

**Board of Education  
Newtown, Connecticut**

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting on Thursday, June 14, 2012, in the board room at 3 Primrose Street.

D. Leidlein, Chair	J. Robinson
L. Roche, Vice Chair	L. Gejda
C. McCubbin, Secretary)	R. Bienkowski
R. Gaines	2 Staff
W. Hart	30 Public
K. Alexander (absent)	2 Press
J. Vouros	

Item 1 – Call to Order

Mrs. Leidlein called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m. and stated that this meeting was to get a better idea of where we were on the budget.

Item 2 – 2012-2013 Budget Discussion

Mr. Bienkowski spoke about the same services budget recap he provided beginning with the budget as of January 31, 2012. The proposed budget increase was \$2,084,367 and the same services budget was \$1,536,996. After additional adjustments, the adjusted increase was \$704,544. The proposed increase after the reduction of \$1.7M was \$384,367. The shortfall became \$320,177. Taking off the \$200,000 our shortfall becomes \$120,177 without full day kindergarten.

An additional budget recap was provided which included the full day kindergarten. This shows an additional 5.5 kindergarten teachers and 4.72 educational assistants. The adjusted same services budget increase would be \$717,868. We are also taking out the mid-day transportation run.

The total current cost for half day kindergarten is \$941,035 including teachers, EAs and transportation. The full day adjusted kindergarten program comes to \$1,231,163 after the transportation reduction. The net increase would be \$290,128.

Mr. Gaines asked about the MTM reduction of \$56,610.

Mr. Bienkowski said that the MTM rate was \$97.50 per run when we prepared budget. All Star was \$42.00 per run. This amount is the result of changing those 6 vehicles to the \$42.00 per run for 183 school days.

Mr. Vouros asked if the 5.5 teachers were for new positions.

Dr. Robinson said they were new for full day kindergarten. There would be some shifting around of staff and some will go into those positions. We shouldn't be losing any teachers.

Mr. Gaines asked if the kindergarten enrollment would allow us to eliminate 3 teachers.

Dr. Robinson proceeded to review items on the cuts sheet beginning with item 4 which are specific budget cuts non-instructional and included the transportation coordinator with overtime, the magnet school bus aide, part of the pre-school bus aides, athletic trips and high school textbooks paid with balances in the high school student activities

accounts, and the transportation bond which we feel is not necessary now. These total \$168,700 and none will impact programs.

Mrs. Leidlein asked about the Sandy Hook assistant principal to lead teacher.

Dr. Robinson believes with lowered enrollment we could move from an assistant principal to a lead teacher for a savings of \$75,245.

Mrs. Roche asked the difference in the two positions.

Dr. Robinson said the assistant principal can help with teacher evaluations. The lead teacher will work in the classroom with students, conference with parents and will teach small group 50% of the time. With Scott Clayton becoming principal in Stamford it creates an opening at the high school. The middle school assistant principal, Kathy Boettner, was interested and will move to that position. The assistant principal at Sandy Hook School will replace her position at the middle school.

Mrs. Leidlein said that brings us to \$243,945 and asked for further reductions.

Dr. Robinson stated that watching the enrollment it is possible to eliminate some elementary teachers.

Mr. Hart said there was only a change of 5 students and questioned how we could eliminate teachers.

Dr. Robinson said there are 264 students for kindergarten. We need 3 teachers for Head O'Meadow, 4 for Middle Gate, 4 at Sandy Hook, and 3 at Hawley.

Further reductions could be \$30,700 for high school program reductions, the .2 music position at Sandy Hook for \$21,264 and \$51,760 from instructional supplies.

Mr. Bienkowski said we were now at \$516,369.

Mrs. Leidlein stated that we need a .5 hearing-impaired teacher put back into the budget for \$28,628. Dr. Robinson said this was a mandated position.

Mrs. Roche asked where elementary reductions would be made.

Dr. Robinson said one 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Hawley, a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at Sandy Hook, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Head O'Meadow and a 1<sup>st</sup> grade at Middle Gate.

Mr. Vouros asked about moving the director of music to the classroom.

Dr. Robinson said this would move the current director of music to a teaching position at the high school which would cause us to lose a music teacher. Our most junior teacher at the high school is Jane Matson.

Mr. Gaines asked for more information on the music position changes.

Mr. Vouros referred to the possible elimination of the 2 cluster teachers at Reed.

Dr. Robinson said she would not recommend eliminating these teachers because the enrollment is too high.

Mrs. Roche said the middle school moving up ceremony is \$5,000.

Mrs. Leidlein stated that included additional costs besides the cost of using the facility.

Dr. Robinson said the cost is \$4,250 for the facility. We need to be able to handle 450 plus students with parents.

Mr. Hart asked about the Sandy Hook and Reed library clerks.

Dr. Robinson said they don't work with students but take care of the processing part of running the library.

Mrs. Roche referred to Mr. Bienkowski's recommendation to use \$96,500 for the middle school parking lot and \$103,500 for technology items which total the \$200,000. Additional cuts need to be made that won't impact instruction. The lead teacher reduction is \$75,246

Mr. Vouros suggested looking at the listings in item 5.

Mr. Gaines was concerned about cutting professional development before we knew what that involved.

Mr. Hart wanted to know the impact of cutting afterschool activities.

Mrs. Roche was not comfortable removing those activities.

Dr. Robinson asked the Board to contact Mrs. Leidlein if they needed additional information. Principals will be at the Tuesday night meeting.

Mr. Gaines said we would not act at that meeting.

Mrs. Leidlein stated we could act on some reductions next Tuesday.

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

Item 3 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Cody McCubbin  
Secretary