

# BOE BUDGET 2013-2014

## NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

### BUDGET PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

The Board of Education unanimously passed the 2013-2014 budget. All of the Board’s Budget Goals are represented in this budget and we feel it will move the district forward.

For the past two budget cycles, the administration and school principals have produced budgets with little beyond contractual obligations. Additions have been limited in order to focus on the district’s initiatives, including Full Day Kindergarten. The 2012-2013 budget was cut during a series of referenda with the final amount too low to implement Full Day Kindergarten. In order to cover contractual agreements for the current year, the Board of Education needed to make cuts to Building & Site and Technology. The 2013-2014 budget focuses on district initiatives but also gets us back on track by covering for two years of Building & Site and Technology needs as well as including funds for additional security.



During the Board’s budget deliberations, the school principals were asked what things they had to leave out to keep the budget focused on the district initiatives. The principals listed items and staff that were requested in previous years but held back this year to ensure their other priorities were handled. The Board of Education appreciates the efforts of the principals and agrees with the school administration that the current initiatives, including Full Day Kindergarten, are a must.

#### FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2013

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- \* Budget passed to Board of Finance
- \* BOF Recommendations go to Legislative Council.
- \* Legislative Council sets final details for Town Vote.

Feb. 26	Board of Finance-BOE presentation
Feb. 28	BOF: Board of Selectmen Budget
Mar. 6	BOF: BOE budget discussion
Mar. 11	BOF: Budget Vote

### BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET GOALS

The Board of Education developed a set of goals to help focus the 2013-2014 budget. The goals come from our Strategic Plan for improving education and the state’s evolving requirements along with increased security needs.

- Adequate funding to meet the needs of our students and staff resulting from the events of December 14, 2012
- Newtown School District’s Strategic Plan, including Full Day Kindergarten
- Our Increased Graduation Requirements
- NEASC Accreditation Artifact Preparation
- An Educational Infrastructure, including Professional Development, to support:
  - Maintenance of existing and expanding technology requirements (including BYOD)
  - Mandated system requirements of Common Core State Standards (especially testing)
  - Implementation of recommended security measures that may exceed existing systems
  - Provisions for the new teacher evaluation plan

## BUDGET DRIVERS

This year's budget increase primarily breaks down across a few major budget categories. The needs are fed by the budget goals, contractual requirements and infrastructure needs.

### Budget Goals

- Security guards (12) \$250,000
- Full Day Kindergarten \$232,514
- New staff \$625,902

### Infrastructure

- Textbooks \$84,170
- Building & Site \$727,500
- Technology Equipment \$381,533

### Contractual Requirements

- Salary increases \$970,102
- Benefits \$354,476
- Out of Town Tuition \$535,794
- Transportation \$85,480
- Contracted services/curriculum \$83,900



## BIFURCATION

This year it is particularly important to be involved as the Town Charter has been revised to split the budget into separate questions for municipal (Board of Selectmen) and education (Board of Education) funding. The ballot will also include advisory questions related to the budget amounts. Being involved with the budget process will help you decide how best to answer those budget questions.

The Bifurcation language can be found on the town website under the Town Charter New Language link ([http://www.newtown-ct.gov/Public\\_Documents/NewtownCT\\_WebDocs/New%20Charter.pdf](http://www.newtown-ct.gov/Public_Documents/NewtownCT_WebDocs/New%20Charter.pdf)).

During this first referendum with the new advisory questions, it will be important for you to decide how you feel your answer will be interpreted, particularly if you feel a budget amount is correct. After choosing yes/no on the budget amounts, you can also answer advisory questions about those amounts. Because the advisory questions ask if each amount is "too low," you will need to decide what your response means in the event that a portion of the budget does not pass.

## SECURITY

Additional security for the 2013-2014 school year will be paid for in both the school (Board of Education) and municipal (Board of Selectmen) sides of the town budget. The Board of Education budget includes funds for 12 additional security guards beyond the 2012-2013 security staff of 4. This security will be in addition to the School Resource Officers (SROs) that the Police department provides through the municipal budget. The Board of Education has requested that the town provide 4 additional SROs beyond the 3 we have now so that there will be one at each school. The municipal budget must include funding for the additional SROs in order for them to be available to the school district. The Board of Finance will be considering how to add that funding to the existing municipal budget.

Beyond the budget, the Board of Education has requested funds through a federal grant cover the cost of additional security personnel and equipment.

## MORE INFORMATION

Contact the Newtown Board of Education by email: [newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us)

Get the latest budget updates on twitter: [@NewtownBOE](https://twitter.com/NewtownBOE)

Check the town meeting calendar: [http://www.newtown-ct.gov/Public\\_Documents/index](http://www.newtown-ct.gov/Public_Documents/index)

View town board meeting videos: [http://www.newtown-ct.gov/Public\\_Documents/NewtownCT\\_WebDocs/videoarchivent](http://www.newtown-ct.gov/Public_Documents/NewtownCT_WebDocs/videoarchivent)

Read BOE Agenda and Minutes:

<http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us/DistrictInformation/BoardofEducation/BoardMinutes20122013/tabid/18642/Default.aspx>

Find BOE Budget Information including the [Budget Calendar](#):

<http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us/DistrictInformation/BoardofEducation/BOEBudgets/tabid/4494/Default.aspx>