

**Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut**

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting on April 1, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 3 Primrose Street.

D. Leidlein, Chair	L. Gejda
L. Roche, Vice Chair	R. Bienkowski
K. Hamilton, Secretary	2 Staff
K. Alexander	50 Public
J. Vouros	2 Press
D. Freedman	
M. Ku	

Mrs. Leidlein called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Item 1 – Pledge of Allegiance

Item 2 – Student Recognition

Mrs. Leidlein introduced Gregg Simon who spoke about the students who won the Large School Sate Championship in Dance and the Class LL Wrestling State Championship. He introduced the coaches and students.

Item 3 – Consent Agenda

MOTION: Mrs. Roche moved that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda which includes the ratification of the Superintendent's approval of the high school color guard field trip to Dayton, Ohio, the approval of the high school band and choir field trip to Toronto, Canada, and the resignation for retirement of Eileen Cullen, pre-school teacher, B.J. Liberty, teacher at Newtown Middle School, Vicki Sheskin, teacher at Hawley School, and Tony Salvatore, Assistant Principal, Newtown Middle School. Ms. Hamilton seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 4 – Public Participation

Item 5 – Reports

Correspondence: Ms. Hamilton asked if there were questions regarding the correspondence received and requested that further reports be part of the consent agenda.

Chair Report: Mrs. Leidlein referred to the CABE newsletter regarding an upcoming workshop for Board members. She invited Dr. David Abbey, Interim Human Resources Director, to give an update on the principal searches.

Dr. Abbey reviewed the advertising process for the principal searches. They received 50 applications for the Hawley principal position. Dr. Reed screened them and selected nine to interview. We brought forward six candidates to the committee. Dr. Reed held a session with the Hawley staff and parents to get their attributes for the new principal. They will be interviewed this week and they will forward the final candidates to Dr. Erardi who will interview them on Saturday. There will be a site visit on the selected candidate before bringing that person to the Board.

Regarding the high school search, we have 25 applications to date. Dr. Jackie Jacoby from CABE is handling this search. There were 200 people who applied to the on line survey and she conducted focus groups with the high school support staff, parents and faculty. April 7 is

the first committee meeting and she will share the results with them. Dr. Erardi will be on the screening interviews.

Committee Reports:

Mr. Vouros said the gifted committee has finalized their work and it has been sent to Dr. Reed and Dr. Erardi for review. A presentation will be made to the Board.

Mrs. Roche said the budget newsletter went out from the communications committee.

Mr. Alexander received eight different views of each budget video. There were 33 views of the enrollment and staff reduction videos.

Mrs. Roche said there would be one more newsletter once budget number is set by the Legislative Council which will be distributed by the PTAs. Mrs. Leidlein will speak on behalf of the Board at the Legislative Council meeting.

Mrs. Ku attended the security committee meeting last week. The ERT training has been ongoing and the MOU for the SSOs is being developed. They discussed the consistency of visitor entry between the schools and agreed they should all be the same. More drills will be planned.

Item 6 – Old Business

Charter Revision Considerations:

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved that the Board of Education approve the Charter revision considerations. Mrs. Roche seconded.

Mrs. Ku spoke about the revision considerations which included the political balance of the Board of Education section 2-30(c), filling vacancies on the Board of Education section 2-40, section 2-70(a) regarding the Town election of Board of Education members which is outdated or no longer relevant, the Legislative Council action on reductions and additions to the Board of Education Budget section 6-13(b), the date for the referendum section 6-14(a), referendum advisory questions section 6-14(a), and bifurcation of the budget section 6-14(a).

Motion passes unanimously.

Item 7 – New Business

Budget Communication to the Legislative Council:

Mrs. Leidlein will speak at their April 2 meeting.

Set Middle School Moving Up and High School Graduation Dates:

MOTION: Mrs. Roche moved that the Board of Education set the Middle School Moving Up Ceremony for June 16, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. and the Newtown High School Graduation Ceremony for June 17, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. at the O'Neill Center. Ms. Hamilton seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Minutes of March 18, 2014:

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of March 18, 2014. Mrs. Roche seconded. Vote: 5 ayes, 2 abstained (Mr. Vouros and Mr. Freedman)

Item 8 – Public Participation

Kinga Walsh, 21 Horseshoe Ridge Road, referred to the budget newsletter and asked to highlight Dr. Reed's comments at the Legislative Council meeting last week and answer how this budget moves the district forward.

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved to go into executive session to discuss security and the Sandy Hook project and invited Dr. Linda Gejda. Mrs. Roche seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 9 – Executive Session

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

Item 10 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathy Hamilton
Secretary