class sizes are closer to the guidelines. In-service training for teachers is important but we should have teachers trained to be trainers or have online training. She feels it's better to have the preschool program in one location. Continue to move forward to see if we can combine town and school services such as maintenance. She asked to see more detail in the special education costs in the budget document and suggested a contingency line item in the financial report. She always wanted to see a foreign language offered at the Reed School and suggested students have a choice between music, language and possibly a different computer class. We should also up the level of what we teach in technology.

Mr. Freedman agreed with the language and music offerings but was not in support of technology for kindergarten and first grade students. They are getting away from core skills. Consolidation of services should be looked at.

Mr. Hart appreciated the discussion on depression. We shouldn't underestimate what NEASC will require as there is an immense amount of work involved.

Dr. Reed said Newtown is already a very cost effective district with low per pupil expenditures. We've been through declining enrollment before. If the public perceives we are not going to do a fair job addressing enrollment he feels we will lose more with failing budgets. Salary ranges are not that different across the state. The budget he presents will have teacher reductions but will maintain our class size guidelines. We won't be looking at curricular changes. One goal statement would be the Board of Education will consider making difficult budget decisions. We have to break the cycle of multiple referendums.

#### Item 7 – New Business

Superintendent's Search Committee:

MOTION: Mrs. Roche moved that the Board of Education invite Kathy Hamilton and Michelle Ku to be on the Superintendent Search Committee. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Leidlein stated that Mr. Freedman was automatically on the committee.

Mrs. Roche said the search will close November 15. CABE will come to the November 19 Board meeting and give the results to the Board.

#### Item 8 – Public Participation

Caryn Holden, Berkshire Road, said that several preschool parents attended Dr. Reed's budget meeting. There is a gap in the security coverage at the high school. The police leave at 2:00 p.m. but the preschool is in session until 3:00 p.m. The parents went to the Police Commission meeting and they voted to add the time needed to have the SRO at the high school until they are released.

Kathy Merritt, 5 Hyvue Drive read a letter regarding voiced opinions on social media sites and stated her support for the Newtown schools, Board of Education and elected officials. Strive to do what is best for Newtown.

MOTION: Mr. Hart moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gaines seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 9 – Adjournment

The Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Debbie Leidlein  
Chair

**Board of Education  
Newtown, Connecticut**

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, October 16, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the Reed Intermediate School library.

D. Leidlein, Chair	J. Reed
L. Roche, Vice Chair (absent)	L. Gejda
K. Hamilton, Secretary	R. Bienkowski
R. Gaines	Staff
W. Hart	Public
K. Alexander	Press
J. Vouros	

Mrs. Leidlein called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Item 1 – Student Recognition

Kathy Boettner spoke about the National Merit Scholarship Program. There were 1.5 million students who took the PSAT and 35,000 were high scorers and received letters of commendation. Those seniors from Newtown High School who are commended students are Anne Beier, Kathryn D’Alessandro, Amisha Dave, Bethany Dubois, Kevin Gorman, Jeffrey Haylon, Kai Hedin, Nicholas Klein, Michael Lally, Morgan Macchiarulo, Patrick Pierce, Dale Shearin, Siyuan Sun, and Daisy Zheng. Katherine Wojcik received commended student and National Hispanic Recognition, Amy Anyoha received National African American Recognition, and Tristan Villamil received National Hispanic Recognition.

Item 2 – Consent Agenda

MOTION: Mr. Hart moved that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda which includes the minutes of October 1, 2013, the child rearing leaves of absence for Alison Rider, preschool teacher, Erin Butkovic, behavioral therapist, the resignation of Julie Condit, guidance counselor at Head O’Meadow School, the donation of \$2,500 to the high school cheerleader program and the donation of \$\$20,000 for books from Booksource to be divided equally among the elementary schools. Mr. Gaines seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 3 – Public Participation - none

Item 4 – Reports

Correspondence: Ms. Hamilton stated the Board received correspondence from Brian Trudeau regarding information on rebuilding Sandy Hook School, Carol Parker regarding a gift sent to the district, Chris Dobel regarding suggestions for the new Sandy Hook School, Joseph Imberto regarding Sandy Hook School, a request from CBS news regarding the referendum, an offer for professional development from Goodspeed, and a comment on an incident at the girls JV soccer game.

Chair Report: Mrs. Leidlein referred to a request from Svigals that two Board members be on the School Based Building Advisory Committee. She asked Mrs. Roche, Ms. Hamilton and Mr. Vouros to be on that committee. They would be going to districts that hired retired police officers to serve as security guards. Mr. Vouros would go on those visits. We also need someone to fill the spot on the security committee. Dr. Reed had asked for feedback on the Board budget goals for next year. She asked members to respond electronically to him to discuss at the next meeting.

**Assistant Superintendent Report:**

Dr. Gejda spoke about the report that has been prepared by four kindergarten teachers and Peggy Kennedy, lead teacher at Middle Gate School, regarding the full day kindergarten program this year.

Mrs. Kennedy introduced Miryam Kuligowski from Head O'Meadow School, Janet Vollmer from Sandy Hook School, Donna Albano from Hawley School and Dorothy Schmidt from Middle Gate School. The benefits of a full day kindergarten program include developing speaking and listening skills, collaborative and interactive problem solving, learning from peers both academic and social-emotional skills and growing a sense of self within the school community. The academics and developmental playtime were discussed.

**Summer School Report:**

Elissa Gellis presented the 2013 summer school report which provides enrichment and academic support for students exiting grades kindergarten through 12. Approximately 375 students were enrolled. The program offered summer school support for kindergarten, math and reading for grades 1 through 3, Learning Connection for grades 2 through 4, Summer quest for grades 5 and 6, and middle and high school summer school courses. Summer music and art courses, WeDo Robotics and Minecraft programming were also offered.

Dr. Gejda stated we are reviewing our identification process for the gifted and talented program and our service to students. We have a small committee which will meet with a consultant to engage in this process and decide what the appropriate program will be for Newtown. We have several resources that have been recommended to the committee.

Ms. Hamilton asked if there were any parents on the committee.

Dr. Gejda said there would be. They wanted to meet with consultant to decide the makeup of the committee.

Dr. Reed said that it was important that every parent associated with the program have an opportunity to be a part of this. We have to determine our goals and objectives both short term and long term. We are reaching out to the Tri State Consortium for programs they are using. There will also be a Board member on the committee.

**Superintendent's Report:**

**Enrollment Report:** Dr. Reed said we would not be using Dr. Chung's report for the budget preparation. We will use our numbers which will reflect what is happening now. He also referred to the various schools students transferred to. We had 141 new students move into Newtown this year.

Ms. Hamilton said that years ago we didn't have that many 9<sup>th</sup> graders going to prep schools. She would hope we could make some adjustments in the schools by reducing the number of staff. Chung's numbers are a guide. When elementary enrollment reached 1,500 we were going to look at the locations of our schools.

Mr. Gaines said the 1,500 in the elementary schools is when we would initiate an enrollment study. As we watch this we need to keep an eye on possible actions for the future.

**Sandy Hook Project:**

Dr. Reed said Svirgals would be at the November 6 Board meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. The press would also be invited to meet with them. They reviewed the ed specs with classroom

teachers today. Four meetings are scheduled and will reconvene after schematics are done. To meet the timetable schematics need to be finished by the end of January.

Dr. Reed referred to Pat Llodra's statement on her blog. We've chosen to best honor those lost by doing service to others. He is doing a video message to staff to expand on this. No homework should be given that weekend, no significant school work on Thursday or Friday and no tests should be given that Monday. No school facilities will be used for anniversary related activities. Families don't want any ceremonial functions. He is leaving things up to each school. We are staying away from accepting gifts as we are trying to move to another stage of recovery.

Dr. Reed met with two representatives of Education Connection regarding transition/coherence planning. Jonathan Costa developed a transition plan for the district as a result of discussions at the administrators' retreat this past summer. This is divided into three phases. One is to efficiently build a foundation by bringing representative groups together and agreeing on some basis philosophic assumptions and the systems planning approach model. Phase two will identify key planning and transition issues facing the district and aligning them according to their importance and impact on the district's performance and mission. Phase three will break down those issues taking into account the difference between longer-term needs which will be planned for later so potential future district leadership can participate and mold their implementation. The Board agreed to move forward with this plan.

Dr. Reed said a group would be going to the North Branford schools on October 29 and Enfield schools on November 18 to meet regarding their security guards who are former police officers and are licensed to carry a gun which is an alternate choice of having someone armed at the schools. Pat Llodra, Chief Kehoe, members of the security committee and parents will be going.

He stated that there is no logical reason to turn the buildings over to organizations without security present. We will have to work with the community and Parks and Rec as they are major users of the buildings. We can't have multiple doors open. The security committee had spoken about this and also decided that if anyone loses their badge it would cost them \$20 for a replacement.

Ms. Hamilton asked if there was any consideration of just having the summer school programs in Reed and the high school.

Dr. Reed said it would be difficult to have elementary students at the high school.

Dr. Gejda said the special ed program is at Head O'Meadow because of the air conditioning. Dr. Reed stated cleaning is also an issue over the summer. We would look at any place we could reasonably combine the summer school programs.

Financial Report:

MOTION: Mr. Gaines moved that the Board of Education approve the financial report and transfers for the month ending September 30, 2013. Mr. Alexander seconded.

Mr. Bienkowski said \$3.6M was spent on salaries and benefits and \$1.4M for all other objects. Special education tuition is pushing the budget at this time and there are a number of additional transportation costs for these students. There will also need to be additional funding for special education paraeducators. Under purchased property services we had to replace old smoke

detectors at Hawley School to avoid repeated fire alarms for \$9,800, we replaced a pipe and part of the sidewalk at the middle school to take care of the leak at the rear of the school for \$10,750, and we had to replace a waste water line in the middle school main lobby bathroom for \$30,304 which has been submitted to our insurance company. We also expect to get back the \$25,000 deductible. Buildings and Grounds projects are on hold for now.

Ms. Hamilton questioned the transfers.

Mr. Bienkowski referred to page 2 of the budget summary report. The items on the transfer sheet will be on next month's report. We have significant changes in assignments with salaries that weren't budgeted for with some coming in above what was budgeted.

Ms. Hamilton asked if any employees were getting paid because of the SERV grant.

Dr. Reed said the SERV grant positions are not taking the place of vacancies in our budget. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 5 – Old Business – none

Item 6 – New Business

Spring 2014 Assessments:

MOTION: Mr. Hart moved that the Board of Education approve the Smarter Balanced Field Test in English/Language Arts and Mathematics as the district Spring 2014 assessment in grades 3-8 and 11, pending approval by the US Department of Education, in addition to the CMT and CAPT science assessment in grades 5, 8 and 10, and these assessments and results will not be used in the educator evaluations this year. Mr. Vouros seconded.

Dr. Reed stated that we surveyed other districts and they are making the same recommendation to their boards. The CMT is not the same exam moving forward. The state would like everyone to follow the course we're taking.

Mr. Alexander asked if the data was not going to be used in evaluations.

Dr. Reed said we won't be getting the data till the following year. It's not a valuable test for this year as it's a field test. The 2016-17 school year will have a meaningful comparison.

Dr. Gejda said the state has requested a waiver from the federal government to have the option to use the SBAC, CMT or CAPT.

Motion passes unanimously.

Dr. Reed said the NWEA will generate data.

Item 7 – Public Participation – none

MOTION: Ms. Hamilton moved that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss a retirement and leave of absence and invited Dr. Reed. Mr. Gaines seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 8 – Executive Session

Entered executive session at 9:25 p.m.

Item 9 – Public Session

MOTION: Mr. Gaines moved that the Board of Education approve the leave of absence for Brian Bisson, teacher at Newtown High School. Mr. Hart seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved to adjourn. Mr. Gaines seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 10 - Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Debbie Leidlein  
Chair

Consent Agenda Items  
November 6, 2013

- Minutes of October 16, 2013
- iPad donations to Hawley and Middle Gate Schools
- Personnel Items
  - Interim Director of Human Resources
  - Resignation of Kathy Nostrand, Reed School
  - NHS Winter Sports Coaches

From: **Ian Hockley** <ian.hockley@gmail.com>  
Date: Sun, Oct 20, 2013 at 8:24 PM  
Subject: Donation of iPads in memory of Dylan Hockley  
To: petersj@newtown.k12.ct.us, geisslerc@newtown.k12.ct.us

Dear Mrs Peters and Mr Geissler

Last month I was very pleased to present an iPad to both Sandy Hook School and Head of Meadow in memory of our son Dylan who was killed in the 12/14 shooting at SHS. These were gifted to us by a young lady from Long Island who carried out the fund raising herself because of how deeply the tragedy affected her.

From the hard work of family friends and the generosity of the Newtown community we have raised enough to now present both Hawley and Middle Gate schools with an iPad each, together with protective covers and vouchers to purchase educational apps. I would be extremely happy if you could accept this gift for use in your special educational departments.

Please let me know if you can accept and I will work with your secretaries to arrange a time to visit your school.

Best regards  
Ian

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Ian Hockley  
<http://dylanswingsofchange.com/>  
Dedicated to supporting children with Autism and other special needs

<http://www.dylanhockley.com/>  
Memorial to our little boy

Consent Agenda Personnel Item

- Approve the Superintendent's recommendation to employ Dr. David Abbey as part-time Interim Director of Human Resources with a salary of \$75,000 per annum pro-rated to begin on or about November 5, 2013

October 28, 2013

Mrs. Anne Uberti, Principal  
Reed Intermediate School

Dear Anne,

In January 2003 my daughter Molly and I started at Reed Intermediate School. We shared the excitement of a new school opening and we both made many new friends. Molly stayed through 6<sup>th</sup> grade and I have stayed through the start of her senior year in college.

With the excitement of a new job offer and the sadness of leaving so many friends, I would like to submit my resignation and two weeks notice effective today. My last day at Reed will be on November 8, 2013 since I start my new job at Western Connecticut State University on November 11, 2013.

Thank you and Jill for a great start to a new school year. I will miss you all and I know that there is someone who would love to be in the front office with such a great team!

Sincerely,



Kathy Nostrand

Cc: Dr. John Reed, Superintendent ✓  
Jill Beaudry, Assistant Principal

**NEWTOWN HIGH SCHOOL  
 ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT  
 WINTER SPORTS  
 2013-2014**

NAME/STEP	SPORT
SUSAN BRIDGES 3	CHEERLEADING NO CHANGE
CAITLIN DELOHERY 2	J.V. CHEERLEADING VOLUNTEER IN FALL
CHERYL STENZ 3	DANCE TEAM NO CHANGE
KERISTEN RACCIO	GYMNASTICS
JEREMY O'CONNELL 3	GIRLS BASKETBALL NO CHANGE
KATIE CARBONE 3	J.V. GIRLS BASKETBALL NO CHANGE
BOB PATTISON 2	FRESHMAN GIRLS BASKETBALL NO CHANGE
TIM TALLCOUCH 3	BOYS BASKETBALL NEW COACH—NO CHANGE
BOB GENDREAU 2	J.V. BOYS BASKETBALL FORMER FRESHMAN COACH
KEVIN ROGERS 2	J.V. BOYS BASKETBALL NEW COACH
GREGG SIMON 3	FRESHMAN BOYS BASKETBALL
CHRIS BRAY 2	WRESTLING NEW COACH
MIKE MCKEEVER 2	ASST. WRESTLING NEW COACH
ROBERT GAUVIN 3	BOYS SWIMMING NO CHANGE
STEVEN CUSANO 1	ASST. BOYS SWIMMING NEW COACH
DOUG RUSSELL 3	WINTER TRACK NO CHANGE
TOM BRANT 2	ASST. WINTER TRACK NO CHANGE
PAUL ESPOSITO 3	ICE HOCKEY NO CHANGE
TIM HANLEY 3	ASST. ICE HOCKEY NO CHANGE
SCOTT PIERSON	DIVE COACH NEW COACH

GYMNASTICS COACH POSITION PAID FOR BY PARENTS

TWO JV BOYS BASKETBALL COACHES ARE SPLITTING THE JV SALARY.

VOLUNTEER COACHES

KRIS KENNY----ICE HOCKEY  
 MIKE JONES---- ICE HOCKEY  
 TUCKER GROSE---ICE HOCKEY  
 MATT MURPHY---GIRLS BASKETBALL  
 LORI ROHRBACHER—CHEERLEADING  
 CURTIS URBINA----WRESTLING  
 CHRIS SYMES---- WRESTLING  
 JEFF BUSSEY---BOYS BASKETBALL  
 BOB TERRY---INDOOR TRACK  
 LIZ BRESTOVANSKY-----DANCE

Additional Consent Agenda Donation Items:

- Ingersoll Auto of Danbury donation of 10 Toshiba laptops to Newtown High School
- Weller Foundation donations to each school library
- Weller Foundation technology/science grant, industrial arts grant, and music-performing arts/drama grant to Newtown High School

November 3, 2013

TO: John Reed

FROM: Charles S. Dumais



Please accept the donation of 10 Toshiba laptops from Ingersoll Auto of Danbury to students who do not have access to technology at home. This is a very generous gift to the Newtown High School community. Specific details are attached. Thank you.

*Encl.*

Value - \$4,500

On Wed, Oct 30, 2013 at 2:32 PM, Jen Gilbertie  
<jen.gilbertie@ingersollauto.com> wrote:

Greetings!

Last year Ingersoll Automotive donated 10 laptops to Newtown High School for student use. We would like to donate 10 new laptops to your school again this year to add to the program that you currently have in place.

Just as last year, our intended use is that a student who does not have access to technology at home may be given this as a gift or that it may be signed out on an annual basis through your media center for such students. We feel it is important that every student has access to technology to do their assignments in the comfort of their home in a family environment. Our hope is to help eliminate the pressure of feeling rushed to complete projects during after-school hours that a library or school media center is open and alleviate the transportation issues some students may have when they cannot take their normal scheduled bus home.

We have purchased Toshiba laptops, the specifics which are included in the attachment, and would like to donate them to you. This is a donation from Ingersoll Automotive and is not intended to be given for any monetary compensation. We would like to donate these computers to you in early to mid-November at a date mutually acceptable to both yours and our schedule.

Please contact us by November 7, 2013 to let us know if you can accept this donation and we can coordinate the details.

Sincerely,

Jen Gilbertie  
Ingersoll Auto of Danbury

203-730-5761

November 6, 2013

TO: Dr. Reed

FROM: Charles S. Dumais

Please accept the donations from The Weller Foundation to The Newtown High School technology/science department, the Library, the music and drama department and the industrial arts department. Newtown High School students will certainly benefit from these very generous donations.

Thank you.

*Encl.*

# THE WELLER FOUNDATION, INCORPORATED

Box 1145, Woodbury, Connecticut 06798 / Telephone (203) 263-0229

November 1, 2013

NOV 05 2013

Mr. Charles Dumais  
Principal  
Newtown High School  
12 Berkshire Road  
Sandy Hook, CT 06482-1398

Subject: \$1,000 Technology/Science Grant (Check #4032)  
\$1,000 Industrial Arts Grant (Check #4033)  
\$1,000 Music/Performing Arts/Drama Grant (Check #4034)

Dear Mr. Dumais:

I am pleased to inform you that the Board of Trustees at its October 22, 2013 Meeting approved three \$1,000 grants to each of the five (Joel Barlow, Masuk, Newtown, Shelton, and Trumbull) High Schools. The intention of these grants is to purchase items that **were not** in your High School's ordinary budget. We would like the funds to be utilized for "**wish list items**".

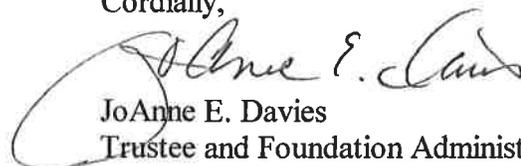
**\$1,000 Technology/Science Grant:** To be applied toward procuring computer hardware and/or software for any Science Department.

**\$1,000 Industrial Arts Grant:** To be applied toward procuring equipment to enhance manufacturing departments (Metal/Wood/Power Tech/Auto Tech).

**\$1,000 Music/Performing Arts/Drama Grant:** To be applied toward procuring equipment for any of these departments.

On behalf of the Board, enclosed are three \$1,000 checks to be utilized as indicated above. We are confident you will put the funds to good use. Please supply us with an update as to how these funds will be utilized. **We would like this report by December 1, 2013.**

Cordially,

  
JoAnne E. Davies  
Trustee and Foundation Administrator

Enclosures (3)

cc: Kitty Latowicki – Career Center Coordinator/Weller Liaison, Newtown High School  
Dr. John Reed – Superintendent of Schools, Newtown ✓

# THE WELLER FOUNDATION, INCORPORATED

Box 1145, Woodbury, Connecticut 06798 / Telephone (203) 263-0229

November 1, 2013

Mr. Charles Dumais  
Principal  
**Newtown High School**  
12 Berkshire Road  
Sandy Hook, CT 06482-1398

Subject: 2013 Weller High School Library Donation

Dear Mr. Dumais:

After a review of our current Budget, the Board of Trustees approved a \$500 donation to your high school library. The purpose of this donation is to provide assistance to your high school in the purchase of educational books.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am pleased to enclose our Check #4043 made payable to Newtown High School Media Center in the amount of \$500.

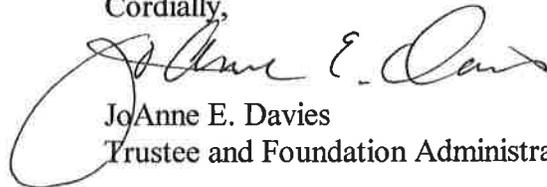
The Foundation requests that:

- The funds be used exclusively for the purchase of educational books,
- The books be identified (in writing, label, or stamp) as having been donated by The Weller Foundation, Incorporated in memory of Barton L. Weller, and
- The Foundation be furnished with the titles and quantities of the books purchased.

The Foundation is proud to support your high school in providing a quality education for your students.

**The Trustees look forward to your furnishing us a list of the titles and quantities of books purchased by December 1, 2013.**

Cordially,



JoAnne E. Davies  
Trustee and Foundation Administrator

Enclosure – Check #4043

cc: Ms. Kitty Latowicki - Weller Foundation School Representative  
Ms. Tiffany Cotroneo – Library Media Specialist  
Dr. John Reed - Superintendent of Schools, Newtown ✓

# THE WELLER FOUNDATION, INCORPORATED

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Box 1145, Woodbury, Connecticut 06798 / Telephone (203) 263-0229

November 1, 2013

Dr. John Reed  
Superintendent of Schools  
Newtown Public Schools  
3 Primrose Street  
Newtown, CT 06470

Subject: 2013 Weller Elementary and Middle School Library Donations

Dear Dr. Reed:

After a review of our current Budget, the Board of Trustees approved donations to your elementary, middle, and high school libraries. The purpose of these donations is to provide assistance to your schools in the purchase of educational books. (The high school library donation of \$500 was sent directly to the high school.)

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am pleased to enclose the following checks:

- Check #4048 in the amount of \$250 made payable to Newtown Middle School Media Center
- Check #4049 in the amount of \$250 made payable to Reed Intermediate School Media Center,
- Check #4057 in the amount of \$100 made payable to Hawley Elementary School Media Center,
- Check #4058 in the amount of \$100 made payable to Head O'Meadow Elementary School Media Center,
- Check #4059 in the amount of \$100 made payable to Middle Gate Elementary School Media Center,
- Check #4060 in the amount of \$100 made payable to Sandy Hook Elementary School Media Center

The Foundation requests that:

- The funds be used exclusively for the purchase of educational books,
- The books be identified (in writing, label, or stamp) as having been donated by The Weller Foundation, Incorporated in memory of Barton L. Weller, and
- The Foundation be furnished with the titles and quantities of the books purchased.

Dr. John Reed

-2-

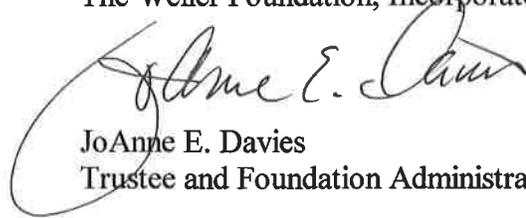
November 1, 2013

The Foundation is proud to support your elementary and middle schools in providing a quality education for your students.

**The Trustees look forward to your furnishing us a list of the titles and quantities of books purchased.**

Cordially,

The Weller Foundation, Incorporated

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JoAnne E. Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

JoAnne E. Davies  
Trustee and Foundation Administrator

Enclosures (6)



Kathy June <junek@newtown.k12.ct.us>

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## Newtown Public Schools - AP District Honor Roll - College Board

3 messages

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Bernstein, Alan <abernstein@collegeboard.org>

Tue, Oct 22, 2013 at 12:54 PM

To: "reedj@newtown.k12.ct.us" <reedj@newtown.k12.ct.us>

Cc: "dumaisc@newtown.k12.ct.us" <dumaisc@newtown.k12.ct.us> ,

"junek@newtown.k12.ct.us" <junek@newtown.k12.ct.us> ,

"gejdal@newtown.k12.ct.us" <gejdal@newtown.k12.ct.us>

Dear Superintendent Reed,

Congratulations to you and your colleagues in the **Newtown Public School District** on being selected for the **4th Annual AP District Honor Roll**. A total of 477 school districts across the U.S. and Canada are being honored by the College Board for simultaneously increasing access to Advanced Placement® coursework while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams. Eighteen districts in Connecticut met the criteria to be placed on the AP Honor Roll this year and your district is one of the eighteen.

While you are encouraged to share this information internally with your staff, **we ask that you wait to release the information to the press or your external constituents until after the national press announcement by the College Board on Monday, November 4, 2013**. At that time, the College Board will release the names of all the AP Honor Roll districts that have opened AP classroom doors to a significantly broader pool of students, while maintaining or improving the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher.

Criteria used for inclusion in the AP District Honor Roll:

1. Increased access to AP courses by
  - At least 4% in large districts
  - At least 6% in medium districts
  - At least 11% in small districts
2. The percentage of African American, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian/Alaska Native students taking AP exams must not have decreased more than 5% for large and medium districts and 10% for small districts.
3. Performance levels were maintained or improved when comparing the percentage of exams scoring 3 or higher from 2011 to 2013 .

To support your district in sharing this award with your schools and constituents, we will be providing posters, a certificate, and a web banner for your school and district websites (forthcoming). We will also be providing a boilerplate press release that your communications team can use to spread the good news **after the College Board's Monday, November 4, 2013 national press conference.**

Again, congratulations on your success! Expanding access to AP courses while improving performance is a difficult balancing act. Your commitment to providing equitable access to ALL students while improving your overall performance is to be commended.

**Alan Bernstein**

Senior Educational Manager, K-12 Services

(781) 663-2736 work

New England Regional Office

(617) 455-5457 cell

The College Board

(781) 663-2743 fax

1601 Trapelo Road, Suite 12

abernstein@collegeboard.org

Waltham, MA 02451

# Fwd: DMV Inspection Report

1 message

John Reed <reedj@newtown.k12.ct.us>

Tue, Oct 29, 2013 at  
4:55 PM

To: Kathy June-personal cell <junek@newtown.k12.ct.us>

Boe mailing

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Leslie Sheldon** <leslie.sheldon@all-startransportation.com>

Date: Fri, Oct 25, 2013 at 3:10 PM

Subject: DMV Inspection Report

Good Afternoon,

Recently the DMV released the report below on school bus inspections for the 2012-13 school years. All-Star Transportation had 612 vehicles inspected with a 0% out of service inspection rate which we have had now for the past three years.

[http://ct.gov/dmv/cwp/view.asp?  
a=798&q=456720&dmvPNavCtr=|52460|#52461](http://ct.gov/dmv/cwp/view.asp?a=798&q=456720&dmvPNavCtr=|52460|#52461)

We take maintenance very seriously at All-Star Transportation which our DMV record reflects. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Leslie Sheldon

Operations Manager

Kathy Mayer 5 Hyvue Drive Newtown

It's funny how I'm afraid to voice opinion on social media due to fast and furious backlash of "friends" and group members, but here, in public, I want this on the record:

I believe spending unlimited tax dollars with no checks and balances for superior, the sky-is-the-limit education is not the Democrat's agenda; I believe restricting tax dollars to education is not the Republican goal. Not anywhere and especially, not here in Newtown. Maybe I'm naïve, but I cannot be alone.

I want to publicly state my support for Newtown Schools, where I am fortunate to have two kids already graduate from, ready, prepared and successful for higher learning, and two more in the wings: a junior at Newtown High, and an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at the middle school.

I want to publicly, for the record, state my support for the BOE, actually for all our elected officials regardless of political party, some of whom I voted for, and some of whom I did not.

But you are Newtown's leaders, and for that I remain respectful and grateful for your service. I trust you will listen and continuously strive to do what's best for all of Newtown, not just a vocal, powerful few, but for our kids, for our seniors, for our teachers, our entire community.

I cannot be the only one.

I cannot believe I am the only Newtowner frustrated at the hate and sabotage spread on social media, particularly Facebook. Specifically Accountability in Newtown's page. I can not be the only fly-on-the-wall, watching and reading – but not commenting – and yet so fed up with the damaging chatter.

I am disgusted / and I am embarrassed / and on behalf of the Newtown I know and love / I want you to know this:

While I guarantee I won't agree with everything you do, I absolutely know you are trying to do what is in the best interest of all of students, teachers, and community. And when I disagree, which I will, I will be sitting right here in front of you, letting you know in person what I, a parent, taxpayer, voter, a future senior, and above all, a Newtown resident, would like you to consider as an option.

I have to believe I am not alone. That the vast majority of Newtown knows in their hearts the BOE members are listening, learning, adjusting, and responding – all in the best interests of education and our town. Because really, they are just like us. You, are us.

I trust in your elected conscience to always try to do the right thing, make the right decisions. To listen, to help / and above all, to do no harm.

I want you to know, that I'm here, right here, ready to support you, our Board and town leaders, to help, instead of hurt.

I can not be the only one.

So together, we can achieve our goals. And while I won't agree with everything you do or say, I can assure you I focus any disagreement on dialogue and solutions, rather than incessant sabotage to a town that I love to call home.

I can not be the only one.