

Please Note: these minutes are pending Board approval.
Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on January 27, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 3 Primrose Street.

D. Zukowski, Chair	L. Rodrigue
J. Vouros, Chair	A. Uberti
D. Ramsey, Secretary	T. Vadas
D. Cruson	10 Staff
R. Harriman	4 Public
J. Kuzma	2 Press
J. Larkin	
C. Savo (absent)	
M. Irvine (absent)	

Ms. Zukowski called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Item 1 – Pledge of Allegiance

Item 2 – Public Hearing on the Budget

Jessica Velasco, 103 Brushy Hill Road, supports the efforts of Wesley Johnson and thanked the Board and administration for creating this position. In this short time we realize how important this position is and asked the Board to provide administrative support for him as it cannot be done by one person.

Laura Main, 42 The Old Road, was in support of the curriculum budget and independent audit. Funding is important for this. Develop curriculum for a culturally responsible education.

Item 3 – Budget Discussion

Mrs. Vadas reported that the tax increase for both the Town and Board of Education budget would be 1.07%.

Dr. Rodrigue received a question regarding professional development and training related to classroom and instruction. She provided information over the last three years. We had a November professional development day around diversity and equity but the majority is for instruction.

Ms. Zukowski had a question about whether the budget supports an audit on curriculum.

Mrs. Uberti noted that an audit was not included in this budget but would be done the remainder of this year.

Ms. Zukowski asked about administrative support for Mr. Johnson.

Dr. Rodrigue noted that he receives secretarial support from central office.

Mr. Vouros wanted everyone to understand that before Mrs. Uberti joined us that portion of our program was lacking. She began to tie up loose ends and get everything organized and moving our staff forward. This document is attributed to her and the administrators who supported her.

Mr. Ramsey asked how the professional development feedback was from the teachers.

Mrs. Uberti began in 2019 and PD was impacted by Covid in 2019-20. This year there has been a little fatigue with online PD. We have been working more directly with teachers. She and Dr. Purcaro are in the classroom more and finding what type of PD they want. We take their needs into consideration.

Dr. Rodrigue noted that we often ask teachers to evaluate PD days and get their feedback which is very favorable.

Mrs. Harriman noticed a lot of PD around DEI and asked what Mr. Johnson's role will be in this training or are we bringing someone from the outside.

Mrs. Uberti said we are discussing that right now. It would be a combination of both. We are looking to have one on culturally responsible education. At the State level there is a network of DEI coordinators which he is connected to.

Mrs. Larkin asked if there was PD for elementary teachers to look for learning disabilities.

Mrs. Uberti said that would be for general education classroom teachers. We usually identify disability based on the assessments we give. We are also doing work on the SRBI process. A goal with EduClimber is to create ranges and referrals to special education in each school.

Mrs. Larkin said the teacher is the first line as they spend a lot of time with the students. She was not sure if any PD was available for elementary schools.

Mrs. Uberti said we won't see a lot for the elementary schools because they have been working on Bridges. We are looking for more coming from the State.

Mrs. Larkin wants to make sure literacy stays in the forefront.

Dr. Rodrigue said that regular education teachers work with special education teachers so if something arises when looking at data that collaboration is critical.

Mrs. Larkin noted a custodian position was posted on line and asked how long it was open.

Mr. Gerbert advertised for approximately two weeks. By union contract we offer it to our staff for five days and after that it goes external. The two week period includes those five days. We are one week into the posting for the middle school.

Mrs. Larkin asked that knowing we are moving students from Hawley to Sandy Hook and Reed, if it was a position we needed to fill.

Mr. Gerbert said for the moment we do because we have a number of months left in the school year and it is a valuable body to have. If a vacancy lasts for a while, work is picked up by other custodians in the school and is also covered with overtime and other man hours. We used a lot of overtime with Covid but there was a breaking point where people were released from their position or wanted to go back to their regular schedule.

Ms. Zukowski thanked the Dr. Rodrigue and the administrators and staff at the meeting and was impressed with the quality of this budget. We are adding 75 students to the elementary schools and 6 new certified staff members. There has been learning loss with the schools closed due to the pandemic. We added a .5 math interventionist at Hawley, Middle Gate and Head O'Meadow Schools which equals 1.5 positions. In the middle school, the schedule was adjusted to accommodate world language classes. We also discussed co-taught classes in the middle school and 2 special education teachers which were grant funded will now be in the budget. The high school lost 67 students and reduced 1.4 positions. Ms. Zukowski fully supports this budget. Last year just under \$500,000 was removed from the budget and moved to capital nonrecurring. That amount accounts for a certain gap between last year's and this year's budget comparison. It was capital for technology and our maintenance projects. They

are now represented in our budget and it's up to the Board of Finance and Legislative Council to decide if we continue to keep them there.

Item 4 – Public Participation

MOTION: Mr. Cruson moved to adjourn. Mrs. Harriman seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Ms. Zukowski thanked the Board of Education members, administrators and school personnel at the meeting, the administrators to her right, and to Ms. June for everything she does for the Board which is very much appreciated.

Item 5 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Donald Ramsey
Secretary

LOCATION	Description	Bdgt 2020/21
HAWLEY	Various professional development	3,000.00
SANDY HOOK	NEASP, Responsive classroom, CT Reading Conference	6,500.00
MIDDLE GATE	various Prof Dev Workshop	3,900.00
HEAD OMEADOW	Inservice and outside workshops for certified staff.	2,000.00
REED SCHOOL	Various Workshop rfor Principal & Assistant Principal, CECA	13,614.00
MIDDLE SCHOOL	Various Workshop & Prof Dev+CAEA, NAEA, CECA, CMEA, State Conf,NGSS/NSTA	11,956.00
HIGH SCHOOL	Project Lead the Way Participation Fee- Engineering	3,000.00
HIGH SCHOOL	PLTW Participation Fee for BioMedical Course	2,000.00
HIGH SCHOOL	AP Training- English Department & Tech	1,250.00
HIGH SCHOOL	Guest Speaker- Testing Day	2,500.00
HIGH SCHOOL	Library Staff Training- Professional Development- ED Skills Institute and CECA/CASL Conference	500.00
HIGH SCHOOL	Math Department- NCTM Conferences- TAFT	1,900.00
HIGH SCHOOL	World Language Workshops -COLT-NECTFL- AATI Conference	760.00
HIGH SCHOOL	CCSS/NCSS Annual Conference Fee	1,000.00
HIGH SCHOOL	PE - Lifeguard Training/CPR/First Aid,SHAPE and CTAHPERD & confr	1,025.00
HIGH SCHOOL	English- Bard Workshop	3,120.00
HIGH SCHOOL	PLTW and NGSS Training	4,000.00
HIGH SCHOOL	ETA Conference -National Theater Conference	1,800.00
HIGH SCHOOL	AP Workshop Training- Social Studies	1,000.00
HIGH SCHOOL	CMEA Conference Registration fee	950.00
HIGH SCHOOL	POWERSCHOOL Registration Workshops	2,500.00
HIGH SCHOOL	Carreer and Community Services Facilitators	1,500.00
HIGH SCHOOL	Summer Reading Program & Guidance	3,500.00
SPECIAL ED	WILSON TRAINING ,ORTEN WORKSHOPS	25,000.00
ASSISTANT SUPER	TEAM Mentor Training	2,000.00
ASSISTANT SUPER	Attendance at Reg/Nat Conferences	10,600.00
ASSISTANT SUPER	PD Day Fees for Trainers/Speakers	5,800.00
ASSISTANT SUPER	Staff Professional Development	35,000.00
SUPERINTENDENT	CABE, CAPS, ANNUAL ADMIN WORKSHOP	2,600.00
SUPERINTENDENT	RE-CENTER; RACIAL EQUITY	9,602.62
SUPERINTENDENT	RE-CENTER; RACIAL EQUITY	4,801.32
SUPERINTENDENT	DR. DERICK GAY - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	8,000.00
TOTAL		176,678.94

LOCATION	Description	Bdgt 2021-22
HAWLEY	CT Reading Conf, other conf and Materials	3,000.00
SANDY HOOK	TEACHER WORKSHOPS, CT READING CONF, RESP, NEASP	7,000.00
MIDDLE GATE	PROF DEV BOOKS,READING STRATEGIES, WRITER WORKSHOP	3,900.00
HEAD OMEADOW	IN-SERVICE/OUTSIDE ONLINE WORKSHOPS FOR CERT. STAFF	2,500.00
REED SCHOOL	WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	13,050.00
MIDDLE SCHOOL	Confrences (CAEA, CECA, CMEA,CT AHPERD, NCSS)	11,498.00
HIGH SCHOOL	LIFEGUARD/CPR CERT, BARD, COLT, AP,CECA/CAS, PTLW/NGSS TRAINING, CCSS/NCSS	31,450.00
HIGH SCHOOL	DIVERSITY AND EQUITY TRAINING	3,000.00
SPECIAL ED	WILSON TRAINING ,ORTEN WORKSHOPS	25,000.00
ASST. SUPERINTENDENT	TEAM HUB FOR NEW TEACHERS	7,500.00
ASST. SUPERINTENDENT	NHS NGSS SCIENCE LESSON STUDY	8,000.00
ASST. SUPERINTENDENT	REGISTRATION READING/MATH REGIONAL CONFERENCES	4,800.00
ASST. SUPERINTENDENT	TRAINING ELL COORDINATOR	3,000.00
ASST. SUPERINTENDENT	CONVOCATION/ELECTION DAY PRESENTERS/SPEAKERS	8,500.00
SUPERINTENDENT	CABE, CAPS, ANNUAL ADMIN WORKSHOP	3,000.00
TOTAL		135,198.00

LOCATION	Description	Bdgt 2022-23
HAWLEY	CT Reading Conf, other conf and Materials	4,095.00
SANDY HOOK	TEACHER WORKSHOPS, CT READING CONF, RESP, NEASP, CLAS, LED	8,000.00
MIDDLE GATE	FUNDATIONS, PROF DEV BOOKS, WORKSHOP FEES	4,478.00
HEAD OMEADOW	IN-SERVICE/OUTSIDE ONLINE WORKSHOPS FOR CERT. STAFF	4,000.00
REED SCHOOL	CECA,CTAHERD,CRA,STEM, BRAINPOP, UA	11,195.00
REED SCHOOL	DIVERSITY/SEL TEXT	400.00
MIDDLE SCHOOL	CAEA, ROSETTASTONE, NCSS, CT AHPERD, NCSS	9,662.00
HIGH SCHOOL	AP,LIFE GURAD, PTLW,CMEA, COLT, DODGE, BARD,BER	24,385.00
HIGH SCHOOL	CCSS/NCSS CONFERENCE DIVERSITY & INCLUSION	1,000.00
HIGH SCHOOL	DIVERSITY & EQUITY TRAINING	3,000.00
SPECIAL ED	WILSON ,ORTON WORKSHOPS	25,000.00
ASST. SUPERINTENDENT	PROJECT ADVENTURE TRAINING FOR 2 NMS TEACHERS	1,295.00
ASST. SUPERINTENDENT	NHS NGSS SCIENCE LESSON STUDY	8,000.00
ASST. SUPERINTENDENT	ATTENDANCE AT REGIONAL CONFERNCES	4,180.00
ASST. SUPERINTENDENT	PD DAY FEES FOR PRESENTERS/SPEAKERS	4,000.00
ASST. SUPERINTENDENT	BRIDGES YEAR 2 TRAINING	12,000.00
ASST. SUPERINTENDENT	IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT 6 MATH PROGRAM	10,000.00
ASST. SUPERINTENDENT	VOG FACILITATOR/CONSULTANT	14,000.00
ASST. SUPERINTENDENT	ELL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	1,500.00
ASST. SUPERINTENDENT	ASCD CONFERENCE	4,000.00
SUPERINTENDENT	CABE, CAPS, ANNUAL ADMIN WORKSHOP, EDADVANCE, LEGAL & HR FORUM	2,850.00
SUPERINTENDENT	MULTICULTIORAL & DIVERSITY TRAINING	2,500.00
TOTAL		159,540.00