

**Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut**

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, May 15, 2012, in the board room at 3 Primrose Street.

D. Leidlein, Chair (9:05 p.m.)	J. Robinson
L. Roche, Vice Chair	L. Gejda
C. McCubbin, Secretary	R. Bienkowski
R. Gaines	2 Staff
W. Hart (absent)	40 Public
K. Alexander	1 Press
J. Vouros	

Mrs. Roche called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and stated that Mrs. Leidlein would be late.

Item 1 – Approve Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Gaines moved to approve the minutes of May 1, 2012. Mr. Vouros seconded. Vote: 4 ayes, 1 abstained (Mr. McCubbin)

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved to approve the minutes of May 8, 2012. Mr. Vouros seconded. Vote: 3 ayes, 2 abstained (Mr. McCubbin, Mr. Gaines)

Item 2 – Consent Agenda

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved to approve the consent agenda which included the donation to Newtown Middle School, the resignation of Annette Chionilos, teacher at Newtown High School, the spring football coaches, the resignation for retirement of Janet Huot, teacher at Sandy Hook School, and the non-renewal of John Quinn as head coach of the boys' basketball. Mr. Gaines seconded. Vote: 5 ayes

Item 3 – Public Participation - None

Item 4 – Reports

Correspondence:

Mr. McCubbin stated that there were a total of 54 emails back to last month. 36 emails addressed the proposed bus schedule changes, 3 were against the budget increase, 1 was in favor of the budget increase, 5 were for full day kindergarten, and 9 for miscellaneous subjects.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Robinson spoke about the Western Connecticut Superintendents' Association award ceremony which was held on May 14. Two seniors, Michael Mossbarger and Alexandra Kennedy, and two eighth graders, Matthew Ingwersen and Madeline Sieber, received the awards for their academic achievements and leadership contributions.

Today the governor signed the Connecticut education bill. We are ahead in some areas like PLCs and teacher evaluation.

There was a ceremony at the middle school honoring fall responders and their families from 9-11. Reed Bryant, eighth grade student, created a presentation of the Freedom Tower project.

There was a performance at the high school by the CanDoo Band which comprised of students with Williams's Syndrome.

We have been selected to take part in international testing in the fall with 45 fifteen year old students.

Item 6 - New Business

First Read of Policies 9212 through 9400:

The Board went over policies 9212 through 9400 for the first read.

Item 4 – Reports (continued)

Financial Report and Transfers:

Mr. Bienkowski went over the financial report which showed the projected balance decrease of \$63,000. We've spend \$6.2M since March which includes our final self-insurance payment of \$1.5M. The excess cost grant amount will be \$37,153 less than our prior estimate. He also spoke about moving ahead with projects before the end of the year. The Board can request that the Board of Finance create a non-lapsing account for the deposit of unexpended education funds. There is an emergency replacement needed for the high school UPS system for \$40,000.

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved to approve the financial report and transfers for the month ending April 30, 2012. Mr. Gaines seconded.

Mr. McCubbin asked if the check registers could be put on the web site.

Dr. Robinson would see if that was possible as space can be an issue.

Vote: 5 ayes

Mr. Bienkowski spoke about an energy savings plan from CL & P which is a conservation fund initiative. They conducted a review of electrical components for each elementary school and found we could save approximately \$32,000 and our energy costs would go down immediately once we start anticipated projects at these schools.

Item 5 – Old Business

Nurse Positions:

Dr. Robinson said the Board only needs to approve the nurse for Head O'Meadow School as the other position was approved in the budget. We contract through an agency for \$45.00 per hour. We would see a \$10,000 savings plus have our own nurse.

MOTION: Mr. Gaines moved to approve hiring a school nurse to fill the Head O'Meadow IEP requirement. Mr. Alexander seconded. Vote: 5 ayes

Copier Contract:

Mr. Bienkowski went over the comparison material from the two copier companies.

Mr. Vouros was concerned about copier breakdowns in the schools.

Mr. Bienkowski said we have had a new machine for three or four months in the middle school with no breakdowns. It's up to us to be sure the staff is trained to operate the machines. We will also get loaners when needed.

Mrs. Roche suggested a complaint system be in each school with concerns passed along to Dr. Robinson.

Dr. Robinson stated that problems should be directed to Barbara Bozeman in the business office so we can keep track of complaints. Dr. Robinson said she would set up a communication for copier complaints and keep track because that was not something that was being funneled to us.

Ms. Roche asked once the copier complaint system is set up if Dr. Robinson can share it with the board. Dr. Robinson replied absolutely.

Current Expenditure Balance Disposition:

MOTION: Mr. Gaines moved that the Board of Education authorize the expenditure of projected year-end balance funds from the 2011-12 fiscal year to be spent in priority order listed for Building & Site maintenance projects and technology. These expenditures shall be within the actual remaining balance, estimated in March to be \$222,000. The Board will be updated on the actual disposition of funds at each subsequent Board of Education meeting. The funds will be expended equally to the extent possible between the two departments. Mr. Alexander seconded. Vote: 5 ayes

Mr. Bienkowski said this amount has been reduced by \$40,000 for replacing the UPS system at the high school. The next priorities would be the licensing at the middle school, refinishing the gym floor at the middle school, and replacing desktops at the middle school teacher stations. He could begin arranging for these in the next week.

Mrs. Roche was concerned about passing this since the budget failed again and thought it better to wait until we know the final budget.

Mr. Gaines said regardless of the budget these are this year's funds. We shouldn't wait for important things like the technology licensing.

Vote: 5 ayes

Item 6 – New Business (continued)

MOTION: Mr. Gaines moved that the Board of Education award the five-year Athletic and Field Trip Contract to All Star Transportation based on the trip prices included in its bid dated May 9, 2012. Mr. Alexander seconded.

Mr. Bienkowski said this contract takes us below the current rate over the next five years and is a good deal for taxpayers. All Star will provide air conditioned buses with luggage storage.

Mr. McCubbin asked how many companies we submitted this to.

Mr. Bienkowski said Fran McCutcheon Transportation got a copy of the specs. He met with her but she didn't indicate whether she was going to bid. MTM had copies also but did not inquire about the contract.

Vote: 5 ayes

Item 7 – Public Participation

Joe DeVellis, 44 Key Rock Road, has two sons in the high school and two that graduated. He was following up on the bullying issue which Board said they would investigate. He questioned why bullying was removed from the last meeting. This Board and the Superintendent need to address this issue. Show that you have zero tolerance when it comes to bullying.

Griselle Santos, 13 Shut Road, is waiting to hear what will be done regarding the bullying issue. She received a letter from Dr. Robinson the week of spring break that confirmed her son was bullied. She wants to help resolve her son's problems. The community needs to get together so changes are made.

Mike Troy, Yogananda Street, is Vice President of Oce North America. He thanked the Board for their continued business. They will deal with service issues and support us going forward in dealing with issues mentioned tonight.

Trace Fiori, 19 Taunton Lake Drive, works at the middle school as an EA. We have all been trained under the Safe School Climate policy but we aren't telling the children what this policy is. She urged that there is some education for the students.

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved to adjourn. Mr. Gaines seconded. Vote: 6 ayes

Item 8 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Cody McCubbin
Secretary

**NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BUSINESS OFFICE
3 PRIMROSE STREET
NEWTOWN, CT 06470**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 27, 2012
TO: The Board of Education 
FROM: Ron Bienkowski, Director of Business
SUBJECT: Year-End Expenditure Balance

At the last Board meeting I indicated that we needed guidance on how we should plan on using any remaining balances from this fiscal year for the benefit of education.

I had suggested spending on plant maintenance projects and technology and I was directed to present priorities for the Board's consideration.

Attached is the project list, with priorities assigned, that was cut from next year's budget. Following that is a technology recommendation.

Any selected items will need lead time to plan so it is appropriate to make decisions now.

RB:bb
Attachments

Copy: Janet Robinson, Superintendent of Schools
Gino Faiella, Director of Facilities
Carmella Amodeo, Director of Technology

**NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT**

PLANT OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

SELECTED DETAILS

450 - BUILDING & SITE MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

	HAWLEY SCHOOL	27,500	TOTAL 450 - BUILDING & SITE MAINTENANCE PROJECTS FOR 2012-13	
2	REPLACE STAIR B MULTIPURPOSE ROOM EGRESS	25,000		
	INSTALL SECURITY COVERS AT FIRE PULL STATIONS	2,500		
	SANDY HOOK SCHOOL	80,000		
9	REPAINT ALL INTERNAL STEEL DOORS & FRAMES	28,000		
12	ELECTRICAL UPGRADE AND UPS TO SUPPORT PHONE SYSTEM	22,000		
	CARPET/FLOORING REPLACEMENT PROGRAM	20,000		
10	REPLACE CABINETS & COUNTERS IN CLASSROOMS - PHASE I	10,000		
	MIDDLE GATE SCHOOL	35,000	TOTAL ALL LOCATIONS	594,500
	CARPET/FLOORING REPLACEMENT PROGRAM	20,000		
	REPLACE CEILINGS IN MAIN OFFICE, LIBRARY & REAR HALL	15,000		
	HEAD O' MEADOW SCHOOL	50,000		
8	REPAINT EXTERIOR DOORS, FRAMES, WINDOW FRAMES	20,000		
	INSTALL ACCESS TO REAR BUILDING - STONE DRIVE	15,000		
6	REPLACE SIDEWALKS AT FRONT ISLAND	15,000		
	REED INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL	25,000		
7	REPAINT LOWER LEVEL LOCKERS	25,000		
	NEWTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL	219,000		
	PAVE FRONT PARKING LOT/REAR ACCESS ROAD	110,000		
	CARPET/FLOORING REPLACEMENT PROGRAM	30,000		
3	REPLACE CONCRETE STAIRS AT C WING	30,000		
	UPGRADE BATHROOMS IN WING A, 2ND FLOOR	25,000		
1	STRIP & REFINISH A GYM FLOOR TO BLEND REPAIR	14,000		
	INSTALL SOUND SYSTEM IN AUDITORIUM	10,000		
	NEWTOWN HIGH SCHOOL	158,000		
	VISITOR BLEACHERS -FINAL PHASE	45,000		
11	UPGRADE SOUND SYSTEM FOR AUDITORIUM - PHASE I	45,000		
4	REPLACE EXISTING UPS FOR DATA CENTER - CRITICAL SYSTEM	38,000		
5	CONNECT CULINARY REFRIGERATION TO GENERATOR	30,000		
	SYSTEM WIDE	0		
	TOTAL	302,000		

	HAWLEY SCHOOL	27,500
	SANDY HOOK SCHOOL	80,000
	MIDDLE GATE SCHOOL	35,000
	HEAD O' MEADOW SCHOOL	50,000
	REED INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL	25,000
	NEWTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL	219,000
	NEWTOWN HIGH SCHOOL	158,000
	SYSTEM WIDE	0
	TOTAL ALL LOCATIONS	594,500
	Board Cut	(498,000)
	Remaining 12-13	96,500

	96,500	2012-13 Budgeted remaining
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Newtown Public Schools
Technology Department

Prioitized Technology Request for 2012-2011 dollars

1	Licensing for Virtual desktops for NMS ACAD VDI-in-a-box concurrent user 200 for NMS to be used by students. Eliminates immediate need to replace obsolete student desktops	\$35,800.00
2	Desktops to replace NMS teacher stations 26 needed to complete rollout	\$20,930.00
3	Epes move to be hosted by Vendor Eliminates the use of stand-alone copies for School activities accounting	\$1,548.00
4	SNAP move to hosted by Vendor - Eliminates need to replace Dell server bought in 2005	\$5,790.00
5	Replace 58 obsolete NHS staff laptops	\$57,942.00
6	Replace obsolete desktops in two NHS labs	\$41,860.00
7	Destiny move to hosted by Vendor Allows server purchased in 2009 to replace another purchased in 2003	\$999.00
8	SHS VoIP - phone system upgrade Continue VoIP roll out in the District - Voicemail system in use with non-VoIP schools is obsolete and no longer serviced by SBC	\$63,438.00
9	Desktops to replace SHS teacher stations 52 desktops	\$41,860.00
	Total Request	<u>\$228,307.00</u>