

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

Newington Town Hall
Helen W. Nelson Meeting Room
Wednesday, April 9, 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

ABSENT: 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. Resolution Honoring Newington Professional Secretaries (April 9, 2014)
2. Recognition of Mentor Teachers

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
4. Report – Curriculum Committee (March 12, 2014) (March 26, 2014)
5. Report – Executive Committee
6. Report – Student Representatives

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E. Other Business Information Items

1. Report – Strategic School Profile

2. Action – Adjustments to 2014-2015 Budget

MOTION: Nancy Petronio moved the Board of Education budget be reduced by \$612,510 from the Employee Benefits Account (2950). This reflects the reduced cost estimate for the health insurance program as recommended by the Agent of Record. Joshua Shulman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Sharon Braverman moved the Board of Education budget be reduced by \$100,000 from the Transportation Account (2700). This reflects the elimination of one replacement school bus from the budget. Jane Siegel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Elizabeth McDonald moved the Board of Education budget be reduced by \$132,690 from the Technology Account (1008). This reflects the reduction of future purchases of technology equipment (all types) that can be purchased during the next fiscal year. Sharon Braverman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Sharon Braverman moved the Board of Education budget be reduced by \$163,822 from the Board of Education Account (2310). This reflects the reduction of funding for the PPBES positions proposed in the budget. Implementation of these PPBES teaching and support positions will be achieved by reallocation of staff from within. Elizabeth McDonald seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Board member Sharon Braverman left the meeting at 7:55 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

MOTION: Joshua Shulman moved the Board of Education budget be reduced by \$192,174 from the Board of Education Account (2310). This reflects the deferral of the Digital Arts Labs for both Middle Schools. Sharon Braverman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Scott Soares moved the Board of Education budget be reduced by \$18,800 from the Plant Operations Account (2620). This reflects a reduction in anticipated utility costs for 2014-15. Jane Siegel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Jane Siegel moved the Board of Education budget be reduced by \$11,200 from the Transportation Account (2700). This reflects a reduction in anticipated diesel fuel costs for 2014-15. Scott Soares seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Elizabeth McDonald moved the Board of Education budget be reduced by \$25,000 from the Employee Benefits Account (2950). This reflects the deferral of the implementation requirements for the Affordable Health Care Act (Obamacare) until July 1, 2015. Joshua Shulman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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MOTION: Nancy Petronio moved the Board of Education budget be reduced by \$5,200 from the Athletics Account (3220). This reflects the deferral of acquiring new team uniforms for the Boys Baseball and Girls Lacrosse teams. Jane Siegel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Elizabeth McDonald moved the Board of Education budget be reduced by \$71,911 (20% of this amount from each of the five primary academic programs - Accounts 1012, 1020, 1026, 1028, 1030). This reflects the deferral of the NHS Instructional Coach position. This position is considered authorized but not funded as a result of this action. Scott Soares seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Board member Robert Tofeldt left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

MOTION: Jane Siegel moved the Board of Education budget be reduced by \$20,000 from the Wellness Account (1024). This reflects the deferral of hiring a life guard for the NHS swimming pool during the school day. This position is considered authorized but not funded as a result of this action. Scott Soares seconded. The motion passed 6 - 1.

MOTION: Nancy Petronio moved the Board of Education budget be reduced by \$6,693 from the Technology Instruction Account (1008). This reflects a reduction in the number of technology devices that can be acquired during the upcoming year. Jane Siegel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Board member Sharon Braverman left the meeting at 8:31 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

F. Public Participation on Any Matter Related to Board Responsibilities

G. Remarks by Board Members

H. Adjournment

MOTION: Jane Siegel moved to adjourn. Sharon Braverman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Braverman, Secretary

Debra O. Craig, Board Clerk

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mady Kenny
53 Crestview Drive

Wanted to thank Beth for the months of her service on the Board. She will be great on the Town Council.

She also wanted to praise the secretaries of Newington Public Schools. In her experiences, they are the first person people meet. They are amazing. She wanted to especially mention Daren Hawkins and Susan Corso of Elizabeth Green School.

Joseph Geisler
117 Audubon Avenue

He came to the meeting as an advocate for the Gifted Program. He thanked the Board for not cutting the program.