Minutes of the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers at 3 Primrose Street.

Mrs. Leidlein called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

**Item 1 – Consent Agenda**

**MOTION:** Mrs. Roche moved to approve the minutes of May 7, 2013. Mr. Alexander seconded.

*Vote: 4 ayes, 2 abstained (Mrs. Leidlein, Mr. Hart)*

**MOTION:** Mrs. Roche moved to approve the consent agenda which included the high school yearbook students field trip to UConn, the high school western studies and Italian language students field trip to Italy, the donation of $1,000 to the Newtown Pre-school, the donation of an upright piano to Sandy Hook School, the $300 donation to the high school Leo Club, the donation of $500 to the high school Poetry Out Loud Club, the donation of $200 to the high school drama program, and various donations regarding Sandy Hook School and the district totaling $3,674.13. Also approved was the resignation of Jason Hiruo, assistant principal at Newtown High School, the resignation of Christopher Breyan, lead teacher at Hawley School, the leave of absence for Ted Varga, teacher at Sandy Hook School, and the resignation for retirement for Barbara Williams, reading recovery teacher at Head O’Meadow School.

*Mr. Alexander seconded. Vote: 6 ayes*

**Item 2 – Public Participation** (none)

**Item 3 – Reports**

**Correspondence:** Mr. McCubbin stated the Board received 26 emails. Seven pertained to the budget, 15 regarding the Sandy Hook Task Force and four were miscellaneous regarding the pre-school at the high school, alternatives to attending high school, leak of confidential records and security questions.

Mr. Alexander stated that the Board appreciates public contact regarding the budget but it is important at this time to send recommendations to the Legislative Council.

**Chair Report:** Mrs. Leidlein received a Patriots jersey signed by Mr. Krafts and players presented to the Board of Education and Town of Newtown.

Dr. Reed said the jersey could possibly be used to raise money, as a donation or be displayed.

**Financial Report and Transfers:**

**MOTION:** Mr. Hart moved to approve the financial report and transfers for the month ending April 30, 2013. Mr. McCubbin seconded.
Mr. Bienkowski went over the financial report and indicated that all main object accounts were in a positive balance position. We received information from the State Department of Education that the percent of eligible expenses for the excess cost grant was going to approximately 72% which represents a $70,759 decline in our expected revenue. $230K is included as a credit for expected reimbursements from the SERV grant. We also received the winter sports revenue this month.

Mr. Hart asked if we would get through the end of the year with this budget. Mr. Bienkowski felt we would. The amount of expenses offset by the SERV grant is critical to making this work. We will have to watch it very closely to break even.

Mrs. Leidlein asked how the costs in the SERV grant were reflected in this report. Mr. Bienkowski said there’s a revenue offset listed for support for additional administration at Sandy Hook School, estimated figures for additional EAs and nurses extra time, along with security salaries. Extra work for other personnel is also included.

Vote: 6 ayes

Superintendent’s Report:
Dr. Reed spoke about the modest end-of-the-year balance with reimbursements from the SERV grant. We have focused most of our planning on grants. The ed specs for Sandy Hook School don’t have to be adopted until late in the summer. Late March meetings began to be held between the volunteers assisting the town and professional firms. It started with boiler plate ed specs for a school originally approved by the state. When the design firm is hired we will revisit the ed specs and square footage. The state will use the October enrollment including our preschool for a total of 499 students. The ed specs this summer will be preliminary. Retired superintendents have volunteered to assist including Tom Jokubaitis. The design firm has to be selected first. We are soliciting input from the staff. Regarding security, the state will be developing new specs for schools.

Mr. Hart asked if there was an internal committee working on ed specs. Dr. Reed said he and the design team, which included Turner Construction, were asking for feedback from the teachers. The new administrators will also be part of this committee. Mr. Alexander asked if the ed specs addressed security issues.

Dr. Reed said experts were brought in regarding security which will contribute some growth in square footage for this school. We will be one of the first schools to have these concerns addressed. Regarding the security committee, there are a number of grants that were submitted. The Department of Justice grant was submitted through Bob Tait. Some will provide resources for the police department needs. Another grant addresses the $100,000 needed for lock set replacements, total hardware replacements and door and frame replacements. If the grants don’t supply enough money we may need a supplemental appropriation.

Dr. Reed addressed the budget for the next year. Given the changes to the requested increase it’s difficult to follow what the implications will be. The average budget increase over the last few years is .9%. The Board of Finance made suggestions on items for us to reduce. Next year we will have additional students attending the magnet schools over what we had estimated. There will be some positive adjustments to the budget for additional savings. The majority of positions in the budget will be hard to fill because we have a negative $200,000 in the budget that has to be made up.
If people choose to talk about wanting to make donations we are open to them. We are in discussions with Apple for a contribution in technology but the challenge there is equity in the district. We can’t take it all for one school so we are hoping their donation can be shared where needed. We need money for the assessment that has to be given for the new evaluation system with money. Curriculum work will be modified. He feels there will be a possible $150K or $200K additional cut. Full day kindergarten would have to be paid for by new teachers and eliminating items elsewhere in the district. We have to get out of the cycle of not passing budgets. He feels this is not the year to raise class size. We still need to understand the impact on each of the Sandy Hook students. It’s also important to maintain contact with the teachers.

Mr. Vouros said it appears we have to increase class size to find money for full day kindergarten.

Dr. Reed stated that the new standards will impact us on the number of hours students need to be in class. We can’t guarantee full day kindergarten. The community needs to see the correlation between the programs we requested and voting for the budget.

Mr. Vouros said it was devastating to him that students in only 2 and one-half hours have to gear up for content standards when they need more time for creativity and play. We need to be able to sustain the full day program in the following years also.

Dr. Reed said taking positions out to put others in should be done at the beginning of the budget process. At the present time not knowing what will happen with Legislative Council we don’t know where we will get the money.

Mr. Vouros asked about the project adventure teacher at Reed.

Dr. Reed was grappling with that position because it is tied to the scheduling of the school. He believes the work that central office is trying to do is challenging. 40% is related to what happened in December. He’s trying to get some assistance at no cost to the school system which includes retired superintendents in the state to be in the office one or two days per week.

Item 4 – Old Business
Serv Grant Update:
Dr. Reed was told it may be approved Friday but some additional forms were needed. He feels the vast majority of the items will be approved.
Mr. Alexander verified that the SERV grant has no effect on our budget and will not add to our income.
Dr. Reed said some feel donated funds are coming to us but we only have $25,000 in a fund for our use.

Item 5 – New Business
Mr. McCubbin announced that he would be relocating to London for work and would be resigning from the Board.

Item 6 – Public Participation
Kinley Nagle, 8 Glover Avenue, is a certified special education teacher who offered her services to the district. She had taught school in Maine.

MOTION: Mr. Hart moved that the Board of Education go into executive session to interview candidates for administrative positions and invited Dr. Reed. Mr. Vouros seconded.
Vote: 6 ayes
Item 7 – Executive Session
The Board interviewed candidates.

Item 8 – Public Session for Vote
MOTION: Mrs. Roche moved that the Board of Education appoint Kathleen Gombos as principal of Sandy Hook Elementary School effective on or about July 1, 2013 with the salary per the administrators’ contract. Mr. Alexander seconded. Vote: 6 ayes

MOTION: Mrs. Roche moved that the Board of Education appoint Timothy Napolitano as assistant principal of Sandy Hook Elementary School effective on or about July 1, 2013 with the salary per the administrators’ contract. Mr. Hart seconded. Vote: 6 ayes

MOTION: Mr. Hart moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Roche seconded. Vote: 6 ayes

Item 9 – Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

__________________________________
Cody McCubbin
Secretary
Minutes of the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers at 3 Primrose Street.

D. Leidlein, Chair (absent)   J. Reed
L. Roche, Vice Chair     L. Gejda
C. McCubbin, Secretary    R. Bienkowski
R. Gaines (absent)     2  Staff
W. Hart (absent)     4  Public
K. Alexander                  2  Press
J. Vouros

Mrs. Roche called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and welcomed Dr. Reed.

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved that the Board of Education add the Chalk Hill lease extension through June 30, 2016 to the agenda for discussion and possible action under New Business. Mr. McCubbin seconded. Vote: 4 ayes

Item 1 – Consent Agenda
MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes of April 9, 2013, the high school girls soccer team field trip, the donation of $1,000 to Stephanie Dunshee’s 4th grade class at Hawley School from Mr. & Mrs. Eric Burbank, a $30 donation to Hawley School from Mr. & Mrs. Larry Call, a $50 donation to Hawley School from Mr. and Mrs. Scott Banks, a donation of $1,000 for the Sandy Hook library from the Weller Foundation, donations totaling $800 from Taunton Press for Newtown High School, the donation of transportation services to Rhode Island from Kelly Transit Company for the Newtown High School Girls Soccer team, and various donations regarding Sandy Hook School in the amount of $15,527. Also included are the resignations for retirement for Becky Virgalla, Sandy Hook language arts consultant, Jay Daly, Newtown High School department chair, Suzanne Perry, Sandy Hook teacher, Christina Welsh, Newtown Middle School teacher, and Pam Fagan, Middle Gate School math/science specialist, and the Newtown High School spring football coaches’ roster. Mr. Vouros seconded. Vote: 4 ayes

Item 2 – Public Participation (none)

Item 3 – Reports
Superintendent's Report:
Dr. Reed was grateful for the opportunity to be part of the school system again and is involved in the principal searches with 7 administrative vacancies to fill. Regarding the $1.5M cut he feels the new items in the budget may have to be eliminated.
There are two types of superintendent searches. A rolling search targets a date to begin but if the consultant finds a superior candidate they will come to the board sooner. The other search is more traditional. He thinks it’s a mistake to wait until January to begin. Having it now allows more time to search again in the spring if they don’t decide on a candidate at that time. There are not a lot of search firms and he doesn’t see the value of hiring one from out of state.
Another challenge is the future of Sandy Hook School. He questioned the long term plans for the pattern changes of the schools but would not make any recommendations. The enrollment projections are 3 years old. The question is whether moving students into other locations would
cause problems for them. Any growth in Newtown will be based on the growth of homes and the birthrate. He spoke with Nesdec today regarding an enrollment study but was told this was not an appropriate time to do this because the market is in the state of flux. There are a significant number of homes on the market which makes it difficult to know what will happen. The enrollment is all speculation. He feels research should be done on reorganizational plans for the district. The assumption that if Hawley was moved to another building would save money is not entirely correct because a number of staff from that school would still be needed.

Mr. Alexander said we previously asked about an enrollment study.

Dr. Reed said we don’t know what the impact of the tragedy would be for this town and how it will impact sales. In good times people have more children but we don’t expect the birth rate to surge. The estimated cost is $6,240 which involves a comprehensive report. He suggested waiting for a year to see if the housing market changes. Mr. Gaines brought up an issue of the number of classes on grade level. The ed specs are preliminary but would be refined as needed. It’s a question of where you want to put your future and not just closing schools.

Mr. Vouros was concerned that closing Reed School would be discussed at the meeting Friday night.

Dr. Reed said it was premature to assume Reed would close. The study with the Selectman’s office was that once enrollment drops 1,500 students there would be another enrollment study. We could repurpose one of the current buildings. If a decision is made Friday night it would then come to back to the Board. The deadline for passage is June 7. The community needs to know we are trying to take advantage of the state being of significant assistance to get the students back into Newtown.

Correspondence: Mr. McCubbin said the Board received 38 emails with 22 miscellaneous and 16 with opinions on Sandy Hook School.

Dr. Reed stated that last August a request for information was made by a parent. We obtained information using a search for any place the student’s name was listed. When the search generated over 10,000 pages and was put on a disc with the assumption it was refined with the student’s information. The parent realized the volume exceeded what was requested and returned the disc to the school system. We decided to tell the parents by letter which was written just before the Sandy Hook School incident but it was forgotten about and the letter was mailed last Friday. We received numerous phone calls on Monday regarding the shared information. It will take up to 30 days to supply this for parents. A new letter is going out to the 800 high school families with apologies and that we would give them the information. We can’t guarantee the information wasn’t looked at but we believe that it was not viewed. We are sorry this happened and unfortunately the letter generated questions we could have answered in a more pro-active way.

Director of Business Report:
Mr. Bienkowski stated that we have restricted spending for the balance of the year. We learned our excess cost grant is down to a $72 reimbursement for about $70,000. We have had an administrator retire so we have to pay vacation accumulation. There has also been additional tutoring and homebound services plus $40,000 in tuition. We don’t know when the Serv Grant
will be approved and reimburse us for expenses. That is the same for the Justice grant. We also have insurance costs and can’t count on every dollar being reimbursed. We put a budget freeze in place today for anything that is not instruction related. The second insurance claim was put in today.

Dr. Reed said this freeze is later than usual. Only items that must be purchased can go through. The Town of Newtown has spent its contingency so they don’t have any money. We have $89,000 in the capital nonrecurring fund which is a backup for the intent of repaving the middle school parking lot. The Justice Department Grant has funds to address some of the security task force recommendations. The Board of Education budget does not contain money for any security recommendations from the Security Committee. Attendance at conferences is on hold also.

Item 4 – Old Business

Serve Grant:
Dr. Reed stated that Dr. Robinson felt confident that the money is forthcoming so we are advertising for the positions in that grant. They are not duplicated in the budget. There is nothing in our budget for the 13 positions. The Board and school system are undertaking a comprehensive program with services to Sandy Hook being provided by Yale and the Clifford Beers Institute. Wellmore will be contacted to work directly with the students and families. Newtown Youth Services will work with staff on mental health issues. We need to hire a project director. We purchased 40% of Melissa Brymer’s time but most of the time she will not be on site. We have to hire 7 guidance counselors. One has been hired by the high school. We also need 3 social workers, 5 counselors and the Sandy Hook assistant principal position will remain. The project facilitator is critical and will work with Melissa Brymer. We also need a part time communications coordinator. The Town hired their own mental health consultant. An additional special education supervisor is needed along with some clerical staff assistance to keep track of the financial work on the grant which is for $4M. The grant comes to the Board of Education but we hire for these positions. A big priority for us is to get the project director on board. This will set the tone for the next 3 years. We will follow all of the Sandy Hook students through 12th grade.
Mr. Vouros asked if the project coordinator would report to him.
Dr. Reed stated that we would have to see what is stated in the grant. It could be collaborative with Julie Haggard. He’s very grateful she is here and is supportive of all that she does.

Lease for Chalk Hill School:
MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved that the agreement dated December 17, 2012 among the Town of Newtown, the Newtown Board of Education, and the Town of Monroe for the use and occupancy of the Chalk Hill School is hereby modified, in accordance with the “First Amendment To Agreement,” which sets its term to June 2016. Mr. McCubbin seconded.

Mr. Bienkowski said that last evening the Board of Selectmen approved the lease modification between the Town of Monroe and Newtown and thought it best to extend it for 2 years but there is a clause that allows us to terminate the lease with 6 months notice. The terms of the original lease will be carried forward with some modification on police service costs and land use issues with town of Monroe. The Legislative Council in Monroe hopes to take action by May 13.

Mr. Alexander asked how we have been paying the Monroe Police Department.
Mr. Bienkowski said we haven’t received invoice for their services. Monroe applied for a Justice Grant which we hope will pay for their services for us. They expect 2 federal grants also but they want some assurance that we would be responsible if that doesn’t come through.

Dr. Reed said the cost has been about $300,000 for Monroe police. Initially we wanted to submit the grant but they felt they wanted to.

Vote: 4 ayes

Item 5 – New Business
Mrs. Roche stated the discussion on the 6th grade social studies curriculum would be postponed.

Minutes of April 24, 2013:
MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of April 24, 2013. Mr. Vouros seconded. Vote: 3 ayes, 1 abstained (Mr. McCubbin)

Item 6 – Public Participation
Caryn Holden, 68 Berkshire Road, welcomed Dr. Reed and thanked him for coming back to help the district and appreciated the updates.

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved to adjourn. Mr. Vouros seconded. Vote: 4 ayes

Item 7 – Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

__________________________________
Cody McCubbin
Secretary
FIELD TRIP BUS REQUEST FORM

Teacher Making Request: Violette Date: 5/7/13
Other Staff Involved: none
Date of Proposed Field Trip: June 25-26
Class/Group Involved: Yearbook
Number of Students Scheduled to Make Trip: 8
Other Adults (non-teachers) Chaperoning the Trip (list names): none

Destination: UCONN Storrs campus
Place and Time of Departure: NHS 7:45 am on June 25th
Estimated Time of Return: NHS 4:00 pm on June 26th
Special Arrangements (i.e. stopping at a restaurant, picnic, etc.): Stop @ Starbucks along the way in Plainville or Manchester (both off highway)
Estimated Cost of Transporation: none (yearbook pays)
Estimated Cost per Student: none (yearbook pays)
Other Information:

PRINCIPAL APPROVAL BY SIGNATURE: Adam Date: 05/07/13
OVERNIGHT/OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP BOE APPROVAL: Date:

Billing Information
Bill to: Yearbook Attn: Kristin Violette
NHS 12 Berkshire Rd.
Sandy Hook, CT 06482

Pricing: Hours @ per hour =
Miles @ per mile = Minimum Charge:
Total Charge per Bus:

Confirmation
Information taken by: Date Confirmed:
Confirmed by: Recorded in Book:
FIELD TRIP BUS REQUEST FORM

Teacher Making Request: Lisa Meyer  Date: 5/10/13
Other Staff Involved: Anthony Metz, Laura Baltisti
Date of Proposed Field Trip: April 9th through April 17th, 2014
Class/Group Involved: Western Studies students + Italian language students.
Number of Students Scheduled to Make Trip: 18
Other Adults (non-teachers) Chaperoning the Trip (list names): 

Destination: Rome, Florence + Venice Italy
Place and Time of Departure: JFK airport time unknown at this time
Estimated Time of Return: unknown at this time
Special Arrangements (i.e. stopping at a restaurant, picnic, etc.): 

Estimated Cost of Transporation: 
Estimated Cost per Student: $3,799. -
Other Information: please see attachment

PRINCIPAL APPROVAL BY SIGNATURE: 
DATE: 5/21/13
OVERNIGHT/OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP BOE APPROVAL: 
DATE: 
Billing Information
Bill to: 

Pricing: Hours @ per hour = 
Miles @ per mile = 
Minimum Charge: 
Total Charge per Bus: 

Confirmation
Information taken by: Date Confirmed: 
Confirmed by: Recorded in Book: 

NO BUS REQUIRED
Memo

TO:         Ronald Bienkowski  
From:       Julie Haggard       
Date:       May 1, 2013         
Re:         Acceptance of Donation

Please consider accepting a donation of $1,000.00 to The Newtown Pre-school. This generous donation was presented to Jaime Rivera by CAMCAS LLC, Old Oak Restaurant Bar and Grill, 84 ½ Liberty Street, Danbury, Connecticut 06810.
Dear Dr. Reed,

I hope all is well with you. Thank you for coming to our concert.

Last evening I received a note from Lisa Geers at the NFL. I met her when she organized our trip to the Super Bowl. She has contacted us about a potential donation of an upright Yamaha piano to our school. This is something we need. Our school is 60 years old and does not have an upright piano. Donna and Cathy believe this is an appropriate gift but wanted me to go through the proper channels. It would be delivered from Yamaha directly.

Thank you,

Maryrose Kristopik

http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=picture+of+yamaha+upright+piano&id=21DA3C0FDDC9C380C8698CE3A3FA06ED0F6B9B6B&FORM=IQFRBA&adlt=strict&view=

Maryrose Kristopik
Sandy Hook School
Music Specialist

The retail value is $13,000.
May 10, 2013

TO: John Reed

FROM: Charles S. Dumais

Please accept the donation of $300 from The Newtown Lions Club to The Newtown High School Leo Club. This is a very generous donation that will be very valuable to the program.

Thank you.

Attach.
May 10, 2013

TO: John Reed

FROM: Charles S. Dumais

Please accept the donation of $500 from The Poetry Foundation to the Newtown Poetry out Loud Club. This is a very generous donation that will be very valuable to the program.

Thank you.
May 15, 2013

TO:       John Reed
FROM:     Charles S. Dumais

Please accept the donation of $200 from The Taunton Press to The Newtown High School Drama program. Thank you
## Donations

5/16/2013

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To BOE for Approval on May 21, 2013

$ 3,674.13
April 30, 2013

Newtown Public Schools

Dr. Janet Robinson
Dr. John Reed
Mr. Charles Dumais
Mrs. Joan Libby

Newtown High School
12 Berkshire Rd
Sandy Hook, CT, 06482

Dear Mr. Dumais:

Please accept this letter of resignation from the position of Assistant Principal at Newtown High School within the Newtown Public School District. My last day at Newtown High School will be June 30, 2013.

In anticipation of my departure, I will prepare information and resources that will transition to the NHS administrative team and my replacement. In this transition, I will provide you with advance notice of specific dates that I will be absent from NHS in order to collaborate with the ACES organization in preparation of my position that begins on July 1, 2013. Thank you for your professional courtesy and support in this effort.

Newtown Schools and the support of the Newtown High School community has been an invaluable experience for me. Newtown has provided me with the opportunity to develop and pursue fulfilling professional growth. I would like to thank you personally for your support, encouragement, and enthusiasm. Please do not hesitate from calling upon me in the future so that I can extend my support and continued collaboration with you and our colleagues here in Newtown and beyond.

Sincerely,

Jason Hiruo
Dear Dr. Reed,

I would like to start by thanking you for your constant support that you’ve shown us throughout this unimaginable ordeal. You advocated on our behalf since the beginning, and the strong commitment that you display on a daily basis for our community at SHS has been tremendous. Speaking with students, visiting our classrooms, and listening to us at lunch are only a few of the small things that you do that let us know how much you genuinely care for us.

I am also writing to you to request a general leave for the 2013-2014 school year. I have been presented with a one year contract to teach at a highly competitive international school in Norway. I have been offered a third grade position and plan to work with students and staff from various backgrounds. Much like our schools in Newtown, this school values students becoming life-long learners in a multi-cultural environment and provides them with opportunities to work to their potential. I will also be able to proudly represent our district and showcase everything that I have learned during my time in Newtown.

I am anticipating returning to the district for the 2014-2015 school year, in hopes of bringing with me a wealth of knowledge and a reservoir of new ideas and concepts that I can share with my colleagues in Newtown. I would be more than willing to present any of my new learning at district workshops or at grade-level meetings.

Before President Obama spoke at our high school, I made a promise to a board member to never forget what Dawn had taught me. Dawn and I had a close relationship. She was the woman who hired me, inspired me to take risks, and the one who constantly challenged me to become the best educator I could be. I am confident that she would encourage me to take advantage of this opportunity.

I hope that you will consider my request, as I feel it would be what is best for me and the district.

Sincerely,

Ted Varga
May 13, 2013

Dear Members of the Newtown Board of Education:

I have accepted a position as an Assistant Principal at Greens Farms Elementary School in Westport for the 2013-2014 School Year. I therefore resign my position as Lead Teacher at Hawley Elementary School effective June 30, 2013.

It has been a privilege to work in Newtown. I wanted to thank the dedicated staff, the administration, and the Board of Education for supporting me during my 15 years as an educator at Middle Gate Elementary School, Reed Intermediate School, and Hawley Elementary School.

I have worked with three exceptional principals in my career - Judith Liestman, Donna Denniston, and Jo-Ann Peters Edmondson - who have been role models. They have prepared me well for this next step in my career.

I have enjoyed working with incredibly talented staff members across the district on numerous committees and initiatives. Our collective hard work has paved the way for a bright future for the students.

I have strived to teach our students to become self-directed learners, who can think critically, engage in discussions about their learning, and solve problems. The parents have worked closely with me over the years. I wanted to thank the students and parents for their support as well.

I am looking forward to starting my new position as an Assistant Principal at Greens Farms Elementary School. I will fondly remember my years teaching in Newtown.

With Warm Regards and Sincere Gratitude,

Christopher J. Breyan
Lead Teacher
Hawley Elementary School
Barbara Williams  
118 Curt Smith Rd.  
Southbury, CT, 06488  
wjbnw@aol.com

May 14, 2013

John R. Reed, Ed.D.  
Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Newtown Public Schools

Dear Dr. Reed,

Please accept this letter of retirement from my teaching position as a Reading Recovery Teacher at Head O'Meadow School, effective July 1, 2013.

It has been a rewarding experience both on a professional and personal level to be a part of the Newtown Schools. I take this opportunity to thank my colleagues for their support and friendship during my tenure. This was not an easy decision to make, but I am happy to move on to the next adventure in my life.

Since the tragic events of last December everyone in the town and school system has had to adjust to a new normal. I wish continued healing through the support, love, and thoughtful care of everyone to move forward.

Yours respectfully,

Barbara Williams

cc: Joan Libby, Esq.
cc: Barbara Gasparine
This tenth report for the fiscal year 2012-13 includes a number of changes from the prior month.

We have spent $6.2M for operations in the month of April. $3.4M for salaries $1.6M for employee benefits (this amount includes our final quarter for the self-insured medical fund) and the balance of $1.2M for all other expenses necessary for operations. All object categories have previously been offset by the excess cost grant receipt.

All the main object accounts remain in a positive balance position for this month (indicated by the shading in column eight) before the recommended transfers.

During this month we received information from the SDE that the percent of eligible expenses for the excess cost grant was going to approximately 72% which represents a $70,759 decline in our expected revenue.

Notice of a resigning administrator requires additional accumulated vacation payout of approximately $10k, another tuition obligation will cost $40k, and additional tutoring adds $37k. Approximated $230k is included in a credit in the anticipated obligations column for expected reimbursements from the SERV grant. This credit is in the salary accounts.

The spending restriction instituted last week is where the expected balances will come from to help prevent us from potentially overspending the budget. The balances from this action are delineated by the sub-accounts which are boxed. Restrictions on some of these accounts can be relaxed if things begin to turn around.

There are limited transfer recommendations this month.

This report projects essentially a break even situation.

**EXPENSE CATEGORY CONDITIONS**

**100 SALARIES**

The total salary budget balance is consistent with last months, with a recommendation to transfer $42,000 of funds out of Special Education services salaries. Other sub-accounts were adjusted with transfers to take care of what is definitively known at this time. This category of expense includes an insurance credit received for $80,267 and applied to extra work, and an estimate of $230,000 for SERV. The transfer out is due to the vacancy created by two Special Education staff that left the district.
200 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
The balance in employee benefits has increased by approximately $29,000 due to updated analysis for FICA and unemployment.

300 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
Expenses for legal services for both Special Education and regular have increased along with many more medical and psychological evaluations and using contracted services for therapy and behavioral analysts. This account is recommended to receive the $42,000 transfer recommended above. This is because an analyst and a therapist have left and the services are being provided by outside providers.

400 PURCHASED PROPERTY SERVICES
This group of accounts includes the emergency repair account (HOM generator) which is a big portion of the shortage along with rentals for the Municipal building which is exceeding the budget because of added operating expenses.

500 OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES
This account includes tuition which is the main driver in the shortage that is evident here. This account projects approximately $37k from the spending restriction.

600 SUPPLIES
This account has a positive balance and includes approximately $74k from the spending restriction.

700 PROPERTY
Current estimates continue to be on track with no change.

800 MISCELLANEOUS
Current estimates continue to be on track with no change.

Overall, the spending restriction’s currently are expected to provide approximately $155K
900 REVENUES

Additional receipts booked in April are from the Winter sports season. The budget will continue to be carefully monitored and any subsequent issues or opportunities will be presented as necessary.

Ron Bienkowski
Director of Business
May 17, 2013
TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

The Newtown Board of Education’s Monthly Financial Report provides summary financial information in the following areas:

- **Object Code** – a service or commodity obtained as the result of a specific expenditure defined by eight (of the nine) categories: Salaries, Employee Benefits, Professional Services, Purchased Property Services, Other Purchased Services, Supplies, Property and Miscellaneous.

- **Expense Category** – further defines the type of expense by Object Code

- **Approved Budget** – indicates a town approved financial plan used by the school district to achieve its goals and objectives.

- **Current Budget** – adjusts the Approved Budget calculating adjustments (+ or -) to the identified object codes via transfers.

- **Year-To-Date Expended** – indicates the actual amount of cumulative expenditures processed by the school district through the month-end date indicated on the monthly budget summary report.

- **Encumber** – indicates approved financial obligations of the school district as a result of employee salary contracts, purchasing agreements, purchase orders, or other identified obligations not processed for payment by the date indicated on the monthly budget summary report.

- **Balance** – calculates object code account balances subtracting expenditures and encumbrances from the current budget amount indicating accounts with unobligated balances or anticipated deficits.

The monthly budget summary report also provides financial information on the following:

**Excess Cost Grant** – this State of Connecticut reimbursement grant is used to support local school districts for education costs of identified special education students whose annual education costs meet or exceed local education tuition rates by 4 ½. Students placed by the Department of Child and Family Services (DCF) are reimbursed after the school district has meet the initial local education tuition rates. School districts report these costs annually in December and March of each fiscal year. State of Connecticut grant calculations are determined by reimbursing eligible costs (60%-100%) based on the SDE grant allocation. Current year detail changes will be forthcoming in future report narratives.

**Magnet Transportation Grant** – provides reimbursement of $1,300 for local students attending approved magnet school programs.
These reimbursement grants/programs are used to supplement local school district budget programs.

The last portion of the monthly budget summary reports school generated revenue fees that are anticipated revenue to the Town of Newtown. Fees include:

- High school fees for three identified program with the highest amount of fees anticipated from the high school sports participation fees,
- Building related fees for the use of the high school pool facility, and
- Miscellaneous fees.

Providing current financial information to the Board of Education is essential in order to remain within the allotted budget while maintaining a financial spending plan that meets the mission and goals of Newtown Board of Education.
## NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

### BUDGET SUMMARY REPORT

**FOR THE MONTH ENDING APRIL 30, 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECT CODE</th>
<th>EXPENSE CATEGORY</th>
<th>EXPENDED 2011 - 2012</th>
<th>APPROVED BUDGET 2012 - 2013</th>
<th>YTD TRANSFERS 2012 - 2013</th>
<th>CURRENT TRANSFERS</th>
<th>CURRENT BUDGET</th>
<th>YTD EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>ENCUMBER</th>
<th>BALANCE</th>
<th>ANTICIPATED OBLIGATIONS</th>
<th>PROJECTED BALANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>SALARIES</td>
<td>$42,849,552</td>
<td>$44,136,246</td>
<td>$269,411</td>
<td>$42,000</td>
<td>$43,824,835</td>
<td>$31,344,773</td>
<td>$12,180,513</td>
<td>$299,548</td>
<td>$329,292</td>
<td>(29,743)</td>
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<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</td>
<td>$10,386,515</td>
<td>$10,425,010</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>$10,400,010</td>
<td>$9,867,370</td>
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<td>$434,154</td>
<td>$30,632</td>
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<tr>
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<td>PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</td>
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<td>$630,502</td>
<td>$225,688</td>
<td>$113,852</td>
<td>$165,577</td>
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<td>PURCHASED PROPERTY SERV.</td>
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<td>$1,792,085</td>
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<td>SUPPLIES</td>
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<td>$209,375</td>
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<tr>
<td>800</td>
<td>MISCELLANEOUS</td>
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<td>$68,585</td>
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</table>

**TOTAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET**

**GRAND TOTAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excess Cost Grant Reimbursement Offset</th>
<th>Budgeted</th>
<th>75.00%</th>
<th>$1,252,159</th>
<th>$1,260,449</th>
<th>$1,017,825</th>
<th>72.26%</th>
<th>Balance Due</th>
<th>$242,624</th>
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<tr>
<td>Town Capital &amp; Non-recurring Account (Tech &amp; Projects)</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>$97,572</td>
<td>$5,880</td>
<td>$96,548</td>
<td>$96,548</td>
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Net Projected Balance

$3,906
## NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

### BUDGET SUMMARY REPORT

**FOR THE MONTH ENDING APRIL 30, 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECT CODE</th>
<th>EXPENSE CATEGORY</th>
<th>EXPENDED 2011 - 2012</th>
<th>APPROVED BUDGET 2012 - 2013</th>
<th>YTD TRANSFERS 2012 - 2013</th>
<th>CURRENT TRANSFERS</th>
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<th>ENCUMBER</th>
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<th>ANTICIPATED OBLIGATIONS</th>
<th>PROJECTED BALANCE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>SALARIES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Administrative Salaries</td>
<td>$2,841,719</td>
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<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$2,899,312</td>
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<td>(13,713)</td>
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<td>Teachers &amp; Specialists Salaries</td>
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<td>Early Retirement</td>
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<td>$16,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$16,000</td>
<td>$16,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>Continuing Ed./Summer School</td>
<td>$72,611</td>
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<td>$75,587</td>
<td>$63,359</td>
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<td>3,800</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Homebound &amp; Tutors Salaries</td>
<td>$249,480</td>
<td>$170,998</td>
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<td>$175,952</td>
<td>$176,142</td>
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<td>(60,455)</td>
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<td>Certified Substitutes</td>
<td>$599,171</td>
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<td>40,060</td>
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<td>Coaching/Activities</td>
<td>$539,589</td>
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<td>$541,749</td>
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<td>$27,017</td>
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<td>259,892</td>
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<td>Staff &amp; Program Development</td>
<td>$139,517</td>
<td>$195,857</td>
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<td>$145,857</td>
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<td>35,454</td>
<td>20,400</td>
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<td>Total Salaries</td>
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<td>$34,658,202</td>
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<td>Supervisors/Technology Salaries</td>
<td>$600,021</td>
<td>$609,577</td>
<td>1,782</td>
<td>$611,359</td>
<td>$483,153</td>
<td>$127,838</td>
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<td>Clerical &amp; Secretarial salaries</td>
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<td>Educational Assistants</td>
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<td>$1,824,359</td>
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<td>$472,363</td>
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<td>(19,000)</td>
<td>21,488</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nurses &amp; Medical advisors</td>
<td>$580,246</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>$680,221</td>
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<td>$156,950</td>
<td>14,358</td>
<td>(7,483)</td>
<td>21,841</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Custodial &amp; Maint Salaries</td>
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<td>(20,000)</td>
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<td>8,800</td>
<td>26,559</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bus Drivers salaries</td>
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<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Career/Job salaries</td>
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<td>$101,256</td>
<td>7,090</td>
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<td>1,033</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>33</td>
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<td>Special Education Svcs Salaries</td>
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<td>3,934 (42,000)</td>
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<td>9,000</td>
<td>17,956</td>
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<td>Attendance &amp; Security Salaries</td>
<td>$140,940</td>
<td>$146,750</td>
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<td>$148,839</td>
<td>$162,709</td>
<td>$93,008</td>
<td>(106,878)</td>
<td>(44,605)</td>
<td>(62,273)</td>
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<td>Extra Work - Non-Cert</td>
<td>$71,886</td>
<td>$68,401</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$68,401</td>
<td>$105,963</td>
<td>$459</td>
<td>(38,021)</td>
<td>(43,111)</td>
<td>5,090</td>
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<td>Custodial &amp; Maint. Overtime</td>
<td>$210,183</td>
<td>$210,363</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>$220,363</td>
<td>$197,894</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>22,469</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>469</td>
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<td>Civic activities/Park &amp; Rec</td>
<td>$41,673</td>
<td>$43,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$43,000</td>
<td>$47,012</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(4,012)</td>
<td>(3,100)</td>
<td>(912)</td>
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<td>Total Non-Certified Salaries</td>
<td>$8,803,935</td>
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<td>(69,904)</td>
<td>52,790</td>
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<td>Total Salaries</td>
<td>$42,849,552</td>
<td>$44,136,246</td>
<td>(269,411) (42,000)</td>
<td>$43,824,835</td>
<td>$31,344,773</td>
<td>$12,180,513</td>
<td>299,548</td>
<td>329,292</td>
<td>(29,743)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# Newtown Board of Education
## Budget Summary Report
### For the Month Ending April 30, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECT CODE</th>
<th>EXPENSE CATEGORY</th>
<th>EXPENDED 2011 - 2012</th>
<th>APPROVED BUDGET</th>
<th>YTD TRANSFERS 2012 - 2013</th>
<th>CURRENT TRANSFERS</th>
<th>CURRENT BUDGET</th>
<th>YTD EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>ENCUMBER</th>
<th>BALANCE</th>
<th>ANTICIPATED OBLIGATIONS</th>
<th>PROJECTED BALANCE</th>
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<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>Employee Benefits</td>
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<td>Medical &amp; Dental Expenses</td>
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<td>$7,933,343</td>
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<td>Life Insurance</td>
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<td>$84,270</td>
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<td>$1,357,597</td>
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<td>Pensions</td>
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<td>$475,318</td>
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<td>$500</td>
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<td>(2,122)</td>
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<td>Unemployment &amp; Employee Assist.</td>
<td>$120,616</td>
<td>$128,120</td>
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<td>$48,607</td>
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<td>$23,687</td>
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<td>$14,326</td>
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<td>Workers Compensation</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td>$307</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</strong></td>
<td>$10,386,515</td>
<td>$10,425,010</td>
<td>($25,000)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$9,867,370</td>
<td>$67,854</td>
<td>$464,786</td>
<td>$434,154</td>
<td></td>
<td>$30,632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Professional Services</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>$634,759</td>
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<td>Professional Educational Ser.</td>
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5/17/2013
# NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

## BUDGET SUMMARY REPORT

FOR THE MONTH ENDING APRIL 30, 2013

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<tr>
<th>OBJECT CODE</th>
<th>EXPENSE CATEGORY</th>
<th>EXPENDED 2011 - 2012</th>
<th>APPROVED BUDGET</th>
<th>YTD TRANSFERS 2012 - 2013</th>
<th>CURRENT TRANSFERS</th>
<th>CURRENT BUDGET</th>
<th>YTD EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>ENCUMBER</th>
<th>BALANCE</th>
<th>ANTICIPATED OBLIGATIONS</th>
<th>PROJECTED BALANCE</th>
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<td>380,000</td>
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<td>Propane &amp; Natural Gas</td>
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<td>$334,287</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>87,057</td>
<td>70,000</td>
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<td>$617,123</td>
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<td>(2,959)</td>
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<td>Fuel For Vehicles &amp; Equip.</td>
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5/17/2013
# NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

## BUDGET SUMMARY REPORT

FOR THE MONTH ENDING APRIL 30, 2013

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<td>700</td>
<td>Property</td>
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<td>Capital Improvements (Sewers)</td>
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<td>Technology Equipment</td>
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<td>Other Equipment</td>
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<td>Memberships</td>
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<td>$64,761</td>
<td>$9,053</td>
<td>$73,814</td>
<td>$68,585</td>
<td>$1,090</td>
<td>$4,139</td>
<td>$2,066</td>
<td>$2,073</td>
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<td><strong>Subtotal Miscellaneous</strong></td>
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<td>$64,761</td>
<td>$9,053</td>
<td>$73,814</td>
<td>$68,585</td>
<td>$1,090</td>
<td>$4,139</td>
<td>$2,066</td>
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# Newtown Board of Education

## Budget Summary Report

**For the Month Ending April 30, 2013**

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<th>Expended 2011-2012</th>
<th>Approved Budget 2012-2013</th>
<th>Current Transfers</th>
<th>Current Budget</th>
<th>YTD Expenditure</th>
<th>YTD Encumber</th>
<th>Balance</th>
<th>Anticipated Obligations</th>
<th>Projected Balance</th>
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<td><strong>HIGH SCHOOL FEES</strong></td>
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<td>$112,800</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL SCHOOL GENERATED FEES</strong></td>
<td>$113,903</td>
<td>$113,763</td>
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<td>$25,428.50</td>
<td>77.65%</td>
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