

Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, November 8, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. in the board room at 3 Primrose Street.

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| D. Leidlein, Chair | J. Robinson |
| L. Roche, Vice Chair | L. Gejda |
| C. McCubbin, Secretary | 2 Staff |
| R. Gaines (absent) | 12 Public |
| W. Hart | 4 Press |
| K. Alexander | |
| J. Vouros | |

Mrs. Leidlein called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

Item 1 - Consent Agenda

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved to approve the consent agenda which included a donation to the middle school, the high school debate team field trips, the resignation of Tisha McCoy, teacher at Middle Gate School, and the high school winter sports coaches. Mr. Hart seconded.
Vote: 6 ayes

Dr. Robinson introduced Zoe Eggleston, a senior at Newtown High School, who received a patent for an invention she developed as part of her participation in the Connecticut Invention Convention when she was in eighth grade. Zoe spoke about her invention and experience in school.

Item 2 – Public Participation

Kathy Mayer, Zoe's mother, praised the high school and her daughter's teachers.

Item 3 – Reports

Correspondence: Mr. McCubbin stated that the Board received correspondence from Rori Sughrue, Kinga Walsh, Cal Creeden and Mary Rose Maloney, all regarding busing.

Chair Report:

Mrs. Leidlein said there was another transportation meeting with All Star and the administration. They are moving forward to make adjustments to improve the timing of our routes.

Superintendent's Report:

The Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors named Gregg Simon, our Athletic Director, as this year's recipient of the NIAAA State Award of Merit for Connecticut which is based on service, leadership and contributions at the local and state level.

On Tuesday, the entire staff worked on developing performance based assessments that include tasks that require multiple steps which demonstrate that students know how to apply new skills and learning to a variety of problem-solving situations. These assessments include elements that require Depth of Knowledge which is in preparation for moving to the Common Core State Standards.

Chartwells is planning to present a typical school lunch for the Board prior to the December 4 meeting. It is planned to be served at Reed at 6:30 p.m. They will also be conducting focus groups of Reed, middle and high school students and some parents after the first of the year to get feedback for possible improvements.

A draft of an RFQ for a facilities study was sent to the Board. The timeline can be added after the Board has a conversation with Pat Llodra who wants to discuss the possibility of combining our study with one for the municipal buildings.

Mr. Hart asked the cost of the study.

Dr. Robinson stated it is estimated at \$18,000.

Item 4 – Old Business

Transportation Update:

Dr. Robinson stated it was possible to use additional buses on tier 2.

Mrs. Leidlein asked for information on the email sent regarding All Star wanted to have a fuel tank on Pecks Lane and why they wouldn't continue to use the town tank.

Dr. Robinson said that is the vendor's decision. The cost for us would be the same. Their drivers will be able to fill up at the same time which is not possible using the town tank. There is no cost to us for them to have the tank installed.

Mr. Hart feels it would be easier to audit usage without using the town tank. All Star would be responsible for monitoring the usage.

Dr. Robinson agreed and that it would be tighter control.

Mr. Alexander asked if All Star came up with a plan for future changes or were we staying with existing schedules.

Dr. Robinson said the schedule is fairly set at this point. They are trying to get some relief by putting more buses on tier 2.

Mrs. Leidlein said we are trying to shorten tier 2 routes to have them arrive on time. The effect would be not having the tier 1 routes as early as they are now. We don't have a time frame.

Mrs. Roche stated that there are 6 buses not being used but they will be put into 10 routes to make them more efficient. Tiers 1 and 3 aren't set yet.

Mr. Alexander asked how this information would be conveyed to parents.

Mrs. Leidlein said that schools have the routes on their web sites and the private schools will have to be notified. All Star lets them know if there are route changes. They are going to change four routes and then change two additional routes. With shortened routes we hope fewer parents will drive their children to Reed.

Dr. Robinson stated that this morning there was concern about clearing the roads. A 2-hour delay fits better with Danbury who always does a 2 hour delay. Conversations with road crews and Mr. Faiella indicated that 90 minutes was not enough time. It's better to have a 2 hour delay as the standard procedure.

Early Retirement Package:

Dr. Robinson shared information with the Board on the Ohio Plan as an early retirement incentive. Bill Sudol put together a sample of what it would look like. This plan is a TRB endorsed buyout. It is extended to all certified staff including administrators. They have to have 20 years of service and be at least 50 years old. The teachers have requested this plan. The third option would be a 5-year buyout with a decided amount for the next 5 years.

Mrs. Roche stated that with the new teacher evaluation plan you don't have to lay off the last hired teacher.

Mrs. Leidlein suggested the finance subcommittee has a conversation regarding this plan. She asked why there were three options.

Dr. Robinson said the teachers wanted to pursue the straight payout or Ohio plan. They weren't as interested in the health insurance option.

Mr. Hart asked for more analysis with the different scenarios and the savings.

Mr. Vouros asked to know how many were eligible.

Dr. Robinson suggested a meeting with Bill Sudol.

Mrs. Leidlein would arrange a meeting before the next Board meeting.

Minutes of October 16, 2012:

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of October 16, 2012. Mr. Vouros seconded. Vote: 5 ayes, 1 abstained (Mr. Hart)

Minutes of October 23, 2012:

Mr. Vouros moved to approve the minutes of October 23, 2012. Mr. Hart seconded.

Vote: 4 ayes, 2 abstained (Mrs. Roche, Mr. McCubbin)

Item 5 – New Business

2013 Schedule of Meetings:

MOTION: Mr. Hart moved to approve the 2013 schedule of meetings as discussed.

Mr. Alexander seconded.

There was a discussion on which areas would be discussed at each of the budget meetings.

It was decided to make any changes in December.

Vote: 6 ayes

Superintendent's Search:

Mrs. Leidlein said there was confusion on the cost for the search. The one initially presented was higher compared to costs from other districts.

Mr. Vouros spoke to CAGE. Costs can range from \$10,000 to \$25,000. He also spoke to former superintendents who felt that \$25,000 was the highest cost.

Mr. McCubbin requested he email the Board the material from CAGE.

Item 6 – Public Participation

Dawn Briggs, 31 Pleasant Hill Road, asked what the town covered for maintenance of the school buildings since they are owned by the town.

Mrs. Leidlein would give her information on building responsibilities.

Mr. Hart said the school district pays for maintenance and the town pays the capital costs of the buildings.

Michelle Assante, 16 Wendover Road, asked the Board to justify the expenses we have. She spoke about the lack of knowledge of Board of Education budget by the other town groups. She was concerned about the early retirement. Regarding the Hawley work she feels it would be beneficial to have more Board members attend meetings regarding such issues.

MOTION: Mr. Vouros moved to go into executive session and invited Dr. Robinson and Attorney Jeff Mogan. Mr. Alexander seconded. Vote: 6 ayes

Item 7 – Executive Session

MOTION: Mr. Hart moved to adjourn. Mr. Alexander seconded. Vote: 6 ayes

Item 8 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Cody McCubbin
Secretary

memo

To: Dr. Robinson, Superintendent

From: Ken Kantor and NMS Physical Education Teachers

Date: October 18, 2012

Ms. Diana Galanis would like to donate a Landis motorized treadmill to our school for use in our fitness room. This piece of equipment, valued at \$1,500.00 is in like-new condition, and Ms. Galanis believes our students could benefit from using it.

We would like to accept this equipment if you and the Board of Education will allow us to do so.

Thank you.



FIELD TRIP BUS REQUEST FORM

Teacher Making Request: THOMAS Date: 10/26/12

Other Staff Involved: Saladin/Colati

Date of Proposed Field Trip: 11/29-12/2

Class/Group Involved: Debate

Number of Students Scheduled to Make Trip: 24

Other Adults (non-teachers) Chaperoning the Trip (list names): Molly Colati

Destination: Princeton University / Holiday Inn Princeton

Place and Time of Departure: NHS 12:00 pm (11/30)

Estimated Time of Return: NHS 2:00 pm (12/2)

Special Arrangements (i.e. stopping at a restaurant, picnic, etc.): staying overnight @ Holiday Inn Princeton

Estimated Cost of Transportation: \$3520 + driver's hotel room

Estimated Cost per Student: \$140 (transportation) \$255 total

Other Information: _____

PRINCIPAL APPROVAL BY SIGNATURE: admas DATE: 11/05/12

OVERNIGHT/OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP BOE APPROVAL: _____ DATE: _____

Billing Information

Bill to: _____

Pricing: _____ Hours @ _____ per hour = _____
_____ Miles @ _____ per mile = _____
Minimum Charge: _____
Total Charge per Bus: _____

Confirmation

Information taken by: _____ Date Confirmed: _____

Confirmed by: _____ Recorded in Book: _____



NEWTOWN HIGH SCHOOL
12 BERKSHIRE ROAD
SANDY HOOK, CT 06482
(203) 426-7646
FAX (203) 426-6573

NEWTOWN SUCCESS-ORIENTED SCHOOL MODEL

All
 Children
 Can and
 Will
 Learn
 Well



October 20, 2012

My name is Jacob Thomas and I am the advisor for the Newtown High School Debate Team. I write seeking board approval of our out-of-state tournament schedule for the 2012-13 School Year. We wish to attend the following two- to three-night tournaments:

| DATE | TOURNAMENT | LOCATION |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Nov. 30 – Dec.2 | Princeton Classic | Princeton, NJ |
| Jan. 25 – Jan. 27 | Columbia Invitational | New York, NY |
| Feb. 8- Feb. 9 | Scarsdale Invitational | Scarsdale, NY |
| Feb. 16 – Feb. 18 | Harvard National Invitational | Cambridge, MA |

Overview

Debate within Connecticut is limited to “Extemporaneous Tournaments,” a form of debate that gives debaters the resolution as well as a packet of the information to argue the resolution **on the day of the debate**. To my knowledge, no other state in the country follows this paradigm. While it allows for valuable public speaking experience, this tournament format does not permit for research and crafting of arguments. It is a disservice to not offer our students the opportunity to do so.

The national tournaments listed above, held under the auspices of the National Forensics League, do offer such an opportunity. They carry Lincoln Douglas and Public Policy debate, the two most popular debate forms nationally. Newtown debaters attending these tournaments will go up against high schoolers from across the country. Most importantly, they will research resolutions extensively, carefully create cases, and practice their cases to perfection before attending the tournaments.

Transportation and Accommodations

Unfortunately, debate is an expensive activity. The students will bear the costs for bussing and hotel accommodations for themselves and the chaperones. We are doing our best to keep these costs down. The team actively fundraises. Moreover, the first tournament, in Montrose, NY, offers free housing for debaters provided by the Hendrick Hudson High School Debate Team. In addition, we will bus-pool to Princeton, and possible more tournaments, with Wilton High School.

Sample Agenda for Tournaments

Tournaments typically start on Friday afternoons. The team will leave the school by bus on the Friday morning and, depending on the tournament, head to the tournament site or hotel. Typically, debaters will participate in two rounds of debate on Friday, and then another two to four guaranteed rounds on Saturday. The team will spend Friday night at a hotel. After completion of the guaranteed rounds, the best eight or sixteen debaters will participate in single elimination rounds until a winner emerges. We will start back home after completion of the final round. Some of the larger tournaments, like Harvard, are three day events, where debaters are guaranteed more preliminary rounds, and eliminations start at a round of thirty-two or sixty-four.

Conclusion

The Newtown High School Debate Team is historically successful. We are the only Connecticut to qualify debaters for the Tournament of Champions, which limits invitations to winners or high qualifiers from the large circuit tournaments. Currently, we are re-growing the team with a new batch of young debaters. We need this opportunity to travel to season our novice debaters and allow our varsity debaters to shine on a national level.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Thomas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jacob Thomas
English Teacher, Newtown High School
thomasj@newtown.k12.ct.us

October 17, 2012

Christopher Geissler
Middle Gate Elementary School
7 Cold Spring Rd.
Newtown, CT 06470

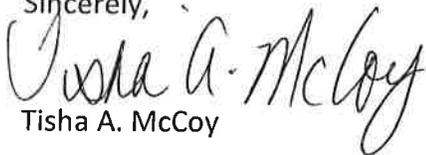
Dear Mr. Geissler,

Please accept this letter of resignation from Newtown Public Schools. I have a leadership opportunity I am quite excited about moving on to. The decision to leave has not been an easy one; however it is time for me to assume the leadership position I have been preparing for.

Working for the Newtown Public Schools has been a wonderful experience. I have grown in many ways here and will always treasure the opportunities provided for me. Although I will miss my colleagues and students, I feel it is time for a new challenge and experience.

I will work cooperatively with administration to ensure as smooth of a transition possible for the students and families in my care. Again, thank you for the opportunities professional and personal that you have provided me. I wish the district continued success.

Sincerely,


Tisha A. McCoy

NEWTOWN HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT
WINTER SPORTS
2012-2013

Revised November 8, 2012

| NAME/STEP | SPORT |
|--------------------|---|
| SUSAN BRIDGES 3 | CHEERLEADING NO CHANGE |
| NIKKI BEATTY 2 | J.V. CHEERLEADING NO CHANGE |
| CHERYL STENZ 3 | DANCE TEAM NO CHANGE |
| KERISTEN RACCIO | GYMNASTICS |
| JEREMY O'CONNELL 3 | GIRLS BASKETBALL NO CHANGE |
| KATIE CARBONE 3 | J.V. GIRLS BASKETBALL NO CHANGE |
| BOB PATTISON 1 | FRESHMAN GIRLS BASKETBALL NEW COACH— TEACHER AT N.H.S. |
| TIM TALLCOUCH 2 | BOYS BASKETBALL NEW COACH—TEACHER AT N.H.S. |
| JIM FITZPATRICK 2 | J.V. BOYS BASKETBALL NEW COACH |
| BOB GENDREAU 1 | FRESHMAN BOYS BASKETBALL NEW COACH—TEACHER AT N.H.S. |
| DAN MCILRATH 3 | WRESTLING NO CHANGE |
| CHRIS SYMES 3 | ASST. WRESTLING NO CHANGE |
| ROBERT GAUVIN 3 | BOYS SWIMMING NO CHANGE |
| | ASST. BOYS SWIMMING |
| DOUG RUSSELL 3 | WINTER TRACK NO CHANGE |
| TOM BRANT 1 | ASST. WINTER TRACK NEW COACH— TEACHER AT N.H.S. |
| PAUL ESPOSITO 3 | ICE HOCKEY NO CHANGE |
| TIM HANLEY 3 | ASST. ICE HOCKEY NO CHANGE |
| RYAN CUTLER 3 | DIVE COACH NO CHANGE |

VOLUNTEER COACHES

KRIS KENNY----ICE HOCKEY
MIKE JONES---- ICE HOCKEY
AL MAZUR---- ICE HOCKEY
FRANCIS OGGERI----ICE HOCKEY
MATT MURPHY---GIRLS BASKETBALL
LORI ROHRBACHER—CHEERLEADING
CORY FISHER----WRESTLING
LEN STROCCHIA---- WRESTLING
AL POTTER---- WRESTLING
JEFF BUSSEY---BOYS BASKETBALL
P.J. COCHRANE---BOYS BASKETBALL

Superintendent's Update

November 8, 2012

1. One of our students, Zoe Eggleston, has received a patent for an invention she developed as part of her participation in the 8th grade Connecticut Invention Convention (CIC). One of our seniors is graduating as an inventor. See enclosed letter.
2. The Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors has named our Athletic Director, Gregg Simon, this year's recipient of the NIAAA State Award of Merit for Connecticut. This award is based upon service, leadership and contributions at the local and state level.
3. Our entire teaching staff was engaged Tuesday in small group meetings working on developing performance based assessments that include tasks that require multiple steps that demonstrate that students know how to apply new skills and learning to a variety of problem-solving situations. These assessments must be rigorous enough that they include elements that require Depth of Knowledge. This is in preparation for moving to the Common Core State Standards. When teachers work with the assessments, they focus on more rigorous thinking and if the students are to do well on the assessments, then instruction must be equally rigorous. So, the teachers are going to be raising the bar on the learning activities within their classrooms to align with these rigorous assessments that they are developing. See Depth of Learning information sheets.
4. Chartwells will be doing a typical school lunch for the board prior to the December 4 BOE meeting. The purpose is to have the board experience the level of service and food quality that our students experience. We could do this at Reed at 6:30 before our meeting. Also, Chartwells will be conducting focus groups of Reed, Middle, and High School students and some parents after the first of the year to get feedback for possible improvements.
5. I sent a draft of an RFQ for a facilities study to the board today. The timeline can be added once the board determines that, which I assume will come after the December conversation with Pat Llodra who wants to discuss the possibility of combining our study with one for municipal buildings.

**Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut**

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, October 16, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. in the board room at 3 Primrose Street.

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| D. Leidlein, Chair | J. Robinson |
| L. Roche, Vice Chair | L. Gejda |
| C. McCubbin, Secretary | R. Bienkowski |
| R. Gaines (7:45 p.m.) | 6 Staff |
| W. Hart (absent) | 25 Public |
| K. Alexander | 2 Press |
| J. Vouros | |

Mrs. Leidlein called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

Item 1 – Consent Agenda

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda which included the high school Junior State Club field trip, the high school varsity softball team field trip, the child rearing leaves of absence for Cynthia Holbert, teacher at Hawley School, Michelle Hallak, teacher at Newtown Middle School, and Teri Alves, teacher at Sandy Hook School, and the leave of absence for Amanda Friedman, teacher and Newtown High School. Mr. McCubbin seconded. 5 ayes

Item 2 – Public Participation - none

Item 3 – Reports

Correspondence:

Mr. McCubbin stated there were 6 items regarding busing, 5 for closing Head O'Meadow School, 2 regarding the agenda, 1 on the budget, and 1 regarding teachers.

Chair Report:

Mrs. Leidlein, Mrs. Roche, Dr. Robinson, Mr. Bienkowski, and Mrs. Maloney met with All Star regarding transportation and discussed the progress being made and continuing concerns. The Tier 2 drop offs at Reed are still an issue. We will also meet regarding the drop off procedure at Reed.

Mrs. Roche noticed that the amount of parents dropping off students at Reed have created a traffic problem. Chief Kehoe has done a study to observe the traffic pattern. We were also looking at adjusting the traffic light. 48 students were tardy on Monday in the front due to the number of cars.

Mr. Alexander asked for a timeline on the changes in morning pickup times. His pickup changed this morning.

Mrs. Leidlein said a number of buses in Tier 1 had time so they decided to pick up Tier 2 earlier. We don't want to make too many changes at once. They are making adjustments every week or two and are trying to let parents know a few days ahead of time. The time changes will be sent through School Messenger.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Robinson stated that Newtown Patch reported on our Nighthawk marching band and color guard that won first place in their division at a competition at Giant's Stadium on October 13 and had the 5th highest score of all bands.

Today 42 fifteen-year-old students took the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) which shows how we compare with other countries.

The Freshman Forum is this Thursday night at 7:00 at the high school regarding the dangers of drinking and driving. She encouraged attendance.

Our Senior Leadership Team is researching standardized tests to comply with the state's new teacher evaluation plan. We had a webinar with North West Evaluation Associates which is one recommended by the state. It tests reading, math, writing and science with multiple measures throughout the year. The requirement is for the evaluation of teachers and how it is linked to the students' achievement.

Mrs. Leidlein requested more information on how it will impact our students.

Dr. Robinson said that 45% of teacher evaluation will be on assessment of students. Every teacher has to have some testing related to their content area. Our students will be tested more.

Ms. Leidlein asked if this aligned with the common core of state standards.

Dr. Robinson said it did and that was what we looked for. It's for grades 2 through 11. The Senior Leadership Team is working on getting more information and will come to a meeting with the costs also which will be about \$78,000.

Financial Report:

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved that the Board of Education approve the financial report for the month ending September 30, 2012. Mr. Vouros seconded.

Mr. Bienkowski presented the financial report for the first quarter of the fiscal year. We spent \$4.8M in September with \$3.6M on salaries and benefits and \$1.2M for all other object codes. Out-of-district special education tuition students total 30 while the budget was based on 25. Additional tuition and medical costs have increased these expenses by \$192,000 before any excess cost offsets. Professional services balance has declined by \$249,000 due to encumbrance additions for speech and nursing services. We expect significant legal expenses going into teacher arbitration and also have another law suit to deal with.

Mrs. Leidlein asked if there is concern that the ECS will cover tuition.

Mr. Bienkowski is concerned about many accounts which Excess Cost impacts. We don't have the flexibility we had in prior year's budgets regarding maintenance projects as there is nothing in the maintenance line.

Mrs. Leidlien asked for the detailed account analysis to be sent to the Board.

Mr. Vouros asked how this year compared to last year regarding special education costs.

Mr. Bienkowski said we weren't in this type of situation this time last year. We have more needs this year.

Mr. Vouros wants everyone to understand the fluidity of the special education program costs.

Mrs. Leidlein suggested giving Ms. Haggard topics to help the Board better understand special education costs.

Vote: 6 ayes

Special Education Report:

Julie Haggard, Director of Pupil Services, stated that she has been visiting schools and meeting with staff and parents addressing ongoing concerns. She has also visited several special education schools where we have students to see the services they're receiving. Transition could be a topic for further discussion. She needs to address curriculum and instruction and examine and further develop programs for students with autism. How to gather data will further be explored.

Mr. Vouros has heard positive feedback from the district and thanked Ms. Haggard for the approach she had taken with parents. He asked that she contact the superintendent if she feels the technology portion of the program is not sufficient.

Mrs. Roche wants to understand the Pre-K program which is now separated into 2 schools. How is it working being separate and if it would be better to have it in one school.

Mr. Vouros asked that if a school closed what the impact would be on the special education students. Gifted students needs are not being met so we need to meet those also.

Mrs. Leidlein requested her report be sent to the Board.

Item 4 – Old Business**NEASC Presentation:**

Mr. Dumais spoke about the NEASC visit which would be in the spring or fall of 2015. The preparation work will be done by hundreds of individuals and coordinated by a steering committee. Jaime Rivera will most directly oversee the work of this committee. Leah Clark and Amy Repay are co-chairs of committee. The purpose of the NEASC visit is to verify how close our self-study matches what people see when they visit. There are some budgetary implications and he will be asking for resources in his budget for the people involved on the committee.

Dr. Robinson said the team will need to put together evidence on all of the standards. Many will have to be interviewed.

Mr. Dumais said he would make the evidence piece available electronically.

Mr. McCubbin asked that as he update the Board on a regular basis.

Mr. Dumais said that having it available electronically allows them to see where they are. The high school doesn't have a mission statement so that will be their first job.

Mr. Vouros stated we have to find a way to make the public aware of what is going on to understand what NEASC is about.

Mr. Dumais said that most of the work is done outside of class time. He is requesting 1 free class for both teachers so they can work together.

Mrs. Leidlein asked for a staffing analysis if he is asking for additional staff. She also asked for the anticipated date of the completion of the self-study.

Mr. Dumais said they won't notify us until 2013 whether the visit is spring or fall 2015. Also, the staffing analysis will be in his budget.

Newtown High School Math Program Update:

Karen Sherman, high school math department chair, said to align our core integrated course curriculum with the common core state standards they will be changing the names of the

courses the first three years to Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2. The content of the first three years will not change but the order and implementation will change to meet the needs of the future.

Mr. Alexander asked how much change there needs to be to the content to meet with the common core standards.

Ms. Sherman said the content is being shifted so we need to be careful so there are no gaps. They are piloting Algebra 1 now with the others to follow.

Mrs. Leidlein asked if it would be helpful to have more algebra 1 instruction in 8th grade.

Ms. Sherman expects upcoming students to be ready for these courses earlier.

Dr. Gejda said a big challenge for teachers is preparing for the CMTs and implementing the common core.

Strategic Plan Character Development:

Judy Blanchard gave an update on the character development plan. See attached report.

Suzanne Tyler, high school social worker, also attended. Mrs. Blanchard asked that the core attributes be addressed at the start of public meetings and would like them used in how we conduct business in the community. She asked the Board to start their meetings with reading the code of character statement. She spoke to Mrs. Llodra about doing the same. The symbol will also be on town police vehicles.

Ms. Tyler read the statement.

Code of Character

- *As citizens of our community, we will conduct ourselves in accordance with Newtown's Core Character Attributes as displayed in our character tree. We will be responsible for our actions and show respect for each other. We will interact peacefully, productively, and politely. We will be trustworthy and honest and show compassion toward others. Newtown's continued success is contingent upon our ability to persevere, to follow through with our commitments, and to stay focused on the greater good.*

Mr. Vouros asked the effect of this on the athletes in our district.

Mrs. Blanchard said as we all embrace this it becomes a standard for our behavior. She's received requests to have the character tree in classrooms.

Mrs. Leidlein asked to have this presentation sent to the Board electronically.

CIP:

MOTION: Mr. Gaines moved that the Board of Education approve the CIP as presented.

Mr. McCubbin seconded.

Mr. Gaines stated that there was a communication from the Board of Selectman to make some changes to the CIP. See attached report. The biggest items are the shift of the 2nd phase of Hawley and the high school auditorium work. No longer on the CIP is the \$100,000 for design fees for the high school auditorium. The Town switched Hawley because it fit better into their bonding issues. The most critical work for Hawley is the boiler replacement. He will present this to the Board of Finance next week.

Mr. Vouros asked if it was safe to assume there can be no conversation about closing one of these schools.

Mr. Gaines said you can't assume that. Parks and Rec need to use the gyms so we have to maintain the buildings. An RFP should be put out for a study to implement next year.

Vote: 6 ayes

Early retirement:

Dr. Robinson met with the NFT and state representative and discussed looking at a health benefit for an incentive. They want the Board to consider other options such as some kind of cash payout or an incentive connected to TRB. She doesn't think it will save the district much money. This plan needs to have the window open for two months.

Mrs. Leidlein asked when there would be a financial analysis for the Board.

Dr. Robinson hopes to have it for the next meeting.

Mr. Vouros asked the number of potential retirees.

Dr. Robinson said there could probably be five who will retire and possibly another 15 that fall within the parameters.

Mrs. Leidlein said that looking at class sizes there is an inequity between the elementary schools which needs to be addressed.

Item 5 – New Business

October 2, 2012 Minutes:

MOTION: Mr. Gaines moved to approve the minutes of October 2, 2012. Mr. Alexander second. Vote: 5 ayes, 1 abstained (Mr. Vouros)

October 9, 2012 Minutes:

MOTION: Mr. Gaines moved to approve the minutes of October 9, 2012. Mr. McCubbin seconded. Vote: 4 ayes, 2 abstained (Mr. Alexander, Mr. Vouros)

Budget Goals:

Mrs. Leidlein asked for Board input regarding budget goals. She would like to see having backup detail to support any new programs for the district. She'd also like to see it tied into the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Gaines would like a budget that includes full day kindergarten, money for maintenance of our facilities and money for technology so we don't miss our 7-year cycle.

Mr. Vouros said we need to get our direction from Dr. Robinson and have to ask for what we want and rely on the public to vote.

Mr. Alexander said full day kindergarten should be part of the budget.

Mr. McCubbin feels we should look at previous budgets and compare and explain variances. This would provide a greater understanding where the money is going.

Mr. Vouros had concerns about contacting people to vote.

Mrs. Leidlein said the PTAs do that. She will send a list of the goals to the Board.

Mandates on State Waivers:

Dr. Robinson spoke about the state waivers regarding No Child Left Behind and student assessment. Please see the attached presentation.

Mrs. Leidlein asked to have this report attached to the minutes and sent to the Board.

Item 6 – Public Participation

Michelle Assante, 16 Wendover Road, feels there needs to be more discussion on class size and not replacing one for one if there was lower enrollment. She wanted to see a budget preview. The special education number was low. She suggested looking at questions from the March 14 Board of Finance meeting which may be asked again. The Board needs to keep programs that move the district forward. Full day kindergarten needs to be in the budget. The Board of Finance and Legislative Council need to believe the Board is committed to it. She wants to know what will be cut due to special education costs.

Michelle Ku, 28 Platts Hill Road, was encouraged to hear talk about strengthening the budget. The GATES program is underfunded. There should be funding for a group or just one student. If we aren't addressing the needs of our advanced students it will show up in our indicators.

MOTION: Mr. Alexander moved to adjourn. Mrs. Roche seconded. Vote: 6 ayes.

Item 7 - Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Cody McCubbin
Secretary

**NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
2013 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

Meetings will be held in the Council Chambers in the Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, at 7:30 p.m. with the exception of the meetings on February 19, September 4, October 16, and November 6 which will be held in the Reed Intermediate School Library.

January 8 (budget presentation)
January 10 (budget)
January 15 (budget)
January 17 (budget)
January 23 (budget) *Wednesday*
January 24 (budget)
January 29 (public hearing & discussion)
January 31 (budget adoption)
February 5
February 19 – *Reed Intermediate School*
March 5
March 19
April 2
April 9
May 7
May 21
June 4
June 18
July 16
August 20
September 4 *Wednesday – Reed Intermediate School*
September 17
October 1
October 16 *Wednesday – Reed Intermediate School*
November 6 *Wednesday – Reed Intermediate School*
November 19
December 3
December 17

Approved November 8, 2012



Keith
FYI
Katholie

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF ATHLETIC DIRECTORS, INC.

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October 24, 2012

Gregg Simon
Athletic Director
Newtown High School
12 Berkshire Road
Sandy Hook, CT 06482

Gregg:

On behalf of the Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors, Inc., please accept my sincerest congratulations for being named this year's recipient of the NIAAA State Award of Merit for Connecticut. This award, which was first introduced in by the NIAAA in 1988, is based upon the member's service, leadership and contributions at the local and state level. Without question, your many years of devoted service as an athletic administrator has earned you this recognition. The positive impact that you have had on the lives of student-athletes and your service at the local, league and state levels has not gone unnoticed.

The CAAD Awards Banquet is scheduled for Thursday evening, March 21, 2013 at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel in Rocky Hill. You and one guest will be CAAD's guests at the banquet. Fred Balsamo, CAAD's Executive Director, will be in touch to make arrangements for your family, friends and colleagues to also attend the awards banquet.

In the meantime, would you be so kind as to forward a resume and a color head/shoulders photograph of yourself by December 14, 2012? Please include as much information as possible in your resume including high school, college and professional/career accomplishments. Please send the resume and photograph electronically. You may email materials to johnsond@stratfordk12.org.

Once again, congratulations on your being named to receive this award. I look forward to seeing you at the banquet in March.

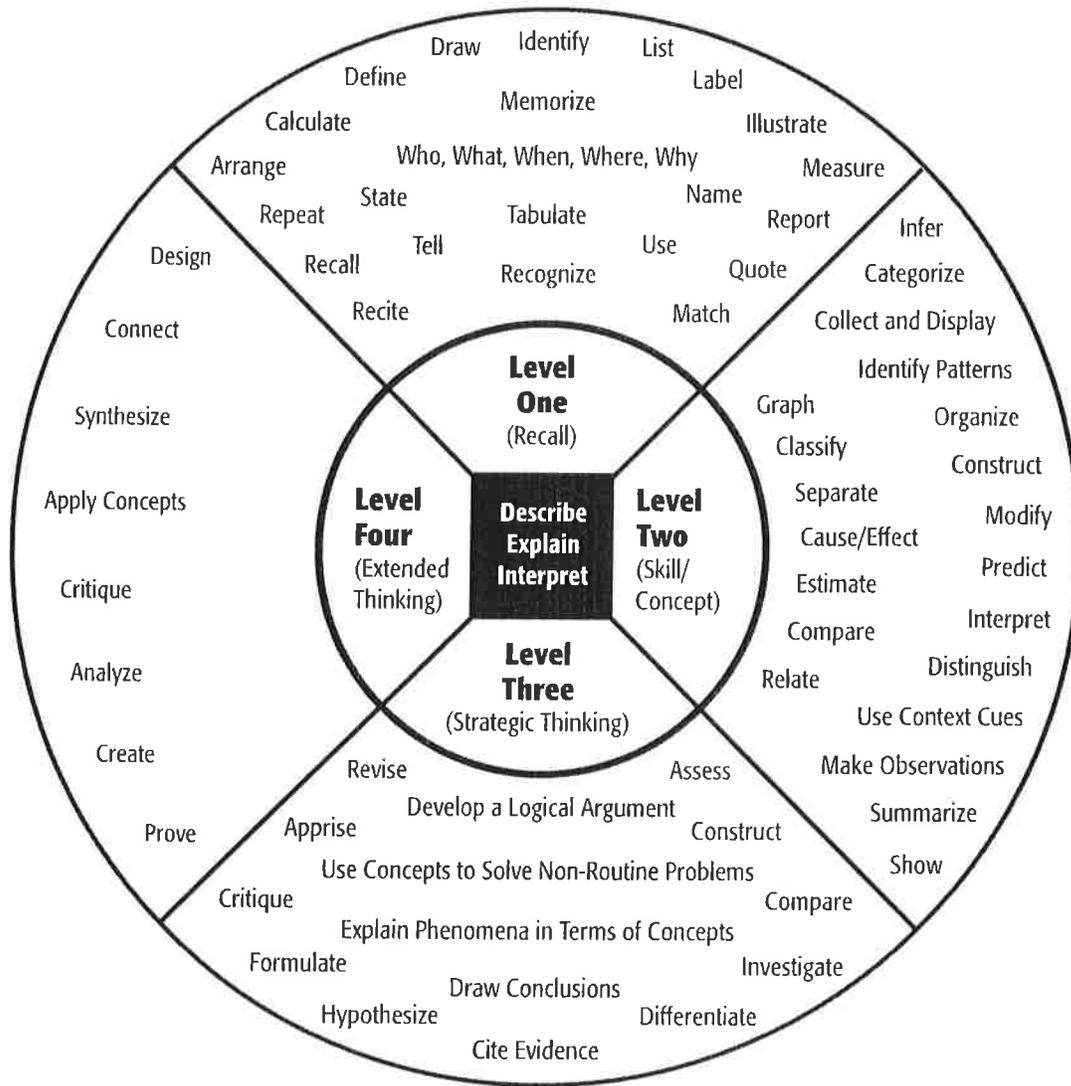
Sincerely,

David L. Johnson, Chairman
CAAD Awards Committee

cc: Brian Fell, CAAD President
Fred Balsamo, CAAD Executive Director
Charles S. Dumais, Principal, Newtown High School



Depth of Knowledge (DOK) Levels



| Level One Activities | Level Two Activities | Level Three Activities | Level Four Activities |
|--|---|---|--|
| Recall elements and details of story structure, such as sequence of events, character, plot and setting. | Identify and summarize the major events in a narrative. | Support ideas with details and examples. | Conduct a project that requires specifying a problem, designing and conducting an experiment, analyzing its data, and reporting results/solutions. |
| Conduct basic mathematical calculations. | Use context cues to identify the meaning of unfamiliar words. | Use voice appropriate to the purpose and audience. | Apply mathematical model to illuminate a problem or situation. |
| Label locations on a map. | Solve routine multiple-step problems. | Identify research questions and design investigations for a scientific problem. | Analyze and synthesize information from multiple sources. |
| Represent in words or diagrams a scientific concept or relationship. | Describe the cause/effect of a particular event. | Develop a scientific model for a complex situation. | Describe and illustrate how common themes are found across texts from different cultures. |
| Perform routine procedures like measuring length or using punctuation marks correctly. | Identify patterns in events or behavior. | Determine the author's purpose and describe how it affects the interpretation of a reading selection. | Design a mathematical model to inform and solve a practical or abstract situation. |
| Describe the features of a place or people. | Formulate a routine problem given data and conditions. | Apply a concept in other contexts. | |
| | Organize, represent and interpret data. | | |

Table 2: Hess' Cognitive Rigor Matrix with Curricular Examples: Applying Webb's Depth-of-Knowledge Levels to Bloom's Cognitive Process Dimensions

| | | Webb's Depth-of-Knowledge (DOK) Levels | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| | | Level 1 Recall & Reproduction | Level 2 Skills & Concepts | Level 3 Strategic Thinking/ Reasoning | Level 4 Extended Thinking |
| Bloom's Revised Taxonomy of Cognitive Process Dimensions | | | | | |
| Remember Retrieve knowledge from long-term memory, recognize, recall, locate, identify | Recall, recognize, or locate basic facts, ideas, principles Recall or identify conversions: between representations, numbers, or units of measure Identify facts/details in texts | Compose & decompose numbers Evaluate an expression Locate points (grid, number line) Represent math relationships in words pictures, or symbols Write simple sentences Select appropriate word for intended meaning Describe/explain how or why | Specify and explain relationships Give non-examples/examples Make and record observations Take notes: organize ideas/data Summarize results, concepts, ideas Make basic inferences or logical predictions from data or texts Identify main ideas or accurate generalizations | Explain, generalize, or connect ideas using supporting evidence Explain reasoning when more than one response/approach is possible Explain phenomena in terms of concepts Compose full composition to meet specific purpose and audience Identify theme(s) using text evidence | Explain how concepts or ideas specifically relate to other content domains or concepts Develop generalizations of the results obtained or strategies used and apply them to new problem situations |
| Understand Construct meaning, clarify, paraphrase, represent, translate, illustrate, give examples, classify, categorize, summarize, generalize, infer a logical conclusion (such as from examples given), predict, compare/contrast, match like ideas, explain, construct models | Follow simple/routine procedure (recipe-type directions) Solve a one-step problem Calculate, measure, apply a rule Apply an algorithm or formula (area, perimeter, etc.) Represent in words or diagrams a concept or relationship Apply rules or use resources to edit spelling, grammar, punctuation, conventions | Follow simple/routine procedure (recipe-type directions) Solve a one-step problem Calculate, measure, apply a rule Apply an algorithm or formula (area, perimeter, etc.) Represent in words or diagrams a concept or relationship Apply rules or use resources to edit spelling, grammar, punctuation, conventions | Select a procedure according to task needed and perform it Solve routine problem applying multiple concepts or decision points Retrieve information from a table, graph, or figure and use it to solve a problem requiring multiple steps Use models to represent concepts Write paragraph using appropriate organization, text structure, and signal words | Use concepts to solve non-routine problems Design investigation for a specific purpose or research question Conduct a designed investigation Apply concepts to solve non-routine problems Use reasoning, planning, and evidence Revise final draft for meaning or progression of ideas | Select or devise an approach among many alternatives to solve a novel problem Conduct a complex project that specifies a problem, identifies solution paths, solves the problem, and reports results Illustrate how multiple themes (historical, geographic, social) may be interrelated |
| Apply Carry out or use a procedure in a given situation; carry out (apply to a familiar task), or use (apply) to an unfamiliar task | Retrieve information from a table or graph to answer a question Identify or locate specific information contained in maps, charts, tables, graphs, or diagrams | Retrieve information from a table or graph to answer a question Identify or locate specific information contained in maps, charts, tables, graphs, or diagrams | Categorize, classify materials Compare/ contrast figures or data Select appropriate display data Organize or interpret (simple) data Extend a pattern Identify use of literary devices Identify text structure of paragraph Distinguish: relevant-irrelevant information; fact/opinion | Compare information within or across data sets or texts Analyze and draw conclusions from more complex data Generalize a pattern Organize/interpret data: complex graph Analyze author's craft, viewpoint, or potential bias | Analyze multiple sources of evidence or multiple works by the same author, or across genres, or time periods Analyze complex/abstract themes Gather, organize, and analyze information from multiple sources Analyze discourse styles across texts |
| Analyze Break into constituent parts, determine how parts relate, differentiate between relevant-irrelevant, distinguish, focus, select, organize, outline, find coherence, deconstruct (e.g., for bias or point of view) | Make judgments based on criteria, check, detect inconsistencies or fallacies, judge, critique | Make judgments based on criteria, check, detect inconsistencies or fallacies, judge, critique | Cite evidence and develop a logical argument for concepts Describe, compare, and contrast solution methods Verify reasonableness of results Justify conclusions made | Gather, analyze, & evaluate relevancy & accuracy Draw & justify conclusions Apply understanding in a novel way, provide argument or justification for the application | Synthesize information across multiple sources or texts Design a model to inform and solve a real-world, complex, or abstract situation |
| Evaluate Make judgments based on criteria, check, detect inconsistencies or fallacies, judge, critique | Reorganize elements into new patterns/structures, generate, hypothesize, design, plan, construct, produce | Reorganize elements into new perspectives related to a topic or concept | Generate conjectures or hypotheses based on observations or prior knowledge | Synthesize information within one source, data set, or text Formulate an original problem, given a situation or data set Develop a complex conceptual model for a given situation | |
| Create Reorganize elements into new patterns/structures, generate, hypothesize, design, plan, construct, produce | | | | | |