

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

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting on June 20, 2017 in the council chambers,  
3 Primrose Street, at 7:00 p.m.

K. Alexander, Chair	J. Erardi
M. Ku, Vice Chair	J. Davila
D. Leidlein, Secretary	R. Bienkowski
J. Vouros	10 Staff
R. Harriman-Stites	70 Public
A. Clure	2 Press
D. Cruson	

Mr. Alexander called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

MOTION: Mrs. Ku moved that the Board of Education go into executive session regarding non-union wages for 2017-2018 and invited Dr. Erardi and Mr. Bienkowski. Mr. Cruson seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 1 – Executive Session

Executive session began at 7:03 and ended at 7:30 p.m.

Item 2 – Pledge of Allegiance

Item 3 – Executive Session Vote

MOTION: Mrs. Ku moved that with the exception of the Director of Operations all non-union employees will receive a 2.25% increase. Mr. Cruson seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 4 – Consent Agenda

MOTION: Mrs. Ku moved that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda which includes the donation of a car to Newtown High School and the leave of absence for Julie Yorty for the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Cruson seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 5 – Public Participation

Lucia Kortz, 7 Rooster Ridge, does not agree with allowing 40 more minutes for the high school students at the expense of the younger students. Her daughter was 25 minutes late getting home and she had no response for the reason from the elementary school. Her daughter had to tell the sub driver how to get home. The new proposed school time removes 12 minutes of instruction each day. In 2012 the Board of Education added five minutes to the school day and she wanted to know where we stood with the state in instructional time. We don't know all the facts for the K-6 grade students. Don't rush to implement.

Nancy White, 14 Butternut Ridge, has concerns about the high school with buses shutting down the exits and the entrance and about safety at Hawley. At the June 6 meeting she referred to the \$460,000. Option 8 had St. Rose staying at their current time. Option 5 St. Rose was at a later start time. How can we eliminate seven buses in one year? She likes the later start time but is wary of the transportation piece.

Laura Terry, 64 Robin Hill Road, is concerned about losing seven buses and wants to see how the elementary schools are broken out by buses. She is in favor of changing the start time for the middle and high schools but there is not enough information. Don't rush the decision.

Nancy White, 14 Butternut Ridge, said that 8 buses leave Hawley and with the students from Reed All-Star said we needed 9 buses. Don't get bigger buses for longer routes.

Michael White, 6 Sweetbriar Lane, said they were ignoring K-6 transportation. An earlier start time for elementary is better. Concerned about no time for these students to play after school. Child care needs to be in place by the end of the school year so parents will have to scramble over the summer months to find this care.

John Feder, 27 Poverty Hollow Road, is concerned with kindergarten students on the same bus with sixth graders and what they might be exposed to.

Kathryn Burke, 48 Taunton Hill Road, agrees with moving the start time but the current proposals need work. Three months is not enough time. She wants to see research on moving the K-6 to an earlier start time. Concerned about students being dropped off early and feels the proposals need more work.

Simran Chand, 20 Oak Ridge Drive and Dylan Lew, 29 Currituck Road, Board student representatives. Simran stated that they hope this improvement is made at the high school and spoke about the REM cycle which is different for high school students. Moving it back one hour helps to shift the circadian rhythm. This should be put in place first and adjusted where needed. The shuttle is a way for students to get some independence. Non-instructional time at the high school is being removed from the schedule.

Dylan said to focus on the number of students benefitting from the change along with the younger ones in the next six years. The pros outweigh the cons and this will benefit many students.

#### Item 6 – Reports

Chair Report: Mr. Alexander mentioned that everyone was at graduation. We received a yearbook to share that will be in the central office.  
The Superintendent's report was moved to Wednesday night.

#### Item 7 – Old Business

Action on Grade 7 and 8 Social Studies Textbook:

Mrs. Ku moved that the Board of Education approve the textbook *Discovering our Past: A History of the United States* published by McGraw Hill Education to be used in grades seven and eight. Mr. Vouros seconded. Vote: 6 ayes, 1 abstained (Mrs. Leidlein) Motion Passes.

Mr. Alexander thanked the middle school staff for presenting information on this book at the last meeting.

School Start Time Recommendation:

Dr. Erardi spoke about the three options which are two-tier systems. He thanked the committee members which included members of the Board, staff members and community members for their exceptional work. He understands the comments around time and transportation but believes these options give the Board the information they need to make a decision.

Item A is the revised Option 5 with the high school, middle school and St. Rose on Tier 1 and Reed and the elementary schools on Tier 2. K-6 students will ride on the same bus and he is comfortable with those children riding together. This option also includes the shuttle.

Item B has no shuttle and it flip flops the start times for Reed and the elementary schools. All buses will stop at the elementary schools first and then take students to Reed. The morning

ride for elementary students will be a minute or two longer than this year. There will be additional ride time for Reed students as the elementary schools will be dropped off first in the morning and pick up first in the afternoon. Regarding the sixth grade students and the concern of their buses returning to Sandy Hook School, we have a plan in place for this with a separate bus for these students.

Item C has Reed and the elementary schools with the same start and end times. Elementary students will be dropped off first and the buses will continue on to the Reed school. At dismissal certain Reed buses will be designate for each elementary school. When the elementary buses start to load the Reed students will get on the appropriate bus for their ride home.

We developed a safe plan for all shuttles and had buses at Hawley this afternoon. The shuttle offers less traffic concerns than what we presently have. This is cost neutral with the belief that middle and high school students can benefit from the proposed plan. Also, with the understanding that All-Star Transportation will reach the end of this work there needs to be action by the Board earlier than later. There are solutions in place for these options for EdAdvance and after school hour activities. As a parent he would be comfortable with the shuttle, who is on the bus, and the reason why we are making this change.

All-Star owners John and Richard Dufour became involved in the discussion. Mr. Cruson asked if dropping off elementary students early was a concern with the teachers' contract. Dr. Erardi said we were within the contract regarding drop-off time. Mr. Cruson was happy with the work that was done.

Mr. Vouros asked for the latest Hawley shuttle proposal. Jenna Connors, Hawley lead teacher, was there on behalf of Mr. Moretti. Dr. Erardi said that when you pull into the Hawley driveway on the left side of island there are three parking spaces which will be removed. If the shuttle is in place the number of buses going to Hawley is 8. Three of them could be at Reed for the Hawley grade 5 and 6 pickup. That space will just be for Hawley buses. Reed students will get off the bus and get on their bus for home. All-Star safety officer and Alan Colangelo endorsed the plan. This will cause less traffic concerns than the present plan.

Ms. Connors explained that Hawley buses will already be loaded when the Reed buses arrive. These students would exit their buses with staff to help them transfer walking along the sidewalk or crosswalks. This also allows space for the doors to open. There will be no buses in the Hawley driveway and parent pickup will remain the same. Mrs. Ku said from a research perspective this is a public health issue that fits with our district goals and doesn't want to lose sight of that.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites referred to the 7 bus reduction. John Dufour said that 8 buses were using the same routes for the middle and high schools. The high school routes will go down by 7 buses to have St. Rose start later. Mrs. Harriman-Stites stated that her concern is that we are keeping St. Rose where they want to be to be able to allow the middle and high school time changes. It will mean additional ride time for the middle and high school students.

Dr. Erardi said we have a statutory obligation to provide transportation to private schools. He did not feel it was good to divide the conversation with St. Rose. The high school students were

arriving 20 minutes early but we have reduced that by 8 to 10 minutes of added sleep time. We respected St. Rose's opinion and can still capture 40 minutes.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites worries about losing 7 buses for the high school. She wants the other boards to know that is a big impact for the students. The money is part of the discussion. She agrees that this is a public health issue but is not sure if we have enough information to make a decision. There are some negative impacts for the elementary students and it would effect after school activities. She struggled with any option being best for all students.

Mr. Bienkowski said this is the first year for a tier one system in the five-year contract. We didn't have this opportunity in the previous contract.

Mr. Clure asked if there was a way to change school times as well as being given other options

Mr. Alexander said we need to pick a plan now with the Board endorsing the change which the superintendent will implement.

Mr. Clure asked if the Board could reduce the amount of buses and increase ride time to save money.

Mr. Bienkowski said we could reduce buses but would have to renegotiate with the bus company.

Mr. Clure asked if we knew the arrival times for each school with these plans.

Dr. Erardi said we guesstimated that information in each scenario. These three plans are a combination of over a dozen committee members. He doesn't believe that the three plans could grow to a more efficient opportunity. He would not support the plan if he didn't support the need for the high school and middle school to start later. In the third plan the additional ride time for Reed is the children going to the elementary schools for the ride home.

Mr. Clure appreciated the plan being cost neutral and asked if there was a way of adding two buses to reduce the elementary ride time.

Dr. Erardi felt that the 10 minutes is not detrimental to our youngest students compared to how it would be helping the middle and high school students.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites asked if we could see if a better plan would cost \$500,000 to serve our students like we are serving St. Rose students for that amount.

Dr. Erardi said the private school transportation has to take place. We wanted to do what we thought was best for the process to move forward in keeping St. Rose on their current schedule.

Mr. Vouros said that everything has been discussed in committee. We went to Washington to deal with the adolescent part of it and asked about the elementary level and were told to deal with the middle and high school first and then work with the elementary level. The only problem is money. We can add the \$500,000 next year. This is about the mental health of adolescents.

Mrs. Leidlein appreciated the work of committee and supports that the high school and middle school students would do better with additional sleep in the morning. She asked how the number of buses assigned to each school was determined.

Richard Dufour said with Reed and the elementary schools we looked at routes, capacity, and time.

Mrs. Leidlein liked Option C because it doesn't increase ride time. She trusts Dr. Erardi that this change is necessary for the optimal performance of our students and that All-Star will make it work.

Mrs. Ku said that regarding the shuttle vs no shuttle, 12 buses will leave Reed instead of 40 buses.

John Dufour said it would help to have police assistance with the traffic at Reed.

Dr. Erardi stated that the Board can direct him to speak with the police department to help Reed with traffic.

Mr. Alexander asked if there would be a cost.

Dr. Erardi stated that the Chief just said to let him know what we need first and then they would talk about the cost. Dr. Erardi indicated that we will use less fuel using the shuttle.

Mr. Vouros said it would also save time by adjusting the routes and not stopping so frequently.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites asked if the increase in ride time for Reed students was based on stopping at every other house.

John Dufour said it will take time to make those adjustments.

Mrs. Ku asked how much time could be saved by optimizing those bus stops.

Richard Dufour said it would only save a couple of minutes but we can look at it.

Mr. Alexander was comfortable with this information. He sees the benefit of making the change. This decision is not something that should change back in a couple of years.

Mr. Clure is not fully comfortable with having or not having a shuttle system. He asked if it would be possible to look at the least amount of change next year and the non-shuttle system and waiting a year or two to implement.

Dr. Erardi said the shuttle system has buses moving in the right direction all of the time so it saves time. It also saves fuel. Plan B without the shuttle increases ridership time.

Mrs. Ku said there were concerns about the safety of the shuttle. In addition to saving time she feels it is a safe option and has no problem with it. From the research perspective there was no indication that younger student start times need to change.

#### Final Thoughts:

Mr. Cruson doesn't agree with lack of research for elementary students. He looked at the tiers and there was no good solution to getting elementary students in at an earlier start time. We've done the best we can but he is concerned around the implementation in 2017-18 instead of 2018-19. It may be difficult to have this set for the start of school. The afterschool and before school programs need parents to sign up before the end of the school year. There are also community stakeholders who run classes so we don't know how they will adjust. We landed where we need to be for the welfare of the middle and high school students.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites cares about the mental health care of our students and is deeply conflicted with this decision. It is to the benefit of the older students but wished there wasn't such a compromise for younger students. She would rather have known the best plan for all students and know the cost as we did for St. Rose students.

Mr. Clure thanked everyone on the subcommittee including Board members, public and staff. He sees the challenge early in the morning for middle and high school students. A lot of students said they do enjoy the extra time in the afternoon for various activities. He has faith in the staff regarding the shuttle but doesn't want to add ride time.

Mrs. Leidlein said the middle and high school students have borne the brunt of the start times. The 40 minutes benefit is advantageous for us to capture.

Mrs. Ku said this is a process of tradeoffs. The number one thing on the parent and student survey was to consider student health along with the parent's work schedule, staying out of darkness at the bus stops, the bus ride and the change being cost neutral. Looking back on all votes the Board of Education has made, this makes the most impact on students.

Mr. Alexander would like to have heard an option with a cost and ride reduction but feels we should move forward.

Mr. Vouros asked Dr. Erardi for his final comments.

Dr. Erardi is comfortable with being in front of the start time changes. The opening day of school we always have issues with transportation. The plan is best for students. If the plan goes forward the elementary school day is the same with a more complicated bus drop off and pickup. There will be additional ride time at the elementary level but we believe the evidence is overwhelming that students will learn in a better place if we start later. He thanked the committee, the parents and the school board.

Mr. Alexander mentioned that years back the Board considered full day kindergarten. We then and now have a united team to make a change that is better for the students.

MOTION: Mrs. Ku moved that the Board of Education direct the superintendent to work with the committee's transportation Option A to adjust the start times for 2017-18 school year.

Mrs. Leidlein seconded for discussion.

Mrs. Ku said that after hearing information about shuttles she was happy with that piece of it. With Option C she is concerned about sharing the time with Reed and the elementary students. It would be all on the Reed students for added ride time.

Mrs. Leidlein sees more benefit with Option A with the staggered start times but is not cost effective for fuel. She leans more toward Option C than A.

Mr. Vouros also prefers Option C over A. If we are directing Dr. Erardi to make the final decision can we give him two options to work with?

Mr. Alexander would not recommend that.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites amended the motion to include that the implementation takes place in 2018-2019 instead of the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Cruson seconded.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites is concerned about the implementation in a few short weeks as well as parents and teachers adjusting that soon.

Mr. Vouros felt we need to do this sooner than later as it's a health issue.

Mr. Alexander doesn't see us changing options or moving it out.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites felt it would give an opportunity to adjust our budget accordingly for increased bus costs.

Vote: 2 ayes, 5 nays (Mr. Alexander, Mrs. Ku, Mrs. Leidlein, Mr. Clure, Mr. Vouros) Motion fails.

Mrs. Leidlein made a friendly amendment to the motion to change transportation Option A to Option C which was accepted by Mrs. Ku.

Vote: 6 ayes, 1 nay (Mrs. Harriman-Stites) Motion passes 6 to 1.

Action on ASK Letter:

MOTION: Mrs. Harriman-Stites moved that the Board of Education approve sending the Annual National Ask Day letter to district parents. Mr. Vouros seconded.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites explained that tomorrow was National Ask Day. The letter gives parents information about asking if there are guns in the home where their children have playdates. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 8 – New Business

Item 9 – Public Participation

Nancy White, 14 Butternut Ridge, said there will still be children in the dark with early pickups. Because of the seven bus reduction all routes will be optimized. She has a concern about Reed buses at Hawley and students walking between buses.

Laura Terry, 64 Robin Hill Road, thanked the Board for adjusting the start times. She has concerns with fewer students for additional buses and traffic at the high school in the morning.

Kathryn Burke, 48 Taunton Hill Road, was glad they voted on a proposal. The Hawley diagram is very tight and should continue to be looked at.

Janet Zipperstein, Charter Ridge Drive, said to be aware that high school and middle school students are bigger and besides backpacks they carry multiple items like instruments.

Dan Delia, 10 Brookwood Road, was glad this passed but the conversation should continue. Be prepared for the inevitable questions and concerns.

Kim Beck, Assistant Superintendent in Ridgefield, served as Dr. Erardi's intern this year. She complimented the Board on their work and the exemplary way they operate.

MOTION: Mrs. Leidlein moved that the Board of Education go into executive session regarding the Superintendent's evaluation and invited Dr. Erardi. Mr. Cruson seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 10 – Executive Session

The Board went into executive session at 10:05 p.m. and came out at 11:03 p.m.

Item 11 – Executive Session Vote

MOTION: Mrs. Harriman-Stites moved that the Board of Education extend the new contract for the Superintendent for the period of 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020 with a 3% increase for the 2017-2018 year. Mr. Cruson seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

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

Item 12 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Debbie Leidlein  
Secretary

June 2, 2017

TO: Dr. Erardi

FROM: Lorrie Rodrigue

Please accept the donation of a 2003 Dodge Durango,  
VIN:1D4HS48N73F508264 at an estimated value of \$2,500 from Mike and Kim  
Heran, 14 Old Castle Dr, Newtown, CT 06470.

The vehicle will be used by Newtown High School Automotive Repair Classes.

Thank you.

*L. Rodrigue*



17 Greenfield Avenue  
Ridgefield, CT 06877

June 10, 2017

Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr.  
Superintendent of Schools  
3 Primrose Street  
Newtown, CT 06470

Dear Dr. Erardi,

I am writing to request a medical leave of absence for the 2017-2018 school year to continue the healing process from my recent breast cancer diagnosis.

Although there is a lot behind me (including five months of chemotherapy and one surgery), a lot still lies ahead in terms of preventing reoccurrence. This includes radiation, several integrative treatments, and at least two more surgeries.

I cannot wait to return to my reading position once I have a solid handle on my health and am able to be fully present at teaching. I will need this upcoming year to do that. I am happy to provide additional details and any medical documentation that may be needed.

Thank you so much for your consideration and for the invaluable time I have had the last two years with my almost two year old (yikes!). I am so grateful to you and the Board for this time and your consideration.

Sincerely,



Julie Yorty  
Early Intervention Specialist  
Middle Gate School  
[yortyj@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:yortyj@newtown.k12.ct.us)  
(516) 606-3805

# REVISED Option 5

2-Tier system with the High School and St. Rose on Tier 1 and Reed & Elementary schools on Tier 2. **Requires 3.5 additional units at no additional cost**

# A

Shuttle

<u>Location</u>	<u>Tier 1</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Units</u>
NHS	8:00 – 2:32	(6.32 hrs)	36 shared units
NMS	8:00 – 2:32	(6.32 hrs)	NHS & NMS
St. Rose	7:50 – 2:50		<b>7 units</b>
HVWS/FWS	8:15 – 3:00		<u>3 units</u>
			<b>46 units</b>
<u>Tier 2</u>			
Reed	<b>8:55 – 3:27</b>	(6.32 hrs)	40 shared units
Elementary	<b>9:05 – 3:37</b>	(6.32 hrs)	Reed & Elementary
Magnet (Dnby)	9:00 – 3:30		<u>1 unit</u>
			<b>41 units</b>

- St. Rose on Tier 1 – puts them on their current school start/end time schedule
- Reed and Elementary Schools staggered start/end times

## REVISED Option 5

A.M. & P.M. Tier Two Scenario

Reed school bell time – 8:55 to 3:27

Elementary school bell time 9:05 – 3:37



### A.M. – All buses to RIS

1<sup>st</sup> Drop RIS → 2<sup>nd</sup> Drop Elementary

- Additional ride time for elementary students

### P.M. – Half Elementary units to RIS for shuttle system

1<sup>st</sup> Pick-up RIS → 2<sup>nd</sup> Pick-up Elementary

- Additional ride time for RIS students

- Utilizes shuttle system for afternoon
- Separate transportation available for P.M. Reed 6<sup>th</sup> grade class (SHS 1<sup>st</sup> grade class of 12/14)

# Board Consideration

2 Tier system with the High School and St. Rose on Tier 1 and Reed & Elementary schools on Tier 2. **Requires 3.5 additional units at no additional cost**

# B

No Shuttle

<u>Location</u>	<u>Tier 1</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Units</u>
NHS	8:00 – 2:32	(6.32 hrs)	36 shared units
NMS	8:00 – 2:32	(6.32 hrs)	NHS & NMS
St. Rose	7:50 – 2:50		<b>7 units</b>
HVWS/FWS	8:15 – 3:00		<u>3 units</u>
			<b>46 units</b>
	<u>Tier 2</u>		
Reed	<b>9:05 – 3:37</b>	(6.32 hrs)	40 shared units
Elementary	<b>8:55 – 3:27</b>	(6.32 hrs)	Reed & Elementary
Magnet (Dnby)	9:00 – 3:30		<u>1 unit</u>
			<b>41 units</b>

- No change for tier one
- Reed and Elementary Schools staggered start/end times

## Board Consideration

A.M. & P.M. Tier Two Scenario

Reed school bell time – 9:05 to 3:37

Elementary school bell time 8:55 – 3:27

### A.M. – All buses to Elementary Schools

1<sup>st</sup> Drop Elementary → 2<sup>nd</sup> Drop RIS

- Added ride time for RIS students

### P.M. – All buses to Elementary School

1<sup>st</sup> Pick-up Elementary → 2<sup>nd</sup> Pick-up RIS

- Added ride time for RIS students

- Eliminates shuttle in tier two

- Separate transportation available in the A.M. for Reed 6<sup>th</sup> grade class (SHS 1<sup>st</sup> grade class of 12/14)

# Board Consideration + Shuttle System

2 Tier system with the High School and St. Rose on Tier 1 and Reed & Elementary schools on Tier 2. **Requires 3.5 additional units at no additional cost**



Shuttle  
A + B Combo

<u>Location</u>	<u>Tier 1</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Units</u>
NHS	8:00 – 2:32	(6.32 hrs)	36 shared units
NMS	8:00 – 2:32	(6.32 hrs)	NHS & NMS
St. Rose	7:50 – 2:50		7 units
HVWS/FWS	8:15 – 3:00		3 units
			<b>46 units</b>

	<u>Tier 2</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Units</u>
Reed	9:05 – 3:37	(6.32 hrs)	40 shared units
Elementary	9:05 – 3:37	(6.32 hrs)	Reed & Elementary
Magnet (Dnby)	9:00 – 3:30		1 unit
			<b>41 units</b>

- No change for tier one
- Reed & Elementary students same start/end time

# Board Consideration + Shuttle System

A.M. & P.M. Tier Two Scenario

Reed school bell time – 9:05 to 3:37

Elementary school bell time 9:05 – 3:37



Shuttle  
A + B Combo

## A.M. – All buses to Elementary Schools

1<sup>st</sup> Drop Elementary → 2<sup>nd</sup> Drop RIS

- Added ride time for RIS students

## P.M. – Half Elementary units to RIS for shuttle system

1<sup>st</sup> Pick-up RIS → 2<sup>nd</sup> Pick-up Elementary

- Added ride time for RIS students

- Utilizes shuttle system in afternoon
- Least amount of ride time for elementary & intermediate students
- Separate transportation available for Reed 6<sup>th</sup> grade class (SHS 1<sup>st</sup> grade class of 12/14)

**Current 16/17 School Year**

<b>Tier 1</b>		# Buses	# Students	Students/Bus
NHS	7:20-2:02 6.42 hours	42	1682	57.9
NMS	7:20-2:02 6.42 hours	shared	750	above
		<u>42</u>		
<b>Tier 2</b>				
Reed	8:05-2:49 6.44 hours	36	659	18.3
St Rose	8:00-2:50 6.50 hours	8	142	17.8
HVWS/FWS	8:15-3:00 6.45 hours	3	18	6
Magnet	9:00-3:30 6.30 hours	1	25	25
		<u>48</u>		
<b>Tier 3</b>				
Hawley	9:05-3:37 6.34 hours	10	320	32.0
Sandy Hook	9:05-3:37 6.34 hours	10	337	33.7
Middle Gate	9:05-3:37 6.34 hours	10	368	36.8
Head O'Meadow	9:05-3:37 6.34 hours	9	298	33.1
		<u>39</u>		

Data compiled from 16/17 Approved BOE Budget Book

**Proposed Revised Option 5**

<b>Tier 1</b>		# Buses	# Students	Students/Bus
NHS	8:00-2:32 6.32 hours	36	1638	64.9
NMS	8:00-2:32 6.32 hours	shared	698	above
St Rose	7:50-2:50 7 hours	8	142	17.75
HVWS/FWS	8:15-3:00 6.45 hours	3	18	6
		<u>47</u>		
<b>Tier 2</b>				
Elementary	9:05-3:37 6.32 hours	40	1259	47.1
Reed	8:55-3:27 6.32 hours	shared	625	above
Magnet	9:00-3:30 6.30 hours	1	25	25
		<u>41</u>		

Enrollment from 17/18 Approved BOE Budget Book



NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Newtown, Connecticut

TEXTBOOK ADOPTION REQUEST

**Title:** Discovering Our Past: A History of the United States **Copyright:** 2018

**Authors:**

Joyce Appleby, Ph.D.  
Alan Brinkley, Ph.D.  
Albert S. Broussard, Ph.D.  
James M. McPherson, Ph.D.  
Donald A. Ritchie, Ph.D.

**Publisher:** McGraw Hill Education

**Cost:** \$100.62 per book

**For which courses:** Global American I & Global American History II

**Grades:** 7th and 8th Grade

**Number of Students** 705

**Why is an adoption being requested at this time?**

The Newtown Middle School Social Studies Department is requesting a textbook that will support our concept-based curriculum which was adopted in 2014. In addition to the curriculum, the following federal and state standards were adopted:

- Common Core State Standards (2010)
- National Council of the Social Studies College, Career, and Civic Life - C3 (2010)
- Connecticut Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Frameworks (2015)

As a result, our department needed a resource that would allow students to gain knowledge, understanding, and skills on topics such as citizenship, social responsibility, global awareness, informational and technology literacy, as well as other 21st Century Skills. The goal was to find a resource that assisted teachers in creating informed citizens.

**Describe the review process used to select this book.**

The review process used to select a new textbook is as follows:

- Discussed the needs of our students with
  - Social Studies Department teachers
  - NMS Reading Specialist
  - NMS Special Education Coordinator
- Investigated a variety of resources during the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) Conference
- Met with multiple companies to review their resources
- Developed a rubric which was used to find the very best textbook to meet the needs of our students
- Evaluated all the textbooks using the rubric

*List reasons for selecting this book.*

- Aligns with our concept-based curriculum
- Engages students in thought provoking lessons & activities
- Provides alternatives for differentiation & modification to ensure the success of all learners
- Ability to adjust the Lexile level for students
- Online materials are exceptional for both student and educator
- LearnSmart can create individual learning plans for students

*Reviewed and submitted by (two signatures required):*

Shari Olive 5/23/17  
Name Date

Andru Sa Angelo 5-23-17  
Name Date

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We all want our children to fulfill their utmost potential, and it is our responsibility to provide them with safe environments at home, in school, and where they play.

**Did you know that one out of three homes with children has guns, many left unlocked or loaded, and that four out of five unintentional gun deaths happen within a home?**

These facts urgently remind us that as parents/guardians, we must do everything we can to prevent child gun deaths. Make sure your child is not unsafely exposed to guns in your home by storing them securely. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) suggests that parents who choose to own guns should keep them locked, unloaded, and stored separately from ammunition.

You can also take steps today to ensure that your children and their playmates do not come across an unsecured gun while they play. The Asking Saves Kids (ASK) Campaign seeks to inspire parents to always ASK, "Is there an unlocked gun in your house?" when arranging your child's play dates or visits to another home. Have a conversation about firearms in the home with every adult who supervises your children during a given day.

The message of the ASK Campaign is one I hope you take to heart. Please visit [www.askingsaveskids.org](http://www.askingsaveskids.org), learn more about the program, and pledge to always ASK before your child visits a friend, family member, or neighbor's home. We have the responsibility to keep our kids safe, and pledging to always ASK is one step you can take today to achieve this goal.

We all want our nation's schools to be safe havens where children learn, grow, and achieve. Parents play an important role in keeping schools safe. The majority of guns used in school shootings come from the shooter's home or a relative's home, often because they are easy for youth to access.

### **Youth Access to Firearms in the Home:**

- Nationwide, 1.7 million children live in a home with an unlocked, loaded gun.
- Seventy-six percent of children ages 5-14 know where firearms are kept in the home.
- Twenty-four percent of students in grades 7 through 12 report having easy access to a gun in the home.

### **The Link Between Guns in the Home & School Safety:**

- In two-thirds of school shootings, the shooter acquired the guns from their own home or that of a relative.
- One in 20 high school students report carrying a weapon (such as a gun, knife, or club) in the past 30 days on school property.
- Over one million students report being injured or threatened with a weapon on school property in the past year.

### **How Parents Can Help Keep Schools Safe:**

- Parents can help keep schools safe and prevent tragedies in the home by taking steps to ensure guns are inaccessible to children.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) suggests parents who choose to own guns keep them locked, unloaded, and stored separately from ammunition.
- Parents can also take steps to ensure their child and their playmates do not come across an unsecured gun where they play. The ASK (Asking Saves Kids) Campaign encourages parents to always ask, "Is there an unlocked gun in your house?" when arranging their child's play dates or visits to another home.

**Making sure children don't have unsafe access to firearms in the home has the power to not only keep our schools safe by averting school shootings, but also prevent the hundreds of youth suicides and unintentional shootings that take place in homes across the country each year.**

**VISIT [WWW.ASKINGSAVESKIDS.ORG](http://WWW.ASKINGSAVESKIDS.ORG)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION**



**We have the ability to make our schools, homes, and communities safer. Let's start doing it!**