

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

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on January 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Reed Intermediate School Library, 3 Trades Lane.

D. Zukowski, Chair	L. Rodrigue
J. Vouros, Chair	A. Uberti
D. Ramsey, Secretary	T. Vadas
D. Cruson	11 Staff
R. Harriman (absent)	1 Public
J. Kuzma	2 Press
J. Larkin	
C. Savo	
M. Irvine (absent)	

Ms. Zukowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item 1 – Pledge of Allegiance

Item 2 – Newtown High School/Athletics Budget

Dr. Kim Longobucco, Newtown High School Principal, thanked her staff for making sure our students are educated and cared for. She is proud that 98.4% of our students graduated last year. This year her budget increase is .96%. SEL is very important and she spoke about the programs at the high school. The Capstone Project has been very successful with 240 seniors who completed their projects. She spoke about budget drivers which include taking care of needs based on school and district strategic plans and objectives and State mandates, ensure all programs have resources to maintain a safe, inclusive and high level of instruction, have the technology and platforms needed to ensure online success and equity to all students, class size and enrollment, and contractual increases.

Mr. Vouros thanked Matt Memoli, Athletic Director, for the tremendous job he is doing.

Mr. Memoli stated that we have one of the largest athletic program in the state with 57 teams and 95 coaches. We also have the top unified program in the State. We received the CIAC Fred Balsamo Award for Sportsmanship for offering the best experience for our athletes. We also have a number of teachers who coach.

Mrs. Harriman asked about the transportation contract for sports and what the costs will be.

Mrs. Vadas said the transportation bids were due tomorrow and we will have more information next week. She is anticipating an 8% increase.

Mrs. Larkin asked what percentage of clubs and teams on page 124 were coached or led by current teachers.

Dr. Longobucco said clubs are run by staff in our building.

Mr. Memoli would provide the number of teachers who coach.

Mrs. Larkin asked if students have been identified who haven't elected to do anything in the high school and why they are not more involved.

Dr. Longobucco said we have a club fair and the counselors check in with each student to be sure they have an adult they've connected with in the school.

Ms. Zukowski asked if we had the number of unique players and if there were pay to play fees for all clubs.

Dr. Longobucco said that was just charged for athletics and the marching band.

Item 3 – Special Education Budget

Mrs. Petersen, Director of Pupil Services, stated that we have 666 special education students as of this date. Since July 1 we have had 40 new special education students move into the district. The greatest challenge is the increased emotional needs in our students. She spoke about special education programs and out-of-district placements which also included DCF placements and those in magnet schools.

Mrs. Harriman asked how many students were in the SAIL program in the middle and high schools.

Mrs. Petersen said there were eight in the middle school with some being evaluated and 17 in the high school.

Mrs. Harriman asked if staffing was adequate this year and for next year.

Mrs. Petersen said we have enough staff. With 17 students at the high school if that number grows we will reassess at the end of the year to talk about resources for next year.

Mr. Cruson asked how the growth there was between last year and this year.

Mrs. Grayson said there were 7 to 10 more this year with 3 students coming from other districts.

Mrs. Kuzma asked if they were seeing an increase in special education referrals due to the pandemic.

Mrs. Petersen said we have had more this year but there's no way to predict with special education.

Mrs. Kuzma asked about the decrease in paras.

Mrs. Petersen said the decrease was at the middle school because now students have access to a special education teacher in their cluster. We had no applicants for the para positions and found the co-teaching worked wonderfully.

Mrs. Larkin noted a decrease of 243 students from the 2018-19 school year to today but an increase in special education students. She was concerned about not having enough money for the year.

Mrs. Petersen said that ESY is well staffed and is adding two special education teachers and one for each middle school cluster.

Ms. Zukowski asked if any positions were impacted by Covid and noted that the cost for special education tutors jumped to \$35,000.

Mrs. Vadas said using homebound tutors was affected by Covid.

Mrs. Zukowski asked if students are expected to grow out of dyslexia.

Mrs. Petersen said they don't grow out of it but we have specialized instruction to learn skills and tools to get through the rest of schooling. Some students go from IEPs to having a 504.

Mr. Vouros asked what we can do to help staff who are monitoring students with IEPs.

Mrs. Petersen said the staff does an amazing job and communicates with supervisors. We are doing a wonderful job right now.

Item 5 – Health Budget

Anne Dalton, Nursing Supervisor, said we have a strong group of nurses and they have stepped up to many challenges. She thanked the Board for their support. Regarding the health budget, the most changes are shifting staff and their assignments with students.

Item 4 – Pupil Personnel Budget

Mrs. Petersen said this budget is for psychologists, social workers and guidance counselors, and nurses.

Ms. Zukowski asked who supports this staff.

Dr. Rodrigue said the Human Resource department works to get whatever resources they need. We have funds in the budget for these and have had grants for things like yoga for stress relief.

Ms. Zukowski asked that regarding special education and pupil personnel if there was an overlap there in monitoring the SRBI process.

Mrs. Petersen said the social workers and psychologists work with students with IEPs. Counselors work with students in SRBI who are not identified as needing special education services.

Item 6 – Curriculum and Instruction Budget

Mrs. Uberti, Assistant Superintendent, presented her budget. She thanked our incredible staff who continues to move forward to update curriculum and learn new practices to identify student needs.

The goal of this budget is to develop and implement a rigorous academic curriculum and ensure that all staff use effective instructional tools, best practices, assessment data and intervention resources to improve academic standing and inspire students to excel. Mrs. Uberti spoke about the four budgetary categories which are staff and curriculum development, staff training, contracted services, and textbooks.

Mrs. Harriman mentioned the curriculum audit for DEI and that looking at our curriculum will be a huge job. She asked if she would need any funding to support that process

Mrs. Uberti was looking into doing some of that this year. Some additional funds are available and she is contacting EdAdvance to do that work in-house. We have a lot of formal curriculum and the work would be ongoing.

Mrs. Harriman asked her to let the Board know if she needed any additional dollars for that work.

Item 7 – Public Participation

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

Item 8 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Donald Ramsey
Secretary

Newtown High School



2022-2023 Budget

Budget Drivers

- Needs based on school and district strategic plans and objectives and State-mandates
- Ensure all programs have adequate resources to maintain a safe, inclusive, and a high level of instruction
- Technology and platforms necessary to ensure online access and equity to all students
- Class size and enrollment across the disciplines
- Contractual (certified and non-certified contracts, increases in other contracts such as transportation and insurance)

Proposed 2022-2023 Budget

Reductions

- ❖ Certified Positions
 - ✓ 1.0 FTE- Science
 - ✓ .40 FTE- Social Studies
- ❖ Tuition
 - ✓ Region 14
- ❖ Contracted Services
 - ✓ Math XL

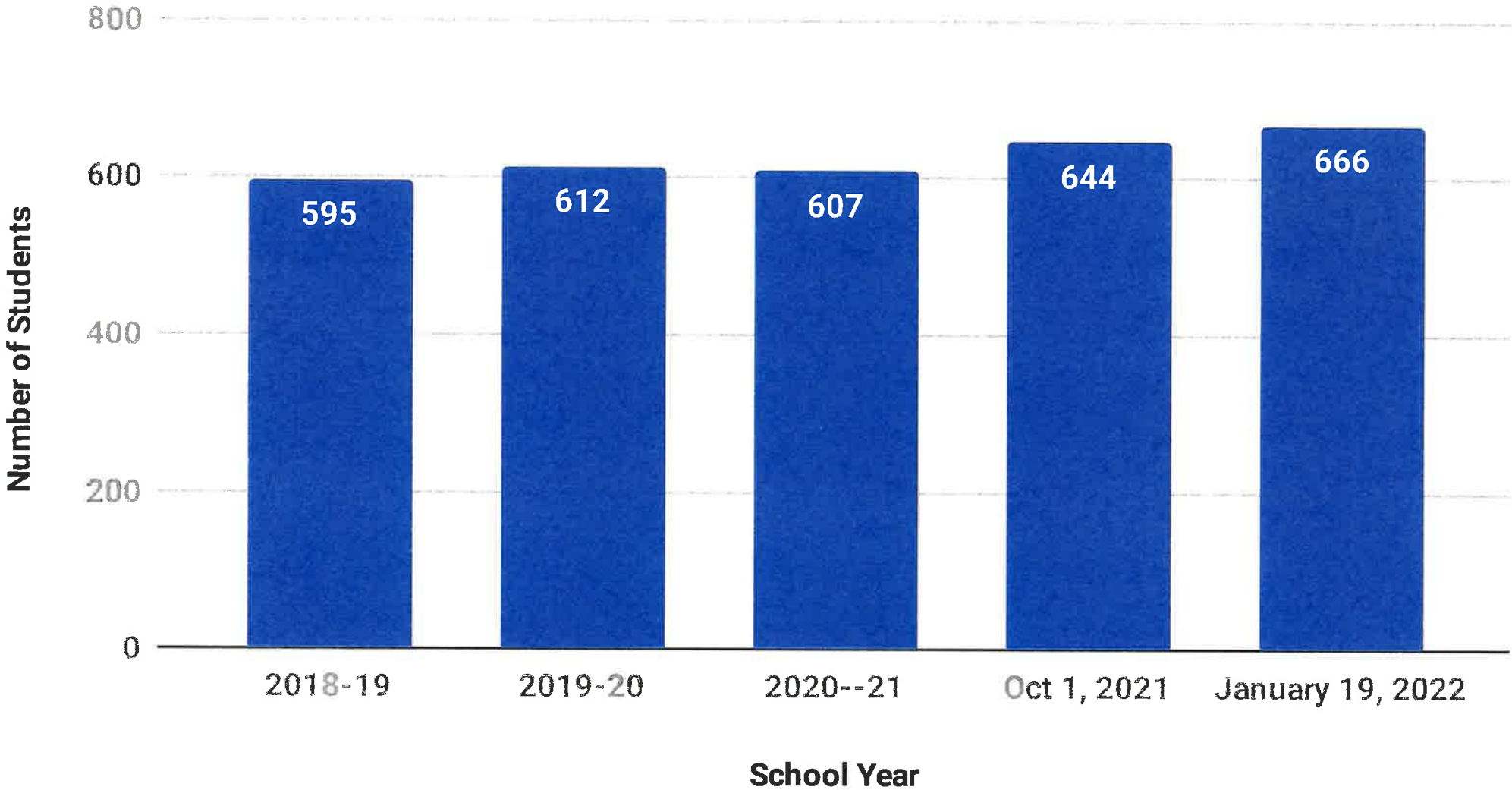
Additions

- ❖ Equipment
 - ✓ Shot Clocks (Athletics)
 - ✓ Alto Saxophone (Music)
- ❖ Contracted Services
 - ✓ Rosetta Stone (IT)
 - ✓ GameMaker/Yoyo (IT)
 - ✓ Chief Architect (IT)
 - ✓ SolidWorks (IT)
 - ✓ Kahoot
- ❖ Staffing
 - ✓ Morning Monitors

Class sizes and Enrollment

	2021-2022 Actual (1398 Students)			2022-2023 Projected (1331 Students)		
	Students	Sections	Average	Students	Sections	Average
Department	(FTE)	(FTE)		(FTE)	(FTE)	
Science	1447	78	18.55	1374	74	18.56
Social Studies	1577	73	21.60	1498	71	21.09

District SPED Numbers



Curriculum & Instruction Budget Proposal 2022-2023

Anne Uberti
Assistant Superintendent
Presentation to the Board of Education
January 21, 2021

Goal of the 22-23 Budget:

Strategic Plan: Objective 1, Strategy 1:

“We will develop and implement a rigorous academic curriculum and ensure that all staff use effective instructional tools, best practices, assessment data and intervention resources to improve academic standing and inspire students to excel.”

Four budgetary categories:

Staff & Curriculum Development
Staff Training
Contracted Services
Textbooks

Staff & Curriculum Development:

Curriculum Development

- Revisions to grades 1 & 2 social studies
- Anticipated revisions to K-2 reading
- Revisions to grade 7 & 8 science
- Finalize grade 7 & 8 English language arts
- Revisions to HS courses in English, social studies and science
- Development of a new Linear Algebra
- Development of 2 new senior electives

Staff & Curriculum Development:

Staff Development

- Coordinators to develop and lead in-house staff training and support
- New Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM)
- Summer planning for K-4 Leadership Teams
- Payment for required summer training for NMS Project Adventure teachers

Staff & Curriculum Development:

Subject & Planning Committees

- English Language Arts
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- Digital Literacy & Technology
- Curriculum Development Council
- Professional Development & Evaluation
- Elementary Cross Grade Level Meetings

Staff Training

- ❖ Project Adventure Workshop
- ❖ Consultants to Work with NHS Science Teachers
- ❖ Staff training at Regional Conferences: Connecticut Reading Conference, New England Association of Teachers of Mathematics Conference
- ❖ Attendance at national ASCD conference
- ❖ Convocation/Election Day Speaker/Presenter Fees
- ❖ Second Year Implementation Support for Bridges
- ❖ First Year Implementation Support for 6-8 Math Program
- ❖ Consultant to facilitate development of NPS Vision of a Graduate
- ❖ Professional Development for ESL Teachers (English as a Second Language)

Contracted Services

- ❖ Rubicon Atlas
- ❖ Dibels
- ❖ Seesaw
- ❖ Screencastify
- ❖ BrainPop
- ❖ IXL
- ❖ Newsela
- ❖ Achieve 3000
- ❖ Learning A to Z

Textbooks

- ❖ Grade 7 Materials for New Math Resource
- ❖ Mystery Science
- ❖ New Edition of AP Economics textbooks

QUESTIONS

