

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NEWINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
NEWINGTON, CT 06111**

Newington Town Hall  
Helen W. Nelson Meeting Room  
Wednesday, March 12, 2014  
7:00 p.m.

**SPECIAL/INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

PRESENT: Chairperson Dr. Marc Finkelstein, Sharon Braverman, Elizabeth McDonald, Nancy Petronio, Joshua Shulman, Jane Siegel, Scott Soares, Robert Tofeldt, Paul Vessella

ADMINISTRATION: Dr. William Collins, Mrs. Pamela Muraca, Dr. Christine Carver, Mr. Lou Jachimowicz

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Macee Buckley, Ryan Wallace

A. Call to Order

Chairperson Dr. Marc Finkelstein called the Special/Informational Meeting of the Newington Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

B. Presentation of Awards/Proclamations

1. CAFE Communications Award
2. Board Appreciation Month Recognition

C. Public Participation on Any Matter Related to Board Responsibilities

D. Standing Committee Information Items

1. Report – Finance Committee
2. Report – Facilities Committee
3. Report – Student Policy Committee (January 22, 2014)
4. Report – Curriculum Committee (January 8, 2014, February 12, 2014)
5. Report – Executive Committee (January 22, 2014)
6. Report – Student Representatives

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### E. Other Business Information Items

1. Report – Instructional Coaches
2. Report – Enrollment Projections 2014-2015
3. Report – Health Benefits Fund Performance Fiscal 2013-2014
4. Action – PCB Abatement Approval at John Wallace

MOTION: Elizabeth McDonald moved that the Newington Board of Education approve the Education Specifications for the abatement of all PCB contaminated materials present in Wing 7 and the Foods Lab, Room 501. These education Specifications also include the abatement of any other types of hazardous materials encountered during PCB remediation of Wing 7 and the Foods Lab (STEM Academy and Art). Paul Vessella seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Nancy Petronio left the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Board Member Robert Tofeldt left the meeting at 8:39 p.m. They returned to the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

5. Discussion – Proposed New Policy #3516(a) – Safety
6. Discussion – Proposed New Policy #4112.6 – Personnel Records
7. Discussion – Proposed Revision Policy #4148.1(a) – Employee Safety
8. Discussion – Proposed Revision Policy #5000 – Student Discipline (*replaces 5114 and 5144*)

Board Member Elizabeth McDonald left the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

9. Discussion – Proposed Revision Policy #5131.911 – Bullying
10. Discussion – Proposed Revision Policy #5141.6(a) – Crisis Management Plan
11. Discussion – Proposed Revision Policy #6114(a) – Emergencies & Disaster Preparedness
12. Discussion – Proposed Revision Policy #6114.1 – Fire Emergency (Drills)/Emergency Response Drills
13. Discussion – Proposed Revision Policy #6114.7 – Safe Schools
14. Discussion – Proposed Revision Policy #6142.101 – Wellness Education
15. Discussion – Proposed New Policy #6142.63 – Aquatic Activity (Pool) Safety
16. Discussion – Proposed Revision Policy #6146 – Graduation Requirements

Board Member Elizabeth McDonald returned to the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

17. Discussion – Proposed New Policy #6172.6 – Interactive Distance/Online Learning

### F. Public Participation on Any Matter Related to Board Responsibilities

### G. Remarks by Board Members

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H. Adjournment

MOTION: Elizabeth McDonald moved to adjourn. Nancy Petronio seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Braverman, Secretary

Debra O. Craig, Board Clerk

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Jeremy Visone, Principal  
Anna Reynolds Elementary School

Along with student Jenna, he wanted to recognize the Board for all the hard work they do. He wanted to thank them for all the long hours, and he knows how stressful it can be. They presented the Board Members with an aroma therapy gift.

Michael Gaydos, Principal  
John Paterson Elementary School

On behalf of the students and staff at John Paterson School, he wanted to thank the Board for everything they do from the big things to the little things. They are very grateful.

Sashesa Haughton, President of the Student Body  
Michelle Nguyen, Vice President of the Student Body  
Martin Kellogg Middle School

They wanted to thank the Board for all they do for the students and asked them to accept gifts from the Martin Kellogg students as a token of appreciation.

Lindsie Esau, President, Student Council  
Newington High School

They extended a thank you from the student council and student body. They appreciate everything they do.

David Milardo, Principal  
John Wallace Middle School

He stated the Boards' support to the schools is amazing. They have difficult decisions but need to follow their hearts. They devote a tremendous amount of their time. On behalf of himself, the students, and the teachers, he thanked them for their loyal service.

Bruce Valade  
31 Mount View Drive

His daughter is one of two students from Newington High School that won one of the top awards at the recent Scholastic Art Show at the University of Hartford. She now has a full

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scholarship for college. He wanted to thank the school system and to mention the dedication from the high school art program and especially Mr. Linde. He was disappointed to see that this achievement was not mentioned on the website and would like to see all student achievement acknowledged there.

Jeff Hedberg  
120 Northwood Road

He has two sons at Newington High School, and he is concerned about the school climate and fights at the school that his sons have told him about. He would like the Board to have an increased knowledge as to what is going on at the schools. He is also concerned about cell phones being allowed in school and the discipline connected with this issue. He thanked the Board for all their work.

Rose Lyons  
46 Elton Drive

Called to say that it was very difficult to hear the meeting at home on the television. She also thanked the Board for all they do.