

Newtown Board of Education
3 Primrose Street
Newtown, CT 06470

February 13, 2015

Dear Board of Finance and Legislative Council Members:

On February 5th, the Board of Education adopted a budget for the 2015-2016 school year of \$72,253,488. The budget represents the original recommendation of the Superintendent, Dr. Erardi, along with reductions found through on-going refinement of the budget details. Budget increases come from existing contracts and negotiated labor costs along with increases in out-of-district tuition and replacement of services previously covered by the district SERV grant. Budget savings have come from a net reduction of 13 staff positions due to declining enrollment.

The budget also includes initiatives which continue to *inspire each student to excel*, as described in the mission statement of the Newtown Public Schools. With this budget, the Board of Education is recommending support for the NICE program and a kindergarten language immersion pilot along with other educational support for teaching and learning.

The Superintendent and Board of Education have worked hard to develop a responsible budget that maintains our commitment to students and our commitment to taxpayers.

Enclosed, the Board of Education submits a budget with an increase of \$908,184 (1.27%) over the current 2014-2015 budget for your consideration. We feel we are continuing to address the concern of spending in light of declining enrollment while continuing our pursuit of rigorous education for our students. We will continue to evaluate spending to remain an efficient school district throughout the budget process and into future budget cycles.

Sincerely,

Keith Alexander
Chair, Newtown Board of Education