

Board of Education  
Newtown, Connecticut

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting on Thursday, January 17, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. 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 (7:50 p.m.)	8 Staff
W. Hart	3 Public
K. Alexander	5 Press
J. Vouros	

Mrs. Leidlein called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

Item 2 – Newtown Middle School Budget

Mrs. Leidlein asked if the middle school enrollment figures were based on Chung's report and, since they were, requested actual enrollment numbers.

Mrs. Sherlock said this was a status quo budget but was asking for a world language teacher. They are putting their support in back of full day kindergarten.

Mr. Alexander asked if she had any security needs to add to the budget.

Mrs. Sherlock said they need additional security personnel to man the doors used from 6:30 AM until 10 PM most nights. The SRO is not there in the evening.

Mr. Alexander asked Dr. Robinson if 8 security guards were enough to which she stated she was not sure if that would be adequate to cover the evening.

Mrs. Roche thought when Parks and Rec had a function they took care of watching the doors. That's not really a security person.

Mr. Hart was concerned if the Parks and Rec person was trained for security and, if not, should be trained. Parks and Rec should pay to have one for their events.

Dr. Robinson she doesn't know if 8 will be enough. The security committee should put together a total security plan to bring to the Board.

Mr. McCubbin asked if we knew where the security guards would come from. He feels retired police would be desirable.

Dr. Robinson stated we have 3 retired police at the high school. Retired military is also a suggestion.

Mr. McCubbin asked for the number of students who participate in the activities at the middle school. Mrs. Sherlock said they are well attended by students.

Mr. Hart asked if the middle school had enough counselors.

Mrs. Sherlock said they were fine at this time but feels there should be one in each elementary school.

Mr. Hart asked the difference between an elementary counselor and a social worker.

Mrs. Sherlock stated an elementary counselor has a caseload of the entire school. A social worker takes care of a smaller number of students.

Item 1 – Donations

MOTION: Mrs. Roche moved that the Board of Education accept the donation of 30 security cameras and a keyless entry system for Chalk Hill School from Advanced Security Technologies, Inc. valued at \$113,500. Mr. Gaines seconded.

Mr. Gaines said there are not a lot of cameras at Chalk Hill School. The keyless card system will read teacher IDs for a better level of security. Police will be able to access the cameras as they approach the schools.

7 ayes

MOTION: Mrs. Roche moved that the Board of Education accept the donation of \$5,000 from Shipman and Goodwin for use by the Newtown Public Schools. Mr. Hart seconded.

Vote: 7 ayes

Item 3 – Newtown High School Budget

Mrs. Leidlein asked about the costs involved in NEASC.

Mr. Dumais said that regarding enrollment the high school's budget is based on real numbers which are about 60 students higher than Chung's.

The high school budget includes two .2 positions for the steering committee which is the primary NEASC expense for next year and possibly the following year. The visit is in 2015.

Mr. Dumais expressed a significant need for an assistant principal in looking at the requirements for NEASC, secondary school reform and the new teacher evaluation program. A math position is needed because of high class sizes and a guidance counselor is needed immediately. We are well below the 50% line compared to the DRG in the number of counselors. The position of director of guidance also should be a full year position. We have an inadequate number of support staff and need a head track coach and gymnastics coach.

Items 4, 5 and 6 – Pupil Personnel, Health and Special Education Budgets

Mrs. Haggard spoke about the need to increase nursing for our medically fragile students. We are concerned that we will have to take money from other programs to take care of students in mandated programs. Because of the tragedy at Sandy Hook School we will need to have training for identifying those with mental health needs. We don't know what those costs will be. She spoke about doing a study to see if we are meeting student needs in the community.

Mr. Gaines asked what the contingency would be for the coming year.

Mrs. Haggard said we are dealing with tremendous challenges and the ripple effect. \$200,000 to \$250,000 could be needed but she will come forward with a more accurate amount.

Mr. Vouros reinforced the need to look at the gifted student population.

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved to adjourn. Mr. Hart seconded. Vote: 7 ayes

Item 7 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Cody McCubbin  
Secretary



**SHIPMAN & GOODWIN** LLP®

COUNSELORS AT LAW

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December 21, 2012

Mr. Ron Bienkowski  
Director of Business  
Newtown Board of Education  
3 Primrose Street  
Newtown, CT 06470

Dear Ron:

All of us at Shipman & Goodwin wish to express our deepest condolences to you and to all of the victims and families in Newtown. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

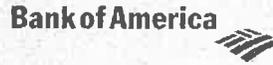
We know that donations will not ease the pain and suffering that is being experienced by so many. However, we hope that the enclosed donation can be used by the Newtown Public Schools to help lessen the burdens brought on by this horrible tragedy.

With deepest sympathies,

Ray Casella



One Constitution Plaza  
Hartford, Connecticut 06103-1919



51-57/119 CT

VOID AFTER 6 MONTHS

269872

Pay: \*\*\*Five thousand and 00/100 Dollars

Date

Amount

12/21/2012 \$\*\*\*\*\*5,000.00

PAY TO THE ORDER OF: NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SHIPMAN & GOODWIN, LLP

TWO SIGNATURES REQUIRED OVER \$20,000.00

By

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