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Regular BOE Agenda  
January 14, 2025

Council Chambers  
3 Primrose St.  
Newtown, CT 06470  
7:00 PM

*As stewards of Newtown Public Schools, we commit to conducting ourselves with honesty, integrity, and respect. Guided by Newtown's Core Values and the Portrait of a Graduate, we will strive to prepare every student to think critically and innovate with curiosity; adapt, persevere, and pursue goals with strategic focus; act with compassion, collaborate across differences, and communicate with clarity. We hold ourselves to the same attributes we seek to instill in our students, embodying them in our work together.*

## AGENDA

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
2. CONSENT AGENDA
  - A. Donation to Newtown High School
  - B. Correspondence Report
3. \*\*PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
4. REPORTS
  - A. Chair Report
  - B. Superintendent's Report
  - C. Committee and Liaison Reports
  - D. Student Representatives Report
5. PRESENTATION
  - A. Superintendent's 2025-2026 Budget Proposal
6. OLD BUSINESS
7. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Action on Minutes of December 17, 2024
8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
9. ADJOURNMENT

*\*\*During the first Public Participation, the Board welcomes commentary regarding items on the agenda. After being recognized, please state your name and address for the record. Per Board Policy 9325, we request that speakers be respectful and limit comments to not more than three minutes, and we note that public complaints about employees are not permitted during meetings. All such concerns should instead be submitted to the Superintendent. During the second Public Participation, commentary may address the agenda or may introduce issues for the Board to consider in the future. The Board does not engage in dialogue during either public comment period. If you desire more information or answers to specific questions, please email the Board: [NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us)*



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Newtown Board of Education  
**FROM:** Dr. Kim Longobucco  
**DATE:** January 9, 2024  
**RE:** Donation to Newtown High School

Cecelia and Justin Arasin have donated \$15,000 for a Scoreboard Topper for the baseball field which will cover the entire cost. Please consider accepting this donation.

Thank you.

Kim Longobucco



# Newtown Public School District

## Newtown Board of Education

### Correspondence Report 12/17/2024 – 01/13/2025

Date	Sender Name	Subject
12/17/2024	Deborra Zukowski	Correspondence Report: 12/17/2024
12/20/2024	Joanne Morris	BOE CFF Subcommittee Minutes of 12/17/24
12/20/2024	Sarah Connell	DSSC Minutes - 11/21/24
12/20/2024	Anne Uberti	Friday Notes 12.20.24
12/23/2024	Sarah Connell	Policy Minutes 12/17/24
12/23/2024	BoardBook	12/17/2024 minutes attached to 12/17/202 mtg.
12/27/2024	Anne Uberti	Friday Notes 12.27.24 - Important Information
12/31/2025	Anne Uberti	Update on Roof
01/03/2025	Janice Gabriel	NHS Unified Theater Presents - 10 Year Reunion
01/03/2025	Anne Uberti	Friday Notes 1.3.25
01/06/2025	Jeremy O'Connell	Girls Basketball "Pink Out" Play4Kay Games Thursday 1/9
01/06/2025	Anne Uberti	NPS Weekly Update 1.6.25
01/06/2025	Anne Uberti	Emergency Closing Tomorrow at SHS
01/07/2025	Anne Uberti	SHS Update
01/07/2025	Anne Uberti	Good news
01/07/2025	Anne Uberti	Upcoming Budget Presentation
01/07/2025	Alison Plante	Board training (please respond by EOW)
01/08/2025	Michelle Hiscavich	Upcoming Events
01/08/2025	Anne Uberti	Day of Remembrance, Former President Carter
01/08/2025	Anne Uberti	PowerSchool Data Breach
01/08/2025	Kathy June	CABE Legislative Breakfast
01/09/2025	BoardBook	Meeting Notification: January 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM - Regular BOE Agenda
01/09/2025	Anne Uberti	Updated Information Re: PowerSchool Breach
01/09/2025	Anne Uberti	Nixon & Co. Rescheduled
01/09/2025	Kymberly Noone	Scholastic Art Award Winners!!
01/10/2025	Anne Uberti	Bus Accident at NHS
01/10/2025	Anne Uberti	Friday Notes 1.10.25
01/12/2025	Alison Plante	Week in Preview - January 12
01/13/2025	Jennifer Dzen	Ellington BOE Lobbies for Improvements to Connecticut's Paid Sick Leave Law
01/13/2025	Anne Uberti	NPS Weekly Update 1.13.25



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

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on December 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT.

A. Plante, Chair	A. Uberti
J. Vouros, Vice Chair	T. Gouveia
D. Zukowski	2 Staff
S. Tomai (absent)	12 Public
C. Gilson	1 Press
D. Linnetz (absent)	
B. Leonardi	

Mrs. Plante called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Item 1 – Pledge of Allegiance

Item 2 – Consent Agenda

MOTION: Ms. Zukowski moved that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda which includes the correspondence report. Mr. Gilson seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 3 – Public Participation

Item 4 – Reports

Chair Report: Mrs. Plante reported on the high school roof project, which was approved by the Board of Finance and Legislative Council at a joint meeting last week so that work will be done over the break. The joint budget work group will meet this Thursday night with an early read on budget pressures. She referred to Policy 9130 regarding Board committees and said we would keep our standing committees for 2025 as they are with the same committees and assignments. The Policy Committee will be Mrs. Linnetz and herself, CFF will be Mrs. Tomai, Mr. Leonardi and herself, Curriculum and Instruction will be Mr. Gilson and Mr. Vouros, and DEAI will be Mr. Gilson, Mrs. Linnetz and Ms. Zukowski. There will be one ad hoc committee in the spring for the paraeducators contract negotiations. Ms. Zukowski has accepted the assignment to be the Board liaison for that.

Mr. Vouros asked the status of the appropriation for the middle school work.

Mrs. Uberti reported that a letter with what the Board voted on was sent to Jeff Capeci who developed a resolution for the tri-board meeting but decided to send it back to the First Selectman because there was an issue on how it was constructed. They want the work to be in parts but we don't know the results the feasibility study would show. This was discussed in CFF and we are waiting to get an estimate for the cost of the middle school study. We are hoping to have an estimate for the January meeting.

Ms. Zukowski noted that she was aware of the committee assignments document at the last meeting but did not get the revision before she downloaded the material prior. She thanked Mrs. Uberti for rectifying the issue so that Board members will be notified if any Board meeting material was changed. She was not aware of the change at the meeting.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Uberti commented on the school concerts and attended the last football game where our boys played a terrific game. Our PTAs have been very active in the schools hosting events such as holiday shops for our younger students. She thanked our PTAs for all they do and they are a wonderful group participating on their executive board at each

school. She is grateful to work in this community and work alongside a Board of Education that is so committed to our students. Regarding the 2025-26 budget, there are substantial pressures driving up our potential increase to a larger number than what we would expect to see at this point in the process. This year the budget will be about balancing what we need to pursue our goal of continuous improvement and what we can let go of without sacrificing improvement. That work will begin on January 14 when the budget will be presented publicly and to the Board. She wished everyone a wonderful winter break and hope their holiday is filled with joy and happiness.

#### Committees and Liaisons:

Mr. Gilson enjoyed the high school chorus concert and praised the students and staff. He spoke about what was discussed at the DEAI subcommittee meeting. This committee will support and oversee the DEAI goals and objectives and are there to support the superintendent, assistant superintendent, equity leaders, and administrators. The Curriculum and Instruction subcommittee met and reviewed the Assistant Superintendent's entry plan and goals. He mentioned the upcoming CAFE webinars. There will be another legislative breakfast to be held in Ridgefield January 6, 7 or 8.

Mr. Leonardi reported on the CFF meeting and discussed the bus availability. We have some temporary drivers but currently 43 of 45 routes are filled. We will continue to pursue damages as per our agreement with All-Star and continue to evaluate technology opportunities to better notify parents of bus issues. John Barlow advised that part of the high school roof will be serviced by a contractor during the winter break.

#### Student Representatives Report:

Mr. Jerfy reported that students from Reed, the middle school, and the high school went to the National Havoc Robot League in Norwalk and attended robotics classes. This morning, the Hope Squad greeted students with candy canes to boost the student body the last week before break. Winter athletics have begun with the girls basketball win over Bassick last Friday. Boys hockey, boys basketball and girls indoor track begin this week.

Ms. Ihlefeld reported that seniors are receiving early college decisions. Today 18 seniors met with our Connecticut Community College rep to make their plans for free attendance at community colleges. NHS athletics is starting a captain's council where captains from each sport will learn more about being a leader and role model for their teammates.

#### Financial Report:

MOTION: Ms. Zukowski moved that the Board of Education approve the financial report and transfers for the month ending November 30, 2024. Mr. Vouros seconded.

Ms. Gouveia presented the financial report, which includes transfers. We are still dealing with the very steep increase in our demand cost for electricity and hoped we will see some relief when the rates change in January. We have a deficit of just under \$100,000 in other purchased services mainly for BT contracted services. She also addressed the transfers requested.

Ms. Zukowski addressed the BT contracts and asked for the differential between a contracted BT and an employed BT and asked how much we would save if we were able to replace them. Ms. Gouveia said we would pay them \$30 per hour and using the service we are paying \$60 per hour.

Motion passes unanimously.

Item 5 – Presentation

## Fall Sports Update:

Matt Memoli, Athletic Director, introduced students from field hockey, golf, football and cross country. The field hockey team and golf team were the SWC champions. The football team finished their phenomenal 10 and 0 season. Soheib Dissa is on the Cross Country team and has been nominated for the Gatorade Player of the Year, is an SWC champion, a CIAC champion, the Open champion, New England champion, and placed 13<sup>th</sup> in Nationals in San Diego. Our volleyball team were runners-up in the SWC and were awarded the sportsmanship award at the conference.

Mr. Leonardi congratulated the student athletes on their accomplishments and thanked Mr. Memoli and his team for a tremendous fall season.

Mr. Memoli provided an update on the fall sports season.

Mr. Vouros asked about the freshman athletic program.

Mr. Memoli said we have freshman teams for most of our sports but there are not many freshman teams in other school districts. We are lucky our participation rates are high as they are dwindling in the state.

Item 6 – Old Business

MOTION: Ms. Zukowski moved that the Board of Education approve policies #1-8 as listed under item 6. Mr. Vouros seconded.

Mrs. Plante said they received feedback on policy 3160 with a minor change regarding transfers. In the third paragraph, the superintendent now has the authority to approve transfers up to \$50,000 and will give a readout to the board at the next meeting. We also struck the last sentence that reads “In addition, all transfers within an object summary category under \$10,000 will also be approved at the next meeting.”

Mrs. Uberti said we made a significant change in this policy regarding the reports Ms. Gouveia does to having them quarterly. It would be more comfortable to look at these things incrementally and then revisit again if needed.

Motion passes unanimously.

Policies to Rescind:

MOTION: Ms. Zukowski moved that the Board of Education rescind policies #1-12 as listed on the agenda under item 6. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Items of information were listed for the Board’s review.

Item 7 – New Business

MOTION: Ms. Zukowski moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of December 3, 2024. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 8 – Public Participation

MOTION: Ms. Zukowski moved that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss a personnel request and invite Mrs. Uberti. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

The Board went into executive session at 8:20 p.m.

Item 9 – Executive Session

The Board came out of executive session at 8:26 p.m.

Item 10 – Action on Executive Session Item

MOTION: Ms. Zukowski moved that the Board of Education support, as recommended by the Superintendent, Julie Shull's request pertaining to Article 31.2 of the teacher contract.

Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Vouros moved to adjourn. Ms. Zukowski seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 11 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Deborra J. Zukowski  
Secretary