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The PIN is 313 762 248#

Board of Education Special Meeting  
August 13, 2024

Council Chambers  
3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT  
7:00 p.m.

*As citizens of our community, we will conduct ourselves in accordance with Newtown's Core Character Attributes as displayed in our character tree. We will be responsible for our actions and show respect for each other. We will interact peacefully, productively, and politely. We will be trustworthy and honest and show compassion toward others. Newtown's continued success is contingent upon our ability to persevere, to follow through with our commitments, and to stay focused on the greater good.*

## AGENDA

- Item 1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- Item 2 CONSENT AGENDA
  - Donation to Reed Intermediate School
  - Correspondence Report
- Item 3 \*\*PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- Item 4 VOTE TO FILL BOARD OF EDUCATION VACANCY
- Item 5 REPORTS
  - Chair Report
  - Superintendent's Report
  - Committee and Liaison Reports
- Item 6 OLD BUSINESS
- Item 7 NEW BUSINESS
  - Action on Continuation of School Activities Funds
  - Action on Authorization of Signatures Requirement
  - Discussion and Possible Action on the Ratified Nurses Contract
  - Action on Minutes of July 9, 2024
  - Action on Minutes of July 29, 2024
  - Action on Minutes of August 8, 2024
- Item 8 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- Item 9 ADJOURNMENT

*\*\*During the first Public Participation, the Board welcomes commentary regarding items on the agenda. After being recognized, please state your name and address for the record. We request that speakers be respectful and limit comments to not more than three minutes. The Board of Education does not discuss personnel items or student matters in public. During the second Public Participation, commentary may address the agenda or may introduce issues for the Board to consider in the future. The Board does not engage in dialogue during either public comment period. If you desire more information or answers to specific questions, please email the BOE: [NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us)*

# Reed Intermediate School

3 Trades Lane, Newtown, CT 06470  
Phone: (203) 270-4880 Fax: (203) 270-4899  
[ris.newtown.k12.ct.us](http://ris.newtown.k12.ct.us)

Dr. Matt Correia, Principal  
Ms. Jenna Connors, Assistant Principal



**To:** Board of Education  
**From:** Reed Intermediate School  
**Date:** July 23, 2024

Please be advised that Reed Intermediate School received a violin donation from Cindy Stango. \$300 Value

Cindy lives in Newtown and her address information is as follows:

Cindy Stango  
15 Charter Ridge Road  
Sandy Hook, CT 06480

Please let me know if you need further information.  
Thank you very much.

Mandi Poseno  
Executive Administrative Assistant

**NPS**  
**Newtown Public Schools**  
**Activity Accounts**  
**Period Ending June 30, 2024**

Hawley School  
*Acct# 729519990*  
Managed by: Secretary  
Approved by: Principal  
Current Balance: \$5,827.68

Middle School  
*Acct# 729519974*  
Managed by: Secretary  
Approved by: Principal  
Current Balance: \$69,063.81

Sandy Hook School  
*Acct# 729519931*  
Managed by: Secretary  
Approved by: Principal  
Current Balance: \$5,379.57

High School  
*Acct# 729519624*  
Managed by: Secretary  
Approved by: Principal  
Current Activity Balance: \$481,818.35  
Bond: \$196,241.60  
Total Account: \$678,059.95

Middle Gate School  
*Acct# 701053826*  
Managed by: Secretary  
Approved by: Principal  
Current Balance: \$4,896.13

Custodial Account  
*Acct# 729516781*  
Managed by: Assistant Business Director  
Approved by: Director of Business  
Current Balance: \$81,944.71

Head O'Meadow  
*Acct# 729519851*  
Managed by: Secretary  
Approved by: Principal  
Current Balance: \$815.79

Continuing Education  
*Acct# 729519755*  
Managed by: Bookkeeper  
Approved by: Director of Continuing Ed  
Current Balance: \$137,571.73

Reed Intermediate  
*Acct# 729519966*  
Managed by: Secretary  
Approved by: Principal  
Current Balance: \$49,174.00

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

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on July 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT.

A. Plante, Chair	J. Paddyfote
J. Vouros, Vice Chair	A. Uberti
D. Ramsey, Secretary	T. Gouveia
S. Tomai (absent)	1 Public
C. Gilson	1 Press
D. Linnetz	
B. Leonardi	

Mrs. Plante called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item 1 – Pledge of Allegiance

Item 2 – Legislative Update

Representatives Mitch Bolinsky and Marty Foncello provided a legislative update.

Representative Bolinsky provided information excerpts from the Office of Legislative Research containing the major public acts regarding education. Representative Foncello spoke about education and early childhood issues with the need for providing funding to have better services for children, which will attract companies to locate in Connecticut.

Representative Bolinsky spoke about the serious problem with the childcare shortage and the importance of special education services for children with disabilities. The major public acts discussed were the Mandate Review Council, the grant for magnet schools and vo-ag centers, the Pledge to Advance CT (PACT) Program, teacher certification changes which makes it easier for teachers from out of state to transfer to Connecticut schools, Child Sexual Abuse Prevention, measures related to disconnected youth to help children reconnect to attending school, and new laws related to early childhood care and education.

Representative Foncello feels we need to make high school students aware of three options they have after graduating which are going to college, joining the military, or other career paths where they can have a career, for example, at Sikorsky's where they provide training. It's important that students be identified as to what path they go on.

Representative Bolinsky agreed that skilled trades need to be developed. Curtis Packaging is also an example of a business that trains their employees.

Mr. Vouros commented that we have many students following the three choices after high school.

Item 3 – Consent Agenda

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda which includes the donation to Hawley School and the correspondence report. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 4 – Public Participation

Item 5 – Reports

Chair Report: Mrs. Plante welcomed Dr. Paddyfote and appreciated her being here.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Paddyfote said she was learning everyone's roles and responsibilities in central office and meeting with the principals in their schools. We will be sure to have a smooth and successful opening.

Committees and Liaison Reports:

Mr. Gilson noted that CABA is having a new board member orientation and leadership conference on August 8. He attended one which he found was very helpful and would share the information with Mr. Leonardi.

Mrs. Plante reported that CABA is also running workshops on school finances if anyone is interested.

Item 6 – Old Business

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve Policy 6114 Security and Safety. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve Policy 6114.1 Fire Emergency Drills/Crisis Response Drills/Bus Safety Drills. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education rescind Policy 6114.7 School Security and Safety. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve Policy 6115 Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Vouros seconded.

Mrs. Linnetz explained that the alternate language was discussed at the last Board meeting and we decided to add it to the policy.  
Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve Policy 6121 Nondiscrimination in the Instructional Program. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 7 – New Business

2024-2025 Tuition:

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education set the tuition for the 2024-2025 school year at \$23,282. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Ms. Gouveia said each year the Board sets the non-resident tuition rate, which is based on our budget, the Board of Education debt, and divided by our projected enrollment. Full-time employees who are not residents receive a 25% discount on the amount. If we increased it by 3%, which is more consistent with the previous increases, the amount would be \$22,145.

Mr. Leonardi asked if the tuition rate offsets any expense the town incurs as a result of having that additional student.

Ms. Gouveia said we could use the per pupil expenditure but wasn't sure if that was the exact cost per pupil. She surveyed other district and they have many different amounts. Some have a set rate but they vary and many use a similar formula or have a static rate. If students needed

special education services parents would have to pay for them also. We currently have seven students of employees. This money goes to the town.

Mr. Gilson asked if the amount could be more predictable so parents have the amount for planning.

Ms. Gouveia said it could be a policy change for the percentage.

Mr. Ramsey spoke about the correlation between absenteeism of teachers and if having the benefit of students going to school here that might reduce that burden and help employees.

Mrs. Gouveia felt that would be a hard analysis. The Board can set a rate to put in the policy as a consistent percentage each year.

Mrs. Linnetz doesn't think we have a policy related to this and is reluctant to look at a policy for seven students out of our 4,000. She is sensitive to what Mr. Ramsey was talking about and sensitive to the people who live here and pay taxes to send their children to our schools.

Ms. Gouveia said we have a tuition policy but it doesn't address the percentage increases.

Mr. Ramsey suggested reviewing the policy and possibly modifying it.

Mrs. Linnetz said her concerns are the factors that change on an annual basis. We can discuss it with the policy committee.

Ms. Gouveia would look at another calculation some district are using and bring it to the Policy Committee.

MOTION: Mr. Gilson moved to amend the motion to set the tuition rate to \$22,145. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Mr. Leonardi wasn't clear on what the cost per student is for those who are residents of the town so he isn't sure what percentage is appropriate. There are incremental costs with having additional students in the district. He wants a better understanding of what it costs per resident and how the calculation is proportionate to that. He needs a comparison for town residents and out of district residents.

Ms. Gouveia said we have to look at the debt number in the budget. The per pupil expenditure is close to our tuition amount.

Mr. Leonardi stated that we went through a contentious budget process this year and its difficult for him to have a defensible argument with a resident that an employee is paying less to educate their child.

Mr. Ramsey said the point of optics is caring for staff and that the Board sensitive to their plight. There's a very low number of staff we are dealing with and hopes the public understands.

Mrs. Plante noted the actual out of pocket with the 8% increase is \$284 per student for a difference of only \$1,900. Another option is to make it 5% to get the numbers back in line again.

Mr. Vouros said they are bringing their children here because of the quality of education and should come for free.

MOTION: Mr. Gilson moved to amend the motion to set the tuition at \$22,575. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Vote: 5 ayes, 1 nay (Mr. Leonardi) Motion passes.

Action on Minutes:

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of June 18, 2024. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of June 24, 2024. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of June 27, 2024. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 8 – Public Participation

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

Item 9 - Adjournment

8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Donald Ramsey  
Secretary

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Board of Education  
Newtown, Connecticut**

Minutes of the special Board of Education meeting held on June 29, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT.

A. Plante, Chair	J. Paddyfote
J. Vouros, Vice Chair	A. Uberti
S. Tomai	T. Gouveia
C. Gilson	50 Staff
D. Linnetz	10 Public
B. Leonardi	1 Press

Mrs. Plante called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item 1 – Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Plante welcomed everyone and spoke about the importance of the superintendent position. She thanked the Board members for serving as the search committee and also thanked the co-chairs, Dr. Gilson, Mr. Ramsey, and the CABA search consultant, Dr. Mary Broderick. She also thanked Mr. Ramsey for his years of service to the Newtown schools as a teacher and Board member.

Item 2 – Appointment of Superintendent

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz MOVED, that the Board of Education appoint Anne Uberti as Superintendent of Schools, effective August 5, 2024 and continuing through June 30, 2027, subject to the following conditions:

1. satisfactory completion of all statutory requirements concerning the hiring of Board of Education employees; and
2. Ms. Uberti's agreement to the terms and conditions set forth in the proposed contract of employment between the Board and Ms. Uberti; and

MOVED FURTHER that the Board Chairperson be authorized to finalize and execute such proposed employment contract on behalf of the Board.

Mr. Vouros seconded.

Dr. Gilson spoke about the superintendent search. The appointment of JeanAnn Paddyfote as interim superintendent provided excellent leadership and experience, and allowed the Board time for careful and thorough consideration of candidates leaving the district in capable hands. The search began in April and an updated survey was provided to the school community with 300 plus responses. These responses highlighted certain needs the community felt were critical. Five candidates were interviewed initially and four were selected for a second round interview. He feels that Mrs. Uberti was clearly the best choice. She is a competent leader and has a deep commitment to the Newtown children. He looks forward to working with her to facilitate her vision for the district.



Mr. Vouros welcomed Mrs. Uberti to her new assignment with great anticipation of tackling the challenges that are apparent and maximizing the initiatives geared to raising the bar of each child's needs. He trusts her journey will make her proud.

Mr. Leonardi mirrored the comments of Mrs. Plante and said that while his vote will likely differ from his fellow Board of Education colleagues, please know that it is in no way a reflection of Mrs. Uberti. As a newer member of the Board of Education he has not had the opportunity to work closely with her as of yet but through the interview process he has come to admire her commitment to the Newtown school system, its teachers, and especially its students. He is looking forward to working collaboratively with Mrs. Uberti to develop specific measurable and achievable goals for this school district and offered his congratulations.

Mrs. Linnetz thanked Dr. Gilson and Mr. Ramsey for leading us through the search process and the entire Board for the thoughtful dialogue we all engaged in. Thanks also to the candidates and Mrs. Uberti for her many years of service and contributions to Newtown. She looks forward to working with her to move our district forward.

Mrs. Tomai thanked Dr. Gilson and Mr. Ramsey for their help on the search committee and congratulated the Board for finding a wonderful candidate. She looks forward to working with Mrs. Uberti again.

Mrs. Plante had the pleasure of working with Mrs. Uberti the past two years and was incredibly excited to take this vote because she believes she is the right leader for Newtown at this moment. After reviewing the leadership profiles and the results of the community survey, the number one trait was for someone who builds trusting relationships with students, staff and the community, and that is Mrs. Uberti.

Vote: 5 ayes, 1 nay (Mr. Leonardi) Motion passes.

Mrs. Uberti extended her sincere gratitude for the Board's commitment to the students of Newtown. She is honored and humbled to lead this district forward as superintendent and is grateful to have worked with a staff who wants what is best for our schools. Mrs. Uberti is inspired by what all of our staff members do and touched by our families and their commitment to quality education for their students. From visiting our classrooms over the years she has seen that our students are happy and engaged all of the time and she is anxious to get started as superintendent. She also thanked her family for their support over the years. Mrs. Uberti thanked the Board for this opportunity and looks forward to many accomplishments working with them in the years ahead.

MOTION. Mr. Vouros moved to adjourn. Mr. Leonardi seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 3 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Alison Plante  
Chair

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**Board of Education  
Newtown, Connecticut**

Minutes of the special Board of Education meeting held on August 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Conference Room, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, Connecticut.

A. Plante, Chair  
J. Vouros, Vice Chair (absent)  
S. Tomai  
C. Gilson  
D. Linnetz  
B. Leonardi

Item 1 – Call to Order

Mrs. Plante called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education go into executive session to interview candidate(s) to fill the Board of Education vacancy. Mr. Gilson seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 3 – Executive Session

The Board exited executive session at 7:47 p.m.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gilson seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 4 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Alison Plante  
Chair