

Please Note: These minutes are pending Board approval.

**Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut**

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, October 1, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers at 3 Primrose Street.

D. Leidlein, Chair	J. Reed
L. Roche, Vice Chair	L. Gejda
K. Hamilton, Secretary	R. Bienkowski
R. Gaines	3 Staff
W. Hart	7 Public
K. Alexander	4 Press
J. Vouros	

Mrs. Leidlein called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Item 1 – Consent Agenda

MOTION: Mrs. Roche moved that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda which includes the minutes of September 17, 2013, the donation of a 3D printer and refill supplies for the high school graphics department, the donation of dictionaries for third grades students from the Newtown Rotary Club, the resignation of Pooja Bhasin, guidance counselor at Reed Intermediate School, and childrearing leaves of absence for Valerie LeBlanc, teacher at Newtown Middle School and Melinda Wilson, teacher at Middle Gate School. Mr. Alexander seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 2 – Public Participation - none

Item 3 - Reports

Correspondence: Ms. Hamilton said the Board received letters from Jillian Bean regarding the distribution of a flyer, Kim Burns regarding the new school, Rachel Adima regarding floating lanterns in honor of Sandy Hook School, and Pete Spineda regarding the superintendent search.

There was no Chair report.

Assistant Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Gejda introduced Brenda Wilson of Northwest Education Association. We are planning and will be implementing transitions to new standards and a pilot in math in grades kindergarten to nine and possibly reading comprehension in the middle school later in the year. We also have professional development planned throughout the year.

Ms. Wilson gave a presentation regarding their computer adaptive assessments. They have been an international non-profit funded association over 40 years ago, partnering with over 8,000 school districts and over 8 million students. They are currently with 60 plus districts in Connecticut.

Ms. Hamilton asked how this assessment would affect our students' personal success plans. Dr. Gejda said the expectation is to move this down to the elementary grades. NWEA will work with us at our pace. This fits perfectly to where we want to be.

Dr. Reed said this takes time as we are also putting in a new math program and new evaluation plan for administrators. As the staff gets to know this system they will welcome it. He asked about confidentiality of the data.

Ms. Wilson stated that we own the data and they would need permission to use it. They return to data to us.

Mr. Hart asked how this assessment relates to the state testing.

Ms. Wilson said Smarter Balance built the summative test given at the end of the year. NWEA sets the baseline at the beginning of the year to where instruction should begin.

Superintendent's Report:

- Dr. Reed stated that we are making an effort to reduce the amount of material sent home and forwarding some flyers to the PTA's for their website or newsletter.
- At the next board meeting Kindergarten teachers will speak about the full day program this year.
- This week he attended training sessions in the SEED program for administrator evaluation. This new program will require additional evaluation time for the superintendent. This, along with 40-45% of the time dealing with events of December, makes it hard for one person to handle. We need a person who can be out in the schools with staff and students.
- He passed out last year's budget goals and asked for input from the Board and wants to engage the Board of Finance and Legislative Council in thoughts about the Board of Education budget.
- There is an adjustment in the calendar. We removed November 18 as an early dismissal day for elementary schools and moved it to March 27 so they have three days for conferences.
- There was a press release last Friday from the Attorney General's office indicating we received a grant of \$150,000 which could be used for SROs. He isn't sure how that money will be utilized.
- An email will go out Thursday telling parents we will be repeating lock-in drills like we had last week with an open perimeter allowing parents to come in and out of the building.
- The security advisory committee voted to learn more about legislation to use retired police who can carry a weapon. We want to find out more about this so we will be going to the two school systems in the state that are using this which are Enfield and Branford. He would like to have one or two Board members go along with First Selectman, police, school and parent representatives. We also need a Board member to be on the security committee to attend meetings during the day.

Mrs. Leidlein asked members to email their interest.

Dr. Reed said they met with the architects who would like to have an advisory committee with a Board member or two to be part of. They will be moving quickly with schematics done by January.

Mr. Hart asked if the government shutdown would affect the receipt of grant money.

Mr. Bienkowski said the representative for the SERV Grant has been furloughed so that will be affected.

Ms. Hamilton asked about our October 1 enrollment.

Dr. Reed commented that it won't be significantly different. He feels the decline at Sandy Hook School is short term.

Mrs. Roche gave an update on the superintendent search. Numerous focus groups have met including 100 plus staff from the schools. A community focus group will be held October 7 at 6:30 p.m. There have been 150 responses to the survey.

Item 4 – Old Business (none)

Item 5 – New Business

Dr. Reed stated the number of students at Sandy Hook School is 400 which is only five students less, plus there will be 60 preschoolers who will go to the new school. It is also understandable that there would be some people who move from that school district or who move in.

Mr. Alexander asked if there was information as to where they went.

Dr. Reed stated that part of the analysis would include that information.

MOTION: Mr. Hart moved that the Board of Education approve the installation of an electronic sign at the entrance of Newtown High School. Mrs. Roche seconded.

Mr. Dumais wanted Board approval before they went to planning and zoning. The PTSA is willing to help us with the purchasing. Cost would be \$8,000 to possibly \$20,000.

Mr. Alexander feels the messages would be useful and asked what the restrictions were.

Mr. Dumais said it was internally lighted and would have to be a certain distance from the road. We would get estimates for both styles but now was looking for Board approval to move forward on the project. This would be paid by a fund raiser and the PTSA.

Mr. Dumais would come back with additional information after variance is approved.

MOTION: Mr. Hart moved to amend the motion to give approval to the high school to seek a zoning variance for possible installation of an electronic sign. Mrs. Roche seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Budget Calendar:

MOTION: Mr. Hart moved that the Board of Education approve the proposed 2014-2015 budget calendar. Mr. Vouros seconded.

Mr. Bienkowski said the major changes are in the administration section with dates changed in receiving information. The number of Board meetings is the same as last year. The superintendent will have an overview of the budget and also have the elementary and Reed budgets that night.

Mrs. Roche asked if the dates had been set up for the parent budget meetings.

Dr. Reed said they have not been set up as yet but they are meetings that will be ongoing to help parents understand the budget.

Motion passes unanimously.

Waiver of Policy 3-300:

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved that the Board of Education waive Policy 3-300 as it pertains to the purchase of fuel oil for the 2014-15 school year. Such waiver is granted in consideration of the volatile fuel oil market and recognizing that other communities and school districts will be locking into a fixed price for next year when the market seems right. The waiver will allow the Director of Business and Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, with the approval of the Superintendent of Schools, to exercise an option to extend the current contract, accept consortium pricing, or to solicit written, verbal or fax quotes for supply and give them the ability to commit to a supplier based on their best judgment of market conditions. Whenever an agreement is reached, it will be emailed to the Board and then presented to the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting and shall not exceed one year in duration. Mr. Gaines seconded.

Mr. Bienkowski stated we have taken this action the last four or five years. We will bid it out ourselves or go with the town or consortium. He contacted our oil supplier today and was told the price was \$3.15 per gallon. The current year we are paying \$3.1619. Our overall quantity will go down since Hawley boilers were replaced and now use gas. He is also considering locking in for 120,000 gallons. He hopes to get a better price and will keep the Board informed.

CIP:

MOTION: Mr. Hart moved that the Board of Education approve the revised CIP as presented. Mr. Gaines seconded.

Mr. Gaines said the Sandy Hook School window replacement project in year three was eliminated and the middle school ventilation renovations for \$4.8M were added. The project development and the design, engineering and construction for Sandy Hook School are shown as being funded by the State of Connecticut. Information received today was Phase 1 for Hawley will be \$1M less but Phase 2 will be \$1M more.

Ms. Hamilton asked for the backup information on the middle school renovation.

Mr. Faiella said it was written up a number of years ago but the dollar figures will have to be adjusted.

Mr. Bienkowski said the \$4,805,000 was in the town's CIP which was pushed out. The middle school improvements in the climate control committee report listed upgrading the HVAC system and boilers and the improvement of the air quality.

Ms. Hamilton asked when the Middle Gate roof would be up for replacement.

Mr. Faiella said one section was restored last year and the other in 1999 or 2000. They usually last 20 years.

Mr. Hart noted the importance of the high school auditorium refurbishment project as the seats and lighting are in bad shape.

Mr. Gaines felt the auditorium project should not be split because of the work that has to be done.

Motion passes unanimously.

Item 6 – Public Participation

David Freedman, 4 Laurel Road, was concerned about a letter sent home today with fourth grade students in Hawley School. They are going to fill a room with liquid smoke and if anyone has asthmatic concerns they need to inform the schools. He suggested there may be another way to have this drill. There was some urgency to have the parents return the form.

Dr. Reed said this was part of Fire Prevention Week and would be done in association with the fire department.

MOTION: Mr. Gaines moved that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss the NASA contract and invited Dr. Reed and Mr. Bienkowski. Mr. Alexander seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 7 – Executive Session

Executive session began at 9:49 p.m.

Item 8 – Return to Public Session for Possible Vote

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved that the Board of Education approve the NASA contract as presented. Mr. Gaines seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved to adjourn. Mr. Gaines seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 9 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathy Hamilton
Secretary

September 25, 2013

TO: John Reed

FROM: Charles S. Dumais

Please accept the donation from Mr. and Mrs. Poulter of a 3D printer and some refill supplies to the NHS graphics department at an approximate value of \$2,000. This device will be used primarily in the cad program. This is a very generous donation that will provide Newtown High School with a major leap forward and its impact will be far reaching.

Mr. and Mrs Poulter
2 Vona Way
Newtown, CT 06470

Annual Donation of 3rd Grade Dictionaries from the Newtown Rotary Club

The Newtown Rotary Club again this year will be purchasing dictionaries for every 3rd grader in Newtown (including public, private and parochial schools) as they have done for the past several years as part of their literacy program.

The Reed Intermediate School Interact Club will affix each student label to a dictionary as a service project and then will send the boxed dictionaries to each school for a brief 10-minute presentation by Rotary Club officers. They only present one dictionary to a student as a ceremonial gesture and then room teachers distribute them to their students in their rooms later. (I try to attend as well as an honorary Rotarian and school liaison for the past 15 years.) The presentation is scheduled for early November with each school.

Tony Salvatore

From: Pooja Bhasin <bhasinp@newtown.k12.ct.us>
Date: September 22, 2013, 2:31:31 PM EDT
To: Anne Uberti <ubertia@newtown.k12.ct.us>, Julie Haggard <haggardj@newtown.k12.ct.us>
Subject: Resignation Letter

Dear Mrs. Uberti and Mrs. Haggard

I would like to inform you that I would like to resign from my position as a Guidance Counselor at Reed Intermediate School, Newtown effective September 23, 2013.

Working at Reed was a tremendous experience and I appreciate the opportunities for professional and personal development that you provided me during this time.

I wish the Reed staff and students the best of success in future.

Please let me know if can assist with the transition in any way.

Sincerely
Pooja Bhasin

140 Old Town Farm Rd
Woodbury CT 06798

Newtown Public Schools Board of Education
3 Primrose Street
Newtown CT 06740

September 27, 2013

Dear Dr. Reed & Board of Education Members,

My name is Valerie LeBlanc and I have been a proud Newtown Middle School science teacher since 2002. I am writing to inform you of some very exciting news; I am expecting my third child scheduled to arrive in December. My two sons are now nearly seven and nine years old, and soon to join them will be a baby sister.

The anticipated due date of our new addition is December 11, 2013 and so long as I am able, I plan on working right up until my delivery. With your approval, I would like to return to work on Friday, May 9, 2014, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of this maternity leave duration.

Warmest Regards,



Valerie LeBlanc

Melinda Wilson
19 Longview Terrace
Sandy Hook, CT 06482

Dear Dr. Reed,

I am writing this letter to inform you that I am expecting a baby this December. My due date is December 2nd, 2013. I plan on working as close to my due date as possible, barring any complications. I will be returning for the 2014-2015 school year.

Sincerely,

Melinda Wilson
Grade 1 Teacher
Middle Gate Elementary School

**NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT**

2014-2015 SCHOOL BUDGET DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Meeting Type</u>	
1. Commencement of Budget Process	Director of Business	09/20/13	Fri	Senior Leadership Team	ADMINISTRATION
2. Budget Calendar and Materials Distributed	Director of Business	10/03/13	Thur	CO Internal	
3. Discussion and Expectations / Goals of Budget Process	Superintendent	10/11/13	Fri	Senior Leadership Team	
4. Submission of Technology & Bldg & Grounds Requests	Dir's of Tech / Facilities	11/05/13	Tue	CO Internal	
5. Submission of All Budget Requests	Principals / Directors	11/08/13	Fri	Senior Leadership Team	
6. Submission of Salaries	Accountant & Personnel	11/12/13	Tue	CO Internal	
7. Preliminary Update and Discussion of Budget in Progress	Superintendent	11/22/13	Fri	Senior Leadership Team	
8. Administrative Team Review Discussions #1 (Full Day)	Superintendent	12/04/13	Wed	Adm Team Meeting	
9. Administrative Team Review Discussions #2 (Half Day)	Superintendent	12/10/13	Tue	Adm Team Meeting	
10. Superintendent's Overview of Proposed Budget to BOE, Elem & Reed	Superintendent	01/21/14	Tue	Regular BOE Mtg	BOARD OF EDUCATION
11. Budget Workshop # 2 - Middle, High Schools, Pupil Pers & Health	Board of Ed	01/23/14	Thurs	Workshop Mtg	
12. Budget Workshop # 3 - Special Ed, Curriculum, Technology & Gen Svcs	Board of Ed	01/28/14	Tue	Workshop Mtg	
13. Budget Workshop # 4 - Continuing Ed, Benefits, Plant & Transportation	Board of Ed	01/30/14	Thurs	Workshop Mtg	
14. Budget Workshop # 5 - Public Hearing & Discussion	Board of Ed	02/04/14	Tue	PH & Regular BOE Mtg	
15. Budget Workshop # 6 - Adoption of Budget	Board of Ed	02/06/14	Thurs	Workshop Mtg	
16. BOE Budget Submitted to Financial Director <i>(Feb 14th submission deadline per Town Charter)</i>	Director of Business	02/14/14	Fri	Finance Internal <i>(Delivery)</i>	
Schools Closed - Winter Recess		2/17/14 thru 2/18/14		Mon - Tue	BOARD OF FINANCE
17. Budget Proposals Published in Newspaper <i>(At least 5 days prior to Public Hearing per Town Charter)</i>	Finance Director	02/21/14	Fri	(Newspaper)	
18. Board of Finance Public Budget Hearing for the Town <i>(Not later than the first Wednesday in March, per Town Charter)</i>	Board of Finance	02/20/14	Thurs	Public Hearing	
19. Board of Finance - Budget Review with Board of Ed	Board of Finance	TBD		Finance Board	
20. Board of Finance recommends Budget to Legislative Council <i>(Not later than March 14th, per Town Charter)</i>	Board of Finance	03/05/14	Wed	Finance Board	
21. Budget Proposals Published in Newspaper <i>(At least 5 days prior to Public Hearing per Town Charter)</i>	Finance Director	03/14/14	Fri	(Newspaper)	
22. L.C. Education Sub-committee deliberations	Legislative Council	TBD		L.C. Sub-committee	
23. Legislative Council Public Budget Hearing for the Town <i>(Not later than last Wednesday in March, per Town Charter)</i>	Legislative Council	03/19/14	Wed	Public Hearing	
24. Legislative Council Budget Meeting	Legislative Council	TBD		Legislative Council	
25. Legislative Council adopts a Town Budget <i>(Not later than the 2nd Wednesday in April, per Town Charter)</i>	Legislative Council	04/02/14	Wed	Legislative Council	
Schools Closed - Spring Recess		4/14/14 thru 4/18/14		Mon - Fri	LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
26. LC Budget Proposal Published in Newspaper <i>(At least 5 days prior to Annual Budget Referendum per Town Charter)</i>	Finance Director	04/11/14	Fri	(Newspaper)	
27. Town Budget Referendum <i>(4th Tuesday in April per Town Charter)</i>	Town Charter	04/22/14	Tue	Referendum Vote	
TBD = To Be Determined					BOE Approved 10/1/13

REVISED

**NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUMMARY - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
2013/14 TO 2018/19**

For Discussion
for the BOE on 10/1/13

LY#	Priority	CIP Item #	Location	Description of Project	<i>underway</i> 2013/14	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	TOTALS		
						2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19			
1	0	Hawley Elem.	Hawley Elem.	HVAC Phase I Professional Services	\$144,000								
2	0	Hawley Elem.	Hawley Elem.	HVAC Phase I Boiler Replacement 1948 & 1997 upgrade two boilers (<i>build in redundancy</i>)	\$2,370,000								
4	2	Hawley Elem.	Hawley Elem.	HVAC Phase II Ventilation Improvements 1948 and 1997 sections			\$3,500,000						
5	3	Hawley Elem.	Hawley Elem.	HVAC Phase III Remove Steam Radiators & boiler & tie into ventilation 1921 section				\$2,500,000			\$8,514,000		
6	4 now out Sandy Hook Elem Window Replacement Projects - was \$600,000							\$0			\$0		
8	5	Middle Gate Elem	Middle Gate Elem	Window Replacement Projects				\$400,000			\$400,000		
7	4	Middle School	Middle School	Phase 0 - Professional Services				\$100,000					
7	4	Middle School	Middle School	Phase I - New boilers and re-piping				\$2,100,000					
* ADDED	Middle School	Middle School	Middle School	Phase II - Ventilation renovations				\$4,805,000			\$7,005,000		
3	1	High School	High School	Phase 0 - Professional Services				\$100,000					
3	1	High School	High School	Auditorium; ADA code, replace duct work, lighting, seating and fire sprinkler system				\$2,200,000			\$2,300,000		
* ADDED	Sandy Hook Elem	*Project development			(-\$750,000)								
* ADDED	Sandy Hook Elem	*Design, engineering & construction			(-\$49,250,000)						(-\$50,000,000)		
TOTAL COSTS OF ALL PROJECTS					\$3,264,000	\$51,550,000	\$3,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,600,000	\$4,805,000	\$68,219,000		
TOTAL TO BE BONDED					\$2,514,000	\$2,300,000	\$3,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,600,000	\$4,805,000	\$18,219,000		

*Funding provided by the State of Connecticut. This project will not be bonded locally and will not impact Newtown's budget or tax rate.

TOWN OF NEWTOWN
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL APPROVED CIP (2013 - 2014 TO 2017 - 2018)

RANK	2013 - 2014 (YEAR ONE)			Proposed Funding			
	BOARD OF SELECTMEN		Dept.	Amount Requested	Bonding	Grants	General Fund
1	Capital Road Program	PW	2,000,000				2,000,000
1	Bridge Replacement Program	PW	430,000	430,000			
2	Newtown H & L Fire House Construction (1 of 3)	FIRE	500,000	500,000			
3	Sandy Hook Streetscape Program ***	ECON DEV	200,000	200,000			
4	Dickinson Playground	P & R	438,000	438,000			
6	Treadwell Park Renovations	P & R	498,000	498,000			
6	Danbury Hall Demolition	FFH	250,000	200,000	50,000		
7	Open Space Acquisition Program	LAND USE	200,000	200,000			
8	Hawleyville Sewer Extension (Phase II)	WPCA	5,000,000	500,000		4,500,000	
9	Artificial Turf Replacement at Treadwell Field	P & R	500,000			500,000	
10	Install Lights at High School Back Field	P & R	300,000			300,000	
BOARD OF EDUCATION							
1	Hawley Boiler / HVAC - Phase I Prog Svcs ***	BOE	144,000	144,000			
2	Hawley Boiler / HVAC - Phase I Construction	BOE	2,370,000	2,370,000			
	TOTALS		>>>>>	12,830,000	5,480,000	50,000	2,000,000
RANK	2014 - 2015 (YEAR TWO)			Proposed Funding			
BOARD OF SELECTMEN		Dept.	Amount Requested	Bonding	Grants	General Fund	Other
1	Capital Road Program	PW	2,000,000			2,000,000	
1	Bridge Replacement Program	PW	315,000	315,000			
2	Newtown H & L Fire House Construction (2 of 3)	FIRE	500,000	500,000			
3	Sandy Hook Streetscape Program ***	ECON DEV	200,000	200,000			
4	Open Space Acquisition Program	LAND USE	1,000,000	1,000,000			
6	FFH Walking Trails Phase II	FFH	300,000	300,000			
6	Community Center Design Phase	P & R	500,000	500,000			
BOARD OF EDUCATION							
1	High School Auditorium Improvements - Design	BOE	100,000.0	100,000			
2	High School Auditorium Improvements	BOE	2,200,000	2,200,000			
	TOTALS		>>>>>	7,115,000	5,115,000	-	2,000,000
RANK	2015 - 2016 (YEAR THREE)			Proposed Funding			
BOARD OF SELECTMEN		Dept.	Amount Requested	Bonding	Grants	General Fund	Other
1	Capital Road Program	PW	2,000,000			2,000,000	
1	Bridge Replacement Program	PW	300,000	300,000			
2	Newtown H & L Fire House Construction (3 of 3)	FIRE	500,000	500,000			
3	Addition To Fire House Sub-Station	FIRE	375,000	375,000			
4	Fire Apparatus Replacement	FIRE	975,000	975,000			
5	Treadwell/Dickinson Parking Lots	P & R	450,000	450,000			
6	Eichlers Cove Concession Stand / Bath House	P & R	325,000	325,000			
7	Community Center Construction Phase (1 of 2)	P & R	10,000,000	10,000,000			
8	Open Space Acquisition Program	LAND USE	800,000	800,000			
9	FFH Building Demolition	FFH	2,400,000	2,400,000			
10	Edmond Town Hall Renovations	ETH	300,000	300,000			
11	Library Renovations	LIB	300,000	300,000			
BOARD OF EDUCATION							
1	Hawley Boiler / HVAC - Phase II	BOE	3,500,000	3,500,000			
	TOTALS		>>>>>	22,225,000	20,225,000	-	2,000,000
RANK	2016 - 2017 (YEAR FOUR)			Proposed Funding			
BOARD OF SELECTMEN		Dept.	Amount Requested	Bonding	Grants	General Fund	Other
1	Capital Road Program	PW	2,000,000			2,000,000	
1	Bridge Replacement Program	PW	414,000	414,000			
2	Fire Apparatus Replacement	FIRE	975,000	500,000		475,000	
3	Community Center Construction Phase (2 of 2)	P & R	5,000,000	5,000,000			
4	FFH Walking Trails Phase III	FFH	500,000	500,000			
5	Senior Center Design Phase	SR CTR	500,000	500,000			
BOARD OF EDUCATION							
1	Hawley Boiler / HVAC - Phase III	BOE	2,500,000	2,500,000			
2	Sandy Hook Window Replacements	BOE	600,000	600,000			
	TOTALS		>>>>>	12,489,000	10,014,000	-	2,000,000
RANK	2017 - 2018 (YEAR FIVE)			Proposed Funding			
BOARD OF SELECTMEN		Dept.	Amount Requested	Bonding	Grants	General Fund	Other
1	Capital Road Program	PW	2,000,000			2,000,000	
1	Bridge Replacement Program	PW	350,000	350,000			
2	Edmond Town Hall Renovations	ETH	250,000	250,000		175,000	
3	Library Renovations	LIB	250,000	250,000			
4	FFH Building Demolition / Infrastructure	FFH	1,000,000	1,000,000			
5	Police Facility Design	POLICE	500,000	500,000			
BOARD OF EDUCATION							
1	Middle School Renovation - Phase 0	BOE	100,000	100,000			
2	Middle School Renovation - Phase 1	BOE	2,100,000	2,100,000			
3	Middle Gate Window Replacements	BOE	400,000	400,000			
	TOTALS		>>>>>	6,950,000	4,950,000	-	2,000,000
	GRAND TOTALS			61,609,000	45,784,000	50,000	10,000,000
							5,950,000

*** BONDED AMOUNT HAS BEEN APPROPRIATED (APPROVED)

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: DR. JOHN REED
FROM: CHARLES DUMAIS *CR*
SUBJECT: ELECTRONIC SIGN OUTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL
DATE: SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

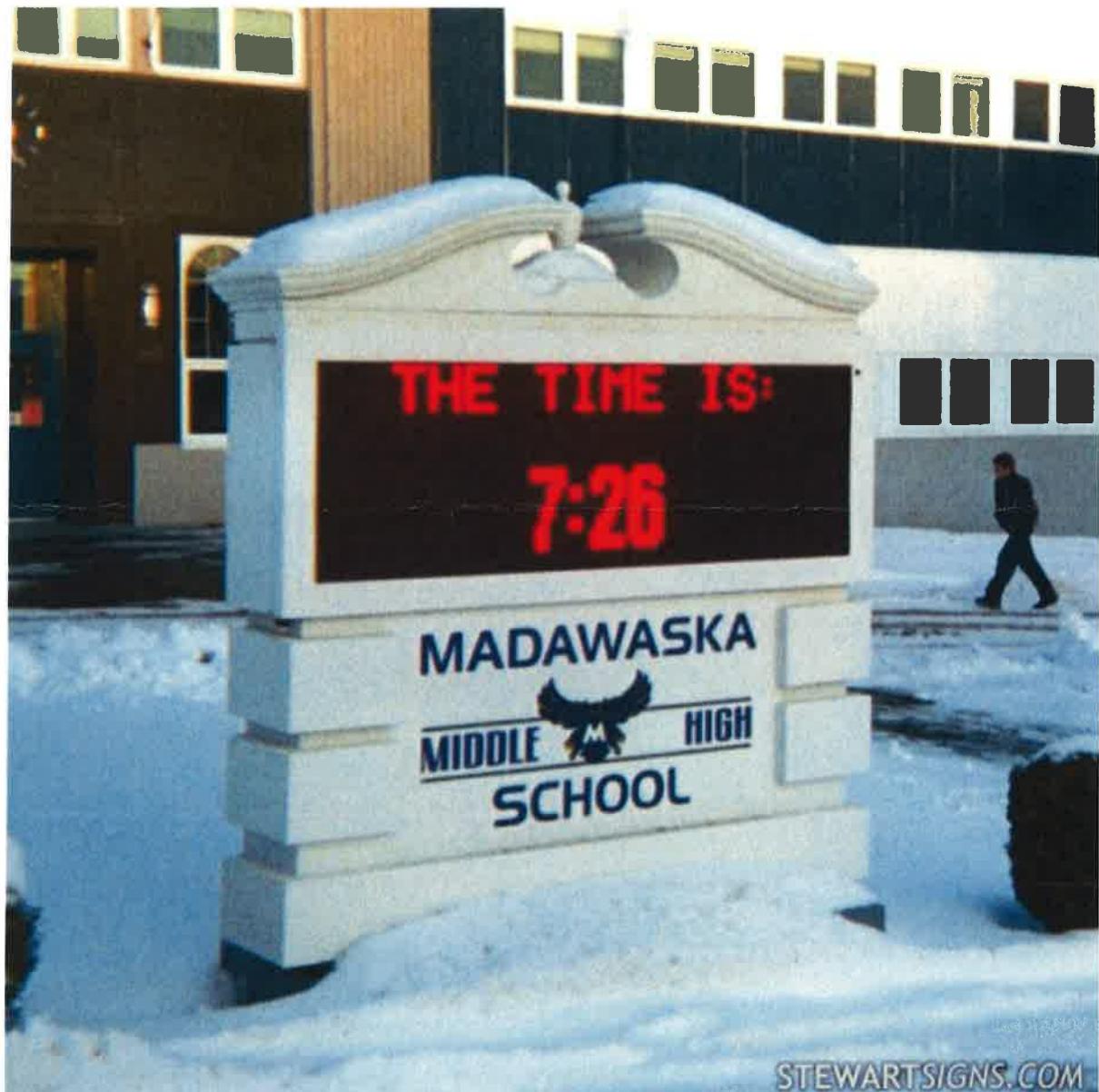
SEP 19 2013

The Newtown High School PTSA has been helping us to get information on installing an LED sign at the entrance to the high school. They have investigated sign options, sign installation, and local zoning rules. What follows is a summary of the details with some pictures of sample signs.

- Current sign is approximately 7'x6', constructed of wood, and is 16' from the curb on Route 34
- The LED sign can be placed at the location of the current sign (one-sided) or on the island in the driveway (two-sided), depending on the response from Planning & Zoning and the final cost of the unit and installation.
- A variance would have to be requested since the sign would be self-illuminated
- We are located in a commercial zone on a State road
- Planning & Zoning meets on first and third Thursday of each month and requires one month's notice to public.
- We would be asking for a specific exception that would address only the high school
- Sample Messages include
 - PTSA Meeting tonight at 7:00pm
 - All athletic events have been cancelled due to inclement weather
 - Reminder: Early dismissal today for all students
 - Congratulations Rudy Rogers – US Science Challenge Winner
 - Parent Budget Meeting Wednesday October 23, 7:00pm, Lecture Hall
 - Today is a “B” day and starts with Period 7



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**Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut**

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers at 3 Primrose Street.

D. Leidlein, Chair
L. Roche, Vice Chair
K. Hamilton, Secretary
R. Gaines
W. Hart
K. Alexander
J. Vouros

J. Reed
L. Gejda
R. Bienkowski
1 Staff
8 Public
3 Press

Mrs. Leidlein called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

Item 1 – Consent Agenda

MOTION: Mr. Gaines moved that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda which included the minutes of September 4, 2013, the donation of \$756 to Sandy Hook School, the donation of an iPad to Sandy Hook School and Head O'Meadow School, the child-rearing leave of absence for Amy Deeb, teacher at Newtown High School and the resignation of Leah Clark, teacher at Newtown High School. Mrs. Roche seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 2 – Public Participation - none

Item 3 – Reports

Correspondence: Ms. Hamilton said the Board received a letter from Dinah Lee Brewington regarding the donation of paintings. She requested this donation be turned over to the donation coordinators.

Chair Report: Mrs. Leidlein read the attached letter from the AFT of Connecticut president Melodie Peters regarding the appointment of Dr. Reed as Interim Superintendent and security concerns in the district.

She also received a letter from NEASC with dates for the evaluation of Newtown High School which are October 4 to 7, 2015.

Prior to the meeting tonight three Board members informally met with Tom Hennick regarding questions on FOIA protocol. We set a formal workshop for December 17 at 6:30 p.m. when new board is seated.

Mr. Gaines said the Board also received an email from Rosemary Conrad regarding school hours.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Reed went to each open house to address parents regarding security and his desire to involve parents in an activity to learn about the budget through budget seminars. Regarding security he does not want to make recommendations in public so there is no misuse of the information. On September 26 he is having a meeting for parents only with no media present. We don't want information made public that might do harm.

There were two false alarms at Hawley School today in the 48 section. An obvious reason couldn't be found but some of the wiring is old. We have a fire watch in that part of the building and will maintain that until we find the reason for the problem.

In October he will present a budget calendar different from the one we've had in the past. We will be using a different process in the administrator's review of the budget by bringing them all together for the discussion of their budgets. He asked the Board for input on their thoughts about the budget.

Mrs. Roche spoke about the superintendent search and the various focus groups throughout the community. There will also be three parent meetings. The survey is on our website. The policy subcommittee met last week and will work the next month to get through them.

Dr. Reed said the referendum authorizing the expenditure for the new Sandy Hook School will be funded by the State of Connecticut. There will be extended hours for the community to drop by with questions for him and Pat Llodra. This is about restoring us to where we were.

Newtown High School Assessment Report:

Mr. Dumais compared our scores with districts in our Drg. Regarding the SAT, scores in math and critical reading are in the same area as last year but in writing there was an 11 point increase.

For the ACT scores we had a drop in everything but everyone in the nation also dropped. Regarding CAPT the lower end of our Drg matches the state average. We dropped in reading and are a little lower in science than last year.

Dr. Reed stated that if you want increases in scores in subject areas the students need to spend more time in those subjects.

Mr. Dumais mentioned that these results included all students including special ed. Also in CAPT the writing and math scores dropped. We are going to focus our efforts in math and try to identify with freshmen.

Item 5 – New Business

High School Resiliency Survey:

Dr. Reed introduced Dr. John Woodall who spoke about collecting data about our students over a period of time in the areas of resiliency. We feel it is appropriate and necessary to collect data about staff and students as to where we are relative to the Sandy Hook tragedy. Also, David Jacob, the Project Recovery Director, will start this Monday.

Mr. Dumais said he met Dr. Woodall prior to December to discuss the Unity Project and empowering students. They formerly started in the spring having students working with Dr. Woodall, faculty advisors and other students on ways to improve the schools.

Dr. Woodall stated Mr. Dumais established a vision to use this project which is all about good leadership. He is a psychiatrist and has worked in traumatized environments.

Dr. Reed said he would come back with a plan for the Board to approve. We want to get to the impact of this tragedy on adults and children. It will be an anonymous survey. The high school started out as an afterschool club.

Item 3 – Reports (continued)

MOTION: Mr. Hart moved to approve the financial report for the month ending August 31, 2013. Mr. Gaines seconded.

Mr. Bienkowski presented his financial report. Main object accounts are in a positive position. We spent \$3.2M for operations in August which is about \$700,000 less than in July. This does not include the first payroll. This report also includes a list of cash donations since December 14.

Ms. Hamilton asked if there were any tax implications for the district due to the cash donations. Mr. Bienkowski said we are a non-profit organization so anything received is revenue. Those who donate would claim it on their taxes.

Motions passes unanimously.

Item 5 – New Business (continued)

HVAC Bid for Newtown High School and Reed Intermediate School:

MOTION: Ms. Hamilton moved that the Board of Education award the contract for the HVAC Preventative Maintenance to Global Mechanical, the low bidder on September 9, 2013 for Newtown High School and Reed Intermediate School. Mrs. Roche seconded.

Mr. Bienkowski said Mr. Faiella put the bid together with three bidders who responded. Global Mechanical was the low bidder and we would like to contract them for the work.

Mr. Alexander asked if this covered any failures.

Mr. Bienkowski stated this is a preventative maintenance which is done on a scheduled basis. If we have a failure it would be a separate cost but some problems could be a major cost. We have a \$25,000 deductible.

Mr. Gaines asked who held this year's contract.

Robert Carnoli of Global Mechanicals said they had Reed and Trane has the high school contract.

Ms. Hamilton spoke about Global's work as they have worked for her and she recommended them to others. They are lower priced than anyone around. Global has also worked in the town hall.

Motion passes unanimously.

Sandy Hook School Asset Reclamation:

MOTION: Mr. Hart moved that the Board of Education approve the Sandy Hook School asset reclamation as discussed. Mr. Vouros seconded.

Mr. Bienkowski said we are interested in retrieving useful items from Sandy Hook School before it is demolished such as 2 dual fuel power flame burners, an 80-gallon hot water heater, an 8-KVA generator and auto transfer switch, a fire panel, three cafeteria refrigerator/freezers and several Allerton control modules. We will also remove lighting fixtures and stainless steel sinks. We've discussed this with Bob Mitchell for timing on removal. We will also contract for asbestos removal after the referendum. We received a very generous donation regarding the removal of burners and the hot water heater. McKenney Mechanical volunteered to remove these at no cost and relocate them to our warehouse.

Mr. Vouros asked about the Smartboards.

Mr. Bienkowski said Mrs. Amodeo arranged for a company to remove them which will also be free of charge. This will occur before October 5. A rigger will remove the generator. It can wait until after the building begins to be taken down.

Dr. Reed said a significant number of Smartboards will go to the middle school. Motion passes unanimously.

Special Funding for Security Cameras:

MOTION: Mr. Hart moved that the Board of Education request \$34,217 from the Special Revenue Fund – Undesignated Account, #1-133-11-000-5800-4014 for the purpose of providing additional video surveillance equipment and the associated labor needed to meet the additional security system requirements for Hawley, Head O'Meadow, Reed Intermediate and Newtown Middle Schools that fell outside the scope of work of the donated solution. In addition to this amount, \$9,074 of funding for this purpose will be provided by the Hawley Fund. Mr. Gaines seconded.

Mr. Bienkowski said this is coming from the Town's undesignated special revenue account. A grant reimbursed the fund.

Dr. Reed stated this came in as an unassigned contribution to be used by the school system. Others have been using money in the fund.

Motion passes unanimously.

Item 6 – Public Participation

Michelle Ku, 28 Platts Hill Road, was happy to see John Woodall working in the district. She was glad to hear Dr. Reed speaking about not just focusing on test scores.

MOTION: Mrs. Roche moved to into executive session to discuss the NASA contract and invited Dr. Reed and Mr. Bienkowski. Mr. Gaines seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 7 – Executive Session

Executive session began at 9:15 p.m.

Item 8 – Public Session

MOTION: Mr. Gaines moved to adjourn. Mr. Alexander seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 9 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathy Hamilton
Secretary

FUEL OIL PRICES OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS

<u>Fiscal</u>	<u>Newtown</u>	<u>Consortium</u>	
1999-2000	\$0.4419	\$0.5095	
2000-2001	\$0.8387	\$1.0600	
2001-2002	\$0.8350	\$0.8950	
2002-2003	\$0.6600	\$0.8400	
2003-2004	\$0.8700	\$0.9275	
2004-2005	\$1.4681	\$1.4800	
2005-2006	\$1.8987	\$2.0330	
2006-2007	\$1.9764	\$2.2700	\$2.2400 pre pay
2007-2008	\$3.0252	\$2.0500	
2008-2009	\$3.5332	\$3.5332	\$3.4990 pre pay
2009-2010	\$2.4537	\$2.4542	\$2.4242 pre pay
2010-2011	\$2.3002	\$2.4300	
2011-2012	\$2.9745	\$3.1200	Floating
2012-2012	\$3.3746	\$3.0400	6/1/2012
2013-2014	\$3.1619	\$2.9955	
2014-2015	\$0.0000	\$0.0000	

OIL PRICES

