

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

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting on June 24, 2015 in the Newtown High School Auditorium, 12 Berkshire Road, Sandy Hook, CT.

K. Alexander, Chair	J. Erardi
L. Roche, Vice Chair	L. Gejda
K. Hamilton, Secretary	R. Bienkowski
D. Leidlein	40 Staff
J. Vouros	500 Public
D. Freedman (absent)	3 Press
M. Ku	

Mr. Alexander called the meeting to order at 6:47 p.m.

MOTION: Mrs. Leidlein moved that the Board of Education go into executive session regarding non-union wages for 2015-2016, central office contractual employees and the superintendent's evaluation and invited Dr. Erardi. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 1 – Executive Session

Executive session ended at 7:27 p.m.

Public session began at 7:45 p.m.

Item 3 – Pledge of Allegiance

Item 2 – Possible Vote on Items in Executive Session

MOTION: Mrs. Leidlein moved that the Board of Education approve a 2% increase for non-union employees for the 2015-2016 school year. Mrs. Roche seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Leidlein moved that the Board of Education approve the hourly wage increase for Suzanne D'Eramo from \$31.39 per hour to \$34.13 per hour for the 2015-2016 school year. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Leidlein moved that the Board of Education approve the Long Term Disability Insurance for Suzanne D'Eramo and Kathy June for the 2015-2016 school year. Mrs. Roche seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Leidlein moved that the Board of Education approve a 2% increase and one year contract extension for the Director of Business, Ron Bienkowski, for the 2015-2016 school year. Mrs. Ku seconded. Vote: 5 ayes, 1 nay (Ms. Hamilton) Motion passes.

MOTION: Mrs. Leidlein moved that the Board of Education approve a 3% increase, a one year contract extension for the Superintendent, a vacation payout for 10 days and a performance bonus of \$3,000. Mrs. Roche seconded.

Ms. Hamilton was not in favor because she felt the increase was not something she could support but does appreciate and support Dr. Erardi for the work he is doing in the district. Mrs. Roche feels we are lucky to have Dr. Erardi here and the list since he began has grown tremendously. She is thankful for his service and supports the increase.

Vote: 5 ayes, 1 nay (Ms. Hamilton) Motion passes.

Item 4 – Consent Agenda

MOTION: Mrs. Leidlein moved that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda which includes the minutes of June 2, 2015, the donation of a 1999 Ford Explorer to Newtown High School, the donation of \$100 to the high school yearbook and \$40 to the high school library from Taunton Press, the resignations of Ted Varga, Kimberly Woodard, Vivian Sheen, Elaine Sullivan, Kathleen Erickson and Meghan Trubiano, the child rearing leave of absence for Stephanie Glynn, and the correspondence report. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Alexander said that Mr. Freedman was unable to attend but he read his statement which supports the Board continuing discussions and reviewing information to guide us to make an informed decision regarding each child's education in Newtown.

Mrs. Ku thanked everyone for attending and sending emails. The anxiety over this issue has not been good for our community and she wants to put it to rest now. She does not believe we should be closing a school as the benefits don't outweigh the costs. As a group we have not had a full discussion. We need to prepare a report to explain the costs and benefits.

Mr. Vouros does not agree with closing a school. Parents should transfer their passion into their referendum vote. There is nothing more important than a child's education.

Mrs. Leidlein agreed. The recommendation by the committee to close an elementary school shows no enhanced education. It would be a difficult transition for fourth graders to move to the Reed School. Elementary students need consistency. Regarding cost savings, we would save over several years but that money would be used for the cost of redistricting. The stress of closing an elementary school the same time Sandy Hook School will be opening is more than the community can bear. She suggests that the administrators analyze the enrollment and space needs study and include conversations with the community before being brought to the Board. She is in favor of the process continuing after Sandy Hook School opens.

Ms. Hamilton thanked the parents for coming and the facility committee for the report. She continues to believe that we have presented the best option for students. We have been talking about consolidation since before 2010 and this has come down to an emotional question. It's difficult for parents to imagine their child in another place. Change is hard. She and Mrs. Ku were on the committee. It is unfortunate that this discussion moved from a difficult conversation to an untenable one which was facilitated and fueled by an elected official from another board. The Board of Education didn't even leave the gate and was not allowed to even hear the facts behind the decision. There is so much misinformation in the public right now, it is impossible to move forward and she is in favor of delaying a year and involving public and community conversations. She is willing to re-look at the data and spend more time and be more specific about consolidation.

Mrs. Roche feels we need to listen to the community. She has many questions and cannot move this forward at this time. We need to continue the conversation and understand the data and how it will affect teaching and learning.

Mr. Alexander said we will be down 1,000 students from a few years ago. We instructed Dr. Erardi to form a committee to determine the best way to address declining enrollment. They came up with a recommendation for Hawley School based on the original request. We were

going to study that information over the summer but need to make a decision sooner than expected. The committee gave them what they asked for. We need to spend time looking at the data and see where that research will take us.

Item 5 – Public Participation

Kirsten Bonacci, 12 Meridian Ridge, is the Hawley PTA President and leader of the SOS campaign. She is concerned about the impact of closing a school on the community. They will remain SOS to look for solutions and find cost savings for the Newtown schools.

Aaron Carleson, 2 Old Farm Hill Road, asked if closing Hawley was taken off the table to which Mr. Alexander said the Board was not ready to vote.

Laura Brennan, 7 Fallen Leaf Lane, asked the Board to look for saving opportunities. What is the impact on student learning? There is no educational benefit of closing a school. There is a lack of supportive data to close Hawley School.

Aaron Carlson, 2 Old Farm Hill Road, said the report indicated this was a savings of \$1M per year. Last year the town officials said we needed seven schools. Redistricting would increase the time for bus rides. He urged the Board to stand firm by not closing a school. SOS is ready to support solutions and has over 1200 signatures on their petition. Thousands of voters are now happily engaged and ready to help. They will be on a volunteer committee to help support the Board of Education.

Casey Ragan, 12 Meadow Road, is part of the SOS committee. We should redirect closing a school to how to support new solutions and get budgets passed. She suggested using education foundations and grants.

John from Taunton Lake Drive, spoke about this closing lowering property values. A savings of \$1.5 M will put \$50 back into the tax payers' pocket. There will be a tax increase for the non-Hawley residents. Closing a school is the last resort for money saving efforts. He urged the Board of Finance, Board of Selectman and Board of Education to find ways to save.

Jean Klein, Budd Drive, thanked the Board for the excellent education students receive. She is a former reading teacher in Newtown. Changing the school settings will detract from the programs we have. Her granddaughter is in third grade at Hawley. She urged the Board to keep all K-4 elementary schools over the next few years to allow time for thoughtful discussions. We have the opportunity to have smaller classrooms. There is no need to rush to fill Sandy Hook School. Do what is best for the students and keep Hawley School.

Lisa Dietter, 7 Orchard Hill Road, thanked the Board for their hard work, integrity and research. She has done research on enrollment and this happens all over the country. Make an educated decision based on fact, not emotions.

Aaron Cox, Pond Brook Road, feels closing a school puts children's mental well being, academic success and social growth at risk. He cited research studies regarding the importance of the positive effect elementary schools have on students through high school.

Jennifer Kaufman, 42 Grand Place, addressed the historical significance of Hawley School. If it ceases to operate as a school the Board would have to forfeit \$332,474. The Board should not

re-gift something from its history. The State of Connecticut is considering Hawley as a state landmark for its historical significance.

Michael Brennan, 7 Fallen Leaf Lane, appealed that closing a school is not in the best interest for Newtown. It's a small savings. Closing the middle school is twice the savings and requires no redistricting.

Herb Rosenthal, 70 Main Street, commended the passion of the grass roots activity. He urged the Board of Education to not make a decision at this time to close any school before Sandy Hook School opens. Newtown's credibility will be damaged if we close a school before Sandy Hook opens. He trusts the superintendent and the Board to make the right decision at the right time. Now is not that time.

Charles Rio, 18 Brandywine Lane, is concerned about home values being reduced and the building just sitting and becoming an eyesore. We are not really saving. If we proceed cautiously to save a few dollars today we may have to spend more in the future to get back to where we are today.

Chris Spiro, 32 Main Street, asked that the myth and fact sheets be clarified. We are putting in a lot of projections. We were told that replacing owner/operators would save a lot of money. He would like to see a motion to table the Hawley discussion for two years.

Jennifer Padilla, 32 Glen Road, read part of the mission statement regarding inspiring students to excel and grow. We should give Sandy Hook School time in their new location first. We don't know how many students and staff will be affected when they move. She asked to reconsider closing any school next year.

Michael White, 6 Sweerbriar Lane, is a Hawley teacher. This school was a gift of generosity. Hawley is our family. Closing is not a good decision. We should keep the K-4 model.

Andrew Paley, 11 Rose Lane, said this is a Newtown issue. For Newtown to keep healing and moving forward closing an elementary school is ripping the community again. The fluctuation in enrollment is due to changes in the economy.

Lynn Biscoe, Hawleyville Road, has been a paraeducator at Hawley for 11 years. She read a letter from a school psychologist regarding mental health.

Bonnie Voegli, 2 Hitfield Road, asked the Board to close a school that does not include redistricting. She spoke about the importance of the elementary school families.

Judy Destafano, 12 Horseshoe Ridge Road, said transition is difficult for all students. Moving them to the intermediate school for fourth grade is detrimental emotionally and academically.

Nancy Hintze, 3 Old Farm Hill Road, said we must pay attention to the variables before making a decision. Will this guide the district to where we want it to go? She asked if there was evidence that declining enrollment affected test scores.

Christopher Fallon, 6 Hall Lane, was on the PTA for 11 years. Don't close any school. A smaller teacher/student ratio is better.



Susan Chung, 2 Crows Nest Lane, was concerned about the 2014 school climate survey which showed student social and emotional security was the lowest and safety was the second lowest concern. She urged the Board to consider the implications for the current students.

Karen Pierce, 10 Chestnut Hill Road, referred to the many grade configurations and spoke about mentoring kindergarten students with grade four students in the each school.

Laura Haggerty, 1 Smoke Rise Ridge, asked why we were building a new school with declining enrollment. Enrollment dropped off when the Sandy Hook tragedy happened. Enrollment will probably increase. She suggested renaming Sandy Hook School if Hawley closed.

Karyn Holden, 68 Berkshire Road, spoke about the budget process and was concerned about closing and not closing a school and how it will impact the budget. How will we balance declining enrollment and increased costs? What is the town's plan to attract businesses and residents? She asked all boards and residents to make a plan for what is best.

Ava Bermudez Zimmerman, 22 Bankside Trail, feels the right decision will be made looking at the 10 year projections. She is a Legislative Council member and will oppose closing a school in Newtown.

Bill Beasley, 22 Schoolhouse Hill Road, moved here from Florida. He praised Newtown schools by saying the education is like what is received in a private school in Florida.

Kinga Walsh, 21 Horseshoe Ridge Road, agreed with Karyn Holden and asked for public discussions on this issue. It is misleading that taxes will go down if we close a school. Regarding the students discipline code of conduct she asked the Board to include students in afterschool activities for afterschool behavior.

Piper Adolfson (student), 11 Parmalee Hill Road, asked why we are closing a school when making a new one.

Sydney Adolfson (student), 11 Parmalee Hill Road, said she has been at Hawley five years and doesn't want it to go

Nancy White, 14 Butternut Ridge, said not to rush the decision. She lives a distance from the other schools. Longer bus routes can cause a decline in afterschool activities. Due diligence has not been done yet.

Jodie Adolfson, 11 Parmalee Hill Road, said we are not emotionally ready to make this decision. All elementary students have been adequately supported. Focus on mental health first. We needed \$50M for the school to ensure we had seven schools.

Sheri Lerow, 15 Sanford Road, asked how Head O'Meadow and Middle Gate Schools would accommodate extra students. She is concerned about sacrificing rooms for special areas by transferring Hawley students to these schools. Why recommending closing Hawley if it can't be reopened. She urged the Board not to close any school.

Renee Wilson, 82 Hanover Road, said every school will be impacted if we close a school. She said there is revenue in the budget and asked where it went. She called surrounding districts.

Newtown is 118 out of 200 in per pupil expenditures but we are 22 in the amount of money we collect. She spoke about special ed costs and we should look at every line item without increasing taxes. Education has to come first.

#### Item 6 – Reports

##### Financial Report:

MOTION: Mrs. Leidlein moved that the Board of Education approve the financial report for the month ending May 31, 2015. Mrs. Roche seconded.

Mr. Bienkowski presented the report. Ms. Hamilton asked about the diesel fuel issue. Mr. Bienkowski spoke with Fred Hurley and was told the town did not satisfy its contractual obligation. As we are becoming more efficient in the use of fuel our expected quantity has gone down. The town did not reduce the quantity we went down to and they didn't consume as much either. The town is allowing the fuel to be sold back to the company.

Ms. Hamilton asked how that affects us the coming year.  
Mr. Bienkowski said the quantities have been reduced for the coming year.

Motion passes unanimously.

#### Item 7 – Old Business

##### Enrollment/Facility Study Report:

Dr Erardi thanked the committee and Mr. Moretti for handling this beautifully and the Hawley parents who went out of their way to be respectful. Regarding the study, Dr. Melissa Brymer has been our advisor over these two plus years. She commissioned the study which included focus groups with Hawley staff and parents. She brought recommendations for ongoing safety concerns but most of all the importance that this needs to be a community conversation.

Ms. Hamilton said that in some parts she was struck by suggestions on how to bring two school communities together. We should speak to that in more detail moving forward.

Mrs. Leidlein suggested that the Board resolve that the school administration with the information collected by the facility study committee continue their committee discussions and bring to the Board recommendations with regard to the best way to configure the schools.

Mrs. Roche wanted to consider that we need to make the meetings more public and have minutes.

Ms. Hamilton feels the facility study committee should include members of the community and officials from other boards. There should be substantial plans on reconfiguration and the benefits such as how we will mesh with the PTAs, etc. to reduce the amount of stress in changing schools. Regarding the time frame, we should have some type of decision by the end of September next year to be able to plan. We don't need to have to wait and see what happens with staff and students at Sandy Hook School. We should do the work in this current school year.

Ms. Ku said it would be good to hear what came out of the facility study committee meetings and decide the next step.

Mr. Vouros feels we should discuss the middle school concept and what that looks like. We would have to wait two to three years if that were to occur. If we pursue that avenue it may take that length of time. He doesn't want to just focus on an elementary school.

Mrs. Ku wants to see an equal amount of resources into our decision looking at our space in the high school also for various programs.

Mr. Alexander asked if we want a definite answer by a certain date.

Mrs. Leidlein said when we are ready we should make the suggestion. It will take time to get the information we need and we should have regular reports from the group working on this.

Dr. Erardi said the conversation moving forward is not for 2016-2017. We will engage the community with another year of projected enrollment.

Ms. Hamilton feels we are close to coming up with a future plan. Reporting regularly back to the Board would be helpful and include the community. Timing is the issue.

Mr. Vouros said we may decide that all schools should stay open or if we are working on a way to redistrict children. He doesn't want any confusion.

MOTION: Mrs. Roche resolved that the Board of Education will not make a change to facilities for the 2016-2017 school year. Meanwhile the Board will continue an ongoing conversation with regard to the use of facilities including community discussion and input on town resources.

Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Mrs. Leidlein wants to hear from the town as to what would happen to the space and the long term effects.

Mr. Vouros wants Hawley parents to know that the Board of Education knows what they need to do and the decision will solidify that. We have to go through this process and they will be involved. It's important that we are fiscally responsible. We all need to vote when the budget is presented. That will send a different message to everyone.

Mrs. Ku said we need to have the information at budget time.

Student Discipline:

MOTION: Ms. Hamilton moved that the Board of Education approve the NHS Student Athlete Substance Abuse Code of Conduct. Mrs. Roche seconded.

Ms. Hamilton said the intent of this is due to changes made to the expulsion policy. This should apply to any school activity.

Dr. Erardi said there would be some wording changes brought back to the Board but would go to print with the indication that it was pending Board approval July 30.

Ms. Hamilton moved to table the motion. Mrs. Roche seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process Policy 5114:

MOTION: Ms. Hamilton moved that the Board of Education approve Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process Policy 5114. Mrs. Roche seconded.

Mrs. Ku asked what would happen if you had a law-biding student caught in a situation and whether we should have a scaled version.

Dr. Erardi said it makes no difference if an illegal substance is involved.

Motion passes unanimously.

Technology Grant:

MOTION: Mrs. Roche moved that the Board of Education approve the resubmission of RFP813 District Technology Upgrades to Support Transition to the New Standards Grant. Ms. Hamilton seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 8 – New Business

MOTION: Mrs. Leidlein moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of June 10, 2015. Mr. Vouros seconded. Vote: 5 ayes, 1 abstained (Mrs. Roche)

Item 9 – Public Participation

Aaron Cox thanked the Board for their decision and spoke about closing the middle school instead.

Dr. Erardi thanked Dr. Gejda for her support and guidance since he began and wished her the best.

MOTION: Mrs. Leidlein moved to adjourn. Ms. Hamilton seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 10 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Kathryn Hamilton  
Secretary

June 1, 2015

TO: Dr. Erardi

FROM: Lorrie Rodrigue

Please accept the donation of a 1999 Ford Explorer, VIN:  
1FMDU34X4XZA34636 at an estimated value of \$1,500 from Keith Miller, 29  
Marlin Road, Sandy Hook, CT 06482

The vehicle will be used by Newtown High School Automotive Repair Classes.

Thank you.

*Encl.*

June 13, 2015

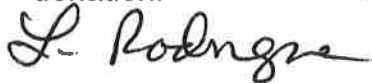
TO: Dr. Joseph Erardi

FROM: Lorrie Rodrigue

Please accept the donation from the Taunton Press of

- \$100 to the NHS Yearbook
- \$50 to the NHS Library

The Newtown High School students will certainly benefit from this very generous donation.



Thank you.

Enclosures  
LR: nsb





Deramo, Suzanne <deramos@newtown.k12.ct.us>

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## 2015-16 school year

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Fri, Jun 5, 2015 at 4:24 PM

Varga, Theodore <vargat@newtown.k12.ct.us>

To: "Deramo, Suzanne" <deramos@newtown.k12.ct.us>

Cc: Kathleen Gombos <gombosk@newtown.k12.ct.us>, David Abbey <abbeyd@newtown.k12.ct.us>, Joe Erardi <erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us>

Dear Newtown Board of Education,

I had the pleasure of beginning my teaching career at Sandy Hook Elementary. During my time there, I was fortunate to learn from some of the very best teachers and administrators in education. It is for this reason that the Newtown community will always be held so near to my heart. With that being said, I have chosen to resign from my position in order to continue teaching abroad. I will always be grateful for the positive experiences that I have had in Newtown. It is through these experiences that have helped me develop into the person I am today. I appreciate your understanding and support regarding this matter. I wish you nothing but the best in your future endeavors to move the district forward.

Sincerely,

Ted Varga

[Quoted text hidden]

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*Ted Varga, 4th Grade Teacher  
Sandy Hook School  
Dickinson Drive  
Sandy Hook, CT 06482*

JUN 10 2015

June 9, 2015

Dear Anne,

It is with bittersweet feelings that I write this letter to give my resignation from Newtown Public Schools, as my family is moving back to our home state, California. We are excited to be close to our families and for the new opportunities that await us, but we are sad to leave Newtown, the people that we have grown to love, and I am particularly sad to let go of my job at Reed.

Thank you so much for all of the support you have given me; working under your leadership with Jill at your side has been a pleasure. I have felt valued and respected, and your desire to do what is best for our students is evident in every decision you make. I have learned so much in my time at Reed and I am grateful to have worked with such amazing teachers, support staff and students.

My resignation will be effective at the close of this school year. Thank you again for all that you do and I hope that you have a wonderful summer!

Fondly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly Woodard".

Kimberly Woodard



June 12, 2015

Superintendent Joseph V. Erardi, Jr.  
Newtown Board of Education  
3 Primrose Street  
Newtown, CT 06470

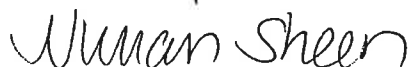
Dear Dr. Erardi and whom it may concern,

It is with mixed emotions that I am writing this letter to inform you of my decision to resign from Newtown High School upon completion of this school year. Although I have enjoyed the last 7 years working in the Business Department, and as both a DECA and Peer Leadership Advisor, I have decided that this is the right time for me to move on. I have recently accepted a teaching position with another district. This was not an easy decision, however; I do believe it is in the best interest for me and my family that I do so.

I appreciate all of the important events and connections that the Newtown community has offered and allowed me to be a part of during my time here. I've learned a lot and have enjoyed watching the growth and resilience of our students.

I will complete all of my responsibilities as scheduled for the remainder of this school year. Please let me know if there are any additional steps that I should take before my last day. Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,



Vivian Sheen



Deramo, Suzanne <deramos@newtown.k12.ct.us>

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## Retirement - here is the letter

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**Erickson, Kathy** <ericksonk@newtown.k12.ct.us>  
To: Anne Uberti <ubertia@newtown.k12.ct.us>  
Cc: Suzanne Deramo <deramos@newtown.k12.ct.us>

Fri, Jun 19, 2015 at 12:43 PM

Anne Uberti  
Principal  
3 Trades Lane  
Newtown, Connecticut 06470

Dear Anne Uberti,

It is with mixed emotions, that I am notifying you of my resignation. Please accept my retirement effective June 30, 2015.

My intent was to work one more year before retiring, but I have learned that my daughter Brittany will still require full time care this coming year. After talking with doctors, surgeons and therapists, I feel confident that she will get better. However, it is going to be a slow recovery, with future surgeries and therapies needed. It will be quite awhile, before she will be able to live on her own.

Thank you so much for your prayers, support and understanding throughout this trying year. I have grown both personally and professionally throughout my 15 years in the Newtown District. I take with me so many wonderful memories of students and staff, and caring feelings of all my friends at Reed. I will truly miss all of you.

Thank you again, I wish you every success in the years to come,

Sincerely,

Kathleen Erickson

30 Flint Street  
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611  
203 445-9348

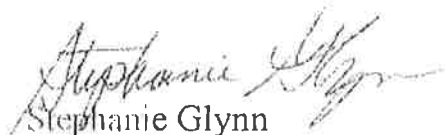
Dear Dr. Erardi,

My name is Stephanie Glynn. I'm an 8<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher at the Middle School. I am very excited to inform you that I am pregnant with twins! I wanted to wait until I was more certain that the pregnancy would go full term to inform you. My due date is September 30, 2015. As you may know, twins tend to come a bit early, two weeks is what I've been told. I'm also a little concerned that my doctor may decide to put me on bed rest, and as a result I may not be able to start the school year. I just wanted to let you know my worst case scenario, for your planning purposes. Apparently these things are common with twins, so I wanted to be sure I was telling you exactly what I, myself, know.

I plan on being out through December and returning when we come back from winter break in January. This is my very first pregnancy, so I'm a bit worried that I will need until then to get myself and them into a routine.

On a side note, I am so excited about the possibility of having a Childcare/Preschool Center in Newtown, possibly even at the Middle School! As long as it's affordable, I would love to bring my twins starting the January after winter break. It would definitely make coming back easier to know they were so close by. I would also be at ease knowing our town has hired the staff. We do such a good job here hiring the best of the best that I know my babies would be in safe and capable hands!

Please let me know if you need anything else from me.

  
Stephanie Glynn



Deramo, Suzanne <deramos@newtown.k12.ct.us>

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## Resignation

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**Trubiano, Meghan** <trubianom@newtown.k12.ct.us> Thu, Jun 18, 2015 at 3:20 PM  
To: Suzanne Deramo <deramos@newtown.k12.ct.us>, Joe Erardi <erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us>  
Cc: Christopher Geissler <geisslerc@newtown.k12.ct.us>, Julie Haggard <haggardj@newtown.k12.ct.us>, Catharine Goralski <goralskic@newtown.k12.ct.us>, Sandy Rodriguez <rodriguezs@newtown.k12.ct.us>

I am writing to inform you all that I will not be returning to Newtown Public Schools next year.

I would like to thank you all for the many opportunities that have been afforded to me. I have enjoyed my experience in Newtown.

I wish you all the best in the future.

Sincerely,  
Meghan Trubiano

## NHS Student Athlete Substance Abuse Code of Conduct

The Newtown Board of Education recognizes the serious societal problem of substance abuse and the implications this has for our students in the Newtown Public School System. In partnership with families and other local institutions, our schools play a significant role in the early detection of substance abuse, the protection of children from the use, promotion and sale of alcohol and controlled substances and the improper use and sale of prescription drugs.

Student athletes are subject to Newtown Board of Education policies, Newtown High School administrative policies, disciplinary actions and suspension or removal from an athletic team for the possession, use, dispensing, sale or distribution, aid in the procurement or under the influence of any of the following:

- Alcohol
- Illicit Drugs
- Mood Altering or Controlled Substances
- Stimulants
- Anabolic Steroids
- Hormones or Analogues
- Diuretics
- Performance Enhancements
- Any substance purported to be a restricted substance

A student that is under the influence of or in possession of drugs and/or alcohol during school, on school grounds or during school activities, will be excluded from all school related extra-curricular activities for a period of (60) sixty calendar days. If the 60-day period is not concluded by the end of the school year, the remaining days will resume at the start of the next school year.

If such student engages in any prohibited activity listed above off school grounds, at any time, seven days a week, regardless of whether or not prohibited conduct occurs during the student's actual participation in interscholastic sports or whether other school-related disciplinary action has occurred, the student will be excluded from all school related extra-curricular activities for a period of (60) sixty calendar days. If the 60-day period is not concluded by the end of the school year, the remaining days will resume at the start of the next school year.

NOTE: The CIAC may impose further sanctions beyond those applied by the LEA (Local Educational Authority) for use of substances by athletes. Similarly, a student whose conduct off school grounds is in violation of the substance abuse policy and is seriously disruptive of the educational process shall be subject to severe disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from school. In accord with Newtown High School policies and expectations, this is applicable to all CIAC controlled activities sponsored by the school. Participation in high school athletics is a privilege, not a right.

From: **motherofcaver via Newtown BOE** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Subject: Re: Monday's Topic- Financial Implications of Closing Hawley School  
Date: June 11, 2015 at 3:47 PM  
To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Cc: Irocheboe@gmail.com, kathyhamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com



I have sent a letter to Mr. Vorous giving reasons to close the Middle School. **NOT HAWLEY!** In addition I feel that the property, that the Middle School is sitting on is very valuable. If sold it would bring in an immense amount of money to the Town. The land could also be leased for a future shopping plaza, again bringing in over a long term, constant revenue. Thank you Corinne Cox a resident of Newton since 1955.

To:  
[NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us)  
[alexanderk\\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:alexanderk_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us)  
[Irocheboe@gmail.com](mailto:Irocheboe@gmail.com)  
[kathyhamilton@att.net](mailto:kathyhamilton@att.net)  
[boedebbie@gmail.com](mailto:boedebbie@gmail.com)  
[jnvboe@gmail.com](mailto:jnvboe@gmail.com)  
[dfboenewtown@hotmail.com](mailto:dfboenewtown@hotmail.com)  
[michelleku.boe@gmail.com](mailto:michelleku.boe@gmail.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: acox134957 <acox134957@aol.com>  
To: Motherofcaver <Motherofcaver@aol.com>  
Sent: Mon, Jun 8, 2015 3:13 pm  
Subject: Fwd: Monday's Topic- Financial Implications of Closing Hawley School

-----Original Message-----

From: Save Newtown Schools <[savenewtownschools@gmail.com](mailto:savenewtownschools@gmail.com)>  
To: Save Newtown Schools <[savenewtownschools@gmail.com](mailto:savenewtownschools@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Sun, Jun 7, 2015 5:02 pm  
Subject: Monday's Topic- Financial Implications of Closing Hawley School

Dear Save Newtown Schools Supporter,

In light of the recent recommendation to close Hawley School, we thank you for joining with us in our bi-weekly Save Newtown Schools email campaign to alert the Newtown Board of Education and all Newtown elected officials of our deep belief that all Newtown Schools should remain open. Each bi-weekly campaign email will provide you with a topic and the supportive facts you need to communicate with the Board of Education and the Newtown Officials. These topics will empower our collective members to systematically make the case to Save Our Newtown Schools; you will continue to receive these prompts every Sunday and Wednesday until a decision has been reached.

Below you will find:

- Today's Topic: **To be emailed by Monday, June 8th**
- Supportive Facts from which to craft a personal email
- A sample email which you may use on the days you do not have the time or inspiration to draft a personal email
- Email addresses which can be copied and pasted into the "To" and "CC" fields
- A comprehensive list of Newtown Officials and their email addresses if you prefer to send individual emails

In writing to our Newtown Officials, please remain constructive and courteous as we are all on the same team

working towards what is best for Newtown. We encourage you to ask questions in every email you send so that we may engage with our officials and continue to build our collective knowledgebase.

Thank you for your participation in the Save Newtown Schools Email Campaign.

Sincerely,  
Your Partners of the Pen  
Save Newtown Schools

### **Monday's Topic: Financial Implications of Closing Hawley School**

#### Support Facts:

(Figures provided below are from the Newtown Board of Education website; all figures are hyperlinked for your reference.)

- Annual savings from closing Hawley School, as listed in the [Facility and Enrollment Study](#), total \$1,112,580 (approximately \$1.1 million) which represents only 1.55% of the approved 2015/2016 Board of Education Budget of \$71,587,946.
- Cost avoidance from the closing of Hawley School is not a savings to the Newtown taxpayers as the maintenance of the Hawley School building (projects and CIP figured in the Facility and Enrollment Study at \$14,274,500 or approximately \$14.3 million) will remain the responsibility of the Newtown taxpayers once the building is relinquished to the Town of Newtown.
- The [Facility and Enrollment Study](#) presented by Dr. Erardi, Newtown Superintendent, on behalf of the Enrollment and Facilities Committee on June 2, 2015, highlights a \$14.3M cost avoidance of deferred maintenance at Hawley School within 5 years. These planned maintenance projects, and their corresponding costs, are not reflected in the April 28, 2015 BOE [2015/16](#) approved Capital Improvement Plans (CIP), nor are these estimates reflected in the prior two years' CIP's of [2014/15](#) & [2013/14](#).

[2013/14](#) CIP had \$6M for Phase II & III of Hawley roof/HVAC scheduled 2015-17

[2014/15](#) CIP had \$7.5M for Phase II & III of Hawley roof/HVAC scheduled 2015-17

[2015/16](#) CIP had \$800K for the roof in 2017/18 and \$3.7M for Phase II only in 2019/20

- Costs associated with closing a school are not included in the Facility and Enrollment Study although such costs do exist and would lower the immediate savings figures provided.
- Cost data to reopen a school, or build a new school, in the event that enrollment reaches the potential high growth projections outlined in the 2014 [Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections](#) have not be provided.

#### Suggested Questions:

Can you please provide a clear explanation of how the \$14.3 million Cost Avoidance Projects are required and planned within 5 years as they are not represented in full in the 2013/14, 2014/15 nor the 2015/16 CIP?

- What is the estimated 5-year cost burden to the taxpayers to maintain Hawley School once it is transitioned to the Town of Newtown?
- What are the town's plans for the Hawley School building, if closed as a school, and the associated costs (capital or otherwise) of re-purposing?
- What provisions are in place, should enrollment exceed projections after Hawley School is closed, to mitigate the costs of reopening a school or expanding existing school capacity

Sample Email--please include your own personal feelings, stories, questions, etc. as you see fit:

Dear Newtown BOE,

Based on the following points, I feel the Facility and Enrollment Study does not demonstrate sufficient cost savings to justify closing Hawley School nor any other school in Newtown. I hope you will give thought to these issues as you formulate your decision regarding the future of Newtown schools.

1) The \$14.3M cost avoidance figure, presented as the primary savings driver to the Board of Education budget to close Hawley School, is not a savings to the Newtown taxpayers as the maintenance of the Hawley School building will remain the responsibility of the taxpayers once the building is relinquished to the Town of Newtown.

2) Costs associated with the closing of a school have been mentioned but not yet presented and must be considered to make an accurate savings determination.

3) Cost data to reopen a school, or build a new school, in the event that enrollment reaches the potential high growth projections outlined in the 2014 Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections have not been provided and must be considered as a considerable cost risk to the taxpayer in making a decision on a school closing.

Can you please provide a clear explanation of how the \$14.3 million Cost Avoidance Projects are required and planned within 5 years as they are not represented in full in the 2013/14, 2014/15 nor the 2015/16 CIP?

I appreciate your commitment to Newtown Schools and hope you can agree that, based on its financial implications, closing Hawley School is not in the best interest of Newtown and its students.

Sincerely,

**Email Addresses of Public Officials**-- for easy use simply copy and paste in the To field (see below for a detailed listing of officials and their email addresses):

To:

[NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us)  
[alexanderk\\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:alexanderk_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us)  
[lrocheboe@gmail.com](mailto:lrocheboe@gmail.com)  
[kathylhamilton@att.net](mailto:kathylhamilton@att.net)  
[boedebbie@gmail.com](mailto:boedebbie@gmail.com)  
[jnvboe@gmail.com](mailto:jnvboe@gmail.com)  
[dfboenewtown@hotmail.com](mailto:dfboenewtown@hotmail.com)  
[michelleku.boe@gmail.com](mailto:michelleku.boe@gmail.com)

CC:

[erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us)  
[pat.llodra@newtown.ct.gov](mailto:pat.llodra@newtown.ct.gov)  
[SugrBrk@aol.com](mailto:SugrBrk@aol.com)  
[okjt@aol.com](mailto:okjt@aol.com)  
[james.filan@gmail.com](mailto:james.filan@gmail.com)  
[jkearney19@aol.com](mailto:jkearney19@aol.com)  
[jkortze@yahoo.com](mailto:jkortze@yahoo.com)  
[jgodin1312@gmail.com](mailto:jgodin1312@gmail.com)  
[mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com](mailto:mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com)  
[harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net](mailto:harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net)

**Individual Email Addresses of Public Officials:**

Dr. Joseph Erardi, Joe, Superintendent of Schools  
[erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us)

**Newtown Board of Education**

The entire Board of Education can be reached at:



[NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us)

Keith Alexander, Chair, Newtown Board of Education  
[alexanderk\\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:alexanderk_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us)

Laura Roche, Vice Chair, Newtown Board of Education  
[lrocheboe@gmail.com](mailto:lrocheboe@gmail.com)

Kathy Hamilton, Secretary, Newtown Board of Education  
[kathyhamilton@att.net](mailto:kathyhamilton@att.net)

DebbieLeidlein, Member, Newtown Board of Education  
[boedebbie@gmail.com](mailto:boedebbie@gmail.com)

John Vouros, Member, Newtown Board of Education  
[jnvboe@gmail.com](mailto:jnvboe@gmail.com)

David Freedman, Member, Newtown Board of Education  
[dfboenewtown@hotmail.com](mailto:dfboenewtown@hotmail.com)

Michelle Ku, Member, Newtown Board of Education  
[michelleku.boe@gmail.com](mailto:michelleku.boe@gmail.com)

**Newtown Board of Selectmen**

Patricia Llodra  
[pat.llodra@newtown.ct.gov](mailto:pat.llodra@newtown.ct.gov)

William Rodgers  
[SugrBrk@aol.com](mailto:SugrBrk@aol.com)

James Gaston (also Warden, Borough of Newtown)  
[okjt@aol.com](mailto:okjt@aol.com)

**Newtown Board of Finance**

James Filan  
[james.filan@gmail.com](mailto:james.filan@gmail.com)

JosephKearney  
[jkearney19@aol.com](mailto:jkearney19@aol.com)

John Kortze  
[jkortze@yahoo.com](mailto:jkortze@yahoo.com)

John Godin  
[jgodin1312@gmail.com](mailto:jgodin1312@gmail.com)

Michael Portnoy  
[mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com](mailto:mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com)

Harrison Waterbury  
[harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net](mailto:harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net)

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to [NewtownBOE-unsubscribe@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:NewtownBOE-unsubscribe@newtown.k12.ct.us).



From: **Adriana Gutierrez** ap-gutierrez@hotmail.com  
Subject: **Do not close Hawley - Timing Implications**  
Date: June 10, 2015 at 10:43 PM



To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, lrocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jrivboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com  
Cc: erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, pat.lodra@newtown-ct.gov, SugrBrk@aol.com sugrbrk@aol.com, okjl@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkortze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net, george-ferguson@earthlink.net, jgnewtownct@yahoo.com, lundquist.paul@gmail.com, merola1lc@sbcglobal.net, ryan.w.knapp@gmail.com, danielthonan@gmail.com, mjacob4404@charter.net, evalazu@hotmail.com, amaralpoggy@aol.com, nkc@4newtown.com, tonyfiliato@ymail.com, ppcarroll13@gmail.com, gutmiguel@hotmail.com

Dear Newtown BOE,

I feel strongly that now is not the time to close a school in Newtown.

Closing Hawley right now, transferring 60% of its students to the Sandy Hook Elementary puts the Newtown people through two irreconcilable events at the same time:

- A. The Sandy Hook families and teachers returning to a school where the tragedy occurred (with all implied angst and complexities) and
- B. Imposing Hawley families to join that same school (environment) while dealing with their own fears, sorrow and anxiety. This could have MAJOR negative long-term traumas in ALL the kids, which will result in low academic performance.

The reputation of the town will also suffer. The surrounding communities will see Newtown negatively -- a town that takes \$50M to build a new elementary school when very well knowing that there was a need to close one due to low enrollment.

Low academic performance, by traumatized kids, and bad town reputation will jeopardize Newtown's image. It will no longer be the town people want to live in.

I invite you to consider the following:

1. The introduction of the Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections, the analysis from which the recommendation to close a school is based, expressly notes, "Because this analysis was conducted less than two years after the Sandy Hook tragedy, **it is difficult to discern the long-term effects** of that event on enrollments and the variables influencing enrollments. Whether Newtown has reached a new normal, or previously existing trends experienced only a brief disruption remains to be seen over the next couple of years." It continues, "The introduction of full-day kindergarten in 2013-14 is another change likely to have short- and long-term influence on enrollment patterns, but cannot be determined at this time. Especially because of these recent events, Newtown Public Schools should pay close attention to the variables discussed in this report, as changes in any one trend could impact enrollments."
2. Of the seven school closing options presented in the Facility and Enrollment Study, three options require the use of portable classrooms to accommodate the enrollment predictions for the 2016-2017 school year. **Waiting just one more year** opens three additional possible configurations that could prove better for the town of Newtown and the education of our students.

3. In closing **Hawley School**, the **only historic school in the Newtown School district**, we leave virtually no possibility that it could be reopened as a school in the future; is it sensible, in this historic New England town, to close Hawley School permanently based on a temporary decline in enrollment?

I feel the Facility and Enrollment Study **does not demonstrate sufficient cost savings to justify closing a school in Newtown**. Should it be considered that a Newtown School be closed to attain savings that equate to less than 1% of the cumulative approved 2014-2015 Town Budget, I believe the evidence above clearly indicates that the 2016-2017 school year is not the time to close a Newtown School. The eyes of our fellow statesman and countrymen are upon us as we make this crucial decision and I urge you to demonstrate leadership by voting "No" to the closing of any of our Newtown schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Adriana Gutierrez  
1 Crows Nest Lane, SH

From: Allene Mc Murrer Troy allenepa@hotmail.com

Subject: School closing concern

Date: June 15, 2015 at 9:18 PM

To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, Irocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boedebbis@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com

Cc: erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, pat.lodra@newtown-ct.gov, SugrBrk@aol.com, okjl@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkortze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net, george-ferguson@earthlink.net, jgnewtowncl@yahoo.com, lundquist.paul@gmail.com, merola1lc@sbcglobal.net, ryan.w.knapp@gmail.com, danielthonan@gmail.com, mjacob4404@charter.net, evalazu@hotmail.com, amaralpoggy@aol.com, nkc@4newtown.com, tonyfiliato@ymail.com, ppcarroll13@gmail.com



My husband and I have twins in the Newtown School System. They will be going next year to Reed School, and have been lucky enough to have spent the past 5 years at Hawley School. Like numerous families with children, we moved to Newtown 7 years ago so that they would be able to have an excellent school system. We specifically wanted them to be able to attend Hawley Elementary. Hawley is more than a school, it is their second home where they have been surrounded by excellent educators, a sense of community, and love. They have excelled because of the staff at Hawley.

We feel that the monetary savings of closing Hawley School will be minimal in comparison to what will be lost. We are concerned for our house values which are already down over \$100,000 in our neighborhood. Families will be less interested in moving to Newtown because there will be concerns that in closing a school perhaps we are not trying to grow and support our school system. Houses like ours that are in the Hawley district are going to be harder to sell and worth less. Real estate estimates show that we could expect 5-10% further decrease in our home value.

We are concerned as to what may happen when enrollment cycles up, as it will. Builders have been trying to get approvals for hundreds of condo units in town. What happens when something gets approved and our enrollment is higher than capacity. Won't we be spending a much larger amount of money to add portable classrooms, additions, etc? I wonder about the Enrollment studies and its accuracy to predict. Can't these numbers really be used skew what one wants to see?

What will happen to our class sizes, how will our children handle redistricting and reconfiguration? What about the soon to be 2nd grader that will have to change schools in 3rd grade, and then again in 4th grade? Being separated from friends, their second home and their security will not be easy. What about those that will not be able to go back to Sandy Hook school, or those that already changed to Hawley because they couldn't? What about the families that may go to Hawley and were closely impacted by the loss of a Sandy Hook friend, won't it be hard to move them too?

We do not feel that closing a school now or in the next few years is the right thing for Newtown! The Facility and Enrollment Study does not demonstrate sufficient cost savings to justify such a destructive decision such as closing a school. Our community should be trying to heal and rebuild. Make Newtown continue to be a great town for families by putting into our schools, not shutting them down!

Sincerely, Allene and David Troy

Sent from Windows Mail

**From:** Allison Boughan boughan\_family@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Financial Implications of Closing Hawley School  
**Date:** June 9, 2015 at 7:46 AM

**To:** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, lrocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com  
**Cc:** erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, pat.llodra@newtown.ct.gov, SugrBrk@aol.com, okjt@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkortze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.porthoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net



Dear Newtown BOE,

I am writing today in an effort to save all Newtown Schools. In this letter, I would like to address some of the financial aspects that were presented as part of the Facility and Enrollment Study.

First, the annual savings in closing Hawley school as listed by the study totals \$1,112,580 or 1.55% of the approved budget. Although when looking at this number as a whole it appears large, to the average taxpayer this is a very small amount. We are talking about a lot of change to the community with a lot of unknown variables for such a small amount of annual tax savings.

Secondly, although I know that the \$14.3M cost avoidance figure, presented as the primary savings driver to the Board of Education budget to close Hawley School, makes the proposal sound great and a definite win scenario, it is not a savings to the Newtown taxpayers. Taxpayers will still need to maintain the Hawley school and pay for the upgrades if the building is repurposed.

Thirdly, cost data to reopen a school, or build a new school, in the event that enrollment reaches the potential high growth projections outlined in the 2014 Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections have not yet been provided. Assuming that the school would cost at least \$50 million (the current cost of rebuilding the Sandy Hook School), the \$1 million savings over the next 10-15 years would not be enough to cover these costs. At this point the town could also have the added expense of purchasing new land for the school.

Finally, the costs associated with actually closing the school have not yet been provided. Although, I understand that these costs are most likely a one time event, I still believe that they need to be taken into the equation.

Overall, I believe that there are many unanswered questions regarding the financial benefit of closing a school at this time.

I appreciate your commitment to Newtown Schools and hope you can agree that, based on its financial implications, closing any school is not in the best interest of Newtown and its students. I leave you with one main question at this time "What's The Rush?"

Sincerely,

Allison Boughan

**From:** Amanda Roggenbauer ajo.trek@gmail.com  
**Subject:** School Closing - Enrollment Report  
**Date:** June 5, 2015 at 12:19 PM  
**To:** alexander\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, michelleku.boe@gmail.com, lrocheboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, boedebbie@gmail.com, kathylHamilton@att.net, danaholcombehcuse@yahoo.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkortze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.com, Pat.Ilodra@newtown-ct.gov, sugrbrk@aol.com, okjt@aol.com, NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us  
**Cc:** erarij@newtown.k12.ct.us

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Good Afternoon to Everyone,

I just spend most of the evening and a good portion of the morning going over the Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections report from Milone & MacBroom. I understand that this is a major piece of information that was used by Dr. Erardi and his committee when they recommended to close Hawley School. I am a Hawley parent and have many concerns regarding the closing of any school, especially Hawley. I wanted to see the facts of the study so I could understand why they thought closing a school was necessary.

For those of you who haven't read this report it is number based taking into account population growth, birth rate, real estate sales and enrollment numbers. By looking at past data and analyzing current trends they can project what enrollment will look like for the next 10 years. These enrollment numbers are cyclical and go up and down in chunks of time...10-15 years are what some researchers say is the norm. This study projected that the enrollment decline would bottom out in k-4 schools during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years, depending of which school you are attending. This means school enrollment was projected to increase in 2020 just 2 years after Hawley school closes. A recommendation to close a school in 2017-18, just 2 years before enrollment is projected to increase makes no sense at all.

Then I took a look at the projected enrollment for this coming school year (2015-16), which is the year they started their 10 year projection. The projection was that enrollment would be down in k-4 by -46 students. The actual enrollment as of May 29, 2015 is up in k-4 by +66 students! Their first year of projections are off by 112 students! Not losing students like the projection showed but gaining students for the first time since 2011 (the last enrollment report that I found on the BOE website). This information leads a strong case that the decline in enrollment hit the bottom in k-4 last year and enrollment will only continue to grow in coming years. If growth has indeed bottomed out closing a school is out of the question and should be off the table.

The last thing that struck me hard in this report was the introduction which in part reads:

"Because this analysis was conducted less than two years after the Sandy Hook tragedy, it is difficult to discern the long-term effects of that event on enrollments and the variables influencing enrollment. Whether Newtown has reached a new normal, or previously existing trends experienced only a brief disruption remains to be seen over the next couple of years.

The introduction of full-day kindergarten in 2013-14 is another change likely to have short- and long-term influence on enrollment patterns, but cannot be determined at this time. Especially because of these recent events, Newtown Public Schools should pay close attention to the variables discussed in this report, as changes in any one trend could impact enrollments."

Isn't this a warning to tread lightly and see what happens in a couple years. Another quote from the report states:

"Much of the current research on the impacts of school shootings has focused on high schools and the attendance and graduation rates of the affected students. Therefore, we could not look to other examples for indications of the potential short-and long-term impacts of the tragedy at Sandy Hook on persistency ratios."

Newtown will be the new example, the new study, the new research. Let's not look stupid. We need to make smart, educated, fact based decisions about our schools. One last quote from the conclusion of the report states:

"We must point out that the opening of the new Sandy Hook school could significantly alter these projections, as the new facility may serve to attract new families to the Sandy Hook district. It is impossible to factor that externality into these projections at this time, when the new school will not be populated for at least another two years. Newtown Public Schools will need to closely monitor enrollments, housing sales and births in the Sandy Hook district following opening of the new facility."

It is impossible to predict the future of schools in Newtown but closing a school the same year Sandy Hook reopens does not make sense. A state of the art school is sure to draw new families to town and increase an already GROWING enrollment. Save all our schools and keep them all open.

Thanks for your time.  
Amanda Roggenbauer

**From:** Amanda Roggenbauer ajo.trek@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Correction to School Closing - Enrollment Report  
**Date:** June 6, 2015 at 12:54 PM  
**To:** michelleku.boe@gmail.com, lrocheboe@gmail.com, diboenewtown@hotmail.com, boedebbie@gmail.com, kathylHamilton@att.net, danaholcombhouse@yahoo.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkortze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.com, Pat.Llodra@newtown-ct.gov, sugrbrk@aol.com, okjl@aol.com, NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us

Good Afternoon,

It was brought to my attention that a couple number were wrong in my original email. Please allow me to make a correction.

I used the enrollment report from May 29, 2015 on the BOE's website.

As of May 29, 2015 enrollment in K-4 is up +13. The enrollment projection for 2015-16 was for a decrease. Thus, the first year projections were wrong by 66 students not 112 as I stated originally. This was a mistake in numbers on my part but still shows an increase in students.

Thanks for allowing me to correct this mistake and taking the time to read my concerns.

Amanda Roggenbauer

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 5, 2015, at 12:19 PM, Amanda Roggenbauer <ajo.trek@gmail.com> wrote:

Good Afternoon to Everyone,

I just spend most of the evening and a good portion of the morning going over the Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections report from Milone & MacBroom. I understand that this is a major piece of information that was used by Dr. Erardi and his committee when they recommended to close Hawley School. I am a Hawley parent and have many concerns regarding the closing of any school, especially Hawley. I wanted to see the facts of the study so I could understand why they thought closing a school was necessary.

For those of you who haven't read this report it is number based taking into account population growth, birth rate, real estate sales and enrollment numbers. By looking at past data and analyzing current trends they can project what enrollment will look like for the next 10 years. These enrollment numbers are cyclical and go up and down in chunks of time...10-15 years are what some researchers say is the norm. This study projected that the enrollment decline would bottom out in k-4 schools during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years, depending of which school you are attending. This means school enrollment was projected to increase in 2020 just 2 years after Hawley school closes. A recommendation to close a school in 2017-18, just 2 years before enrollment is projected to increase makes no sense at all.

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The last thing that struck me hard in this report was the introduction which in part reads:

"Because this analysis was conducted less than two years after the Sandy Hook tragedy, it is difficult to discern the long-term effects of that event on enrollments and the variables influencing enrollment. Whether Newtown has reached a new normal, or previously existing trends experienced only a brief disruption remains to be seen over the next couple of years.

The introduction of full-day kindergarten in 2013-14 is another change likely to have short- and long-term influence on enrollment patterns, but cannot be determined at this time. Especially because of these recent events, Newtown Public Schools should pay close attention to the variables discussed in this report, as changes in any one trend could impact enrollments."

Isn't this a warning to tread lightly and see what happens in a couple years. Another quote from the report states:

"Much of the current research on the impacts of school shootings has focused on high schools and the attendance and graduation rates of the affected students. Therefore, we could not look to other examples for indications of the potential short-and long-term impacts of the tragedy at Sandy Hook on persistency ratios."

Newtown will be the new example, the new study, the new research. Let's not look stupid. We need to make smart, educated, fact based decisions about our schools. One last quote from the conclusion of the report states:

"We must point out that the opening of the new Sandy Hook school could significantly alter these projections, as the new facility may serve to attract new families to the Sandy Hook district. It is impossible to factor that externality into these projections at this time, when the new school will not be populated for at least another two years. Newtown Public Schools will need to closely monitor enrollments, housing sales and births in the Sandy Hook district following opening of the new facility."

It is impossible to predict the future of schools in Newtown but closing a school the same year Sandy Hook reopens does not make sense. A state of the art school is sure to draw new families to town and increase an already GROWING enrollment. Save all our schools and keep them all open.

Thanks for your time.  
Amanda Roggenbauer



From: **Ana Wight** ana071903@gmail.com

Subject: **Follow up on Hawley**

Date: **June 12, 2015 at 9:51 PM**

To: **Joe Erardi** erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, **Laura Roche** lrocheboe@gmail.com, **Kathy Hamilton** kathylhamilton@att.net, **Debbie Leidlein** boedebbie@gmail.com, **John Vouros** jnvboe@gmail.com, **dfboenewtown@hotmail.com**, **Michelle Embree Ku** michelleku.boe@gmail.com



Good evening,

I emailed you earlier this week to share my family's story. Thank you for the replies. I needed to reach out to you again tonight. I wanted to share with you what took place this evening.

I was putting my daughter to bed. She mentioned that a classmate was talking about Hawley closing. My husband and I had not mentioned that topic to our daughter. However, tonight we had to. We have learned from 12/14 that you need to give children the information when they ask for it, or their imaginations fill in the blanks with scary thoughts.

So I explained to Emily that it has been suggested that Newtown close a school and that school may be Hawley. She immediately began to cry. I had flashbacks to the Saturday morning of December 15, 2012 when we had to tell her that SHS was broken and no one would be able to go back.

She began to ask questions.

"Whose idea is this mommy?"

I told her that it was recommended by Dr. Erardi. She then asked, "Why?"

I replied that the town is trying to save money. She then asked, "What's more important, kids learning or money?"

She added, "Why are they doing this?"

I think she asks some excellent questions. Questions that I am struggling to answer for her, so I told her I would email the people making the decision to ask them.

I hope you can answer my daughter's questions. I am sure there are many parents struggling to give their children an explanation that will make sense.

Again, I beg you to understand the emotional impact that closing Hawley will have on children who are still in the recovery process.

It's too soon.

Ana Wight

From: **Ana Wight** ana071903@gmail.com

Subject: **Hawley**

Date: **June 10, 2015 at 9:44 PM**

To: erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, irocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com



Dear Dr. Erardi and Newtown Board of Education Members:

I would like to thank you all for coming to Hawley Tuesday evening and hearing our concerns. I was unable to ask my question that night so I decided to reach out to you via email.

My name is Ana Wight. I am the spouse of a Hawley teacher, but more importantly, I am the parent of a Hawley student. My daughter was a kindergartener at Sandy Hook School on 12/14. Shortly thereafter, we wrote a letter to the superintendent at the time. We requested that Emily be moved to Hawley. There were a few reasons. First, I teach in Danbury and we could never get her to Monroe each morning. Second, with both of us being elementary school teachers, the tragedy really hit close to home. So close in fact, that the day after, we had to sit our 5 year old down to tell her that her best friend and neighbor had gone to heaven.

Moving her to Hawley was not an easy decision. However, in hind sight, it was the best decision for Emily and our family. Our neighbor is very angry that my daughter survived and hers did not. Our neighborhood has been shattered. My daughter is no longer allowed to play with the other children. So having her school friends live in the Hawley district has been a blessing. Hawley has been a safe environment for Emily. She has thrived.

Emily continues to be in therapy. Therapy that has been paid for in part by organizations set up post 12/14. In the aftermath, the nation and the world sent many donations to our town. Then the taxpayers of CT offered the town about 50 million dollars to pay for a new SHS. Now, we are attempting to save a mere 1.1 million by closing Hawley.

I ask all of you, how will you explain it to the state, nation, and world that they as outsiders care more about the mental health of our children than the Newtown leaders?

Are you prepared for the negative reputation Newtown will earn when we close a school so soon after 12/14?

How can we take from outsiders and then not think about the mental well being of a town still healing?

What's the rush?? I urge you all to vote against closing Hawley or any school at this time. Let's open SHS. Let's let students and staff adjust. Let's hope that the new school will attract new, young families into our community.

This isn't the right time. Let's put our children's needs first.

Respectfully,  
Ana Wight  
203-512-9472

From: **Erardi, Joe** [erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us)  
Subject: Re: School closing /combining  
Date: June 4, 2015 at 2:32 PM  
To: Anna Ruggiero [ruggproduce@snet.net](mailto:ruggproduce@snet.net)  
Bcc: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us

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Anna

I really appreciate your time to share your thoughts and in the constructive way you approached the issue. Please feel free to stop in or call if I can offer any additional insight. Schools would not be at capacity or overcrowded with the proposed plan.

Once again, I thank you

JEW

On Thu, Jun 4, 2015 at 10:50 AM, Anna Ruggiero <[ruggproduce@snet.net](mailto:ruggproduce@snet.net)> wrote:

Good Morning Dr. Eradi,

I am Anna Ruggiero and the director at the Children's Adventure Center in Sandy Hook, CT. I have had the honor of having many students pass through this door either for preschool, before and/or after school. The closing of Hawley is something that I could envision as well as the adding of fourth grade to the Reed school. I am on the fence as to the closing of the Middle School. Would there be a new location? I find that 7 and 8 graders are coming into their own and would we want to confuse the younger children with a possible greater age intergration. That is something we can revisit later on...My concern is meeting the needs of our families on the elementary level. When you and the board are looking at the combining factors, will it bring the schools remaining to a greater or full capacity level. YES! We need our schools to be joining efforts to maximize the growth of learning. I believe we have the ability to prosper and the financial resolve of closing one school would open up the funds for programs that we have not had the financial ability to offer our younger students in the past. Aside from licensing issues, portables also pose security encumbrances. Regardless, as to which way the Board chooses to go in any direction, I choose to look at this as a turning point to uniting the children of Newtown at a younger age and offering opportunities for change and growth for members of staff. I am happy to be a support in any way I can and I look at this also as an opportunity for growth for my center as well.

Many thanks and Warm Regards, Anna Ruggiero

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From: **Erardi, Joe** [erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us)  
Subject: Re: School information  
Date: June 4, 2015 at 10:33 AM  
To: [annette.tibolla@boehringer-ingelheim.com](mailto:annette.tibolla@boehringer-ingelheim.com)  
Bcc: [NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us)

---

Annette

Thanks so much for taking the time to share your thoughts....

I am certain that the school board will make an informed decision. Please do not hesitate to call or stop in if you have questions or if you would like to further discuss the study.

Respectfully,

JE

On Thu, Jun 4, 2015 at 10:27 AM, <[annette.tibolla@boehringer-ingelheim.com](mailto:annette.tibolla@boehringer-ingelheim.com)> wrote:

Thank you for the presentation on the school closing study. I'm relieved to hear that Reed won't close. My older son was the first class to go to Reed 11 years ago and the entire town heard about was the rapid growth of the town, too many students, overcrowding and acute need of more schools. 10+ years out and the opposite is true.

It is the nicest school, too.

My younger kids are in NMS now and it is in pretty poor shape.

Closing Hawley or NMS would be the best ideas.

Having 8<sup>th</sup> grade in NHS would have great benefits for the younger students. Personally, I started 7<sup>th</sup> grade in Brookfield High, and because I was a little advanced I could take high school level classes in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. I was also able to be in the marching band.

Thank you again,

*Annette Tibolla*

*17 Yogananda Street*

*Sandy Hook*

*203-791-6273*

**From:** 'Barbara Brimmer' via Newtown BOE NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** BOE Committee Proposal to Close School  
**Date:** June 10, 2015 at 9:11 PM  
**To:** newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us



Dear Board, I fully support the closing of a Newtown Elementary school. It makes perfect sense to follow the suggestions from the Board appointed committee. Hawley is the oldest elementary school. It is centrally located so it can more easily be repurposed to a town owned building.

I can understand that there are many emotions that go into this, especially those who are graduates and those with children in the school. It would be that way for any of our neighborhood schools. We must use logic, not emotion. As a tax payer, the BOE has an obligation to use our taxes wisely.

In addition, I strongly suggest that the process of changing the name of the new Sandy Hook school should begin. It will be a town school and should therefore have a town name. Let us have a fresh start to 2016.

Barbara Brimmer  
8 Hattertown Rd  
Newtown, CT

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Erardi, Joe erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** Fwd: Hawley Closing and new Configuration  
**Date:** June 4, 2015 at 6:54 AM  
**To:** Newtown BOE NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us

Informational----- Forwarded message -----  
**From:** Barbara Brimmer <mrscottage@aol.com>  
**Date:** Thu, Jun 4, 2015 at 6:10 AM  
**Subject:** Hawley Closing and new Configuration  
**To:** "erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us" <erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us>

I absolutely agree with your plan. It makes sense to close the oldest elementary school. The new configuration is the perfect solution.

Barbara Brimmer, 8 Hattertown Rd, Newtown

Sent from my iPad

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From: **Alexander, Keith** alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Subject: Re: School closure  
Date: June 15, 2015 at 12:29 AM  
To: Joe Erardi erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Cc: Sarah Findley FINDLEYS@aol.com, Newtown BOE newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us



Hello Bernard and Sarah,

Thank you for being informed and letting us know how you feel. The financial issues are only one part of the conversation and as you have pointed out there are other elements that deserve thought. We want to consider all aspects and viewpoints in order to decide what we think is best for our students and community so your input is valuable.

--Keith

On Wed, Jun 10, 2015 at 6:15 PM, Erardi, Joe <erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us> wrote:  
Bernard and Sarah

Thanks for sharing your thoughts, story, and concern. Most importantly, thanks for sending this my way in a respectful and professional manner.

Please do not hesitate to call if you need additional information.

JE

On Wed, Jun 10, 2015 at 9:55 AM, <FINDLEYS@aol.com> wrote:  
Good morning everyone,

We have held off writing so we could gather more information on the proposed closing of Hawley or NMS. As a long time Newtowner ( 4 generations have attended both schools) my husband and I very opposed to any school closing, but in particular Hawley. While we no longer have children attending Hawley and will have one attending NMS next year, we feel NMS would be a better option if a closure, but only if it is absolutely needed. We will not repeat all of the reasons you have heard for no closures vs one over the other or none at all. What you do need to hear is that the level of emotions, all bad, that have come out since this news broke is astounding. The anger, sadness, anxiety and stress that this has caused this community is tearing out the very few stitches that have been made since the tragedy. Closing a neighborhood school while simultaneously re opening another will unravel another will unravel any amount of healing and cause a divisiveness that may be beyond repair, ever. No amount of savings is worth that.

Respectfully,  
Bernard & Sarah Findley

--  
Respectfully,

**Keith Alexander**  
*Chair, Newtown Board of Education*  
<http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us/>

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From: **Bethany Leece** bleece@gmail.com  
Subject: **This is not the time to close Hawley Elementary School**  
Date: **June 11, 2015 at 2:26 PM**



To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, lrocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com  
Cc: erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov, SugrBrk@aol.com, okjt@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkortze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net, george-ferguson@earthlink.net, jgnewtownct@yahoo.com, lundquist.paul@gmail.com, merola1lc@sbcglobal.net, ryan.w.knapp@gmail.com, danielinonan@gmail.com, mjacob4404@charter.net, evalazu@hotmail.com, amaralpoggy@aol.com, nkc@4newtown.com, tonyfiliato@ymail.com, pocarroll13@gmail.com

Dear Newtown BOE,

I am emailing you as a concerned parent of a soon to be kindergartner in your school system. I feel strongly that now is not the time to close a school in Newtown. Please consider the following arguments against closing Hawley Elementary School.

1. The introduction of the Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections, the analysis from which the recommendation to close a school is based, expressly notes, "Because this analysis was conducted less than two years after the Sandy Hook tragedy, it is difficult to discern the long-term effects of that event on enrollments and the variables influencing enrollments. Whether Newtown has reached a new normal, or previously existing trends experienced only a brief disruption remains to be seen over the next couple of years." It continues, "The introduction of full-day kindergarten in 2013-14 is another change likely to have short- and long-term influence on enrollment patterns, but cannot be determined at this time. Especially because of these recent events, Newtown Public Schools should pay close attention to the variables discussed in this report, as changes in any one trend could impact enrollments." I think it is prudent to take time to consider that this could be temporary, as closing a school now could potentially create a problem for schooling in the future.

2. Of the seven school closing options presented in the Facility and Enrollment Study, three options require the use of portable classrooms to accommodate the enrollment predictions for the 2016-2017 school year. Waiting just one more year opens three additional possible configurations that could prove better for the town of Newtown and the education of our students. The use of portable classrooms makes it sound as if the elementary schools need more space than the three that you are proposing to keep. If that is the case, isn't it a better plan to hold off on closing a school until you know for a fact that your enrollment will not require these satellites?

We are currently in the process of moving back to your town and enrolling our son in your schools, as we believe your community is a better place for our children to grow up. Who is to say that there aren't more families waiting to move back at the right time for them as well? Although there is a possibility that the predictions from your analysis and projections are correct, it is equally possible that they are not correct. My fear is that by closing a school, you are neglecting the possibility that your school system could still grow in the coming years, since it is possible because of the timing that your predictions are faulty. Because if they are faulty, we will have to discuss reopening the schools in a couple of years, and all of this will have been a waste of time.

Should it be considered that a Newtown School be closed to attain savings that equate to less than 1% of the cumulative approved 2014-2015 Town Budget. I believe the evidence above clearly indicates that the 2016-2017 school year is not the time to close a Newtown School. As we decide what to do, the rest of the country are watching to see what happens. How does it look to open a school while closing another one in their eyes? I think it will look wasteful and all of the support and good that have come from the tragedy at Sandy Hook, will be forgotten. I implore you don't let that become Newtown's legacy.

Sincerely,

Bethany Cruson



From: **Brandy Jacobs** branjacobs@yahoo.com

Subject: Hawley School

Date: June 10, 2015 at 3:54 PM

To: erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexander\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, Michelle Embree Ku michelleku.boe@gmail.com, Laura Roche lrocheboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, boedebbie@gmail.com, Kathy Hamilton kathyhamilton@att.net, danaholcombhouse@yahoo.com

Cc: Pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov, okjt@aol.com, sugbrk@aol.com, Christopher Moretti morettic@newtown.k12.ct.us, Save Newtown Schools savenewtownschools@gmail.com



To the Newtown BOE and Dr. Erardi:

First, I would like to thank you for taking the time to attend last night's meeting at Hawley School and to hear our concerns. I can't begin to imagine the scope of this enormous task in front of you and I appreciate you listening to the many voices that need to be heard at this important time.

My name is Brandy Jacobs and as of next week, I will no longer be a Hawley parent. My three older children went all the way through Hawley (see there – doing my part to populate the school system!) and my youngest moves on to Reed School next year, so from this point forward I will technically only be a Reed, Middle School, and High School parent. It would be so easy to turn the other way and consider this someone else's problem, after all, I have no real stake. It would have been so much easier to spend the last two nights tending to the many tasks of a big family instead of sitting through tedious and emotional PTA meetings. So why get involved with the issue? Because this issue matters – not just to the Hawley community – but to Newtown as a whole. And it has never been so important as now to get it right.

The point that keeps coming back to my mind is the task that Dr. Erardi has charged the BOE with considering: IF this is the right time to close a school, THEN we consider next steps. At this point I don't think the evidence and data to support the IF has been sufficiently demonstrated. The financial savings do not come close to the price of what is BEST FOR OUR KIDS. The savings are not worth upending a school community, dismantling a beautiful and safe learning environment, or dividing a population into a new and unknown territory.

Consider the Hawley School 1<sup>st</sup> graders. Next year they would go to Hawley (2<sup>nd</sup>), the year following to SHS/HOM (3<sup>rd</sup>), then the year after that to Reed (4<sup>th</sup>)? Surely if we are doing what is best for the kids, this cannot make sense?

Several points were made over the past two evenings that bear repeating. The timing is simply NOT RIGHT. Closing one school while opening another is not the right answer. The unknowns are too many, the territory uncharted, the data not in place to support such a drastic move. Closing a school sends the wrong message to potential incoming families that we have resigned ourselves to shrinking rather than growing and thriving. And while we were assured the mental health component was being considered, there is just no way to anticipate the impact and outcome.

There is also the perception of Newtown to the taxpayers of the State of CT to consider. We have known for several years that the enrollment numbers were declining. Long before the unthinkable happened on 12/14. Yet, we accepted the \$50MM state grant to re-build SHS, when we could have absorbed the population into the existing infrastructure. Why? Because over and over, the resounding message was the importance of keeping that community together. So *why is it so easy to support keeping that community together -- yet so easy to dismantle the Hawley community?* Do not ALL communities matter in Newtown? Of course they do. Which is why the upheaval any of our elementary schools is not the answer.

So we are back to the IF. IF this is the right time to close a school, then what next? This is not the right time. This is not the solution, it is not what is best for our town as a whole, our school population, our Hawley community. I hope the right time to close a school is never, but it is emphatically, absolutely, most certainly NOT now.

Our town has been through too much in recent years. I urge you to consider the long-term, catastrophic impact on our town that closing a school would have. I urge you to consider keeping Hawley intact, to let the SHS school re-open and find its footing all on its own without the added stress. I urge you to do what is best for the kids and our community by keeping ALL our schools open.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Brandy Jacobs  
8 Bramble Trail, Newtown

**From:** Carla DeOliveira carla1974@snet.net

**Subject:** Hawley School

**Date:** June 8, 2015 at 2:22 PM

**To:** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, Irocheboe@gmail.com, kathyhamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com

**Cc:** erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, pat.lodra@newtown.ct.gov, SugrBrk@aol.com, okjt@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkortze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net



Dear Newtown BOE,

Based on the following points, I feel the Facility and Enrollment Study does not demonstrate sufficient cost savings to justify closing Hawley School nor any other school in Newtown. I hope you will give thought to these issues as you formulate your decision regarding the future of Newtown schools.

- 1) The \$14.3M cost avoidance figure, presented as the primary savings driver to the Board of Education budget to close Hawley School, is not a savings to the Newtown taxpayers as the maintenance of the Hawley School building will remain the responsibility of the taxpayers once the building is relinquished to the Town of Newtown.
- 2) Costs associated with the closing of a school have been mentioned but not yet presented and must be considered to make an accurate savings determination.
- 3) Cost data to reopen a school, or build a new school, in the event that enrollment reaches the potential high growth projections outlined in the 2014 Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections have not been provided and must be considered as a considerable cost risk to the taxpayer in making a decision on a school closing.

Can you please provide a clear explanation of how the \$14.3 million Cost Avoidance Projects are required and planned within 5 years as they are not represented in full in the 2013/14, 2014/15 nor the 2015/16 CIP?

I appreciate your commitment to Newtown Schools and hope you can agree that, based on its financial implications, closing Hawley School is not in the best interest of Newtown and its students.

Sincerely,

Carla DeOliveira

**From:** gainesc@newtown.k12.ct.us

**Subject:** Please join us for a Goodbye to Dr. Gejda

**Date:** June 4, 2015 at 11:52 AM

**To:** keith.vaughn@newtown-ct.gov, **Debbie Halstead** debbie.halstead@newtown-ct.gov, **Donna Culbert** Donna.Culbert@newtown-ct.gov, **Donna Saputo** donna.saputo@newtown-ct.gov, **Donna Tomasko** donna.tomasko@newtown-ct.gov, **Ed Knapik** Ed.Knapik@newtown-ct.gov, **Gary Frenette** Gary.Frenette@newtown-ct.gov, **George Benson** George.Benson@newtown-ct.gov, **George French** george.french@newtown-ct.gov, **John Poelli** john.poelli@newtown-ct.gov, **Karen Szilagyi** karen.szilagyi@newtown-ct.gov, **Lawler, Dennis** dennis.lawler@newtown-ct.gov, **Leslie Muldoon** leslie.muldoon@newtown-ct.gov, **Lynn Kovack** Lynn.Kovack@newtown-ct.gov, **Marie Naglieri** marie.naglieri@newtown-ct.gov, **Maureen Will** maureen.will@newtown-ct.gov, **Monica Duhancik** monica.duhancik@newtown-ct.gov, **Nancy Schreiner** Nancy.Schreiner@newtown-ct.gov, **Pat Llodra** patllodra@aol.com, **Penny Mudgett** Penny.Mudgett@newtown-ct.gov, **Renee Weimann** renee.weimann@newtown-ct.gov, **Richard Frampton** richard.frampton@newtown-ct.gov, **Rob Sibley** Rob.Sibley@newtown-ct.gov, **Robert Tait** robert.tait@newtown-ct.gov, **Sheila Cole** sheila.cole@newtown-ct.gov, **Shirley McCleary** shirley.mccleary@newtown-ct.gov, **Susan Marcinek** susan.marcinek@newtown-ct.gov, **Al Miles** al.miles@newtown-ct.gov, **Betsy Paynter** betsy paynter@newtown.org, **Mike Kehoe** michael.kehoe@newtown-ct.gov, **Joe Rios** joe.rios@newtown-ct.gov, **Newtown BOE** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us

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*"Farewell with Best Wishes"*

*To Dr. Linda Gejda,*

*Friday, June 12, 2015 from 2:30 - 5:00PM*

*Council Chambers, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown*

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**From:** Davis, Carol Ann cdavis13@fairfield.edu  
**Subject:** Question Regarding Decision Timeline  
**Date:** June 3, 2015 at 2:01 PM  
**To:** Newtown BOE NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us  
**Cc:** Erardi, Joe erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us

---

Dear Board Members,

Thank you for the respectful way in which you proceeded last night with what is a painful discussion for all involved, including all of you. I very much respect that the school-closing decision making is a process we must undergo together with respect and deliberative due process. I spoke last night, but forgot to ask the following process-based questions:

What are the exact next steps for the board?

When will the vote be called?

How many additional meetings will be held to discuss plans, including the workups for the other proposed options (such as closing NMS)?

When the board votes, does majority rule or must it be unanimous?

Thanks very much,

Carol Ann

Carol Ann Davis  
Assistant Professor of English  
Fairfield University  
1073 North Benson Rd.  
Fairfield, CT 06482

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<http://www.fairfield.edu/mfa>

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From: **Carrie Battaglia** [carrie.battaglia@oracle.com](mailto:carrie.battaglia@oracle.com)  
Subject: School closing concern  
Date: June 9, 2015 at 11:38 AM  
To: [newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us)



To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you regarding the issue of closing a school and rearranging grades.

I currently have 3 Sandy Hook children ages 4, 9, and 11.

I feel strongly **against** putting 8<sup>th</sup> graders with high schoolers. The difference in age and maturity with putting these kids together is cause for concern. I am concerned with bullying and teasing, as well as the "dating" scene. It may also be more stressful to put these children in a situation where they are afraid of some of the bigger kids. High schoolers can be intimidating, especially if you are 13.

I feel that combining elementary schools would have less of an emotional effect on the children. In K thru 4, the children are still at a stage where they are meeting new kids and making friends easily. The elementary schools are also much more nurturing and sensitive to each child's needs and I would feel more confident that the transition for the younger kids would be easier.


Ideally, no schools would have to close, but if a decision must be made, please consider the points above.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,  
Carrie Battaglia

53 Riverside Rd  
Sandy Hook  
203.426.0611

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From: cdragan@mac.com   
Subject: SOS - Save Our Schools  
Date: June 7, 2015 at 9:17 PM  
To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, Irocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com, erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov, SugrBrk@aol.com, okjt@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkortze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net

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Dear Newtown Officials,  
I AM a supporter of education. I vote YES to all the budgets that are suggested in our town. I support you as you make decisions about my child's education. I moved to Newtown because of the schools. However with the talk about closing one of the schools in Newtown... I can NOT support.

I do not believe that this closure will save the town that much money. I do not believe that YOUR focus is on "inspiring each student to excel." I do believe that we would NOT consider closing our school if our focus was "inspiring each student to excel."

Please keep the main thing... the main thing... and focus on "inspiring each student to excel." I would like to continue to support you and the decisions that you make for our town... that is why I am asking you to please refocus and support our students and "inspiring each student to excel."

Thank you for your support to Save our Schools,  
Casey Ragan :)

---

sending out an SOS message to the town of Newtown

• • • — — — • • •  
**Save Our Schools**

**WE ARE NEWTOWN  
STAY UNITED and STRONG**

From: Catherine Hall catherine.hall@10@gmail.com  
Subject: Thank you  
Date: June 10, 2015 at 8:44 AM  
To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexander.boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, kocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@all.nel, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com, Joe Erardi erardi@newtown.k12.ct.us



Good morning Dr. Erardi and members of the Board,  
I wanted to thank you for attending the meeting last night at Hawley. In recent years I have seen a great effort towards transparency in the school system and I think that is very important to the local taxpayers.

I did want to address Dr. Erardi's end of the night question and raise a few points of my own. In recent years we have certainly overbuilt the school system, the most recent being with the completion of the \$38 million addition at the high school. However in that addition we did end up with a beautiful facility that is almost a separate school from the main building would joke with me "oh you still work here?" due to its remote location and being such a complete standalone facility there was rarely a need to leave it.

I believe that instead of reacting to the issue of declining enrollment, maybe we should try to solve the problem at the root? Instead of closing a school, which divides a community that is finally becoming whole, I put the challenge back on you to come up with a creative way to attract people with young children to move to Newtown.

Looking online I have seen several STEM/STBA/MA academies that are housed within districts, and some attract students from out of district. In the area the closest STEM academy is in Danbury, but it is only available to Danbury residents. How wonderful would it be to have a center located in our district that was one of the most cutting edge centers in the state? I know that math and science enrichment are hot topics not only in Newtown, but everywhere in the state, and we could house a facility here that would address that to the fullest. There is also a strong presence of the arts in Newtown, we bus several kids to A/CES or other regional schools for them to receive an arts education and they miss valuable instructional time doing this. Imagine if they could stay in Newtown and in turn we were attracting kids from outside the district? It would also go a long way towards the diversity of our population. This is just some food for thought and perhaps a different way of looking at a problem.

In conclusion I urge you not to look to close Hawley school until you have exhausted all other possible options. I also urge you to make sure that all major stakeholders have been heard from, the largest ones being the students. Talk to them and see what they have to say, their insight never ceases to amaze me. Throughout the past few years Hawley has been a haven not only for my children but also for me. It is a historical gem at the heart of our town that should remain what it was originally created to be, a school. My children attend the same school where their great-grandfather went to high school. Not many people can say that.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration.

Regards,

Cathy Hall  
19 Tamarack Rd.  
Newtown

From: **Erardi, Joe** erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Subject: Re: School Changes  
Date: June 7, 2015 at 11:47 AM  
To: Charles Sgobbo charles.sgobbo@charter.net, Newtown BOE NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us

Charles

Thanks for your thoughts....

By way of permission from you and copy, your messages has been shared with the school board.

Respectfully,

JE

On Fri, Jun 5, 2015 at 9:27 PM, Charles Sgobbo <charles.sgobbo@charter.net> wrote:

Dr. Erardi  
Thank you for your work!

Re: School / Closing -Changes  
I would like to see the Sandy Hook School renamed in honor of its late Principal Dawn Hochsprung to the "Dawn Hochsprung School" Dawn gave the ultimate sacrifice in order to protect her students on that tragic day. Please propose the renaming of the School to the School Board. The renaming of the school would bring Dawn's eternal memory to the Town of Newtown.

Sincerely yours,  
Charles Sgobbo  
Tel # [203-733-9321](tel:203-733-9321)

**Last night, Dr. Erardi presented various configurations of what our school system would look like if a school were to close. His entire presentation can be found [here](#).**

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**The configuration that was recommended to the Board of Education was**

**K-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-12**

**This scenario would mean that Hawley Elementary School would close.**

**60% of Hawley students would attend Sandy Hook School  
&  
40% would attend Head O' Meadow for the 2016-17 school year**



**(The Middle School closing is also still on the table)**

---

**The Board of Education is the only group that can close a school.**

We encourage you to express your opinion though email:

Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr. - [erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us)

**Board of Education:**

Keith Alexander - [alexanderk\\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.edu](mailto:alexanderk_boe@newtown.k12.ct.edu)

Debbie Leidlein - [debbie.leidlein@gmail.com](mailto:debbie.leidlein@gmail.com)

John Vouros - [jnvboe@gmail.com](mailto:jnvboe@gmail.com)

Kathy Hamilton - [KathyLHamilton@att.net](mailto:KathyLHamilton@att.net)

Michelle Embree Ku - [michelleku.boe@gmail.com](mailto:michelleku.boe@gmail.com)

Laura Roche - [lrocheboe@gmail.com](mailto:lrocheboe@gmail.com)

David Freedman - [dfboenewtown@hotmail.com](mailto:dfboenewtown@hotmail.com)

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**From:** chrisgardner3@charter.net  
**Subject:** Bravo Kathy Hamilton  
**Date:** June 7, 2015 at 9:00 PM  
**To:** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us  
**Bcc:** mjb0327@aol.com

---

Ms. Hamilton,

I was poking around Facebook tonight, and saw your post on Accountability in Newtown criticizing the state budget approved last week in Hartford. The post generated some interesting responses from people in town, including one from David Freedman, my friend and your colleague on the school board, who fears people will flee the state with this budget. He's probably right, given the tax increases that will be necessary to support this level of spending, and the lack of thoughtful planning for our state's future.

Please keep our state's problems in mind when you consider whether to close a school in Newtown. There is no discernible economic advantage to doing so, only certainty that these classrooms will be needed again in the not-too-distant-future when enrollment bounces back beginning in five years.

I do not want Newtown to suffer from the same poor economic planning displayed year after year by our lawmakers in Hartford. We absolutely cannot afford it.

Respectfully,  
Chris Gardner  
4 Mt. Pleasant Terrace  
Newtown, CT. 06470

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From: chrisgardner3@charter.net

Subject: Dr. Melissa Brymer

Date: June 16, 2015 at 11:19 PM

To: newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us, newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us, erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, blanchardj@newtown.k12.ct.us, blanchardj@newtown.k12.ct.us



Dear Board of Education members, Dr. Erardi and Mrs. Blanchard,

I was a member of the second focus group that spoke this afternoon with Dr. Melissa Brymer via the Internet. Thank you for allowing members of the Hawley community the opportunity to share our views with her.

My group had a very open and honest discussion with Dr. Brymer. To my left sat a woman whose child was killed in an accident, and whose husband subsequently committed suicide. She is a Hawley mom. Across from me was a woman whose child is recovering from selective mutism. She is a Hawley mom. At the end of the table was a woman who used to live in Sandy Hook, but who moved to the Hawley district after the tragedy. She is a Hawley mom. These are people who I see around town, but whose stories I never knew. They were painful to hear, and obviously very painful to share. We were bonded together today in that conference room by a shared belief that to close Hawley School would tear apart the very fabric that has kept our families together since the tragedy.

I do not understand why, when the school closing recommendation report was prepared, effort was not made to bring Hawley parents into the discussion. Your conclusions were simply driven by data and numbers. Dr. Erardi, when we met, you emphasized over and over that the data points to closing Hawley. But what about the human toll that this decision will have on every family and teacher that continues to recover from the unspeakable events of 12/14? I do not understand why you did not consider that impact when you prepared the report. That recovery continues to be a very real challenge for so many families in Newtown, whether they live in Sandy Hook or not.

This school closing debate has reopened old wounds in Newtown, wounds that have slowly been healing since 12/14. The community has become bitterly divided in a mere two weeks. I have tried to understand how this happened, and I go back to the same conclusion every time: the study missed one very important element....the human toll. It was about money, and not about people.

I will put my daughter on the bus tomorrow morning for her last ride to Hawley School. It will be an emotional day as she is our youngest, and we will no longer have a child in elementary school. I had the privilege of attending today's awards ceremony at the invitation of her teacher because she was given a Fourth Grade Citizenship Award. I looked at the children gathered in the gym, and I thought to myself how fortunate these students have been to attend such a warm and nurturing school in the days, months and years that have followed the 12/14 tragedy. Before today, I did not appreciate the toll that the tragedy has taken on so many families outside the Sandy Hook district. Families with children who interact with my daughter and her friends every day. The wounds remain open, and this debate has only made their individual situations worse.

Please consider this when you meet next week and the months that follow. I plead with you to keep Hawley open. The decision will not impact my children, but it will impact the many families on my side of town who need that school.

Since 12/14, we have been a community united by tragedy. Now, painfully, we are divided. If you think I am being dramatic, please ask Dr. Melissa Brymer her thoughts. I trust, as an independent evaluator, she will share our stories with you.

Respectfully,  
Chris Gardner

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From: chrisgardner3@charter.net  
Subject: Projected school closing savings  
Date: June 3, 2015 at 11:53 AM  
To: erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Cc: newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us

---

Dr. Erardi,

I am a lifelong Newtown resident with two children in the schools (NMS and Hawley). I have followed very closely the discussions regarding the possible closing of a school, and have many concerns.

Chief among them is the projected savings if either Hawley or NMS is closed. I cannot possibly imagine how the Board of Education can make a decision unless its members know what the savings will be in year one, year two, year three, etc...

Have those numbers been calculated based on today's tax rate? I would like to know how much the average taxpayer in Newtown can look forward to saving on their tax bill when a school is closed. Since this decision obviously is about saving money, those numbers should be calculated ASAP if they have not been already. They are the only really numbers that matter in this decision.

For the record, I am very much opposed to the town closing a school. Aside from all the emotional reasons, there are concerns about increased class sizes, longer bus rides, the negative impact on property values, the devaluing of a school system that so many people in this town worked for decades to build, and the great community divide that will result from reconfiguration.

I suppose any savings we achieve should be encumbered so that it is available in 10-15 years when the community has to either reopen the closed school, or build a new one. I remember when Fairfield closed one of its two high schools in the early 1980s, then had to spend twice as much money a decade or so later to reopen it when enrollment went back up, just as the demographer has predicted will happen in Newtown. History repeats itself, but we don't have to make the same mistake Fairfield did.

On a somewhat related note, I also note the bad press Newtown has received in the past 24 hours for accepting \$50 million in state grant money to build a new school with the knowledge that another school likely would have to close due to declining enrollment. I know you were not superintendent in the district when that money was accepted, but I note your recent statements that demographics were being studied before 12/14.

Thank you in advance for the information about projected cost savings, specifically the projected year to year impact on the average taxpayer.

Respectfully,  
Chris Gardner

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From: **Erardi, Joe** erardj@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Subject: Re: Newtown Kindness Ride  
Date: June 7, 2015 at 11:14 AM  
To: Chris's Yahoo csferruzzo@yahoo.com, Newtown BOE NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us

Chris

I took the privilege to copy the school board as I want to make sure they are informed of this extraordinary partnership that you have developed and fostered with our schools. I thank you and look forward to the 20th!

JE

On Fri, Jun 5, 2015 at 11:31 AM, Chris's Yahoo <csferruzzo@yahoo.com> wrote:  
Good Afternoon Dr. Erardi,

I hope things are we. Hopefully, you are able to give you and your family a decent break for the Summer.

I wanted to touch base with an update on the Newtown Kindness Ride. The ride has really gained serious momentum. Here is where we are:

Approximately 80 Newtown children will receive Kindness Dream Rides. A little more than half were selected through the school PTAs and the balance through kindness foundations such as Newtown Kindness.

A dozen children from neighboring areas will also be receiving rides. These children also earned rides for their acts of kindness or because they face serious hardships or have disabilities. Two of the children have only one parent who are currently facing life threatening battles with cancer. These two children will be picked up at their homes.

Special convoys and needed resources will be brought in to give 10 special Olympic Athletes a Kindness Ride.

Combined we will have one of the largest parade of Supercars ever put together in the US. We currently have a 5 page wait list of people trying to bring their cars to share with children. We were out of space in early January.

The Newtown Police and 9 other Police Departments have teamed up with us to help with the event and ensure safety. In total there will be more than 100 police, advisers and cadets. If we run this event next year, the proper venue will difficult to find due to its size.

Most importantly, we will have a significant kindness celebration and promise to raise a mountain of food and supplies for local and neighboring food pantries. We have already raised enough food to get the FAITH Food Pantry through the entire year.

Fortunately, I get to read all of the emails and letters of the acts of kindness being performed by children. Sometimes it takes me days because some of the kindness acts are so moving that you can only handle them in small doses. My experience with this event the last six months has made it very difficult for me to have a bad day. It is much easier to keep things in perspective.

Thank you again for your support and for helping to make this all possible. Without your and the PTAs support, this would still be a vision. I have attached a few photos of the food that has already been donated.

I hope to see you on June 20th.

Chris Sferruzzo







Sent from my iPhone

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From: shari82@aol.com  
Subject: Listening to the community  
Date: June 10, 2015 at 3:15 PM  
To: erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Cc: alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.edu, debbie.leidlein@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, KathyLHamilton@att.net, michelleku.boe@gmail.com, lrocheboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com



Joe & BoE members-

I am a HOM parent who has attended all of the recent meetings with the exception of Monday night (I even "crashed" the meeting last night after being told it was closed to everyone outside of Hawley). I get angrier after each meeting. Maybe I'm just overly cynical, but it seems to me that the recommendation to close Hawley is just one step in a master plan devised by the leadership of own town. If it isn't, then so many excellent questions that have come up over the past two weeks would have concrete answers.

- What happens if the projections are wrong?
- What is the cost/approach to building a new school in +/- 10 years if need be?
- What are the plans for the HES building if the school is closed? I'm sorry, but from a taxpayer standpoint this HAS to be discussed beforehand.
- What do you do with the HES families that aren't happy with the school they are redistricted to? If they choose to go elsewhere (private/relocate to another town) how does that affect classroom sizes/overall school functioning at SHS and HOM?
- You have essentially guaranteed teachers jobs, but if people pull out of district and the projections dip even further than you project, you can't just pay these people to sit around. What happens to them?

I can go on and on, but you should get the point. These answers keep getting skirted around and the only thing you "own" is an arbitrary projection study that you are basing the livelihood of the town on. These "informative" sessions between community and authority have now turned to emotional diatribe and, while I consider the emotional welfare of our community in high regard and think closing any school at this point in time is severely jeopardizing it, I cannot spend more hours away from my family to sit through them. Again, the cynic in me may be resurfacing, but I feel like all of these hours are spent with you hearing the words but not really listening to what they mean.

Ever since the discussion began, there has been endless mudslinging and rumor spreading. All four elementary schools are now working against each other instead of working collaboratively. Our town was just starting to see a semblance of normal post-12/14, and this discussion has quickly turned that around for the worse.

I truly hope you take a moment and really listen to the community. I think we have been loud and clear in saying that we do not want any school to close. We are willing to "own" that decision even if your projections hold true.

Shari

-----Original Message-----

From: Erardi, Joe <erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us>  
To: shari82 <shari82@aol.com>  
Cc: alexanderk\_boe <alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.edu>; Debbie Leidlein <debbie.leidlein@gmail.com>; John Vouros <jnvboe@gmail.com>; Kathy Hamilton <KathyLHamilton@att.net>; Michelle Ku <michelleku.boe@gmail.com>; Laura Roche <lrocheboe@gmail.com>; David Freedman <dfboenewtown@hotmail.com>  
Sent: Sun, Jun 7, 2015 11:42 am  
Subject: Re: Missing from analysis

Dan and Shari

First, thanks for such a respectful note and thanks for the manner in which you share your thoughts -

Moving forward -

I plan to address many of your talking points Tuesday evening. If you plan to attend the 7 pm meeting we can speak Tuesday or I would welcome a call or a time to meet with you to talk through each point.

Let me know

JE

On Fri, Jun 5, 2015 at 7:15 PM, <shari82@aol.com> wrote:  
Joe -



The enrollment study may turn out to be accurate but at this stage it is simply an educated guess. We would like you to consider the following adjustments to your analysis.

1. Has any consideration been given to the fact that the enrollment numbers may not indicate a trend, but rather a hangover effect from the recession of 2007-2009 and the subsequent soft job market and delayed household formation for millennials? If this is the case, one could reasonably expect that the enrollment numbers might normalize and/or trend higher in the near future.
2. Assuming this is a real possibility, has any consideration been given to what the probability of this outcome is? In addition, what would be the cost to build a new school to accommodate the additional students if you are wrong?

This HAS to be included in your analysis, particularly given that we know the new SHS is costing \$50 million or more. Based on what we have read, you are signing no probability to the possibility that you may be wrong about the enrollment numbers. This is a reckless thing to assume with 100% certainty given the cost of being wrong.

Based on the information that we have been provided with and the unique situation our town is in given the events of 12/14 and the unsolicited \$50 million from the state for SHS, my husband and I feel that closing any school at this point in time is premature and unwarranted. Furthermore, if closing a school is proven to be necessary in the future, we do not condone closing an elementary level school and would rather see NMS closed. The elementary schools are the cornerstones of the community. We own two homes in Newtown but moved to our current one because it was within HOM boundaries. For what it is worth, we would not send our children to SHS under any circumstances and know many people who feel the same way. You are putting people in a very tough position.

Dan & Shari Wright

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**</i></font>**

From: Daniel Cruson dcruson@gmail.com  
Subject: Timing Implications of Closing Hawley School for the 2016-2017 School Year  
Date: June 11, 2015 at 11:47 AM



To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, lrocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com  
Cc: erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov, SugrBrk@aol.com, okjl@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkortze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net, george-ferguson@earthlink.net, jgnewtownct@yahoo.com, lundquist.paul@gmail.com, merola1lc@sbcglobal.net, ryan.w.knapp@gmail.com, danielthonan@gmail.com, mjacob4404@charter.net, evalazu@hotmail.com, amaralpoggy@aol.com, nkc@4newtown.com, tonyfiliato@ymail.com, ppcarroll13@gmail.com

Dear Newtown BOE,

I have been watching the coverage and information coming out over the decision about whether or not to close Hawley School for the 2016-2017 school year. As an alumni, and a father who eagerly wanted his son to attend the school when we moved back into town, I feel strongly opposed to the idea that the school will be closed. The facts that I have been seeing have raised further concerns about this decision outside of my emotional attachment to the school.

1. In the Facility and Enrollment Study that was presented, there are three options listed that state that closing a school will require the use of portable classrooms for the 2016-2017 school year. This is something that when I was in the district was consider a poor idea and the BOE worked hard to eliminate the need for them, so this would be a step backwards. Why was the deadline set for 2016-2017 when enrollment figures show that it will result in at or above capacity buildings for that school year instead of waiting a year?

2. In the introduction Enrollment Analysis and Projections report presented by Milone and MacBroom it states that there are multiple variables that may play a part in only a temporary dip in enrollment figures. Major factors include the incident at Sandy Hook Elementary school, as well as the newly introduced full-day kindergarten. With the closing of a school in 2016-2017 putting the remaining schools at or above capacity, not knowing for sure that enrollment will continue to decline instead of increasing could result in a serious problem if the trend reverses suddenly. Again, wouldn't waiting another year or two to ensure that the trend down continues and leave growth room at the remaining schools be prudent?

From everything I have seen, both the savings figures as well as the large number of unknowns it looks like further time and research are necessary before such a drastic decision as closing an entire school is reached. My wife and I both wanted to move back to Newtown because the school district is superior to those where we were living, I don't want to see a hasty decision impact the education that my sons will receive from the district. I urge you to vote "No" to closing any schools at this time.

Sincerely,  
Daniel Cruson IV

From: **Deb Bossio** debbossio@yahoo.com  
Subject: erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov SogrBrk@aol.com okjt@aol.com james.filan@gmail.com  
jkearney19@aol.com jkortze@yahoo.com jgodin1312@gmail.com mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com  
harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net  
Date: June 9, 2015 at 10:37 PM  
To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, lrocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net,  
boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com



Dear Newtown BOE,

Having just returned home from the meeting at Hawley with Dr .Erardi and having attended the PTA meeting at Hawley last night, I am left perplexed as to why we are even considering moving forward with closing Hawley Elementary school at this time. It seems the 3 major areas of consideration in this decision include the impact 1. psychologically/emotionally, 2. educationally, and 3. financially. After hearing all the questions and answers discussed at these meetings I can not find a convincing argument on any of these levels for why we would move forward with closing Hawley. On the contrary I am thoroughly convinced we should not.

1. Psychological/emotional: The timing is not not right. Why are we talking about closing a school at the same time as opening the new Sandy Hook school? In the same year that we will be transitioning traumatized Sandy Hook students and teachers to the new facility, we are also dumping on top of them 60% of the population of another school. Why are we adding trauma to an already traumatized town?


2. Education: What is the educational benefit of closing a school? As the Board of Education, I know you base decisions first and foremost on what is best for the education of our students. I am unable to see in this proposal where that benefit lie.

3. Financially: It is my understanding that the \$14.3M cost avoidance figure, presented as the primary savings driver to the Board of Education budget to close Hawley School, is not a savings to the Newtown taxpayers as the maintenance of the Hawley School building will remain the responsibility of the taxpayers once the building is relinquished to the Town of Newtown. With this being true we are left with only a \$1.1 million savings by closing Hawley. Is a \$1.1 million yearly saving sufficient enough to offset the losses this move creates emotionally and educationally? In my opinion the answer is clearly no.

I appreciate your commitment to Newtown Schools and hope you can agree that, based on its psychological, educational, and financial implications, closing Hawley School is not in the best interest of Newtown and its students.

Sincerely,

Deb Bossio

From: **DBP & Associates** dbpandco@me.com   
Subject: conversation of 8th graders being in school with High Schoolers  
Date: June 9, 2015 at 2:46 PM  
To: newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us



Dear Newtown Board of Ed.

As a mom of two seventh graders I want to immediately voice my concern for the conversation that has come up regarding 8th graders moving into the high school if you closed a school.

Although I would hope that this would not effect my children at all, I still hope I speak for other moms and dads out there that this is just a bad idea.

The kids are barely mature enough to go into high school at 9th grade. Let's not push the envelope by putting 8th graders in the high school before they are the correct age. They are still way to impressionable and it just isn't a smart idea to put them in with older children.

I would support a 5,6,7 & 8 grade combination in a school with 5 & 6 grade in a wing and 7 &8 in another wing. The kids are maturing but they are not full blown teenagers.

Please think wisely on this decision. I can tell right now my vote is against putting 8th graders in with high schoolers and my husband's vote would be a NO GO as well.

Thanks,  
Denise Buzy-Pucheu  
Cary Correia  
9 Gelding Hill Road  
Sandy Hook, CT 06482



## Denise Buzy-Pucheu

President  
DBP & Associates

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**2012-2015 Winner of Wedding Wire "Couple's Choice" Award**  
**Featured in Borrowed & Blue, Carats & Cakes, Connecticut Bride**

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From: **Theresa Diaspro** teebarr@charter.net

Subject: Save our Schools

Date: June 8, 2015 at 9:20 AM

To: alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, lrocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com

Cc: erarrij@newtown.k12.ct.us, pat.llodra@newtown.ct.gov



Hello. Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I can't believe it's been a week since I was told Hawley might be closing. It has just been a devastating week. Newtown is a community that has been through so much, and this is just another loss we do not want to endure. We were told to keep emotions out of it. Of course. But....these are our children. These teachers are our family. It is personal. It's our life. Our children are our life.

Hawley is our second home. Newtown is beyond a "numbers" town. We go way beyond that. Plus, the facts have come out, and the savings, per family is really minimal compared to the loss of our AMAZING teachers, our students comfort zone, (which is priceless), as well as the anxiety that will be placed on the kids that are separated from so many familiar faces.

We are beyond numbers. We are Newtown. We are still healing and the anxiety and stress that this has caused in the last week, is beyond measure.

Emotions (somewhat) aside, due to the following points, I feel that you have not showed that closing Hawley or any other school will really result in a significant cost savings. Not enough to outweigh what you are doing to the families of Newtown.

If we are to talk numbers, I don't feel like the numbers justify a closing. The 14.3M cost avoidance figure, is not a true savings to the Newtown taxpayers as maintenance costs will continue on Hawley once its' the property of the town. I don't believe that is in the equation yet.

What happens when enrollment goes up? The cost data to reopen a school, or build a new school has not be provided and must be considered as a considerable cost risk to the taxpayer in making a decision on a school closing.

What happens if you do close a school? That I'm sure will not bring people to Newtown. That will not keep people in Newtown. I have already heard people talking about how they will move their children to private school, home school, or relocate, rather than move them multiple times within a few years. This move will not help enrollment.

I hope you will be able to come to a conclusion soon, so we don't hold on to this pain and stress for too long. I would hope that you could give it some time. Let's see where enrollment goes in a few years. Let's allow Sandy Hook school open with the tight community that has to deal with going back there. That will not be easy for 1 parent to do. We are scarred, we are Newtown, we are beyond a numbers game.

I appreciate your commitment to Newtown Schools and hope you can agree that, based on its financial implications, closing Hawley School is not in the best interest of Newtown and its students. I hope you will give thought to these issues as you formulate your decision regarding the future of Newtown schools.

Sincerely,

Joe and Theresa Diaspro

From: 'Dione Sordi' via Newtown BOE NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us

Subject: Mental Health Information

Date: June 11, 2015 at 9:57 AM

To: Joe Erardi erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, Irocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com



Dear Dr. Erardi and Members of the Board of Education,

Thank you all so much for coming to Hawley on Tuesday evening and listening to our community discuss our concerns. We appreciate your presence and willingness to answer our questions, even staying late to talk one on one.

Dr. Erardi, you told me that you would provide a mental health evaluation done by our UCLA expert mental health consultant to the BoE in time for their next meeting on 6/24/15. In an effort to provide them with a thorough, comprehensive picture of what the mental health/emotional well being of your school system is and their readiness for transition, I am hopeful her review will include information not only regarding the Sandy Hook Elementary students and staff, but their parents, as well as information regarding the mental health/emotional well being of ALL of the elementary and Reed students, staff and their parents.

This community and in particular, the families of Sandy Hook have endured a horrific, devastating, life-changing event that is unparalleled in this country's history. Never before have we faced healing children of this age from such an incredible act of violence. Some of these children have seen and heard things no one should see or hear -- things that have devastated **adults** in the seeing of the aftermath - can you even imagine what it would be like to be an eyewitness as the horror was unfolding -- or to just hear the gunshots and the screaming? I am sure the psychological toll is very high. The students of Sandy Hook should be cared for with the utmost sensitivity, respect and attention. Your transition of them into Reed (as 5th graders) and of the remaining students either back to SHES or to Reed is pivotal to their continued healing and future success. There should be a huge focus on their readiness for transition and their state of emotional well being.

You have a very good comprehension on which teachers will be able to return to SHES and which ones will not. It is crucial that you have that same level of understanding for your SHES. Emotional well being is very complex and ever changing because there are so many other factors that come into play. So many people have endured additional heartbreaking losses since 12.14 and each individual copes with their situation differently. You cannot expect people to emotionally "rise to the occasion" and go back to SHES if they are not able to. To force people to reach an emotional level that **YOU need** them to will never work. It is a recipe for disaster and will surely cause increased anxiety, stress and trauma which will ultimately lead to more issues in the classroom and increased difficulty teaching and need for counseling services.

We have agreed that parents -- even more so than the children -- may have a difficult time with the transition. They are a key component to the mental health and emotional well being of their children and I feel strongly that they should be included in the analysis, given their anxiety and/or stress will filter down to their children. Reed is a very different environment than elementary school. They have a "closed door" policy and parents are not encouraged to volunteer as often as in elementary school. SHES parents should be aware the culture will change, especially if 4th grade is transitioned to Reed as well. Parents need for support may outweigh those of their children, but it should

to definitely be considered and included

definitely be considered and included.

You have mentioned that there are counselors in EVERY school, because we NEED them in every school. 12.14 did not just affect SHES, it affected every school in this district. Children from each elementary school lost their friends and playmates. These children have seen their parents comforting and supporting and taking care of their SHES friends through this horror. They have seen their parents found and support foundations, like Newtown Kindness, to promote healing and community. Our teachers have lost their colleagues and friends. The emotional health and well-being of SHES is not the only thing should be considered. ALL of our schools emotional well being and readiness for transition should be given equal consideration and attention.

I understand it is very difficult to provide a factual, numbers-based analysis for review and consideration because there are no numbers to evaluate. Fortunately you do have counselors in every building, so it should be easy to compile a report of the well being of each school's individual community. Maybe just a simple poll of families -- both SHES and Hawley -- asking if they feel they are ready for a transition to SHES would be a good place to start. Your concern is empty classrooms. If people are just unable to go to SHES, and they have no other option, you will be faced with that anyway. You will force them to move or enroll in private school. I would sincerely hope if you are placing the fate of your school district in the hands of these 7 fully capable and competent individuals, you will provide them with as much information as possible., so they can make "smart" decisions. I am sitting in a very different place than you are, because I am in the community supporting my friends and my children and helping them navigate this process. I hope you are hearing the number of people that are concerned with the mental health aspect and the level of emotional exhaustion. Whatever decision is made, the actual emotional work will largely need to be absorbed by the community and I respectfully request that your are fully educated on their ability to do so.

Thank you for your time and as always, if you should ever wish to speak with me, please do not hesitate to ask.

Dione

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From: **Dione Sordi** dione\_sordi@yahoo.com

Subject: Thank you

Date: June 13, 2015 at 12:41 PM

To: alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, michelleku.boe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, John jnvboe@gmail.com, Kathy Hamilton kathylhamilton@att.net, newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us, lrocheboe@gmail.com, boedebbie@gmail.com



Dear Keith, Michelle, David, John, Kathy, Laura and Debbie,

I wanted to truly thank you all so much for your dedication and hard work serving on the Board of Education. I do not envy your position right now. I know you are all ultimately going to do what you believe is best for the students and families of Newtown and I honor your perspective and commitment.

I have tried my best to assure that you have all of the information you need to make an informed decision. I picture it as a puzzle to which you need all the pieces. A comprehensive understanding of the current mental health, emotional well being and readiness for transition for this student population, as well as a future needs estimate, is a key element. I hope the analysis Dr. Erardi provides is thorough and complete. Should you need personal perspectives, please ask me and I will compile them for you.

Understanding what will happen to the Hawley building if you should close it is another essential piece. Once the building is returned to the town, you will have no control over it's use or the use of the fields and facilities. Should the town chose to sell or not maintain that building, baseball, football, cheerleading, basketball programs will all be affected. Given her non-response to my last e-mail I am not confident that Pat Llodra will do her best to get this information to you in time for your decision, but I sincerely hope you consider the options if you do not have it or hold your decision until you do.

I have heard over and over again that this is ultimately all about money and the budget. You are facing a 5% increase for the 2016-2017 year. I would really like to understand what is driving that increase. Would one of you be willing to explain it to me in layman's terms? Are you making up for the 0% increase in next year's budget? Are healthcare costs going through the roof? There is so much misinformation out there I just need clarity for my own understanding.

I appreciate your willingness to educate and hear the concerns of this community. Should you need any further information that I can help you obtain, please don't hesitate to ask. Best of luck in your deliberations and future meetings.

Fondly,

Dione

**From:** Dominique Clancy dominiqueclancy@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Hawley Elementary School  
**Date:** June 9, 2015 at 9:36 PM

**To:** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, lrocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@alt.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com

**Cc:** erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, pat.lodra@newtown.ct.gov, SugerBrk@aol.com, okjt@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkortze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.a.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@socglobal.net



Dear Members of the Newtown Board of Education,

First and foremost I'd like to say thank you for your time and effort spent researching and evaluating the benefits and repercussions of closing a Newtown school. I understand that this is a challenging task with many complicated factors to consider.

I understand that like many suburban towns, Newtown is seeing a decline in enrollment. And like many other towns, we are forced to consider closing one of our schools. I'm confident that the issue of closing a school is met with opposition, regardless of timing and locale. In other words, it is undoubtedly an emotional event wherever and whenever it happens. But let's not forget that Newtown is not like every other town, we are far from typical. 12/14 forever changed the residents, students and community of Newtown. We are not done healing. Our community and most importantly, our children, are still too fragile. The progress we've made towards healing is too vulnerable. The risks associated with putting our town through another enormous change, and the loss of another school community, is much too great.

I've been a resident of Newtown for 12 years and by the 2016-2017 school year I will have three elementary aged children. My oldest son is currently a second grader at Hawley. He was in kindergarten on 12/14 and remembers that day well. He remembers specifically what the principal told his class that day and he knows he lost friends that day and still asks about them. With the guidance of psychologists and counselors, we've done our best to answer his questions honestly and openly without divulging more information than any young child should ever have to know. I know with absolute certainty that my family and my children should not be asked to suffer another major loss. I've heard over and over again that the Board of Education is the only entity that has the power to close a school but your power is much greater than that. Simply put, you hold the power of my child's well-being in your hands.

My oldest son, like every child, is unique. My son in particular is kind, quiet, cautious and remarkably observant. He internalizes his surroundings and acts accordingly. My husband and I have worked incredibly hard to build his confidence knowing that his education and his social skills would fall into place once his foundation, his confidence was secure. To say that his transformation from kindergarten to now is awe inspiring is an understatement. It was only last year that he refused to get on the bus, resisted getting out of my car and needed the reassurance of Hawley's teachers, principal and other staff before entering school. Today he waves to me from the departing bus with a broad smile, happy to be on his way to his "home away from home". He is trying new things, has made wonderful friends and in all aspects of the word is thriving. We have the Hawley family to thank for that. I can not put a price tag on the community that encouraged, welcomed and gave my son the gift of confidence.

If a decision is made to close Hawley Elementary School, my family will be forced to seek alternatives. I can not afford to risk my child's foundation. A child who is insecure, anxious and apprehensive can not learn in any environment, regardless of how new, safe and fancy the building is. My children need consistency, stability and a steadiness in their environment. They need Hawley Elementary School.

We love Newtown, we want to stay. We need this town, including all of its officials, to show us that they are committed to the growth and well being of our children because there is nothing more important. Please don't force us out.

Dominique Clancy

From: **Erardi, Joe** [erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us)  
Subject: **Re: School Restructure/Closing**  
Date: **June 4, 2015 at 8:22 AM**  
To: **Donna Lorenz** [hobbes6@charter.net](mailto:hobbes6@charter.net)  
Bcc: [NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us)

---

Donna

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts.....

Please feel comfortable to stop in or call if you would like to continue the conversation.

JE

On Thu, Jun 4, 2015 at 8:06 AM, Donna Lorenz <[hobbes6@charter.net](mailto:hobbes6@charter.net)> wrote:

Dr. Erardij,

You are going in the right direction. As a fiscally conservative individual, you need to make balance the best economic and academic choice. Both Hawley and the Middle School are in need of major renovations which will be prohibitive to the school budget and would probably necessitate cuts or not funding academic programs, teachers, tech (really badly need to update computers, etc.)

As far as certification goes, I interned at a middle school in another district (Brookfield) grades 5-8 and I believe teachers can teach below their certification grade level as long as it's only that subject. For instance, a 7-12 Social Studies teacher can teach Social Studies in grades 5 and 6.

Lastly, Hawley and the Middle School are also in the middle of the business district and the town should be able to sell or lease the property easily.

You won't make everyone happy, some parents will not want you to close Hawley or the Middle School. You need to make the decision that will benefit the majority, not a small group of students.

If I can be of any help, let me know.

Donna Lorenz (parent of 6th grader in RIS, certified 7-12 Social Studies teacher, currently sub. teacher primarily at NHS)

Sent from my iPad

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From: **Erin Arcario** earcario@gmail.com

Subject:

Date: **June 8, 2015 at 3:18 PM**

To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, Irocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com

Cc: erardj@newtown.k12.ct.us, pat.lodra@newtown.ct.gov, SugrBrk@aol.com, okjt@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkorte@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net

Dear Newtown BOE,

As a 10 year Newtown resident and a parent of two children who currently attend (and our third daughter attended 1-4th grade) Hawley School, I'm writing to express my thoughts on the proposal to close Hawley Elementary School.

Based on the following points, I feel the Facility and Enrollment Study does not demonstrate sufficient cost savings to justify closing Hawley School nor any other school in Newtown. I hope you will give thought to these issues as you formulate your decision regarding the future of Newtown schools.

- 1) The \$14.3M cost avoidance figure, presented as the primary savings driver to the Board of Education budget to close Hawley School, is not a savings to the Newtown taxpayers as the maintenance of the Hawley School building will remain the responsibility of the taxpayers once the building is relinquished to the Town of Newtown.
- 2) Costs associated with the closing of a school have been mentioned but not yet presented and must be considered to make an accurate savings determination.
- 3) Cost data to reopen a school, or build a new school, in the event that enrollment reaches the potential high growth projections outlined in the 2014 Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections have not be provided and must be considered as a considerable cost risk to the taxpayer in making a decision on a school closing.

Can you please provide a clear explanation of how the \$14.3 million Cost Avoidance Projects are required and planned within 5 years as they are not represented in full in the 2013/14, 2014/15 nor the 2015/16 CIP?

I appreciate your commitment to Newtown Schools and hope you can agree that, based on its financial implications, closing Hawley School is not in the best interest of Newtown and its students.

We have spent six incredible years at Hawley School and the commitment of the teachers and staff is amazing. The learning culture is pervasive and should be preserved.

Thank you for taking time to read my email.

Best Regards,

Erin Arcario

From: 'Felicia Delgiudice' via Newtown BOE NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Subject: 12 year olds not HS ready  
Date: June 9, 2015 at 10:56 AM  
To: newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us



Hello,

I am a mother of 2 daughters, one currently in 5th grade, the other currently in 11th.

I am VERY against the idea of having 8th graders move into  
The high school, where there are many 17 and 18 year old students.

12 year olds are at a very delicate time in their development and do not need the influence of much older teens. I hear much of what goes on in the high school from my older daughter and her friends, and it is in no way appropriate for 8th graders to be anywhere near that.

I heard a plan to keep them "isolated" is floating around and I believe that is a horrible idea as well. The last thing that kids of that age need is to feel more isolated. They will be thrown into the harshness of the world soon enough and need to spend there middle school years with middle school kids.

I do not oppose the closing of a school if declining numbers prove that's what we need to do, but it can not be at the expense of our youth at such a vulnerable time in their lives.

You wouldn't think a senior in high school would want anything to do with an 8th grader but I know of situations where students did become "involved" with each other and it's disgusting to think that we as a town would throw our 8th graders to the wolves like that.

Please, please take that scenario off the table and find a better option for our kids and our town.

Sincerely,  
Felicia DelGiudice

Sent from my iPhone

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From: **FINDLEYS via Newtown BOE** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Subject: School closure  
Date: June 10, 2015 at 9:55 AM  
To: newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us, erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us



Good morning everyone,

We have held off writing so we could gather more information on the proposed closing of Hawley or NMS. As a long time Newtowner ( 4 generations have attended both schools) my husband and I very opposed to any school closing, but in particular Hawley. While we no longer have children attending Hawley and will have one attending NMS next year, we feel NMS would be a better option if a closure, but only if it is absolutely needed. We will not repeat all of the reasons you have heard for no closures vs one over the other or none at all. What you do need to hear is that the level of emotions, all bad, that have come out since this news broke is astounding. The anger, sadness, anxiety and stress that this has caused this community is tearing out the very few stitches that have been made since the tragedy. Closing a neighborhood school while simultaneously re opening another will unravel any amount of healing and cause a divisiveness that may be beyond repair, ever. No amount of savings is worth that.

Respectfully,  
Bernard & Sarah Findley

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From: **Glen White** gwhite@westportstrategies.com  
Subject: Opposition to closing of Hawley Elementary school  
Date: June 9, 2015 at 12:08 PM



To: alexander\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, Michelleku.boe@gmail.com, Irocheboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, boedebbie@gmail.com, kathyl.hamilton@att.net, danaholcombehouse@yahoo.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkortze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.porlnoy@gmail.com, Harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.com, pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov, sugrbrik@aol.com, okjt@aol.com, joanc007@yahoo.com, bkenyon@americanbailey.com, jaymaher1@yahoo.com, baiad1@hotmail.com, chrisgardner3@charter.net, bill@typographicservices.com, erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us

## To Members of the Newtown Boards/Commissions:

First I would like to say what a great job Newtown Agencies have done in educating children here and making the town a great place to live. That said, I would like to voice my opposition to the closing of Hawley Elementary School. The closing is detrimental to Newtown on many levels. Here are some thoughts I have written down, they are not necessarily in order of importance.

1 - Fairfield county is well known for good school ratings as well as Newtown. We don't want to suffer a drop in school ratings - that would be bad for the town and real estate sales here. We did look at all of the school ratings before our move here and it was an important deciding factor. We should be committed to the high school ratings we have and keep in-line with the rest of Fairfield County.

2 – We need to consider the impact of the change in grade clustering. I am not an education professional nor have I had children go through all of the levels yet to High School. I can speak from experience so far and I do not believe it is not correct to mix 4th graders in with 5th and 6th graders. I feel there is a big transition made between 4th and 5th grade levels. More so than at higher levels. 4th grade really should be kept in the elementary school setting. There is a big difference in maturity level, skill level and even child physical growth. As a matter of fact from other school models like Trumbull they keep K-5 as elementary levels. Then Trumbull had 6-8th as middle school and 9+ as high school. Coincidentally this is the same structure as I grew up with in Wilton Schools. It was interesting how Newtown had combined K-4, 5-6, 7-8, and then 9+. This seemed like a good structure to me for changes in development levels.

3 – If student enrollment were to increase again we would have to restructure all over again and possibly reopen the school. This may not be accurate but roughly I am estimating a 40% drop in students equates to maybe 5 classrooms empty? This space could be used for other projects, additional library space, language, music, before/after school programs, science labs, or changing the layout of where the cafeteria is presently. From experience in Trumbull they had a much larger area dedicated to before and after school programs – all parent paid programs. TLC has a large space in every Trumbull school.

4 - Newtown is budgeting a large amount to build a new school in Sandy Hook when we already have the Hawley School. It would seem more sensible to me to build a smaller footprint for the school in Sandy hook and send some of the Sandy Hook students that are closer to Town Center to the Hawley School. I am sure the new school in Sandy Hook will be great but the town could have made a smaller footprint for that school and utilized school property we already have.

5 - The central location of the Hawley School adds to our Town Center. It is also of historic value.

6 – Hawley School has an outstanding outdoor playing area and sports field. In my opinion it has a better outdoor area than Reed Intermediate which is in plain view of traffic

better outdoor area than keep intermediate which is in plain view of traffic.

7 - For many residents the proximity to many of our homes is of great importance. Using Sandy hook would mean crossing the I-84/34 corridor and cause more traffic than we already have. For someone like myself that often drives children to school the Sandy hook location could add another half hour in the morning when we are already trying to get to work other schools etc.

8 – Closing Hawley Elementary would allow more cut through driving/speeding in morning/afternoon commute. We already have cars going too fast on Church Hill Rd even with crossing guards there.

9 – Excess capacity could be used to start a career center or possibly a supplemental tutoring area.

10 - School closings can have an adverse effect on the decision to move to Newtown. School closing is not a good indication of town growth or commitment to education. Building more infrastructure here will bring more residents and more jobs here in Newtown.

11 – Bus changes could become an issue. It will add much additional time to the time between home and school.

12 – Most importantly I think it is very disruptive to the children and will affect each and every one of them. Many have already heard their school might be closing.

I believe this is a move in the wrong direction for Newtown and we should be encouraging more families to come here rather than discouraging residence here by announcing a school closing. Newtown needs to grow not shrink. In my opinion we should be not only keeping the school but also developing the downtown area more at the Fairfield Hills site to bring more residents and businesses here.

The Sandy Hook School tragedy affected everyone greatly but that did not deter us from moving here last year. In fact I feel the schools are very safe and the education level is great. School closings could have affected our decision though as that is not a good indication of town growth or commitment to education. Building more infrastructure here will bring more residents and more jobs here in Newtown.

Thank you for your time.

Glen White

**\*\* Please Note my phone number has changed \*\***

**Glen White**

VP Financial Design & Analysis  
Westport Strategies

100 Grandview Road, Suite 404  
Braintree, MA 02184-2686

Direct: 203.491.2248



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From: **Alexander, Keith** alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Subject: Fwd: Attire for BOE  
Date: June 15, 2015 at 11:19 PM  
To: undisclosed-recipients;  
Bcc: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us



Hello Board Members,

A member of our community has commented on our dress code and microphone usage. I told him I would pass his comments on. Particularly at the meetings with a lot of public, we should probably try to speak closer to the microphones as suggested.

--Keith

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Alexander, Keith** <alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us>  
Date: Mon, Jun 15, 2015 at 11:16 PM  
Subject: Re: Attire for BOE  
To: Greg Stevenson <gds185@yahoo.com>

Hello Mr. Stevenson,

I will certainly mention your concerns to the Board. The sound is an issue we do struggle with so your suggestions there may help us out. Thanks!

--Keith

On Mon, Jun 15, 2015 at 5:33 PM, Greg Stevenson <gds185@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. Alexander:

At the Board of Education meeting on June 2 one board member showed up in carpenter jeans, wrinkled shirt, tie askew, and flip-flops. It would be beneficial for board members to present themselves neatly and professionally so the community can be fully confident in their abilities. Regular jeans are common attire these days and are fine as long as they are in good condition and part of a respectable-looking outfit. Flip-flops are especially inappropriate for men. Would you please encourage all BOE members to dress appropriately during meetings with the public in attendance?

Also, would you please encourage all BOE and community members to speak closer to their microphones? Based on what I experienced at the meeting, the volume of the people speaking was adequate only when they spoke about 3-4 inches from their microphones. Most of the time, people sat a good foot or more from their mics. As a result, people in the back of the room can barely hear the person speaking, especially given the size of the room and the number of people in attendance (bodies absorb sound). I do not recommend simply turning up the volume on the sound system as this may result in feedback.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Gregory Stevenson  
32 Whitewood Rd., Newtown

--  
Respectfully,

**Keith Alexander**

*Chair, Newtown Board of Education*

<http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us/>

--  
Respectfully,

**Keith Alexander**

*Chair, Newtown Board of Education*

<http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us/>

From: Heather Symes hsymes82@gmail.com  
Subject: I am grieving

Date: June 11, 2015 at 7:52 PM

To: alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, Laura Roche lrocheboe@gmail.com, Kathy Hamilton kathyhamilton@att.net, Debbie Leidlein boedeboe@gmail.com, John Vouros jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, Michelle Embree Ku michelleku.boe@gmail.com

Cc: Joe Erardi erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us



Newtown BOE,

As I was responding to a group of fellow parents that are working hard on saving our schools, I realized how angry I am getting. Responding to an email, I replied, "The more I think about it the more angry I become. Why now? Why when we are still in such a fragile state? This has been a discussion for a couple years and it never went through. But NOW is the right time? Only a couple years after 12/14 and at the same emotional time as opening the new SHES school. Sorry I'm just venting now. I guess I've moved to the next stage of grief."

Grief. That is exactly what is happening to our community with the thought of losing our school. The five stages of grief are:

- 1- Denial
- 2- Anger
- 3- Bargaining
- 4-Depression
- 5-Acceptance

As I'm thinking of the five stages I realize I've already gone through denial. On June 2 at the BOE meeting I kept thinking that this can't be happening. This is not reality. How can they possibly be making this recommendation now.

Now I'm on stage 2. Anger. I am angry that there's a possibility of our school closing. I am angry at the lack of sensitivity while the community is still grieving. I am angry that my children will have a huge transition so early in their elementary school career. I am angry that we are being divided. I am angry that the BOE has been put in the position to make this decision. I am angry.

I can't speak for all members of our community, but I can speak for myself. I am still grieving over 12/14. I am on the stage of depression. I haven't even come close to acceptance. I understand that grieving over a tragedy such as 12/14 is completely different from grieving over a school but it is still grief.

I understand this task was put on you and I don't envy your position. I know there are those of you that don't want to have to make this decision. However, it is the job you have been given to do. I am asking for compassion and understanding that now is not the right time. Is it ever the right time? No, it's not. However, due to the fragile emotional state of Newtown only a couple years after an unimaginable tragedy, I can tell you now is definitely not the right time. There is an attachment to all of the four elementary schools in our town. From my understand that is one of the reasons Sandy Hook was rebuilt. For the Sandy Hook community to go back to their home together. Don't take our home away.

Best,

Heather Symes  
6 Lake Rd, Newtown  
203-426-0460

From: **Heather Symes** hsymes82@gmail.com  
Subject: School concerns  
Date: June 4, 2015 at 8:48 PM  
To: alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Cc: lrocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boedeobbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com, erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us

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Newtown Board of Education Members,

I am writing to you to express concerns over closing a school in Newtown that I hope can be addressed before a decision is made. The Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projects prepared by Milone & MacBroom shows the enrollment for elementary grades k-4 increasing over the next 10 years, there are discrepancies in the Facility and Enrollment Study vs. the Board of Education Approved Operational Plan for 2015-2016, special needs have not been addressed, and more time is needed before a decision is made.

**1. The Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projects prepared by Milone & MacBroom shows the enrollment for elementary grades k-4 increasing over the next 10 years**

The Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projects prepared by Milone & MacBroom shows has the projections of enrollment are increasing for the Elementary level, while decreasing for the upper grades. The School Enrollment Analysis shows with medium enrollment that while there is a -12.7% K-4 decrease the first 5 years, it is followed by an increase of 25% the following 5 years (page 26). The elementary schools are the only ones that have an increase over the next 10 years. Grades 5-6 have a decrease of -21.9% for the first 5 years, followed by -12.5% for the following 5 years. There is a decrease of -30.3% for the next 10 years. 7th-8th grade decreases by -26% for the first 5 years, followed by -15.9% for the following 5 years. There is a decrease of -41.1% for the next 10 years. **The elementary schools projections of enrollment are increasing.** Reed, the Middle School, and the High School are all decreasing. In the next 10 years, the elementary schools can grow from 15-20% (low growth) to 26-35% (high growth). On page 42-44 you will see the growth of each specific school Even at high growth, it shows Hawley at 55 for Kindergarten for 2015/2016. The are currently at **65** and just got approval for a fourth Kindergarten class for the 2015/2016 school year.

**2. Discrepancies in the Facility and Enrollment Study vs. the Board of Education Approved Operational Plan for 2015-2016.**

The Facility and Enrollment Study shows Hawley with CIP projects of \$14,140,000. Upon review of the Board of Education Approved Operation Plan for 2015-2016, page 240 shows Hawley's CIP at a total of \$4,500,000. Phase III A and Phase III B are not on this report. Where do those numbers come from and why are they on the Facility and Enrollment Study but not the Board of Education Approved Operational Plan for 2015-2016? I would also like to point out that while not on the Facility and Enrollment Study, the BOE Approved Operational Plan shows the Middle School needing \$513,000 of work to be done in the next 5 years, while Hawley has \$254,500 worth of work.

**3. Special needs have not been addressed.**

What happens to the children that have 504 and IEP plans for special needs? Some of these children have had months of transition into their current school. If they go to Sandy Hook, there would be no transition as the school is not open yet. If parents don't want to send their children to Sandy Hook Elementary, are they going to have a say? There are several Sandy Hook families that transferred to Hawley after 12/14. Are these families now going to have to go back?

**4. More time is needed before a decision is made.**

This is not a decision that should be made lightly, nor in a rush. The Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projects stated many times that we will not know if Newtown has reached a new normal for a couple more years. "Whether Newtown has reached a new normal, or previously existing trends experienced only a brief disruption remains to be seen over the next couple of years. The introduction of full-day kindergarten in 2013-14 is another change likely to have short- and long-term influence on enrollment patterns, but cannot be determined at this time. Especially because of these recent events, Newtown Public Schools should pay close attention to the variables discussed in this report, as changes in any one trend could impact enrollments. Through annual updates, enrollment projections can be fine-tuned to increase accuracy, providing Newtown with an on-going planning tool (page 4)" It also

describes that between 2000-2010 certain neighborhoods increased in population substantially, while others decreased. Hawley and Sandy Hook gained the most at over 10%. Page 32 talks about the concerns of not knowing how the new Sandy Hook School will affect enrollment, "We must point out that the opening of the new Sandy Hook school could significantly alter these projections, as the new facility may serve to attract new families to the Sandy Hook district. It is impossible to factor that externality into these projections at this time, when the new school will not be populated for at least another two school years. Newtown Public Schools will need to closely monitor enrollments, housing sales and births in the Sandy Hook district following opening of the new facility."

I would like to end with asking you to please consider waiting and not rushing to a decision on closing a school. Emotions are still raw and this is creating a divide in town. Due to 12/14, we do not know what is going to happen with the projections that were given. I would like to see Sandy Hook Elementary opened and operating for a couple more years and see how true the projections were. There is no research that shows what the effects are on elementary schools with a tragedy like this. The research is all focused on the high school level because this country has not seen a horrific tragedy in an elementary school until WE experienced it just a couple of years ago. This is not the time for big changes in our town. Let us heal. Let our kids heal.

I thank you kindly for reviewing my email and hope that you are able to answer my questions.

Best,

Heather Symes

6 Lake Rd, Newtown, CT  
203-426-0460

From: **Heather Symes** hsymes82@gmail.com

Subject: "We wish to make you whole"

Date: June 13, 2015 at 8:16 PM

To: alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, **Laura Roche** lrocheboe@gmail.com, **Kathy Hamilton** kathyhamilton@att.net, **Debbie Leidlein** boedeboe@gmail.com, **John Vouros** jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, **Michelle Embree Ku** michelleku.boe@gmail.com

Cc: **Joe Erardi** erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, pal.llodra@newtown-ct.gov



Newtown Board of Ed,

I came across this article from September 2013 when the First Selectman and Interim Superintendent were making their first pitch for the Oct 5 referendum. There were several quotes that stood out that I think you should think long and hard on. (You can view the complete article here: <http://patch.com/connecticut/newtown/pal-llodra-and-reed-connecticuts-gift-will-make-us-whole>)

"The state has said -- to no charge as far as property taxes or bonds: 'We wish to make you whole,'" Reed says. "We had seven schools prior to this. Every other town had the same resources on Dec. 13 as they have today. When you look at it that way, it's easy to see why we view this as win-win, regardless of trends."

We wish to make you whole. Regardless of trends. We have not become whole yet. We will become whole during the 2016/2017 school year and Sandy Hook Elementary is opened. However, if a school is closed, the state will not have their wish and we will not be whole.

" Spending \$50m on a new SHS and then close up Reed later sounds like a terrible waste. The wound will never fully heal so let's face it now smartly instead of regretting the decision later."

Spending \$50m on a new SHS and then closing up Hawley later sounds like a terrible waste.

"I know the parents and the Board of Education do not take redistricting lightly," he says. "It's a major upheaval. Whoever the next superintendent is going to be -- if they're told Newtown only has six schools, their first question is, 'Where do I put the Sandy Hook students?' If there's no Sandy Hook School, one would assume some are going into [Newtown's other elementary schools.] There would be some fairly significant reorganization."

Long story short, Llodra and Reed both say, the town will not be complete with only six schools, no matter which school were to close."

Newtown is not complete with only six schools. Keep Hawley open. Save our Schools.

Best,

Heather Symes  
6 Lake Rd, Newtown  
203-426-0460

From: **Helen Brickfield** helenbrickfield@gmail.com  
Subject: thoughts on Hawley School  
Date: June 5, 2015 at 2:25 PM  
To: michelleku.boe@gmail.com, NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us

Hi,

Thank you for your dedication, talent and time commitment to Newtown.

Here are my thoughts on closing Hawley. I support closing Hawley because of it's age, condition and location.

It is an ideal commercial space for an innovation center with an anchor tenant like Starbucks. Starbucks could move there and we should let them have a drive thru around the back of the building. If it is a successful center - parking would need to be expanded anyway and we could make a separate exit lane. Also a bank of mailboxes and fed ex drop off. Driving to the post office is on the way to nowhere in this town. Just think of the foot traffic this could create for downtown restaurants.

Here is the link to the Danbury Innovation Center. FYI

<http://www.danburyhackerspace.com/>

Just think of the foot traffic this could create for downtown restaurants et al.

Excess space until rented can be let for pop up or flash businesses or art exhibits - not profitable but anything that would bring traffic to the location to make it more popular. Or could be a rotating showcase for local entrepreneurs.

I understand the nostalgia but Newtown needs to lean in to maintain our property values and the same old things just don't make sense. People want drive thru, local jobs and customers.

Please keep the Middle School open as it is the only place in town our students can learn to be independent when walking after school. It is there only opportunity in 12 years of education. Once they reach the HS they can not walk anywhere.

**Best,**

*~ Helen ~*

Helen Brickfield  
11 Canterbury Lane  
Sandy Hook, CT  
203.470.9587



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**From:** Erardi, Joe erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** Re: School Closing  
**Date:** June 4, 2015 at 2:20 PM  
**To:** Holly hollysantorella@aol.com  
**Bcc:** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us

---

Holly

Thanks for responding within the framework of best practice.....

The planning committee built its data on maintaining class size and not enhancing class size. Therefore, the expectation would be that the way our student roster looks today would be replicated if a school was to close.

I would welcome a conversation with you around air quality within all of our schools -

Please feel free to stop in or call at your convenience.

JE

On Thu, Jun 4, 2015 at 6:44 AM, Holly <[hollysantorella@aol.com](mailto:hollysantorella@aol.com)> wrote:

Dear Board of Ed,

Although I understand the concern of declining enrollment in our area I would like to share a couple of my concerns/opinions.

1. I think the closing of an elementary school (Hawley) we will lose the closeness of the Sandy Hook classes that they have right now.. Will each class be larger? Meaning if a class has 16 kids now will it be 30? I just don't want the kids to be now lost in a large class and not get the special attention they received in a smaller class setting.
2. I think something needs to be done with the Middle School. I just recently became aware of the "poor air quality" issue and that raises concerns for my kids/relatives and other children with breathing issues...safety and a clean learning environment is number 1 for these kids and not having those issues met may lead to more of a declining enrollment in the future as well..

Thank you for taking the time to listen and understand us parents and our concerns.

You guys do a great job!!!

Sincerely,

Holly Wheway  
Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Isabel Cummings [iscummings98@gmail.com](mailto:iscummings98@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Hawley School

**Date:** June 10, 2015 at 1:37 PM

**To:** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, Irocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boeдебbie@gmail.com, jnyboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com

**Cc:** erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov, SugiBrk@aol.com, okjt@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkortze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net



Hello,

I am writing to ask the Newtown BOE to NOT close Hawley School. I do not think it is an emotionally healthy decision to move half of the elementary students in the town, to new schools,(Hawley and Sandy Hook) at the same time. There aren't enough mental health experts available to deal with turmoil this will cause for the children and their parents.

I do not have a child in Newtown Schools since my son graduated last year. My son was in the high school on 12/14, locked in a classroom with his friend Mike, who lost his brother Noah due to the horrific barrage of bullets from the gun of an emotionally unstable individual.

My son was older and has handled it pretty well. He had therapy dogs and discussion to help him. Younger children do not understand that sometimes terrible things happen. but they don't happen all of the time. In the days that followed 12/14, and after the funerals of their friends, some of these kids were probably told, "Don't worry, your school is safe". Disrupting these kids and taking away a place where they learned to trust and feel safe again is wrong.

NHS alumni away at college with younger siblings in Newtown Schools had a tougher time going back to school away from home. They didn't have therapy dogs and donated teddy bears. They had to deal with the pity stares and questions from people when asked what their address was, or where they were from. My daughter would tell people she was from Danbury so she wouldn't be asked to talk about 12/14. The college kids also had to deal with seeing all the skeptics comments on social media, and the never ending news reports. Once they were home, it didn't feel like the same safe home they left in August. These kids dreaded driving on 84 and seeing the sign for exit 10. Some of us living in Sandy Hook had to get off at exit 14 or exit 9 to take back roads to get home. These kids found each other while away at school to help themselves get through it. No therapy dogs helped them. Many of them wore pins, bracelets, and scarves to feel connected to their home.

The one thing that helped parents to start to heal, and deal with the new normal, was that the town came together to help each other as best as we could. Closing a school after accepting 50 million of CT taxpayers money is only throwing our town back into the limelight. Once again our college kids will see our town on every social media site, and news reports in a negative way. Our town will become divided.

Who is going to want to live here? I have a small house, and pay my taxes on time. I would much rather live in a town that shows compassion for the school children, then close a school and supposedly save a few bucks on my taxes. Poor decisions now affect the future. Sincerely,

Isabel Cummings  
98 Glen Road  
Sandy Hook, CT 06482

From: **Jamie Feli** jamiemfeli@yahoo.com

Subject: **Portables are Unacceptable**

Date: **June 12, 2015 at 11:59 AM**

To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, **Laura Roche** lrocheboe@gmail.com, **Kathy Hamilton** kathylhamilton@att.net, **Debbie Leidlein** boedebbie@gmail.com, **John Vouros** jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, **Michelle Embree Ku** michelleku.boe@gmail.com

Cc: **Joe Erardi** erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov, SugiBrk@aol.com, okjt@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, **John Kortze** jkortze@yahoo.com, **John Godin** jgodin1312@gmail.com, **Michael Portnoy** mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net, george-ferguson@earthlink.net, jgnewtownct@yahoo.com, lundquist.paul@gmail.com, merola1lc@sbcglobal.net, ryan.w.knapp@gmail.com, danielthonan@gmail.com, mjacob4404@charter.net, evalazu@hotmail.com, amaralpoggy@aol.com, nkc@4newtown.com, tonyfiliato@ymail.com, ppcarroll13@gmail.com



Dear Newtown BOE,

If the reason to close Hawley School is due to low enrollment then the use of portable classrooms is unacceptable. I will not have my daughter attend a school and sit in a portable classroom after having her school close. Overcrowding of schools and portables are not acceptable.

1) Of the seven school closing options presented in the Facility and Enrollment Study, three options require the use of portable classrooms to accommodate enrollment predictions for the 2016-2017 school year. Per Dr. Erardi in response to Board of Education Vice Chair Laura Roche at 1:24:00 during the June 2, 2015 meeting, "... in two years there are much better fits. ... that congestion ... begins to go away in 17-18 and goes away in 18-19." It is also of note that during the 2016-2017 school year, if Hawley School is to close, the Reed Intermediate School will be filled to near capacity at a projected 923 students (largest enrollment in 2005-2006; 915 students).

Jamie Feli

From: **Jamie Feli** whiteoakappraisal@gmail.com

Subject: School Closure

Date: June 10, 2015 at 12:31 PM

To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, lrocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com

Cc: erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, pat.lodra@newtown.ct.gov, SugrBrik@aol.com, okjt@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkorlze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.porthoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net



Dear Newtown BOE,

Please do not close any Newtown School.

When I first heard of the potential Hawley closure, my first reaction was - move. I called my husband and then proceeded to research an alternative area to raise our children. We both agreed that if a decision was made to close our children's school it would not be in the best interest of our family, home value, or town. I am not alone in this response. Everyone I have talked to feels that a school closure in this town is not the right decision.

My children are fifth generation Newtowners. My husband and I both grew up here and attended Hawley Elementary. My husband's father went to Hawley School when it was the high school and now our children both attend. Obviously, we have a strong emotional connection to Hawley School. When my husband and I decided which school district to live it was the only school that I wanted for my children. I now feel like that decision has been stripped from me.

Apart from our strong connection to the school, I worry how this will effect our home value. I am a real estate appraiser. I study market value trends day in and day out. 2015 has been the first year since the market's decline that property values in Newtown have stabilized. This would be poor timing to make such a decision. There are too many unknowns. I feel the projected cost savings will pale in comparison to the potential loss that each home could face. Your decision does not only effect the schools that will be redistricted, it will effect the town as a whole. No one likes to pay high taxes but I also know that people get very angry when they see the value of their home decline. Families choose this town primarily for its school system, the closure of a school is perceived as a disinvestment in our school system at a time when Newtown needs to shine.

Enrollment is currently down however that could change. The building of the condominiums will attract younger families. Might current enrollment declines reverse? If so, when and by how much? Again, too many uncertainties.

The Sandy Hook tragedy is also a factor. It is too soon. I know parents that will not step foot on that property. They have concerns about sending their kids to a school that will surely have a media frenzy upon its opening. Closing Hawley and forcing families into attending Sandy Hook has people up in arms. It is also gives a poor image of our town to build a \$50 million dollar school and then close another. People from other towns view this as poor planning.

I urge you to vote down the closing of Hawley School. There are too many unknown factors to date. John Pettibone School in New Milford has recently closed. Why not wait and see the ramifications it may cause on the housing industry? Wait until the Sandy Hook tragedy is not in the forefront of people's minds. Wait until the condos have been completed and see if enrollment increases. Closing a school should be a last resort. We should not be dismantling our schools during this uncertain time.

Thank you,

Jamie Feli

**From:** 'Jennifer' via Newtown BOE NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** 8 th graders with High Schoolers  
**Date:** June 9, 2015 at 11:27 AM  
**To:** newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us  
**Cc:** Chris cmstites@gmail.com



Respectfully as you consider the ongoing budget and school closing decisions, we would like it notes that we are not in any way supportive of 8 the graders being put in school with the high schoolers. As a town, we have already seen some of the issues facing our high schoolers today with the drug raids, 'naked picture selling scandal' the bullying that invariably occurs to name a few examples. As parents of two younger daughter ( current 7 th grade moving to 8 th and 5 th to 6 th) it appears to us that it is also true that the 8 th grade seems to be the age when 'dating' takes on a larger interest encompassing more of the population and I shudder to think of opening that up to children ( mini adults) five years apart. As you well know puberty is in play with many 8 th graders and we would be robbing them of the precious time to adjust with age appropriate surroundings and a more safe, controlled environment with teachers who are well versed in this age group. Logistics aside, there are considerable concerns regarding mixing these two populations and long standing Country-wide president for separating pre or early puberty from older children/ emerging adults. Please consider this in your analysis.

Jennifer and Chris Stites

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From: bluetick78@aol.com  
Subject: Timing Implications of Closing Hawley School for the 2016-2017 School Year  
Date: June 11, 2015 at 9:11 AM



To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, Irocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com

Cc: erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov, SugrBrk@aol.com, okjt@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkortze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net, george-ferguson@earthlink.net, jgnewtownct@yahoo.com, lundquist.paul@gmail.com, merola1lc@sbcglobal.net, ryan.w.knapp@gmail.com, danielthonan@gmail.com, mjacob4404@charter.net, evalazu@hotmail.com, amaralpoggy@aol.com, nkc@4newtown.com, tonyfiliato@ymail.com, ppcarroll13@gmail.com

We feel strongly that now is **not** the time to close a school in Newtown. Please consider the following:

1. The introduction of the Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections, the analysis from which the recommendation to close a school is based, expressly notes, "Because this analysis was conducted less than two years after the Sandy Hook tragedy, it is difficult to discern the long-term effects of that event on enrollments and the variables influencing enrollments. Whether Newtown has reached a new normal, or previously existing trends experienced only a brief disruption remains to be seen over the next couple of years." It continues, "The introduction of full-day kindergarten in 2013-14 is another change likely to have short- and long-term influence on enrollment patterns, but cannot be determined at this time. Especially because of these recent events, Newtown Public Schools should pay close attention to the variables discussed in this report, as changes in any one trend could impact enrollments."
2. Of the seven school closing options presented in the Facility and Enrollment Study, three options require the use of **portable classrooms** to accommodate the enrollment predictions for the 2016-2017 school year. **Waiting just one more year** opens three additional possible configurations that could prove better for the town of Newtown and the education of our students.
3. In closing Hawley School, the only historic school in the Newtown School district, we leave virtually **no possibility** that it could be reopened as a school in the future; is it sensible, in this historic New England town, to close Hawley School permanently based on a **temporary decline** in enrollment?

We feel the Facility and Enrollment Study does not demonstrate sufficient cost savings to justify closing a school in Newtown. Should it be considered that a Newtown School be closed to attain savings that equate to less than 1% of the cumulative approved 2014-2015 Town Budget, we believe the evidence above clearly indicates that the 2016-2017 school year is **not** the time to close a Newtown School. We urge you to demonstrate leadership by voting "No" to the closing of any of our Newtown schools. Thank you.

Jennifer and Edward Kaufmann  
42 Grand Place  
Newtown, CT 06470

From: **Erardi, Joe** erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Subject: **Re: What Would You Do If You Were Superintendent?**  
Date: June 10, 2015 at 2:51 PM  
To: bluetick78@aol.com  
Cc: **Newtown BOE** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, **Keith Alexander** alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, **Laura Roche** lrocheboe@gmail.com, **Kathy Hamilton** kathyhamilton@att.net, **Debbie Leidlein** boedebbie@gmail.com, **John Vouros** jnyboe@gmail.com, **David Freedman** dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, **Michelle Ku** michelleku.boe@gmail.com



Jennifer

Thank you for attending and thank you for taking the additional time to respond to my open ended question.

JE

On Tue, Jun 9, 2015 at 10:07 PM, <bluetick78@aol.com> wrote:  
Dr. Erardi,

Thank you for taking the time to answer our questions at Hawley tonight. When you asked, "What would you do if you were superintendent?", my immediate thought was, "I'd do nothing." I'd appreciate the lower class sizes and use them as a tool to attract new families to our wonderful school district. I'd be content in the knowledge that when the enrollment eventually increases, our schools would be easily ready to accommodate them, without scrambling to update a neglected Hawley or to build a costly new school. I'd do nothing because there is no desperate financial crisis in Newtown that is forcing me to take such drastic measures. I would do nothing to disregard Hawley's rich history as a school, especially so near its centennial. Please do nothing to close Hawley. Thank you.

Jennifer Kaufmann

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**From:** Jennifer Padilla jennrp1980@aol.com  
**Subject:** Closing Hawley School is not in the best interest of Newtown  
**Date:** June 8, 2015 at 5:41 PM



**To:** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, Irocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com  
**Cc:** jennrp1980@aol.com, erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, pat.llodra@newtown.ct.gov, SugrBrk@aol.com, okjt@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkortze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net

Dear Newtown BOE,

Based on the following points, I feel the Facility and Enrollment Study does not demonstrate sufficient cost savings to justify closing Hawley School nor any other school in Newtown. I hope you will give thought to these issues as you formulate your decision regarding the future of Newtown schools.

- 1) The \$14.3M cost avoidance figure, presented as the primary savings driver to the Board of Education budget to close Hawley School, is not a savings to the Newtown taxpayers as the maintenance of the Hawley School building will remain the responsibility of the taxpayers once the building is relinquished to the Town of Newtown.
- 2) Costs associated with the closing of a school have been mentioned but not yet presented and must be considered to make an accurate savings determination.
- 3) Cost data to reopen a school, or build a new school, in the event that enrollment reaches the potential high growth projections outlined in the 2014 Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections have not been provided and must be considered as a considerable cost risk to the taxpayer in making a decision on a school closing.

Can you please provide a clear explanation of how the \$14.3 million Cost Avoidance Projects are required and planned within 5 years as they are not represented in full in the 2013/14, 2014/15 nor the 2015/16 CIP?

I appreciate your commitment to Newtown Schools and hope you can agree that, based on its financial implications, closing Hawley School is not in the best interest of Newtown and its students.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Padilla  
Concerned Hawley Parent

Sent from my iPhone

From: **jojkenny** jojkenny@gmail.com  
Subject: **Re: Answer to your question**  
Date: **June 12, 2015 at 11:44 AM**  
To: **Erardi, Joe** erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Cc: **Newtown BOE** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, **Keith Alexander** alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us



I do have questions:

1. Class Size - what is the expected increase? Based on the current model what would the class size for the 1st grade be for the 2016-17 school year?

- My Son benefited from having 15 - 16 children in his Kindergarten through 2nd grade, His 3rd grade class they cut a teacher and class size increase to 23, I have seen a drastic difference. He does ok but he has potential to get lost in the mix with the teacher being stretched too far.

2. When I attend one of the community forums you stated that there was not a clear and perfect fit. Which is why I was a bit stunned at the recommendation. I believe you stated that we will need the use of portables at Reed for the 2016-17 school year with this scenario is that correct?

Thank you again for your reading and responding to all of these questions. I know it is a difficult position to be in and I appreciate the time that you must be taking to read and respond.

Thank you,

Jessica Kenny

On Jun 12, 2015, at 10:19 AM, Erardi, Joe <erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us> wrote:

Jessica

I thank you for the time you have taken away from your family to be present to attend numerous meetings and I am really pleased with the respectful approach you chose to take to express your opinion.

Please don't hesitate to call or to stop in if you have pending questions or if you would simply like to speak about the issue.

JE

On Thu, Jun 11, 2015 at 10:57 AM, jojkenny <jojkenny@gmail.com> wrote:

Dr. Erardi and Board of Education

My name is Jessica Kenny, I am a mother of 3, John is in the 3rd grade at Hawley, and my daughters Morgan & Reese will be starting kindergarten in the fall. They are bursting with excitement to start at Hawley in the fall. John has been filling the girls with all sorts of information as to what to expect in kindergarten and most of the information is about the wonderful teachers and staff. Hawley is our 2nd home and is one of the many reasons why we chose to move here 6 years ago and why we decided to stay after 12-14.

I was at the event last night at Hawley and Dr. Erardi, you asked us a question about what would you have done if we were in your position.

If I were in your position, I would have done everything in my power to stop the enrollment study from happening, the timing is just not right.

Our priority has to be the healing process of this community and our largest milestone as a community will be the opening of the new SHES. There is already anxiety about this hurdle we don't need to add more stress to an already fragile situation. This is just distracting everyone, dividing the town and breaking a bond that has been the core of our community.

I want our community to shine for all the reasons that we moved here and then some. We have an opportunity to show the world how you can come back and thrive after tragedy. We need ALL of our schools in place to do that.

While the numbers presented to you seems to make a clear recommendation it does not account for our particular set of circumstances. These circumstances need time to let the dust settle after opening the new school, time for all of us to be a little further out from 12-14. We have come so far, but we are not ready to lose another school.

Thank you



Thank you,

Jessica Kenny

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**From:** jojkenny jojkenny@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Answer to your question  
**Date:** June 11, 2015 at 10:57 AM  
**To:** erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us  
**Cc:** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us

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Dr. Erardi and Board of Education

My name is Jessica Kenny, I am a mother of 3, John is in the 3rd grade at Hawley, and my daughters Morgan & Reese will be starting kindergarten in the fall. They are bursting with excitement to start at Hawley in the fall. John has been filling the girls with all sorts of information as to what to expect in kindergarten and most of the information is about the wonderful teachers and staff. Hawley is our 2nd home and is one of the many reasons why we chose to move here 6 years ago and why we decided to stay after 12-14.

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If I were in your position, I would have done everything in my power to stop the enrollment study from happening, the timing is just not right.

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Thank you,

Jessica Kenny

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From: **Erardi, Joe** erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Subject: **Re: Question re. proposal to move 4th Grade to the Reed School**  
Date: June 7, 2015 at 11:08 AM  
To: **Jillian Cruwys-Hayes** jcruwyshayes@me.com  
Cc: uberlia@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Bcc: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us

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Jill

Great questions and thanks for asking them in such a respectful manner....

The facility committee does not want to get too far in front of this issue as the school board looks to first make a decision on the much broader conversation of whether to close a school. We have discussed your thoughts in committee and would be prepared to share that conversation with the board if the board makes that request if they look to close a school.

Please feel to give me a call or to stop in if you would like to further discuss the issue.

Thanks so much

JE

On Fri, Jun 5, 2015 at 11:23 AM, Jillian Cruwys-Hayes <jcruwyshayes@me.com> wrote:

Dear Dr. Erardi and Ms. Uberti,

I have a question regarding the proposal to re-configure Newtown's schools and move 4th Grade to the Reed School: Does this mean that 4th Grade will be configured and taught as it is currently in the elementary schools, or as 5th and 6th Grade are now at Reed, i.e. as a cluster with two teachers? Will 4th Graders have access to the specials that are taught at Reed (e.g. Project Adventure) but not currently at the elementary schools?

Regards,  
Jillian Cruwys

Sent from my iPad

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From: JoAnna Gale joanna.gale8@gmail.com

Subject: Questions About Closing Hawley School

Date: June 10, 2015 at 9:13 PM

To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, lrocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com



Dear Newtown Board of Education,

I am writing to express my concern about the timing of closing a school here in our town.

Would you please consider these points:

1. The introduction of the Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections, the analysis from which the recommendation to close a school is based, expressly notes, "Because this analysis was conducted less than two years after the Sandy Hook tragedy, it is difficult to discern the long-term effects of that event on enrollments and the variables influencing enrollments. Whether Newtown has reached a new normal, or previously existing trends experienced only a brief disruption remains to be seen over the next couple of years." It continues, "The introduction of full-day kindergarten in 2013-14 is another change likely to have short- and long-term influence on enrollment patterns, but cannot be determined at this time. Especially because of these recent events, Newtown Public Schools should pay close attention to the variables discussed in this report, as changes in any one trend could impact enrollments."

This brings up the concern of closing one school while opening the new Sandy Hook school which is a gift from the people of our state.

2. Of the seven school closing options presented in the Facility and Enrollment Study, three options require the use of portable classrooms to accommodate the enrollment predictions for the 2016-2017 school year. Waiting just one more year opens three additional possible configurations that could prove better for the town of Newtown and the education of our students.

3. In closing Hawley School, the only historic school in the Newtown School district, we leave virtually no possibility that it could be reopened as a school in the future; is it sensible, in this historic New England town, to close Hawley School permanently based on a temporary decline in enrollment?

I feel the Facility and Enrollment Study does not demonstrate sufficient cost savings to justify closing a school in Newtown. Should it be considered that a Newtown School be closed to attain savings that equate to less than 1% of the cumulative approved 2014-2015 Town Budget, I believe the evidence above clearly indicates that the 2016-2017 school year is not the time to close a Newtown School. I urge you to consider all of these points and vote "No" to the closing of any of our Newtown schools.

Sincerely,  
JoAnna Gale

**From:** Jodie Adolfson jodie.adolfson@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Please save our schools - a letter from concerned parent and resident!  
**Date:** June 7, 2015 at 7:34 PM  
**To:** danaholcombehouse@yahoo.com, KathyLHamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, lrocheboe@gmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkortze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net, erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us  
**Cc:** Llodra-Pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov, Rodgers-sugrbrk@aol.com, Gaston-okjl@aol.com

---

Dear BOE and BOF,

I am writing this letter regarding the closing of a Newtown Public School. This topic has been on the agenda for years and can date back to 2010 when the BOE hired the research firm Chung to conduct an enrollment study and an Ad Hoc School Facilities Committee was assembled to determine the need for a school closure due to a district wide decline in enrollment.

During the April 13, 2011 Ad Hoc School Facilities Meeting the Committee actually looked at closing Hawley, HOM or the Middle School. Janet Robinson indicated that, even if Hawley were to close as a school, the gymnasium would have to remain open. There is a shortage of gym facilities in the town. At the time, she mediated among conflicting parties for gym space. Also, the bathrooms would have to be available whenever the gym was being used. While this may not be a current day concern, we need to consult Dr. Erardi on understanding the usage of Hawley's gym. Even if we can use the new Sandy Hook gym, this does prove that Hawley plays a critical role for our whole community even outside of an academic setting.

One month later, on May 31, 2011 there was another meeting in which in depth data was shared about closing HOM. It was simply an exercise to see what cost savings would be realized with closing that school. The Committee also discussed the need to have information about what it would take to reopen a school including the period of time the district can be reasonably expected to operate with a school closed (be it an elementary school or the middle school) had to be evaluated. Is it 5 years, 10 years, somewhere in between? This raised the question of whether, when deciding to close a school, consideration be given to whether that school can be reopened (Hawley could not). I should note, in my research this follow-up analysis was never conducted unless it was never shared with the community and posted online.

A very similar question was asked just last week at our BOE meeting when Dr. Erardi recommended the closing of Hawley School. Mrs. Ku asked what would happen when we have to reopen a school when enrollment increases. Based on the Milone enrollment analysis, in 9 more years during the 2023-2024 school year, our K-4 student population will be back up to present day enrollment. If that is the

our K-4 student population will be back up to present day enrollment. If that is the case, why is the recommendation to close Hawley School when we can keep our class sizes smaller, test scores higher and our children happier with less transitions at a critical young age when familiarity and routine is critical. Why isn't the Middle School the primary focus for a school closure when we will have extreme capacity in Newtown High during the next 10-20 years.

**Projected 2023 K-4 enrollment**

<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Current</b>
1,229	1,334	1,416	1,396

At the June 27th, 2011, Ad Hoc School Facilities Meeting both Janet Robinson and Ron Bienkowski began a discussion of the potential impact of closing the middle school and moving the fifth grades to the four elementary schools. To accommodate this shift, additional science labs would be required in addition to an additional, art room, world languages rooms and a classroom for family consumer science. The discussion was to have these changes occur in 2017 school year, which is ironic because it's the same year that our CURRENT Committee is requesting closing an elementary school! Back in 2011, the recommendation of the committee was to close the Middle School and update Reed to accommodate 6th, 7th and 8th grades for the 2017 school year. It's quite interesting that even after a recommendation from the Committee the BOE was still not asked to vote on a school closure.

Ron Bienkowski discussed the document entitled "Estimated Closing Costs of the Middle School." It was pointed out, at the outset, that the gyms are used seven days a week, year round and need to be heated, cleaned and maintained. Has the BOF been made aware of this? Have they become aware that this will need to be calculated in the town's budget if they close the Middle School in the 2017-2018 school year? What impact will this have on the community? Are we truly doing what is best for our students and community?

In addition, Janet Robinson pointed out that the district servers are located at the Middle School and would either have to be maintained there, as part of the Town's operation of the facility, or moved. They are in a climate, controlled room. Now, I am unaware IF our servers are STILL housed at the Middle School but if they are has the BOF been made aware of potential costs involved in these servers since the town will be taking over ALL financial responsibilities of the building?

At the conclusion of this meeting, it was the consensus of those present that we make the following recommendations to the BOE:

1. At the appropriate time, we look to close the middle school.
2. At that time, we would move the 5th grade to the 4 elementary schools.
3. We would look to consolidate 6th, 7th and 8th grades at Reed, with the expectation that we would leave the core facilities, at their current size.
4. The Committee did not recommend closing an elementary school.
5. Any decision, as to the timing of the closing of the middle school and the implementation of the above plan, would depend on the maximum enrollment that Reed's core facilities could support.

In October of 2011, the BOE and the Facilities Committee decided that additional research and scenarios needed to be completed and they would look at 5th and 6th grade returning to the elementary schools and Reed school becoming 7th and 8th. It's important to note that excess capacity at the high school was also brought up but no one was willing to accept 8th grade on the High School Grounds. I believe the same concerns remain but a cost/benefit analysis would need to be conducted because by 2021-2022 our high school will have excess capacity of over 1,000 students. What is the cost of that unused portion of the High School?

At the November of 2011, proved that this model was not going to work. In fact, Debbie Leidlein suggested that perhaps the Committee had taken the wrong approach in considering various closures and movement options and suggested that the District should present its plan for dealing with the expected decline in population. Bob Merola shared his research that suggests that the projections that have been relied upon have been universally optimistic suggesting that Chung's 2019 projections might be high. \* The consensus was that projections eight years into the future are somewhat speculative and the Committee had been presented a fair amount of data and needed some time to synthesize it in order to be able to make a recommendation to the BOE.

**\*Projected 2019 enrollment conducted prior to 12/14\*.**

<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>
3,731	3,990	4,249

\* Conducted by Chung, presented August 2010

**For comparison purpose...Projected 2019 enrollment conducted AFTER 12/14\*.**

<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>
3,656	3,756	3,897

\*Conducted by Milone, presented November 2104

There are several interesting points to bring up based on the above timeline....If back in 2011, our Committee had several months of presentations and scenarios why didn't they ever take a school closure to the BOE for a vote? Yet at our latest BOE meeting, Dr. Erardi recommended a school closure (notifying teachers as well) and the BOE needs to vote so quickly without doing months and months of due diligence including public participation. Are we truly doing what is best for our students? As I have indicated, even after 4 months of fact finding the past Committee STILL did not take any recommendation to the BOE for an official vote.

In 2012, there were only two Facilities Committee meetings held in 2012 (January 9th & February 6th) but no minutes have been published online. The topic of enrollment and school closure next appears in the Superintendent Report presented by Dr. Reed on May 7, 2013 AFTER the tragedy. In which Dr. Reed states that more time should pass before the district would be able to address a school closure and a new enrollment study would need to be commissioned. However, a month later, the Town accepted a \$50mm grant from the State of CT (paid for by ALL CT residents), to rebuild a NEW school when based on an 2010 enrollment analysis we ALREADY knew we did NOT need! Yet here we are in 2015, building a new school on the same site as our old school, about to close a beloved school to find cost savings for Newtown tax payers yet CT Tax dollars were used to build a school that we never needed? What kind of public relations nightmare are your creating for our town if you close a school just to reopen a new state of the art school paid for by ALL CT tax payers? What message does that send to the world about Newtown? Why are we rushing this vote? Are we truly doing what is best for our students or our town residents?

I strongly urge you to wait on the decision. Let the Sandy Hook Community go back to their school, avoid a PR nightmare for our Town causing more trauma for everyone, let the Sandy Hook teachers become acclimated to the new school which could cause anxiety for them since it's on the same spot as the old school and ultimately allow more time for ALL of our children (and parents) across the District to heal. Please note that when the new school opens, it will have only been 4 years since the tragedy and don't be fooled, our community is still in recovery mode, emotions are still high and you could create a town divided. All I am asking



for is more time. You gave it to us in 2011 and 2012 before the tragedy; please give it to us now!

If you think our town is healed and emotionally ready for a school closure then you should ask your townspeople or read the May 14, 2015 article in the Bee regarding Newtown's Recovery and Resiliency Team. They reported that from a mental health perspective, Newtown's recovery is still in its infancy. They also stated that many communities that have experienced mass casualty incidents are supporting or seeing new subjects coming forward with post traumatic issues years, even decades, afterward. So acknowledging that young people, like others in Newtown, are subject to onset mental issues some two-and-a-half years post-incident is the first step toward addressing and mitigating these issues with a positive outcome. Catherine Galda, LCSW, stated "Post-12/14, we had kids so young or so removed or insulated from the incident, they were not initially impacted emotionally. But their parents and other supports were so affected that it began affecting those children down the road." I ask you, what do you think will happen when you close a school, make children transition before they are emotionally ready and force parents to relive 12/14 as some are forced BACK to the site of the tragedy!?! Again, I urge you to SAVE OUR SCHOOLS and allow us more time to let us heal!

Sincerely,

Jodie Adolfsen

11 Parmalee Hill Road

Newtown, CT 06470

17 year resident of Newtown

From: **John Brackett** jbrackett28@gmail.com  
Subject: June 9th Hawley School Closing Proposal - Q&A  
Date: June 11, 2015 at 7:14 PM



To: erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, lrocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, diboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com  
Cc: pai.llodra@newtown-ct.gov, SugerBrk@aol.com, okjt@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkortze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.walbury@sbcglobal.net, george-ferguson@earthlink.net, jgnewtownct@yahoo.com, lundquist.paul@gmail.com, merola11c@sbcglobal.net, ryan.w.knapp@gmail.com, danielthonan@gmail.com, mjacob4404@charter.net, evalazu@hotmail.com, amaralpoggy@aol.com, nkc@4newtown.com, tonyfiliato@ymail.com, ppcarroll13@gmail.com

Thank you Mr. Erardi and the Board of Education for taking the time to meet with some of the Community.

My name is John Brackett, my Family and I live on Reservoir Rd. I have 3 children my oldest is currently in Mrs Albano's kindergarten class at Hawley Elementary. I also have a 3.5 year old daughter Noelle and 1 year old son Jack so it is safe to say I have a vested interest in the education strategy for Newtown not just now but over the next 20 years.

You ended the meeting asking the question "What would we do if I were in we in your position making decision on closing Hawley Elementary School"

With all difficult decisions we need to consider the information gathered and weigh current and future risks and rewards.

- **Enrollment by Grade Projections:**

You advised us the projections were careful considered using a medium projection and reiterated these were the best projections. Projections and Forecasting are highly speculative by nature with that said the 2014 Actuals didn't include students that joined after the school year started. I think re-evaluating the 2014 Actuals with a true year end representation of the enrollment is necessary validation for our projection assumptions. As parent I know there were 2 children added my daughters class alone so I think the year end numbers would provide valuable insight.

- **Emotional and Physiological Impacts:**

In the community meeting I feel the emotional and psychological concerns for the students and the community as a whole were represented well. As a parent I do fear interrupting the healing in-progress at Sandy Hook especially at the time they are returning to the new Sandy Hook School. I also concerned about the negative attention the Sandy Hook school can draw. As a community this

- **Hawley the Historical Significance:**

Hawley School is a landmark constructed in the 1920s as donation from Mary Hawley. Mary Hawley's first generous investment in the Newtown Community is an excellent story for elementary students of how one person can positively impact a community 95 years later. In fact the school is so ingrained in our history that Wikipedia list the Hawley School listed in its one our landmarks. Not only are we removing a historical treasure by closing Hawley we are also drawing negative attention to the town. By accepting federal money to rebuild Sandy Hook and Closing another school the same day it opens this can be seen as a fiscally irresponsible decision.

- **Cost Savings**

The Rewards presented by this proposal state a projected 1 million dollar a year savings while it has a nice ring to it is roughly 1% of the entire 2015 budget. Additionally if a new school is required in the next 50 years this annual savings will not cover the expense of new school.

In conclusion I would not move forward with Hawley Closing and instead commission another study in 5 years and reassess needs at that point.

I too would like to close with a question:

I would ask you and the board what you see as the greatest strength and weakness of the proposed plan to close Hawley?

From: **John Majlinger** jtmajlinger@snet.net  
Subject: Spark  
Date: May 22, 2015 at 3:25 PM  
To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us

Dear board members,

After reviewing the SPARK presentation at the board of ed meeting I was encouraged to see the social emotional areas being addressed. At first glance it seems like a great step in the right direction.

However after careful consideration it occurs to me that there are a few misconceptions with regards to the actual implementation of such an endeavor. The plan, the way I see it , is to reintroduce basic biblical teachings into a secular school environment. Thou a very well thought out presentation it would appear as a very long way around to get administrators and students alike to embrace the notion of Thou shall not kill, honor thy mother and father and love thy neighbor as thy self..... and if you could benefit from medication, take it.

Most any elementary age sunday school student would agree that attempting to implement God's plans with out directly inviting him will certainly fail miserably. If I could be informed as to when the next board meeting that would address the SPARK issue will take place i would very much like to invite members of the local Church Community at large to attend. Perhaps they could be of some assistance.

As a parent directly involved with this student issue I can attest to the fact that at present there has been NO change in the day to day practice of addressing a students Social Emotional Learning. One would only need to attend a PPT to see first hand that massacre or not the facts remain the same. I would certainly agree that listening and making plans to do certain things has a way of making folks feel better however the actual practice still leaves much to be desired. If there really was a genuine concern in the community to act, certainly the current budget would reflect it.

Who in the district has the most recent degree in Special Education, and how many new qualified hires are there? I would suspect that there is not so much of an educational problem as there is a much simpler Math problem.

I recall Dr Erardi saying something to the effect that if it happens , I suppose the funding will come from some where?

Thank you for your consideration,

John Majlinger

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From: **Judit Destefano** judit.destefano@gmail.com  
Subject: **Re: My Initial Concerns Regarding proposed Hawley Closure**  
Date: **June 10, 2015 at 3:52 PM**



To: **Erardi, Joe** erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us

Cc: **Newtown BOE** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, **Keith Alexander** alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, **Laura Roche** lrocheboe@gmail.com, **Kathy Hamilton** kathylhamilton@att.net, **Debbie Leidlein** boedebbie@gmail.com, **John Vouros** jnvboe@gmail.com, **David Freedman** dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, **Michelle Ku** michelleku.boe@gmail.com, **Patricia Llodra** (pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov) pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov, **SugrBrk**@aol.com, **okjt** okjt@aol.com, **Filan, Jim** james.filan@gmail.com, **Joe jkearney19**@aol.com, **John Kortze** jkortze@yahoo.com, **John Godin** jgodin1312@gmail.com, **Michael Portnoy** mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, **harrison.waterbury** harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net

Thank you Dr. Erardi and Michelle for your responses to me. Michelle, I've cut and paste your detailed responses below and wanted to reach out to you all again as I do have follow up questions.

Judit,

I appreciate your thoughtful analysis of the information.

1. In addition to the reasons you have mentioned, closing the Middle School would remove a much larger number of seats from our district than an elementary school would, and thus, it is less sustainable. In about ten years, we would have to reconsider opening a school or rebuilding. Additionally, academically, the longer our students spend in the elementary schools, the more difficult it is to deliver personalized services, such as the choice of band, orchestra or chorus, the ability to take enriched math classes or participate in the gifted program - things that occur when large cohorts come together at Reed.

Someone at a meeting or discussion made the recommendation that we close the middle school, go 6-9, and do the necessary work to it while it is out of use and/or repurpose it as a community center or something to that effect, then return it to use as a middle school down the line when needed. I know there are space/use allocations I know little about but this seemed like a smart solution to me and thought I would mention it.

2. I understand your thoughts about transitions and continuity. I take the advice of educators to heart. I also know of research that shows that by 4th grade students need to be challenged in different ways. As I mentioned above, the 4-6 intermediate school would offer that opportunity. Have you surveyed Newtown families so you can gauge our priorities in respect to various grade/cohort configurations? There are people who favor a model with more transitions, the vast majority of people I have consulted would choose a K-5, 6-8, 9-12 configuration over any other. Furthermore, the research is indisputable that grade 4 is a crucial year in reading/comprehension and progress in this formative year is a major general academic indicator. To transition the kids at this formative time, when pre-pubescent hormones are starting to hit and social immaturity is at odds with precocious tendencies for many youngsters, is a grave mistake. Furthermore, I believe this unconventional grade arrangement makes Newtown a less desirable option for families looking to move to the area.

3. The timing is somewhat flexible, and I think we will take into consideration the fact that people will not be in touch over the summer. We also want to have all of the information that we can get before making a decision without dragging this out. It is clearly a stressful question for anyone potentially affected. And finally, the timing is driven by budget preparation. Believe it or not, the budget for 2016/17 will start this Fall. So, if a school were to close, ideally, our administrators would know by September. A definite timeline has not been determined yet. Thank you for taking into consideration that people will be unavailable over the summer. By making the recommendation so late in the school year; however, and with the knowledge that a decision must be made before the September budget begins, there is just no way you are giving the school communities - or town at large really - the opportunity to formulate and communicate their concerns in full. I appreciate your acknowledging that this is a stressful topic. It really is one.

I attended the PTA meeting last night, and very much appreciated the opportunity that the PTA and Mr. Moretti gave us to hear people's perspectives. Please keep in touch and let us know if you have more questions or thoughts. Thank you so much for coming, and for continuing to encourage our communication with you. I plan to share more concerns and comments going forward.

Judit

On Tue, Jun 9, 2015 at 2:10 PM, Erardi, Joe <erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us> wrote:

Judit

Thanks for copying me your thoughts, concerns, suggestions, and recommendations -

I am certain that the school board will respond to you in detail.

I would be more than willing to meet with you at your convenience to discuss any of the context above pertaining to our enrollment study and facility discussion.

Thanks

JE

On Tue, Jun 9, 2015 at 1:50 PM, Judit Destefano <judit.destefano@gmail.com> wrote:

Good afternoon,

I have so many concerns about the potential closure of Hawley School. I've been thinking of little else since the recommendation was made public last week, but I have been listening, collecting data and considering all sides of the argument. After all, communities change and sometimes school closure is a necessary evil.

I do not believe, however, that there is significant evidence that this time is the right time for that. Moreover, I do not think that this is even the right time to be considering that recommendation. I was hoping you could provide some insight for me as to why this decision is being considered at this point in time.

1. My understanding is that the return to K-5, 6-8, 9-12 model is being avoided because administrators do not want to return what would be grade 5 Sandy Hook students to the site of the tragedy, and because closing the middle school is only an option after the 2017/2018 school year. Is this in fact the reason the Middle School closure and return of grade 5 to elementary school is not the /preferred consideration? And if it is problematic for these reasons, why not postpone the decision just one year until this issue is not a contributing factor?
2. What research/data was consulted that confirms the benefits of early unification of grade level cohorts outweighs the detriments associated with disruption of continuity in early grades and in general is advantageous to academic and social health of young children? In terms of benefits to children and education, is there evidence that a K-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-12 model is superior to the one we have now or a K-5, 6-8, 9-12 model? As an educator and parent, I feel that change, particularly at an increasingly young age, is disruptive, and IF it is proven that a closure is warranted due to continued and consistent declining enrollment, I tend to favor a model that would decrease transitions for my children. My youngest would transition schools 4 times in just a few years if Hawley is closed. From what I understand of learning and childhood development from a social and emotional stability perspective, lack of continuity is problematic.
3. Why is the committee making the decision over the summer? In consulting friends who have children in the other of Newtown's elementary schools, I find they know very little of the implications this decision would have – namely, that it will result in grade 4 being moved to Reed. Their PTA's do not have the time to evaluate the situation and vote on their position. Surely their voice and opinion on this matter is relevant. Why the rush?

At an emotional PTA meeting last night, it was evident that people in the room – even those whose children have graduated out of Hawley - feel tremendous community ties around Hawley school. These community ties are what draw people to Newtown, and their significance is invaluable. Closing Hawley – or any school - at the same time you are opening Sandy Hook will result in a community torn apart. Already, I see that even having this conversation is dividing the town-wide community we have all worked so hard to foster. What budget savings could possibly be worth the emotional toll?

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.  
Judith DeStefano

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From: **Judit Destefano** judit.destefano@gmail.com  
Subject: My response to "What should I do next...?"  
Date: June 10, 2015 at 11:14 PM



To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, **alexanderk\_boe** alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, **Laura Roche** lrocheboe@gmail.com, **Kathy Hamilton** kathyhamilton@att.net, **boedebbie** boedebbie@gmail.com, **invboe** invboe@gmail.com, **dfboenewtown** dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, **Michelle Embree Ku** michelleku.boe@gmail.com, **erardij** erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Cc: **pat.llodra** pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov, **sugrbrk** SugrBrk@aol.com, **okjt** okjt@aol.com, **james.filan** james.filan@gmail.com, **jkearney19** jkearney19@aol.com, **jkortze** jkortze@yahoo.com, **jgodin1312** jgodin1312@gmail.com, **Michael Portnoy** mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, **harrison.waterbury** harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net

Dr. Erardi,

In the opening part of your presentation last night you commended the group who took the difficult role of examining this issue and making the subsequent recommendations. I think the word you used was brave. I would propose that it was more reckless than brave. I say that with all due respect because I am confident you and the group did not – could not – have the foresight of the emotional impact this would have on the greater Newtown community. You offered a question in response to the very first question asked of you – “Is there ever a right time, an easy time to close a school?” And your closing question was to ask for our advice – mine is to consider this – Has there ever been a worse possible time to close a school?

Dr. Erardi, I fell asleep last night at 2 am weeping and I woke up this morning at 6:30 weeping. I like to think of myself as a pretty reasonable person. I cannot believe that if this was a regular town and a regular school closing, I would be impacted in this same way. All my questions to date have been about the studies, the figures etc. So I will continue on that vein–

Where is the study that demonstrates that a youngster who lost acquaintances, whose friends all experienced enormous trauma, who himself reverted to chronic wetting and exhibited other symptoms of childhood trauma after 12/14, and driving through a town flooded with funerals and emergency vehicles and press said to his mom “There’s a bad guy who went to Rory and Finny’s school and killed kids and teachers, and he’s coming to my school next,” that this kid, now 6 - that he will be fine if we send him to school at the very place he associates with that trauma and that he will thrive and learn and be as well or better off than he would be if we left him in the safe, comforting warmth of the school he knows and loves.

Dr. Erardi, who are the best mental health practitioners in the state you referenced and whose consult you rely on who report this is what is best for my children? Here, I am asking for their names and contact information, because I would like to discuss my children’s mental health with them myself.

I have been rationalizing all along that we are asking the Sandy Hook parents to send their kids to school there, but here is the difference: those children always went to Sandy Hook. They never left and that has been part of their recovery. The choice to rebuild was owned by their parents and the return to the physical school is part of their recovery. They have teachers, relationships, and a community they love and cherish that they associate with Sandy Hook. In addition to the scary and bad memories, they have strong bonds and positive associations. Mine do not. My choice was to support whatever my friends and neighbors wanted, but it was not with the understanding that it would someday be to the detriment of my children, who stand now to lose the school they call home.

There is another element to this that is proving difficult for me that was nicely expressed by another parent last night – we have been “support staff” for Sandy Hook parents all along. My experience in that role began the morning of 12/14, when my best friend in town called me in a panic and asked me to meet her at the firehouse because something awful had happened, she wasn’t sure what but she picked up crying school children on her way to school and got them to the police station. There were kids dead she was sure of it. I went to her then and held her hand while she looked for her first grade daughter, I held a sign that said Grade 2 and helped kids queue up waiting for their parents, and I drove friends (whose cars were stranded in front of the school) and their children home that day. I feel like I have been in that supporting role ever since. Now, I am having to assure my friends – these same people, who I love like family - that no, Hawley parents (we) are not saying we don’t want our kids with your kids. That is they relay they are hearing. It is untrue, but I am having to defend

don't want our kids with your kids. That is what they are hearing. It is unfair, but I am having to defend my Hawley community. With this proposition you are threatening to tear my kids' school community apart, and they stand to lose the cohesion of their friend and family network outside of school as well. This is dividing our town already. So to conclude my advice to you on how to proceed - please consider this: could there be a worse time to close a school? Please withdraw your recommendation to the Board of Education to close Hawley School if the timing of this decision is not right.

Thank you as always for your consideration.

Regards,  
Judit DeStefano



From: **Judy Caracciolo** judeq@earthlink.net  
Subject: Possible closing of Hawley School  
Date: June 13, 2015 at 7:50 PM  
To: newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us



To the Newtown Board of Education Members,

It doesn't seem to make sense to build a new elementary school in Sandy Hook and take away Hawley School. Couldn't the monies allocated for the new school in Sandy Hook be used to expand and renew Hawley to accommodate the Sandy Hook students? Hawley has so much history and is loved by all. A town should have an elementary school in the center of town so please consider allowing it to remain. A lot of children and people (parents and the Hawley teachers) would be relieved and happy. Thank you in advance for your kind attention.

Sincerely,  
Judith Q. Caracciolo

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From: **Julia Conlin** jkconlin@yahoo.com  
Subject: Re: Community Forum  
Date: June 7, 2015 at 9:51 PM  
To: **Erardi, Joe** erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, lrocheboe@gmail.com, **Kathy Hamilton** kathyhamilton@att.net, **Debbie Leidlein** boedebbie@gmail.com, **John Vouros** jnvboe@gmail.com, dfoenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com

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Dear Dr. Erardi & BOE members:

I appreciate the time and effort you have put into trying to figure out the potential changes to our school facilities. The process is very difficult for all involved.

Having attended both of the community forums and the 6/2 BOE meeting, I was surprised that more of the concerns raised at the forums were not reflected in the BOE presentation. The first forum appeared to be more informational, and the second was more geared to gathering community input. At the second forum, there appeared to be universal opposition to closing an elementary school, which was pretty remarkable given the size of the group. Furthermore, the majority in attendance preferred the K-5 model, with the middle school being the one to close, rather than an elementary school. I understand that there are concerns about staff being certified only for certain grades and how that would affect the staffing at a 6-8 school. However, other towns have managed to work with those restrictions – Ridgefield, for example, has used this model for decades.

Moreover, at the community forum, attendees expressed a preference for keeping our students grouped with younger students rather than pushing them ahead into an intermediate school at an earlier age. Many also voiced concern about the two transitions between elementary school and high school, especially given the very sensitive needs of our particular student population. Shorter times at a school limit the time for staff to get to know students and pick up on subtle issues.

I am also particularly concerned about the fourth grade being pushed in to Reed in 2016, which would give staff and administrators very little time to plan for a significant change to the structure of the school. To rush into pushing fourth-graders into Reed without adequate time for planning would do a great disservice to both our staff and students. If any change to the grades in any particular school requires more time to be done properly, that time should be given.

Furthermore, I want to reiterate the point I made in my earlier communication that any savings from closing a school should, in large part, be re-invested in our schools. The students and teachers are the ones who have been paying the price of dealing with bare-bones school budgets year-after-year, and it is time that they received adequate funding to enhance current programs and introduce new programs that will help us keep pace with surrounding districts. As we all know, a strong school district enhances property values, which benefits all property owners in town.

On another note, I would like to add that, if the BOE is having a meeting that is sure to draw a huge crowd, such as the one on 6/2, it is poor planning also to schedule a retirement celebration, complete with a break for cake, at the beginning of the meeting. It is hard, and often impossible, for parents of small children to attend these evening meetings. When a 7:00 meeting in effect starts at 8:00, it is incredibly inconsiderate to parents. Personally, I sometimes have to bring my children to the meetings in order to be able to attend, and it would be helpful to have an

accurate estimation of when the content of meetings will begin. Moreover, having these two events at the same meeting led to over-crowding with many who came unable even to squeeze into the room. Obviously, we want to encourage, not discourage, parental attendance at BOE meetings.

Thanks again for your time.

-Julia Conlin

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**From:** "Erardi, Joe" <erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us>  
**To:** Julia Conlin <jkconlin@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 7, 2015 7:06 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Community Forum

Julia

Your respectful and meaningful thoughts are really appreciated. We will have our second forum on May 28th (check website) with the ongoing sharing of information.

I will share your thoughts with the committee and the school board.

Thanks again, JE

On Wed, May 6, 2015 at 3:22 PM, Julia Conlin <jkconlin@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Dr. Erardi:

Thank you so much for hosting the community forum about the possible closing of a school. I hope that, as the process continues, you will continue to host these forums, not only to keep parents updated with the latest information that you have, but also to collect input from parents that you will use in your final decision.

As a parent of a current elementary school student as well as an incoming kindergartener, I am well aware that the outcome of this process likely will impact my children for the rest of their K-12 education, and I wanted to raise a few points from our perspective.

I heard "cost-savings" repeated throughout the forum – of course the purpose of the process is to become more efficient – however, I would like to hear more about what portion of any potential savings will be re-invested in our children through new programs and reduced class sizes. Our per-pupil spending is already startlingly low. If there are savings to be found in closing a school, we owe it to our children to use some of that savings to enhance their education. After observing the past couple of budget processes, I am not confident that any savings will go towards benefitting the students.

I would also like to echo some of the sentiments other parents shared at the forum. The

process of closing a school should be undertaken with a students-first perspective, free from any influence from other town boards or officials. Those schools that are in good physical shape and most conducive to learning should remain as schools, rather than be first on the chopping block. We also need to consider how conducive our buildings are to having effective security in place – how many exits they have, for example. Moreover, any facility about which staff or parents have raised concerns about air quality and mold should be inspected. I also wanted to reiterate the point that, using part of a school building to house some town offices, rather than closing the entire school, could alleviate concerns about redistricting and inevitable re-opening costs.

I would also like to emphasize the importance of maintaining neighborhood elementary schools in such a large town in order to keep students' transportation times manageable and to foster their relationships with their neighbors. I noticed that your handout at the community forum included various scenarios in which different grades could be grouped together in the same building, including possibly extending high school to include eighth grade. It is important to carefully weigh the implications of these potential groupings and consider whether it is appropriate to have thirteen year-olds attending school with eighteen year-olds, for example.

Thank you again for hosting the community forum, and I look forward to continuing opportunities for parents to be included in this challenging process.

-Julia Conlin

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From: **ksmiley** [ksmiley@everwondermuseum.org](mailto:ksmiley@everwondermuseum.org)  
Subject: **Grand Opening Invitation, EverWonder Children's Museum**  
Date: **May 28, 2015 at 9:53 AM**  
To: [ksmiley@everwondermuseum.org](mailto:ksmiley@everwondermuseum.org)

Good Morning,

My name is Karen Smiley and I'm the Executive Director of EverWonder Children's Museum, a S.T.E.M-based, interactive museum for children and families located in Newtown.

I would like to invite you, as my guest, to attend our Grand Opening Celebration on Saturday, June 6th so that you can tour the museum and learn about the exciting exhibits and valuable science programs we offer both onsite and offsite.

**Grand Opening Celebration**

Saturday June 6th, 10am-5pm  
31 Pecks Lane, Newtown CT 06470

Ribbon cutting, approx. 10:15am  
Special activities throughout the day

Kindly RSVP to [ksmiley@everwondermuseum.org](mailto:ksmiley@everwondermuseum.org) and I will add you to our guest list. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Karen

Karen Smiley  
Interim Executive Director  
EverWonder Children's Museum  
31 Pecks Lane, Newtown CT 06470  
Open Tue-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 12pm-5pm  
[www.everwondermuseum.org](http://www.everwondermuseum.org) 203-364-4009

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**From:** Swift, Kathy swiftk@newtown.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** New staff training invitation  
**Date:** June 8, 2015 at 1:45 PM  
**To:** newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us, Linda gejdal@newtown.k12.ct.us

Hello,

I am working with Dr. Gejda to arrange the new staff training for August. In the past, we have invited the board members for lunch one day. We would like to let you know you are welcome for lunch any one of the three days that you are able to make it. Your coming gives the new staff an opportunity to meet you and for you to start to get to know them. As our district has increased in size so much over my 30 years here, these personal connections become so important. We realize you are very busy and it is quite understandable if you are unable to come, but we hope to see you at Reed Library, August 17, 18, or 19th at 11:30.

If you know in advance, please RSVP to me or feel free to ask any questions.

Thank you,  
Kathy Swift

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From: **Kim Burns** burnskim2@gmail.com  
Subject: Something to reconsider in regards to closing a school  
Date: June 10, 2015 at 3:42 PM

To: erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, first.selectman@newtown-ct.gov, michelleku.boe@gmail.com, lrocheboe@gmail.com, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, boedebbie@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, danaholcombhouse@yahoo.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com

Cc: james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkortze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net



## To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this email in regards to the potential closing of Hawley School. I emphatically urge you to reconsider. Closing Hawley is not in the best interest of all the families and children in Newtown, not just the Hawley district. Why close any elementary school? Residents will be pitted against one another because no one wants to see “their” elementary school close. Part of what makes this town unique is the “neighborhood” schools. We already lost our Owner/Operators to save money, please do not remove one of the elementary schools too. What a slap in the face to the residents of Connecticut, for which I am one, to accept Connecticut tax payer’s money to erect a school on the former site of the Sandy Hook School and then to close the nearest elementary school once that new school is opened. The message that this sends alone is a reason to reconsider closing ANY elementary school in the town of Newtown.

As I do feel that change should occur, I do not believe that other options have been vetted as much as the closing of Hawley School. If a school is to be shut down due to enrollment declines, there are reasons to consider closing the Middle School. We need to look at the future, not what will benefit us now. The Middle School could be repurposed for use as a police station, senior center, parks and recreation (it would be nice having gyms on site), or knocked down and sold to build a shopping plaza, offices, perhaps even residential apartments, a true town “center” could be erected to fit in with what is happening with the old Lexington Gardens property. The closing of the Middle School could return larger tax revenue to the town. We need commercial taxes coming in in order to help with the costs of educating our children.

Upon closure of the Middle School, the Reed School could house grades 6-8 and 5<sup>th</sup> grade could be pushed to the elementary schools. Redistricting could take place, if an only if, necessary to accommodate the addition of grade 5 at the elementary schools. There are, in my opinion, so many plusses for this scenario. Monies saved could allow foreign languages and music programs to be offered at the lower grades. Having the kids together for a longer time in grades 6, 7 and 8 will allow the kids to get to know each other, teachers, administration, and guidance counselors better. My children have expressed that they did not feel a connection to Reed or the Middle School, in the case of my daughter, as they were only at each location for two years. If stronger connections were developed at the intermediate/middle school level, kids may not “fall through” the cracks. Resources could be used to benefit the kids. For example, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader excels and needs 8<sup>th</sup> grade math, it could be made available to him/her within the same building.

Another advantage to housing grades 6-8 at the present Reed School would be the location to access after-school activities. After-school activities could be planned to utilize the Newtown Youth Academy. Instead of kids walking out of school and “hanging out” at Big Y, Dunkin Donuts or Starbucks, they could go straight across the street and do something structured. When my son, was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, he tried to go directly to NYA after school and he was not permitted. I

was told that I had to drive him. Perhaps if more kids participated in after school activities, an overhead crosswalk could be built or a crossing guard could be used at the end of the school day to assist students in crossing.

I know there are others that think similarly as I do; yet I know I can only speak for myself. I am a resident of Newtown who was not directly impacted by the events of 12/14 yet, I feel that the decisions being made to be sensitive to those directly involved are now, in fact, impacting me and my family and the other residents of the Hawley. Let's continue to let this town heal and wait until the new Sandy Hook Elementary School opens. Something does need to be done to face the impending enrollment decline, and in my opinion, closing the Middle School should be looked at over the closing of Hawley. We need to keep some of what makes it "Nicer in Newtown" nice.

Respectfully,

Kimberley Burns  
49 Farrell Road



**From:** Kristal Johnson kristalzs@me.com  
**Subject:** Scholastic Curriculum Inquiry  
**Date:** May 21, 2015 at 11:47 AM  
**To:** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us

Good afternoon,

I am not sure to whom this email should be directed, so I apologize if I have reached the wrong department. Thank you in advance for taking the time to read this and direct to the appropriate area.

My children, 5 and 8 years of age, are currently enrolled at St. Rose of Lima School in Newtown. We are zoned for Hawley School and in the last year, I have become increasingly concerned with the quality of education received at their current school. Unfortunately, I have nothing to academically compare to since we do not know any of the families with children enrolled in the public school system. Most recently, my son (a third grade straight A student) participated in the TerraNova testing and the results were less than promising. While consistently being told he is "above average" and very strong scholastically, he is barely average based on national comparisons. Based on my research, I do not believe Newtown Public Schools participate in the Terra Nova test. However, I would assume there is something comparable that is administered.

I was hoping that perhaps there is a curriculum director or someone in the like that might be able to offer some direction on what the public schools are incorporating into their curriculum. The last thing we want is to be doing our children a disadvantage if there is a stronger academic opportunity available to them. While I have read the online curriculum documents, I have not found it to be an effective means of dismissing either school.

In short, with my daughter entering Kindergarten this year, our family is strongly considering the switch to Hawley School and would like to garner some further information to make the best decision for our children as they begin/continue their academic journey...

Thank you again for your time and assistance.

Kind Regards,  
Kristal Johnson :)

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From: **Laura Brennan** brennanla@hotmail.com  
Subject: RE: Further considerations on the decision to close a school in Newtown  
Date: June 12, 2015 at 12:17 PM



To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, Laura Roche lrocheboe@gmail.com, Kathy Hamilton kathylhamilton@att.net, Debbie Leidein boedebbie@gmail.com, John Vouros jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, Michelle Embree Ku michelleku.boe@gmail.com  
Cc: Joe Erardi erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov, SugrBrk@aol.com sugrbrk@aol.com, okjl@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, John Kortze jkortze@yahoo.com, John Godin jgodin1312@gmail.com, Michael Portnoy mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net, george-ferguson@earthlink.net, jgnewtownct@yahoo.com, lundquist.paul@gmail.com, merola1lc@sbcglobal.net, ryan.w.knapp@gmail.com, danielthonan@gmail.com, mjacob4404@charter.net, evalazu@hotmail.com, amaralpoggy@aol.com, nkc@4newtown.com, tonyfiliato@ymail.com, ppcarroll13@gmail.com, Mike Brennan mabrennan79@gmail.com

Dear Newtown Board of Education,

I write in full support of the thoughtful analysis presented by my husband, Michael Brennan, below. As a family who has made a lifelong commitment to Newtown, I would like to add to this analysis some more intrinsic discussion on the timing of considering a school closing here in Newtown.

I attended the first community forum with Dr. Erardi and contributed a post-it note to the "*what we want Dr. Erardi and the BOE to know*" easel. My post-it note reminded all of you to drive down Main Street often to remember what Newtown is all about. I urge you, before you make this decision, to do exactly that.

Hawley School is the only historic school in the Newtown School district. The consideration of closing Hawley School is not a matter of timing or marginal cost savings but a matter of last resort. In our historic New England town, the nearly 100 year old gift of Mary Elizabeth Hawley is a living landmark of Newtown. As a Head O' Meadow alumni, I grew up with gratitude for Hawley School and all that Mary Hawley contributed to our town. As a parent of three Hawley School students, I saw that history come alive the day my then 2nd grader came home to tell me, "Mom, did you know that the clock on Hawley School was the first clock in town? People used to pass that way just to see what time it was." Newtown children grow up knowing that they are a part of a larger legacy: this is an invaluable addition to their educational experience.

In considering closing a Newtown elementary school for the 2016-2017 school year, I urge you to consider the impact on our healing community. My husband eloquently stated the role that the elementary school communities continue to play in recovery and resiliency of Newtown in the wake of an unthinkable tragedy. I can attest personally to the gift that is the Hawley community in this recovery effort. For those who remember, in the days that followed the tragedy, a sign was displayed in the prominent center window of the picturesque historic Hawley School, the sign displayed a heart made out of the children's hand-prints and it read "Hawley (heart)'s SHS". We still feel our role is to support the SHS community and our next opportunity will come at the major milestone that is bringing the Sandy Hook School children back to Newtown to their brand new elementary school.

By closing Hawley School on the same day that we open Sandy Hook School, and redistricting 60% of our children to Sandy Hook School, our Hawley community is

fractured. Sandy Hook School pride must be at an all time high for those students, teachers and families to put the children on the bus that morning, to drive down that driveway, to enter that building and to make it a vibrant learning community. Hawley students and teachers would be mourning the loss of their own school and silently trying to embrace the Sandy Hook School culture while suppressing the grief they feel at the loss of their Hawley community. The Hawley School pledge, the Hawley School song, the Hawley School logo and all the pride the students take in their school would disappear, and out of respect for the Sandy Hook School community, these children would lose their nearly 100 year old community legacy in silence.

The living history of Hawley School is a part of the fabric of Newtown and closing it must be a matter of last resort. My husband presented below that other school closing options exist and I urge you to consider those options which do not compromise a defining piece of Newtown's history. I urge you to consider these options at a date that does not coincide with the opening of Sandy Hook School, arguably the most important milestone in the history of Newtown. Before you make your decision, please take a moment to drive down Main Street and remember what Newtown is all about.

With shared commitment for what is best for Newtown,

Laura Brennan

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Date: Fri, 12 Jun 2015 07:28:07 -0400

Subject: Further considerations on the decision to close a school in Newtown

From: mabrennan79@gmail.com

To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us; alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us; Irocheboe@gmail.com; kathylhamilton@att.net; boedebbie@gmail.com; jnvboe@gmail.com; dfboenewtown@hotmail.com; michelleku.boe@gmail.com

CC: brennanla@hotmail.com; erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us; pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov; SugerBrk@aol.com; okjt@aol.com; james.filan@gmail.com; jkearney19@aol.com; jkortze@yahoo.com; jgodin1312@gmail.com; mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com; harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net; george-ferguson@earthlink.net; jgnewtownct@yahoo.com; lundquist.paul@gmail.com; merola1lc@sbcglobal.net; ryan.w.knapp@gmail.com; danielthonan@gmail.com; mjacob4404@charter.net; evalazu@hotmail.com; amaralpoggy@aol.com; nkc@4newtown.com; tonyfiliato@ymail.com; ppcarroll13@gmail.com

Dear Newtown Board of Education,

I am writing the Board of Education both in order to urge you vote "No" on the decision to close Hawley School as well as continue to raise my concerns that closing Hawley School is not in the best interest of the town.

I respectfully implore the Board to consider that 2016/17 is not the time to close a school in Newtown. The divisive measure of closing an elementary school community comes at a most inopportune time at which the resiliency of the town, its teachers and its students will be pushed to their limits. I firmly believe in the resiliency of this town; I am a Newtown resident for over 28 years and have three children in the Newtown school system currently (including two on 12/14); it is within our Hawley community, as it was in every elementary school in town, that a sense of hope, resiliency and recovery was fostered. Schools are part of the community pride and, perhaps, one of the most important asset of hope, resiliency and recovery (see [Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Catastrophic Events](#)); the disruption of these school communities at such a critical time is not in the best interest of the students nor of the town. This passion for Newtown and its critical elementary school communities has drawn the concern of a multitude of families who anticipate the hardships that await us in the closing of Hawley School and with little economic benefit to the town.

I recognize that the Board finds itself in a challenging situation being asked to balance the population realities and the interests of the students amid the financial (and political) pressures that encumber the process. In that respect, I want to first and foremost thank you for your service to the town as it is not easy to publicly serve and to be held accountable for the magnitude of decisions that are placed before you. It is without saying that it is never easy to make the unpopular decision for the right reasons but I appeal to you, on this matter particularly, that you not take the easy decision that is most popular for the wrong reasons.

The matter of closing a school is not a new issue and I acknowledge that this has been an on-going discussion for years. Most compelling for the closing of a school came in [April \[2012\]](#) when the Board of Education unanimously voted to accept the recommendation of the ad hoc facilities committee that recommended Reed to be closed. The repairs to Hawley HVAC were well established at that time, and yet, Reed was still recommended.

My questions to the Board:

- What has systemically changed since the BOE approved and unanimously voted “aye” to the Ad Hoc Facilities Committee view in 2012, which looked at facilities configuration amid the declining enrollment issues, and recommended (with all options truly on the table to choose from) that Reed be closed?
- What was the purpose/obligation of the BOE [April \[2012\]](#) vote/motion to close Reed when elementary school enrollment declined?
- The Board had also discussed the consideration that, of the elementary schools, [Head O Meadow be considered for closure](#), as it is “the smallest and has the fewest number of classrooms” and “it could easily be reopened if necessary because it is ADA compliant (D. Leidlein)”. Why has this been now replaced with Hawley for even smaller savings (per [Board of Finance’s own analysis, by John Godin](#)) and without possibility of reopening?
- The committee’s reluctance to act in 2012 was solely due to lack of clarity on enrollment, not education configuration. There was reluctance for the Board to even commission a new study since it was pointed out by BOE members that the work done (and recommended closure of Reed) was already justified. If we are now certain on the fact of declining enrollment, why has the Board changed its path from a previously justified study (to close Reed) and should it not be reviewed?

As mentioned previously, I recognize the financial pressures the respective Boards are under and that “savings” is touted as the driver for closing a school given the pressures from forthcoming punitive “Cadillac tax” taxation in 2018 (discussed in many town Boards’ minutes), the SERV Grant sun-setting and the pressures of declining enrollment. To that point, the Board of Finance’s own analysis, by John Godin in February of this year, stated that closing Hawley School generated the *least* amount of savings of the five school options while Reed and the MS offered the *highest* amount of savings. The projected administrative/custodial/maintenance savings in Dr. Erardi’s June 2<sup>nd</sup> FES update (\$1,112,580 savings) are extraordinarily consistent with Mr. Godin’s Feb 9<sup>th</sup> projected savings figures of closing Hawley (\$1,154,100 savings) – within 4% of his projection! That said, Mr. Godin projected administrative/custodial/maintenance **savings on closing the Reed School to be \$2,004,931 and the Middle school to be \$2,179,384**. I cannot compare Mr. Godin’s projections to the MS and Reed savings projected in the FES report, as that has not been made public for comparison (to my awareness), but it is reasonable to conclude that the projected MS and Reed savings will be with equivalent accuracy for which he projected Hawley. ***Both Reed and MS offer more than twice the savings at Hawley, and both buildings are much more amenable to re-opening down the road.*** Not only does closing a school in 2016/17 not make sense, Hawley School is the wrong school to close as it will never be re-opened when enrollment rebounds. If the Board is committed to closing a school, it appears the FES report has sights on the wrong target and should be focusing efforts on maximizing savings, and minimizing quality-of-education impact, by returning to the pre-Reed School configuration (K-5 model, eliminate the MS or Reed and consolidate 6/7/8 in the other building).

My questions to the Board:

- If savings is the driver, why are we subjecting the town to the pain of a school closure for the ***smallest*** economic benefit of the five schools?
- If the town is determined to close a school, ***why is Reed not the school to close (as the Board agreed on unanimously in 2012), as it has twice the annual savings as closing Hawley and no redistricting?***
- If the town is determined to close a school, and not Reed, ***why is the Middle School not the school to close, having 2.5 times the annual savings as closing Hawley and no redistricting?***
- I personally attended the April 30<sup>th</sup> Facility Study Forum at the high school where, as the Bee reports, “Dr Erardi said the new Sandy Hook Elementary School... and Newtown High School were excluded from the possibility of closing.” Reed was not excluded from closure consideration as of April 30<sup>th</sup>, yet one month later the June 2<sup>nd</sup> FES states that the Reed School was explicitly not considered for closing. Has the Board received clarification on this last minute change and do you agree with Reed’s exclusion from consideration?
- Since three of the seven school closing options presented in the Facility and Enrollment Study require the use of portable classrooms to accommodate the enrollment predictions for the 2016-2017 school year, why would the Board not also consider waiting just one more year to unlock three additional possible configurations that could prove better for the town of Newtown and the education of our students?

As you formulate your decision regarding the future of Newtown schools, I strongly urge that you review the base assumptions around the closing of Hawley School and also conclude that it is not in the best interest of Newtown nor of its students. Furthermore, if a school closure is forced upon us, there are more financially & educationally viable solutions that present far greater savings to the town with minimal educational disruption (presented above) that should be scrutinized. Please take the time to consider the facts – now is not the time to close Hawley School.

school.

Respectfully,

Michael A. Brennan  
7 Fallen Leaf Lane

**From:** Leah Sterry dr.leahs@gmail.com

**Subject:** Hawley school closing

**Date:** June 10, 2015 at 8:12 AM

**To:** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, lrocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com

**Cc:** erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov, SugrBrk@aol.com, okjl@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkortze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net



Dear Newtown BOE,

My name is Leah Kirshner, my family moved here 3 years ago. We purposely moved here because of the school system. I strongly feel that closing a school at this time will poorly reflect on Newtown. If a school closing was in the picture, it should have happened with the Sandy Hook tragedy.

I also do not agree that the enrollment will stay down as I know many families with small children that have recently (this year) moved to Newtown.

I grew up in Region 12, which is a very small school district; they have been talking about changing their school system as well due to low enrollment. The kindergarten class in recent years have been around 5 kids (that is a reason to close a school). My son's class is 17, which is a normal size class. I really worry that closing a school will increase his class size and drive us to either move from Newtown or put him into a private school. How will the closing affect the class sizes?

I feel the Facility and Enrollment Study does not demonstrate sufficient cost savings to justify closing Hawley School nor any other school in Newtown. I hope you will give thought to these issues as you formulate your decision regarding the future of Newtown schools.

1) The \$14.3M cost avoidance figure, presented as the primary savings driver to the Board of Education budget to close Hawley School, is not a savings to the Newtown taxpayers as the maintenance of the Hawley School building will remain the responsibility of the taxpayers once the building is relinquished to the Town of Newtown.

2) Costs associated with the closing of a school have been mentioned but not yet presented and must be considered to make an accurate savings determination.

3) Cost data to reopen a school, or build a new school, in the event that enrollment reaches the potential high growth projections outlined in the 2014 Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections have not been provided and must be considered as a considerable cost risk to the taxpayer in making a decision on a school closing.

Can you please provide a clear explanation of how the \$14.3 million Cost Avoidance Projects are required and planned within 5 years as they are not represented in full in the 2013/14, 2014/15 nor the 2015/16 CIP?

I appreciate your commitment to Newtown Schools and hope you can agree that, based on its financial implications, closing Hawley School is not in the best interest of Newtown and its students.

Sincerely,

Leah Kirshner

From: Carella-Ashla, Lisa M lisa.carellaashla@uhc.com

Subject: Hawley School Closure Potential

Date: June 8, 2015 at 9:49 AM

To: erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.edu, debbie.leidlein@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, kathyLHamilton@att.net, michelleku.boe@gmail.com, lrocheboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com



Dear Superintendent Erardi and Members of the Board of Education,

I have been staying engaged in the recent communications around low enrollment and the solutioning for it. I respect the challenges you are up against and the difficult decisions that will need to be made. My very logical brain sees the big picture and knows there are tough budget decisions to be made. But as I sit here in front of my computer trying to start my work day, I am distracted by an anxiety that is all too familiar and one that I, and our community, have been working to move past for 2 ½ years.

My daughter is a kindergartener at Hawley Elementary School. She has had the most wonderful year I could have ever imagined for her. I remember walking to my car after the orientation and saying to my husband “do you think all parents feel like they live in a fairytale town when their 1<sup>st</sup> child starts kindergarten?” We laughed and felt on top of the world. We did right by our children by moving to this incredibly special town in May 2013.

I knew when moving here there would be uncertainty about if/when a school would be closed. I knew there were talks of low enrollment issues impacting towns across Connecticut. My husband and I vowed to keep an open mind and to take it one step at a time. With the serious consideration to closing Hawley Elementary school, I feel one of my steps is to express a particular area of concern around intradistrict choice.

My understanding is that Connecticut, and specifically Newtown, allows for intradistrict choice - meaning as a parent I have the right to request my child be sent to a particular elementary school in the district as long as transportation is covered by me. I’m aware that when the decision was made to fund a brand new school building, there was consideration that Sandy Hook families may exercise this intradistrict choice. As you evaluate what school to close and how to re-district, I urge you to consider that there are also parents who weren’t anywhere near the Sandy Hook school that day who are dealing with long term, traumatic stress and these Newtown parents will also want to exercise that intradistrict choice.

When making this very serious decision that will take apart another beautiful Newtown elementary school community, I ask that the decision account for the many parents that will not want to send their child to a site of such extreme horror and devastation, no matter how shiny that new building is. Based on the 50/50 split of those not in favor of building the new school on the Sandy Hook site, I wonder about the potential of having 50% of the Hawley and Sandy Hook school population trying to exercise their intradistrict choice and the downstream impacts to the well-being of our community. I know as educational leaders of this district you know all too well that the passage of time means very little when it comes to the processing of grief and anxiety. The decision to close another Newtown elementary school feels far, far too soon in our town’s healing process.

I am filled with gratitude for how the Board of Education demonstrates deeply caring for all of its families and allowing all voices to be heard. I appreciate this opportunity to privately express my views to you all. I give you my trust for making the best and most sound decision possible after careful evaluation of all perspectives.



Best of luck in the months ahead!

Sincerely,

Lisa Carella-Ashla, MPH  
Senior Director, Strategic Initiatives  
Unitedhealthcare  
P: 203-304-1095  
E: [lisa.carellaashla@uhc.com](mailto:lisa.carellaashla@uhc.com)

“They say time heals all wounds, but that presumes the source of the grief is finite”  
– Cassandra Clare, *Clockwork Prince*

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**From:** Lisa lisa.rizza1@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Hawley School - Future Community Members  
**Date:** June 7, 2015 at 7:12 PM  
**To:** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us

Hello,

My name is Lisa Jackson and I am contacting you about the recent news in regard to the Hawley School being considered for closing. My husband, Joe, and our son Mason (2.5 years old), will be moving to Newtown in the next two weeks. Our decision to move to Newtown weighed heavily on the school system and in particular, Hawley School, as that will be his next school. As you can imagine, we would be devastated if the school closed, as we planned Mason's future under the impression the Hawley school would be where he attends Elementary School.

We spent hours of research on which schools we wanted him to attend and Hawley always came back as the best choice. The school has a historical element, along with traditions and still has that "small" town feel. I can't help but think this school is one of the many things that Newtown takes pride in and one of the "selling" features was the teacher to parent ratio.

I ask you to reconsider or wait to make the decision to close the school until enough research has been conducted and you have had a chance to hear the voice of our community. Will the gain be worth the loss? Possibly from a financial perspective, but money isn't everything and I hope Mason is able to grow up in a community that reflects this moral. We love all things Newtown has to offer and are upset that our life, our family's future, is being clouded by such a sad and unfortunate beginning.

We will be a voice for this community and encourage the Board of Ed to reconsider this decision.

The Jackson's

Sent from my iPhone

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to [NewtownBOE+unsubscribe@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:NewtownBOE+unsubscribe@newtown.k12.ct.us).

June 9, 2015

To the Newtown Board of Education Members:

As a citizen of Sandy Hook for twenty years, a parent whose three children went through the Newtown educational system and an employee of Newtown Public Schools for the past eight years, I felt it important to write you and let you know my thoughts on the possible closing of Hawley Elementary School.

I understand the reasoning behind the possible closing of Hawley School. Enrollment is declining and a brand new state-of-the-art school is being built that can house 500 plus students. However, I do question the cost savings to the overall town budget since the town will possibly take over Hawley School and the necessary improvements to the building will still be needed. Not to mention the cost of repurposing the building. Numbers have never been my strong suit, but somehow this scenario does not add up to much of a cost savings to the Newtown taxpayers!

My husband and I moved to Sandy Hook 20 years ago with our three small children. All three benefitted from a neighborhood elementary school. In fact, our twenty seven year old son still proclaims that his best days were spent at Sandy Hook School! I'm sure the homey feeling our children felt at Sandy Hook School have been experienced by countless Newtown students through the years at all four Newtown elementary schools. The small town feeling of a neighborhood elementary school is one of the things that make Newtown so special and it will be lost by closing Hawley thus creating a "super" elementary school if you will.

For seven years, I coordinated the substitute teacher line. Three years I worked in the Sandy Hook School office as a clerk typist and in January 2012, I started working full time at Hawley Elementary School in the same position. Working in these three capacities has given me a unique perspective on the school climate in Newtown. After 12/14, many staff members were left to fend for themselves. We were given very little guidance and support on how to handle the trauma of such an unthinkable tragedy. By no means am I placing blame on anyone in particular, but that was the general feeling all around. We had to band together to support each other, care for one another, cry on each other's shoulder and last but not least, find a way to grieve while not letting it affect our job of helping the children of Newtown. It was a seemingly insurmountable task, but somehow we rose to the occasion and today each school is it's own "band of brothers."

The opening of the new Sandy Hook School will be an exciting time, but will also bring back a flood of strong emotions for the students, staff and parents of Sandy Hook and all our schools and community. Simultaneously closing Hawley School and blending the two school communities will add to an already difficult and stressful time for our schools and town. If Hawley School must be closed, is it possible for it to happen in a few years when the dust has settled with our Sandy Hook School friends?

In closing, I would ask that you take in to consideration the small cost savings, the loss of a neighborhood elementary school and most importantly the emotional stress the closing of Hawley School will take on our entire school community. The numbers might add up, but the timing does not.

Respectfully yours,

Lisa Petrovich

From: **Alexander, Keith** alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Subject: Re: School closing  
Date: June 11, 2015 at 12:22 AM  
To: lori.colonel@gmail.com  
Bcc: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us



Hello Lorene and Richard,

Thank you for bringing your thoughts and questions to the Board. You are asking many of the same questions that the Board plans to get answers to. We want to consider all aspects and viewpoints in order to decide what we think is best for our students and community so your input is valuable.

--Keith

On Mon, Jun 8, 2015 at 11:42 AM, Lori Colonel <lori.colonel@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Newtown BOE,

I am writing to you to respectfully express my disagreement with the prospect of closing any of the Newtown schools at this time.

1. Closing The Hawley School will leave a town landmark laying idle.. to reopen later when enrollment numbers are up will impose a much greater cost than to fix the current HVAC, etc problems. If, as rumored, it will be used as a new police station, that will require a great commitment of NT money to convert.
2. The SHS will open coinciding with the potential closing of a (Hawley ) school. The influx of students, changing demographics, teacher load, class size, not to mention most importantly the emotional well-being of an already fragile community hangs in the balance. Wouldn't it be prudent to evaluate the costs further, and wait until SHS is up and established to even consider a school closing? The emotional aspects aside (of which I believe are many), the cost of bussing reroutes, more emotional services needed, etc need to be considered. Educationally, larger class sizes are just not in the best interest of our children.
3. What about the \$20K/year Hawley endowment? As well as the current \$74K there?

Please also see the points below:

I feel the Facility and Enrollment Study does not demonstrate sufficient cost savings to justify closing Hawley School nor any other school in Newtown. I hope you will give thought to these issues as you formulate your decision regarding the future of Newtown schools.

- 1) The \$14.3M cost avoidance figure, presented as the primary savings driver to the Board of Education budget to close Hawley School, is not a savings to the Newtown taxpayers as the maintenance of the Hawley School building will remain the responsibility of the taxpayers once the building is relinquished to the Town of Newtown.
- 2) Costs associated with the closing of a school have been mentioned but not yet presented and must be considered to make an accurate savings determination.
- 3) Cost data to reopen a school, or build a new school, in the event that enrollment reaches the potential high growth projections outlined in the 2014 Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections have not be provided and must be considered as a considerable cost risk to the taxpayer in making a decision on a school closing.

Can you please provide a clear explanation of how the \$14.3 million Cost Avoidance Projects are required and planned within 5 years as they are not represented in full in the 2013/14, 2014/15 nor the 2015/16 CIP?

I appreciate your commitment to Newtown Schools and hope you can agree that, based on its financial implications, closing Hawley School is not in the best interest of Newtown and its students.

Respectfully and sincerely,

Lorene and Richard Colonel

121 ALberts Hill Road

Sandy Hook

--  
Respectfully,

**Keith Alexander**  
*Chair, Newtown Board of Education*  
<http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us/>

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From: **Lori Colonel** lori.colonel@gmail.com  
Subject: Response to Dr. Erardi's question Tuesday night, "What would you do?"  
Date: June 10, 2015 at 7:53 AM  
To: erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Cc: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us



Dear Dr. Erardi,

I attended the meeting tonight at Hawley. Thank you very much for answering all the questions posed by the Hawley community. I do not envy your job. It is not lost on me that you have many facets of Newtown to answer to: parents with children in k-12 school, parents with college age students, and senior citizens. I am aware that a great deal of the seniors are very vocal about their desires for Newtown. This is obvious by the failure to pass budgets time and time again. I realize the pressure from that community to close a school. I also understand that many parents did not come to the earlier meetings, myself included. I regret that. Part of that is human nature, if you think it won't affect you, the tendency is to be complacent. You think it won't really happen to you, so you neglect going to meetings. Then that comes back to bite you.

You posed the question tonight, 'what would you do if you were me?' I will come to a conclusion at the end of the email, but let me start by addressing my earlier comments about the seniors living in the community. I understand that the \$1M 'savings' (I put in parentheses bc many of the numbers thrown out there show that there will be little savings if any), seems desirable to that community. Let me propose that the declining enrollment, albeit a projection, WILL become a self fulfilling prophecy if you close a school. Small class size, bolstered community feelings ATTRACT families to towns. Closing a school will, I guarantee you, push people out and lessen the likelihood of families coming to Newtown. What I will say next may not be popular or PC. But it is the truth. Several of my friends who have moved into town specifically asked if they would be SHS. I live on the border and it could go either way. I know of families who would NOT have moved to NT if they would be SHS. I know that is taboo to say, but it is the truth. Keeping another elementary school open will encourage some families who may not otherwise come to NT, to move in.

Next I'd like you to think of the location of Hawley: in the middle of town, an historic landmark. That cannot be ignored. There are many unsold/ unused buildings in town. Do we want one in that central location?

Respectfully, I think of your comment, 'it is the children we are thinking of.' I cannot find in any aspect of closing ANY elementary school that the children are being thought of first. Why do we need a new police station? Can't one of the MANY buildings in Fairfield hills be used for a senior center? If children are our first priority, then what should be considered is their emotional, social, educational well being. To be blunt, if those things are addressed, our testing scores go up, and more people move into town.

We are a very rare community, as you are well aware, to have been through the trauma we have been. To close a school adds insult to injury.

We also know eventually the enrollment will increase. To reopen a school, or build one, will cost more than the maintenance of Hawley. I believe you disagree with this concept, but can we agree to disagree?

So, what would I do? Nothing. Let the school stay open. Let's be honest, we live in Fairfield county. We are not in a deficit. We are not so desperate that we are absolutely compelled to close the school for financial reasons. Let our fragile community heal.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori and Rich Colonel  
121 Alberts hill road  
Sandy hook  
4262565

From: **Lynn Edwards** lebedwards@charter.net  
Subject: BOE meeting location  
Date: June 15, 2015 at 7:53 PM  
To: newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Cc: Erardi, Joe erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us



Good evening,

I noticed that the next BOE meeting location is on the calendar for the Reed library. I would like to respectfully encourage you to reconsider and change the meeting to a location which allows much more seating, such as the NHS auditorium, NMS auditorium, or even Edmond Town Hall. I understand there are concerns about being able to record the meeting, but there simply must be a way to get working microphones in a location with more seating. As I recall, there was at least one meeting in the NHS auditorium after 12/14 that was recorded. With the expectation of large turnouts for this and the other upcoming BOE meetings which discuss a possible closing, it doesn't seem at all appropriate to hold the meeting in a location with the expectation that most attendees would have to stand or sit on the floor crowded and scattered among the stacks in the library.

I hope you'll please reconsider and move it to a location that will appropriately accommodate many more people with seating and a view of those participating. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Lynn Edwards

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**From:** Marci Augustine marci.augustine@gmail.com  
**Subject:** School Closing Options  
**Date:** June 3, 2015 at 2:28 PM  
**To:** newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us

Dear BOE Members -

I was unable to attend last night's meeting, but I did read the presentation and watch the video of the meeting. I want you to know that I appreciate how much work has gone into this issue thus far.

Is it possible to post the results of the enrollment study? The power point only the resulting actions proposed, but not the actual data. I'd like to be able to look at the trends and models that were surfaced.

On a separate note, it feels like this is all being presented to us as a foregone conclusion that a school will have to close and it's all about picking which one. Is there a reason why we are rushing toward the 2016-17 school year? I think that a lot more community input would be helpful here, in a much more direct way than can be accomplished in the typical community forum.

I'd like to see more direct involvement from the community in actually developing which options we are presented with and I think to do that more people from the community have to be involved in the process of developing the options, not just receiving the information and deciding how they feel about it and voicing those opinions. When coming up with the concepts for the new SHS school we had a group of people who got together and then within that group were broken up into small groups to work through different scenarios. I think that this is an even more important topic and would like to be able to see more parents & teachers get more directly involved in the discussion of all of the possible options, not just what we'll do if a school closes.

Thanks,

Marci Augustine  
(mother of 1 SHS 4th grader and 2 SHS Kinders)

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From: **Mary E Burnham** mmjbb@earthlink.net  
Subject: Data and privacy  
Date: May 30, 2015 at 4:45 PM  
To: Newtown BOE NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us

Hi

As some of you may remember, I asked a question when the Newtown Bee held a candidates forum

during the last election- some of you were running for BOE.

I asked how you felt about informing parents about what data is being collected on their children and informing them who/where/when the data is shared with.

All who answered felt that sharing this information with parents was the right thing to do.

I know the BOE has been reviewing policies.

Please read this article (See below). It speaks to my concerns about data and informing parents.

You should know that the bill that is referred to (7017) 1) isn't strong enough and 2) as of now might not even be passed and signed by the Governor.

<http://blogcea.org/2015/05/27/enormous-student-data-disclosure-threatens-student-privacy/>

I think Newtown can be proactive and establish a privacy policy that would not only inform parents of what data is being collected and shared BUT ALSO GIVE PARENTS THE OPTION TO OPT OUT OF ANY DATA COLLECTION.

Mary

Mary E. Burnham  
Sandy Hook, CT

(H) 203-426-3925  
(C) 203-240-5569

"From the child to myself is but a step.  
But from the newborn to the child of five  
is an appalling distance."  
Leo tolstoy, russian author & philosopher (1828-1910)

It is paradoxical that many educators and parents  
still differentiate between a time  
for learning and a time  
for play without seeing the vital connection between them.  
Leo F. Buscaglia

From: **Mary E Burnham** mmjbb@earthlink.net  
Subject: more about K  
Date: May 27, 2015 at 12:30 PM  
To: Newtown BOE NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, Super of Newtown Erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us

<http://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2015/05/26/407762253/out-of-the-classroom-and-into-the-wood>

Kids in the U.S. are spending less time outside. Even in kindergarten, recess is being cut back. But in the small town of Quechee, Vt., a teacher is bucking that trend: One day a week, she takes her students outside — for the entire school day.

It's called Forest Monday.

Eliza Minnucci got the idea after watching a documentary about a forest school in Switzerland <<http://www.schoolsoutfilm.com/>> where kids spend all day, every day, out in the woods.

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Sandy Hook, CT

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From: **Mary E Burnham** mmjbb@earthlink.net  
Subject: another great article 😊  
Date: June 14, 2015 at 10:43 AM  
To: Newtown BOE NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, Super of Newtown Erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Cc: Principal Darcy School Adonny@cheshire.k12.ct.us



<http://lauragraceweldon.com/2012/08/07/reading-readiness-has-to-do-with-the-body/>

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From: **Mary E Burnham** mmjbb@earthlink.net  
Subject: Fw: NYTimes.com: Out of the Books in Kindergarten, and Into the Sandbox  
Date: June 9, 2015 at 8:30 PM  
To: Newtown BOE NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, Super of Newtown Erardjj@newtown.k12.ct.us



Another article regarding K and play...☺👤☐

-----Forwarded Message-----

From: mmjbb  
Sent: Jun 9, 2015 8:13 PM  
To: mmjbb@earthlink.net  
Subject: [NYTimes.com](#): Out of the Books in Kindergarten, and Into the Sandbox

tag represents a promotional piece -->

## K and play

Sent by [mmjbb@earthlink.net](mailto:mmjbb@earthlink.net):

**The New York Times**



## Out of the Books in Kindergarten, and Into the Sandbox

BY MOTOKO RICH

After focusing on raising test scores in math and reading, more school districts are embracing play as a bedrock of early education.

Or, copy and paste this URL into your browser: <http://nyti.ms/1GwO3Ke>

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Sandy Hook, CT

(H) 203-426-3925  
(C) 203-240-5569

"From the child to myself is but a step.  
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Let's take a step further with the 8th anniversary (1999-2010)

Leo Tolstoy, Russian author & philosopher (1828-1910)

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**From:** Mary E Burnham mmjbb@earthlink.net  
**Subject:** Please forgive me  
**Date:** June 14, 2015 at 10:51 AM  
**To:** Newtown BOE NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, Super of Newtown Erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us



But clearly, the pushing down of the curriculum has hit a nerve...another article

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/ideas/2015/06/13/common-core-killing-kindergarten/lydG3pnscVEnTEoELUZWdP/story.html#skip-target1>

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From: **Erardi, Joe** erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Subject: Re: School closing decision  
Date: June 14, 2015 at 8:51 AM  
To: Sean and Melanie smsbmoconnell@yahoo.com  
Cc: Newtown BOE NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us



Melanie

I want to start by letting you know how I so much appreciate the respectful tone you sent your note.....

I will share your thoughts with the school board as they are working really hard to reach a fully informed decision.

My office remains opened if you would like to meet with me in the summer.

Once again, I thank you

JE

On Thu, Jun 11, 2015 at 10:02 PM, Sean and Melanie <[smsbmoconnell@yahoo.com](mailto:smsbmoconnell@yahoo.com)> wrote:

Dear Doctor Erardi,

Hello, I am writing to express my thoughts and concerns regarding the possible closing of Hawley School. I am sure you have been inundated with emails so I will try to keep this short.

I have lived in Newtown for 25 years and have three grown children. My oldest, now 26, attended Sandy Hook School for two years then went to Hawley due to our move within town. Since all three of my children attended Hawley I, of course, have fond memories of the school, as do my children. When my oldest son was told of it's potential closing, he was shocked and saddened. I understand that the mere love of Hawley School by parents, teachers, and alumni is not a compelling reason to keep it open, but, I would like to briefly discuss some other reasons not to close it.

I understand that you have already heard from many people how the unfortunate, tragic events that happened in Newtown make it especially difficult to accept closing Hawley. This situation, unfortunately, makes Newtown unique and this decision harder. This would truly be uncharted waters, ie, sending children from Hawley to the new Sandy Hook School whose teachers are still healing from the tragedy. What compounds the difficulty is that this school is being built on the same land, the same location of the shooting (the decision to re-build the school there was a questionable one at best). I myself cannot even drive by the old driveway without a profound sense of sadness, so imagine how hard it will be for the staff to return. No wonder Hawley parents are against transferring their children there next year.

As you mentioned in the meeting at Hawley, Newtown is a unique town. People with children move into a certain school district and that school becomes like a family. People in Newtown value very much their traditions and history. We love our flagpole, our Ram's Pasture, our Labor Day parade and our historic Hawley School. To change the building into something else would in essence be eliminating a landmark, a part of our history. It would just not be the same if converted to offices.

Lastly, although I am not in favor of closing any school, I do feel if a school closure is really necessary that the Middle School makes more sense. It has long been felt among parents that the school is in very poor shape. When my children went there, the



among parents that the school is in very poor shape. When my children went there, the roof used to leak. Also, the lower level always smelled musty which made me worry about mold and air quality. I have been told that there are also issues with the water, septic and asbestos (I cannot verify that information). It seems like the Reed School, being new and centrally located, would be an ideal new Middle School. Why not put the 5th grade back to the elementary schools and have 6, 7 and 8th grade at Reed. I have spoken to people who work for the town who feel the Middle School would be a better building to repurpose than Hawley.

I appreciate your time. I know this isn't easy. Have a wonderful summer.

Respectfully,

Melanie O'Connell  
[smsbmoconnell@yahoo.com](mailto:smsbmoconnell@yahoo.com)

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From: **Erardi, Joe** erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Subject: Re: Hawley School Closing  
Date: June 9, 2015 at 7:25 AM  
To: **Eigen, Melissa** Melissa.Eigen@macerich.com  
Bcc: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us



Melissa

Thanks for taking the time to share your thoughts and thanks for your kind words. Your balance to the issue is refreshing as this really is a deep emotional issue for the community. I do believe that administration would have been remiss not to have the public conversation; thus, allowing the board to be fully informed on the issue.

I look forward to the meeting this evening and would welcome a continued dialogue with you as the agenda item moves forward.

Respectfully,

JE

On Mon, Jun 8, 2015 at 3:21 PM, Eigen, Melissa <Melissa.Eigen@macerich.com> wrote:

Good Afternoon Dr. Erardi,

I want to start off by thanking you for taking on the Superintendent role for Newtown. Your leadership and communication to the families in Newtown have been instrumental during a difficult time. It's not easy being in a Superintendent position (I imagine) as a positive approval rating of such a public position seems difficult to achieve....even for the best!

I'm writing to share my thoughts and questions on Hawley School closing topic. Some background on me -- my daughter is currently a first grader at the school and my youngest will be starting kindergarten in the 2016-2017 school year. I'm a lifelong Newtowner and a Middle Gate alum!

- The teachers, administrators and EVERYONE on staff has been wonderful. The Hawley community has it right and my child has thrived with the educators at this school. What are the plans for the staff? Would anyone be in danger of losing a job if Hawley were to close? If not, what is the general plan for the staff?
- I live in an area of town where the next street over the children all go to Head of Meadow. I assume my children would also go to Head of Meadow too if Hawley were to close. I am not opposed at all to my children attending Sandy Hook School or any other school for that matter (as a Middle Gate alum I think that is the best school J) After all, SHES, is going to be the best school in the country! I do rely on transportation so wherever my children attend I would need to get them on and off the bus. What is the timeline for sharing the redistrict plans?
- I am opposed to closing Hawley. I'm not going to get into facts and figures that I'm sure you've already heard....but I do think....
  - o Why fix what's not broken?
  - o Historical value of the school should be taken into consideration...it's part of what makes our history and our story so unique and special.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Melissa Eigen Ansman

**From:** Melissa Leyva mgtm1724@yahoo.com

**Subject:** Save Hawley School

**Date:** June 8, 2015 at 3:39 PM

**To:** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, lrocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com, pat.llodra@newtown.ct.gov, SogrBrk@aol.com, okjt@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkortze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net

Dear Newtown BOE,

Based on the following points, I feel the Facility and Enrollment Study does not demonstrate sufficient cost savings to justify closing Hawley School nor any other school in Newtown. I hope you will give thought to these issues as you formulate your decision regarding the future of Newtown schools.

- 1) The \$14.3M cost avoidance figure, presented as the primary savings driver to the Board of Education budget to close Hawley School, is not a savings to the Newtown taxpayers as the maintenance of the Hawley School building will remain the responsibility of the taxpayers once the building is relinquished to the Town of Newtown.
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Can you please provide a clear explanation of how the \$14.3 million Cost Avoidance Projects are required and planned within 5 years as they are not represented in full in the 2013/14, 2014/15 nor the 2015/16 CIP?

I appreciate your commitment to Newtown Schools and hope you can agree that, based on its financial implications, closing Hawley School is not in the best interest of Newtown and its students.

Sincerely,

*Melissa Leyva*

**From:** Melissa Singlak mmacksam@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Hawley School - Financial Implications  
**Date:** June 8, 2015 at 9:58 AM  
**To:** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, lrocheboe@gmail.com, kathyhamilton@att.net, boedeboe@gmail.com, John Vouros jnvboe@gmail.com, dlboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com  
**Cc:** erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, pat.llodra@newtown.ct.gov, SugrBrk@aol.com sugrbrk@aol.com, okjt@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkortze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net

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Dear Newtown BOE,

Based on the following points, I feel the Facility and Enrollment Study does not demonstrate sufficient cost savings to justify closing Hawley School nor any other school in Newtown. I hope you will give thought to these issues as you formulate your decision regarding the future of Newtown schools.

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Can you please provide a clear explanation of how the \$14.3 million Cost Avoidance Projects are required and planned within 5 years as they are not represented in full in the 2013/14, 2014/15 nor the 2015/16 CIP?

I appreciate your commitment to Newtown Schools and hope you can agree that, based on its financial implications, closing Hawley School is not in the best interest of Newtown and its students.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Singlak

From: **Laura Brennan** brennanla@hotmail.com  
Subject: FW: Financial Implications of Closing Hawley School  
Date: June 9, 2015 at 6:13 PM  
To: kathylhamilton@att.net  
Cc: mabrennan79@gmail.com



Dear Ms. Hamilton,

I wanted to personally reach out to support the following email that was sent to you by my husband, Michael Brennan, on our behalf. As articulated below, we strongly feel that the Facility and Enrollment Study does not demonstrate sufficient savings to consider closing Hawley School. As a fellow Republican, and fiscal conservative, I respect your strong desire to balance the educational needs of our town with their financial costs in order to make rational decisions for Newtown and its taxpayers. I ask that you consider the data presented below as strong evidence that the savings are insufficient to consider closing Hawley or any of our Newtown Schools.

I reach out to you personally with confidence that you will thoroughly consider the financial, educational and historical impacts of closing Hawley School. I look forward to continued communication on other important aspects of the decision on closing a school and I trust that you will conclude, as we have, that all of our Newtown Schools, particularly Hawley School, should remain open.

Sincerely,

Laura Brennan

---

Date: Mon, 8 Jun 2015 17:40:28 -0400

Subject: Financial Implications of Closing Hawley School

From: mabrennan79@gmail.com

To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us; alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us;

lrocheboe@gmail.com; kathylhamilton@att.net; boedebbie@gmail.com; jnvboe@gmail.com; dfboenewtown@hotmail.com; michelleku.boe@gmail.com

CC: mabrennan.01@dartmouth.edu; brennanla@hotmail.com; erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us;

SugrBrk@aol.com; okjt@aol.com; james.filan@gmail.com; jkearney19@aol.com;

jkortze@yahoo.com; jgodin1312@gmail.com; mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com;

harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net; pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov

Dear Newtown Board of Education,

I have been a Newtown resident for 28 years, having grown up here as well as chosen to reside in this great town with my wife, Laura (another life-long resident of Newtown), and call this "home" for our family of five where we raise our three children. I am writing to express my concern that the Facility and Enrollment Study does not demonstrate sufficient cost savings to justify closing Hawley School nor any other school in Newtown. The "savings" associated with the proposed consolidation hinges on both a specious cost avoidance, for which the Newtown taxpayers will still be accountable and thus offers little-to-no avoidance at all, as well as an insignificant administrative consolidation savings that is a fraction of the overall budget while offering no educational benefit to the students of Newtown. As you formulate your decision regarding the future of Newtown schools, I strongly urge that you review the financial implications around the closing of Hawley School and also conclude that it is not in the best interest of Newtown nor of its students.

The town was presented with the [Facility and Enrollment Study](#) by Dr. Erardi on June 2<sup>nd</sup> with a cost avoidance of \$14.3M in CIP projects specifically at Hawley School over the next 5 years. This "savings" was presented in a manner such as to be the main financial thrust for not only closing a school but of Hawley School specifically. While I embrace

such as to be the main financial impact for not only closing a school, but of Hawley School specifically. While I embrace the opportunity for our School Budget to examine wasteful spending, the facts do not support the closure of Hawley and the cost-avoidance's are misleading in their attractive appearance. This \$14.3M cost avoidance (from the closing of Hawley School) is not a savings to the Newtown taxpayers since the maintenance of the Hawley School building will remain the responsibility of the Newtown taxpayers once the building is relinquished to the Town of Newtown. Whether residing on the BOE budget or the Town-side budget, it is the Newtown taxpayer who is still accountable for the future costs.

The impact of this savings presents a far more deleterious effect on the town's quality of education, sense of historical place, sense of community, and its real estate value to the Newtown students and taxpayers. The annual savings associated with the closing of the school, as indicated in the FES, is \$1.1M; this represents only 1.55% of the approved 2015/2016 Board of Education Budget of \$71,587,946 and <1% of the \$111M cumulative Town budget. From what has been shared by our leadership and what has been public information to research, the Facility and Enrollment Study does not demonstrate sufficient cost savings to justify closing Hawley School nor any other school in Newtown.

While the enrollment projections are seen as the opportunity to garner savings for the town, closing Hawley School is not worth the cost to the taxpayers of Newtown, nor are there any tangible benefits that this brings to enhancing the educational quality of Newtown students. The limited savings of closing Hawley School are too low versus the unknown cost risks associated with closing and/or re-opening a school in the near future, thus diminishing any financial benefit the taxpayers may be led to believe they could save or avoid; worse off, there is risk that closing Hawley School could cost the taxpayers far *more* in future expenses than they were led to believe they could save or avoid. The BOE will then soon be forced to rectify these costs with protracted Education budget battles year-on-year, as if not already contentious enough, to compensate for the incomplete economic analysis and near-nearsightedness of enacting the FES recommendation.

My specific questions to the Board of Education are as follows:

1. When did the FES Committee identify that \$14.3M in CIP was needed at Hawley School within the next 5 years?
2. Why is the \$14.3M in CIP at such a disparity (both in total cost and timing of implementation) from the most recent April 28, 2015 BOE 2015/16 approved Capital Improvement Plans (CIP), which only accounts for only \$4.5M in CIP (\$800K for the roof in 2017/18 and \$3.7M for Phase II only in 2019/20), while phase III is not even planned in this time-period?
3. Can you please provide a clear explanation of how the \$14.3 million Cost Avoidance Projects are *required* and *planned* within 5 years.
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5. Cost data to reopen a school, or build a new school, in the event that enrollment reaches the potential high growth projections outlined in the 2014 Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections have not be provided. What provisions are being made to consider the cost risk of re-opening a school and its overall financial impact to the taxpayer in making a decision on a school closing?
6. The Facility and Enrollment Study committee is comprised of the principals from five of the seven schools in town, tasked to "examine present and projected enrollment and how this study [FES] will influence facility needs". It is concerning that the school promoted in the FES to be closed had no representation on the committee that recommends which school among them should be closed. To what extent does the BOE feel that they received a full and equally-weighted economic and educational assessment of the impact of a school closure, particularly when the principals from 2 of the only 4 schools considered to-be-closed (specifically, Chris Moretti from Hawley School) were not on this committee? Does the Board feel that those principals not on the committee would have had valuable input to inform the committee to make decisions pertaining to the "Problem of Practice" and what is "best for students" before a recommendation was made?
7. The Facility and Enrollment Study presented on June 2<sup>nd</sup> only provided an economic cost-savings analysis of closing Hawley; where is the analysis performed on Middle Gate, Head O' Meadow and the Middle School? Will this be shared with the public in the same manner?
8. What is the educational benefit that the Board derives from the FES recommended configuration over the current educational model/configuration and what savings does the Board believe this configuration offers to the Town?

The only justifications provided for closing a school have been a \$14.3M potential cost avoidance and a \$1.1M savings projection amid the context of the ascribed enrollment projections. The reality is that the \$14.3M cost avoidance is not avoided since the Newtown taxpayer is still accountable for the building, the savings projected is relatively insignificant and likely to diminish when all associated costs are considered and, while the enrollment projections are a consideration, it alone does not justify the action.

I sincerely appreciate your commitment to the Newtown Schools and hope you can agree that, based on its financial implications, closing Hawley School is not in the best interest of Newtown and of its students. It is not solely due to the lack of a financial benefit to the taxpayers of Newtown that I do not want to see the Hawley School close. I would like see the Hawley School continue to live on, being the first of Mary Hawley's "Seven Gift's" that the town benefactress donated, "as a legacy of kindness and goodwill to a town that is eternally grateful" in order to assure the priceless educational vibrancy this building affords our town through those who grace its halls every day.

Respectfully,

Michael A. Brennan

Michael & Laura Brennan  
7 Fallen Leaf Lane  
Newtown, CT 06470

From: **Mike Brennan** mabrennan79@gmail.com  
Subject: **Concerns on educational merit of FES recommendations**  
Date: **June 16, 2015 at 11:21 PM**



To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, Laura Roche lrocheboe@gmail.com, Kathy Hamilton kathyhamilton@att.net, Debbie Leidlein boedebbie@gmail.com, John Vouros jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, Michelle Embree Ku michelleku.boe@gmail.com  
Cc: mabrennan.01@dartmouth.edu, Laura Brennan brennanla@hotmail.com, Joe Erardi erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, pat.lodra@newtown-ct.gov, SugrBrk@aol.com, okjt@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, John Kortze jkortze@yahoo.com, John Godin jgodin1312@gmail.com, Michael Portnoy mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net, george-ferguson@earthlink.net, jgnewtownct@yahoo.com, lundquist.paul@gmail.com, merola1lc@sbcglobal.net, Ryan Knapp ryan.w.knapp@gmail.com, danielthonan@gmail.com, mjacob4404@charter.net, evalazu@hotmail.com, amaralpoggy@aol.com, nkc@4newtown.com, tonyfiliato@ymail.com, Phil Carroll ppcarroll13@gmail.com

Dear Newtown Board of Education –

I appreciate your taking the time to read my notes on the topic of the proposed closing of Hawley School; I have written to the Board several times at this point and all communication is crafted in the spirit of a constructive dialogue to determine the best course for Newtown. I want to firmly acknowledge and commend the diligent work that this Board, its committees, the Superintendent and all other public servants on this email have contributed and sacrificed to this process. I truly and honestly believe that each one of you is working your hardest to do what you feel is best for Newtown. It is with that passion to do what is right for the children, teachers, the school system and the town that unites us.

It is with this same fervor that I write to the Board to express my continued concern that the proposal at hand to close Hawley School is the wrong choice for Newtown. I have read the [Facility and Enrollment Study](#) proposal to close Hawley School, including the espoused educational configuration benefits and challenges it poses for closing an elementary school.

I have the following questions for the Board:

- “*Early cohort of grade level*” is an implied monadic benefit; what is the *comparative* educational benefit versus the current K-4 model?
- How is the benefit “*Projected space constraints are non-existent*” qualified when Reed was physically designed for two grade levels divided into two separate “houses” when grades 4-6 utilize that space? This is particularly concerning in the first year when grades 4-6 are anticipated to be the highest enrollment ever housed at Reed: 923 students projected in grade 4-6 for 2016/17, or 8 students higher than the largest enrollment at Reed in the year 2005-2006?
- How will the existing Reed two-house design effectively house three grade levels while maintaining the “house”, “cluster” and “open classroom” organization that are crucial to the implementation of the intermediate school teaching and learning philosophy? As well as maintain spaces for personalized services, enrichment programs, etc?
- Can the Board please clarify/quantify the comparative educational benefit of learning in a “*premier school building*” versus a regular school building? Or versus a “non-premier building”? Or versus a historic building (such as Hawley)?
- What weight has been given to the synchronous negative impact of both redistricting AND closing an elementary school in town? Given the emotional pain that this town has suffered and continues to suffer, as well as the re-traumatization that the instability of a potential (let alone *actual*) school closing inflicts, should not the closing of an elementary school be more carefully weighted/considered as a negative?

I have heard arguments made that the longer our students spend in the elementary schools, the more difficult it is to deliver personalized services, such as the choice of band, orchestra or chorus, the ability to take enriched math classes or participate in the gifted program - things that occur when large cohorts come together at Reed. These arguments favor the closing of an elementary school over Reed or the Middle School. I challenge the Board re-consider this assumption for several reasons:

- Early cohort of grade-level at RIS is NOT a prerequisite for implementation of band, orchestra, chorus, enriched math and GATES programs as evidenced by the following:
  - ALL Newtown elementary schools, prior to Reed being built in 2003, had band, chorus and orchestra ([see highlights](#)).
  - A gifted and talented program, entitled *Discovery*, existed in the elementary schools for 4th and 5th graders ([see reference](#)) before early cohorting of grade levels occurred at RIS.
  - As a parent of a 4<sup>th</sup> grader who has been the recipient of such “personalized services” in the elementary school with reading specialist intervention for a unique reading challenge, it has been advised by multiple sources inside/outside the school district to “get it addressed before he goes to Reed when services become harder to get”.

The Newtown School District had grown successfully for over 25 years in the K-5, 6-8, 9-12 model which brought notoriety to the town for its excellence in education. The basis for which a 5-6 school is critical to deliver educational excellence to the town has not been made clear and the Board, if a school closure is mandated, should require that Reed be considered in the full analysis.

Furthermore, the closure of the Middle School (or Reed) as listed in the [Facility and Enrollment Study](#) or the BOF's own [report](#) has almost twice the annual savings as closing Hawley, maintains Hawley's historic place in Newtown, offers a viable facility for the town to re-purpose (as well as for a school in the future) and minimizes disruption to the elementary schools. I am



confident that the Board and town will find a meaningful solution to the 2016/17 space challenges, else delay implementation by one year to unlock additional possible configurations that could prove better for the town of Newtown and the education of our students. The challenges to implement an elementary school closure are deeply significant and far more complex to this town than just an "inconvenience" of re-districting or closing a school.

I hope the Board recognizes the emotional impact that talk of closing an elementary school is placing on the town and its families, many of whom are stressed to the point of exhaustion. There are as many people in town who do not want to see an elementary school close as there are reasons for not wanting its closure – but instigation of this town's emotional fragility would be neglectful. We cannot go forward placing such instability on a town whose fragility is pervasive. There are many in town who will not give up fighting for what is right and demanding our leaders do what is best for Newtown, despite the emotional toll of retraumatization.

I recognize there is no perfect solution to the challenge but I believe that there is the capability within the Board to find an alternative solution at a much lower cost to Newtown. The closing of Hawley School, or any of our Newtown Schools, will require careful consideration to the academic impact of grade configuration, transportation and school start-times. The Facility and Enrollment Study does not demonstrate sufficient cost savings to justify closing a school, particularly at this critical time in our town as we prepare for the opening of Sandy Hook School.

Peter Drucker is quoted in the book *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* (1989 by Stephen R. Covey, p. 101) as saying "*Management is doing things right. Leadership is doing the right things*". There is no question that the Board and its committees are looking to manage the educational and financial situation to the best of their abilities. My appeal to the Board is that its members feel empowered by your constituents to find an alternative to best manage this situation as well as the leadership to do what is right for Newtown and its students. There are many good people in this great, historic town who will support your leadership on this.

I look forward to further discussion on the above.

Respectfully,

Michael A. Brennan

7 Fallen Leaf Lane

From: **Mike Brennan** mabrennan79@gmail.com  
Subject: Financial Implications of Closing Hawley School  
Date: June 8, 2015 at 5:40 PM  
To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, lrocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com  
Cc: mabrennan.01@dartmouth.edu, **Laura Brennan** brennanla@hotmail.com, erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, SugrBrk@aol.com, okjt@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkortze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net, pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov

Dear Newtown Board of Education,

I have been a Newtown resident for 28 years, having grown up here as well as chosen to reside in this great town with my wife, Laura (another life-long resident of Newtown), and call this "home" for our family of five where we raise our three children. I am writing to express my concern that the Facility and Enrollment Study does not demonstrate sufficient cost savings to justify closing Hawley School nor any other school in Newtown. The "savings" associated with the proposed consolidation hinges on both a specious cost avoidance, for which the Newtown taxpayers will still be accountable and thus offers little-to-no avoidance at all, as well as an insignificant administrative consolidation savings that is a fraction of the overall budget while offering no educational benefit to the students of Newtown. As you formulate your decision regarding the future of Newtown schools, I strongly urge that you review the financial implications around the closing of Hawley School and also conclude that it is not in the best interest of Newtown nor of its students.

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Respectfully,

Michael A. Brennan

Michael & Laura Brennan  
7 Fallen Leaf Lane

From: chungfamily4synp@gmail.com  
Subject: Financial impact of school closing  
Date: June 9, 2015 at 10:34 AM



To: Alexander Keith alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, Freedman David dfoenewtown@hotmail.com, Hamilton Kathy kathyhamilton@att.net, Ku Michelle michelleku.boe@gmail.com, Leidlein Debbie boedebbie@gmail.com, NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, Roche Laura lrocheboe@gmail.com, Vouros John jnvboe@gmail.com  
Cc: Erardi Joseph erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, Filan James james.filan@gmail.com, Gaston James okjt@aol.com, Godin John jgodin1312@gmail.com, Kearney Joseph jkearney19@aol.com, Kortze John jkortze@yahoo.com, Llodra Patricia pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov, Portnoy Michael mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, Rogers William sugrbkr@aol.com, Waterbury Harrison harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net

Dear Newtown BOE,

I am a mother of 2 (currently 6th & 3rd grades). Though the possible closing of Hawley School will not directly impact my children, I do feel that it will impact my family both emotionally and financially as we move forward. After doing some basic research, I have a few points, I feel the Facility and Enrollment Study does not properly demonstrate as sufficient cost savings to justify closing Hawley School nor any other school in Newtown. I hope you will give thought to these issues as you formulate your decision regarding the future of Newtown schools.

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Can you please provide a clear explanation of what the estimated 5-year cost burden to the tax payers will be to maintain Hawley School if it is transitioned to the Town?

I appreciate your commitment to Newtown Schools and hope you can agree that, based on its financial implications, closing Hawley School is not in the best interest of Newtown and its students.

Sincerely,

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**From:** Erardi, Joe erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** Re: Larger venue required  
**Date:** June 7, 2015 at 11:57 AM  
**To:** Nancy Gabrielle White nancygwhite@yahoo.com  
**Cc:** newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us

---

Nancy

The executive leadership of the board will have this conversation this week regarding location. This is a bit trickier than what it appears because of the video feed needed for cable TV.

Please get in touch with me at the end of the week for an update.

Thanks for taking the time send this request forward.

JE

On Sat, Jun 6, 2015 at 10:32 AM, Nancy Gabrielle White <nancygwhite@yahoo.com> wrote:

Joe,

Please have all future BOE meetings at a larger venue with microphones so the public can attend and hear what is going on during the school closing discussions. I was in the back row of the last BOE meeting and could only hear about 50% of what was being said. This is even after I spoke up and asked people to talk louder. I expect, and you should all expect, a lot more people coming to the meetings in the next couple months.

Thanks,  
Nancy White - Hawley parent

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

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**From:** chungfamily4synp@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Financial impact of school closing  
**Date:** June 9, 2015 at 10:34 AM



**To:** Alexander Keith alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, Freedman David dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, Hamilton Kathy kathyhamilton@att.net, Ku Michelle michelleku.boe@gmail.com, Leidlein Debbie boedebbie@gmail.com, NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, Roche Laura lrocheboe@gmail.com, Vouros John jnvboe@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Erardi Joseph erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, Filan James james.filan@gmail.com, Gaston James okjt@aol.com, Godin John jgodin1312@gmail.com, Kearney Joseph jkearney19@aol.com, Kortze John jkortze@yahoo.com, Llodra Patricia pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov, Portnoy Michael mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, Rogers William sugrbrk@aol.com, Waterbury Harrison harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net

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**From:** Lisa lisa.rizza1@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Hawley School - Future Community Members  
**Date:** June 7, 2015 at 7:12 PM  
**To:** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us

Hello,

My name is Lisa Jackson and I am contacting you about the recent news in regard to the Hawley School being considered for closing. My husband, Joe, and our son Mason (2.5 years old), will be moving to Newtown in the next two weeks. Our decision to move to Newtown weighed heavily on the school system and in particular, Hawley School, as that will be his next school. As you can imagine, we would be devastated if the school closed, as we planned Mason's future under the impression the Hawley school would be where he attends Elementary School.

We spent hours of research on which schools we wanted him to attend and Hawley always came back as the best choice. The school has a historical element, along with traditions and still has that "small" town feel. I can't help but think this school is one of the many things that Newtown takes pride in and one of the "selling" features was the teacher to parent ratio.

I ask you to reconsider or wait to make the decision to close the school until enough research has been conducted and you have had a chance to hear the voice of our community. Will the gain be worth the loss? Possibly from a financial perspective, but money isn't everything and I hope Mason is able to grow up in a community that reflects this moral. We love all things Newtown has to offer and are upset that our life, our family's future, is being clouded by such a sad and unfortunate beginning.

We will be a voice for this community and encourage the Board of Ed to reconsider this decision.

The Jackson's

Sent from my iPhone

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to [NewtownBOE+unsubscribe@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:NewtownBOE+unsubscribe@newtown.k12.ct.us).

**From:** Erardi, Joe [erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Zoo U, Personalized Learning Games and 3C in Newsweek  
**Date:** June 8, 2015 at 5:58 PM  
**To:** Newtown BOE [NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us)



Informational

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Rob Accomando <[rob.accomando@aviellefoundation.org](mailto:rob.accomando@aviellefoundation.org)>  
**Date:** Mon, Jun 8, 2015 at 1:24 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Zoo U, Personalized Learning Games and 3C in Newsweek  
**To:** "Erardi, Joe" <[erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us)>

Absolutely. I have more support, if needed, but the CU study is very recent and really underscores exactly what we are talking about. Let me know.

Rob

**From:** Erardi, Joe [<mailto:erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us>]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 08, 2015 12:47 PM  
**To:** <[Rob.Accomando@Aviellefoundation.org](mailto:Rob.Accomando@Aviellefoundation.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Zoo U, Personalized Learning Games and 3C in Newsweek

Rob

Are you OK with me forwarding this to the BOE?

JE

On Mon, Jun 8, 2015 at 9:00 AM, Rob Accomando <[rob.accomando@aviellefoundation.org](mailto:rob.accomando@aviellefoundation.org)> wrote:

Joe and Tracey,

I would also add the following article in Education Week in support of our application, which cites a study recently conducted by Columbia University underscoring the value of our proposed efforts. Interestingly, the study showed more than an \$11 return for each dollar invested in SEL development. Again, feel free to pass this on to those that are considering the application.

Rob

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Rob Accomando [<mailto:rob.accomando@aviellefoundation.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 08, 2015 8:31 AM  
**To:** Tracey Jaeger; [erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us)  
**Cc:** [jeremy.richman@aviellefoundation.org](mailto:jeremy.richman@aviellefoundation.org);  
[Curtis.Urbina@Aviellefoundation.org](mailto:Curtis.Urbina@Aviellefoundation.org)  
**Subject:** Zoo U, Personalized Learning Games and 3C in Newsweek

Hi Joe and Tracey,

I am passing on a current Newsweek article in regarding Personalized



Learning Games software and its value in social emotional learning and related skill development. The piece is online now - <http://www.newsweek.com/rise-gaming-good-movement-340198> - and will be in the print version of the magazine this week. While the piece speaks for itself, I do believe it underscores all that we have been saying in support of this initiative. Certainly feel free to pass it on to those who are considering the application.

I look forward to connecting. Thanks.

Rob

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From: **Erardi, Joe** erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Subject: Re: OPINION: School Closing  
Date: June 4, 2015 at 10:43 AM  
To: Robert LaPorta - MSR Classics robert@msrcd.com  
Bcc: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us

---

Robert

I do remember and I think my order.....gourmet nuggets!

Thanks so much for your kind words and thanks for sharing your experience with the consolidation of schools.

Feel free to stop in or call if you would like to continue the conversation.

Thanks

JE

On Thu, Jun 4, 2015 at 8:03 AM, Robert LaPorta - MSR Classics <[robert@msrcd.com](mailto:robert@msrcd.com)> wrote:

Dear Dr. Erardi:

Good morning. You're doing a great job – thank you. I told you so at the Big Y about a month or two ago. Near the sandwiches, remember?!

I'm originally from New Rochelle. Back in the 1970s, New Rochelle has a dip/change in student enrollment, and they had to close schools. However, they made the mistake of improperly mothballing, re-purposing, selling, and even razing the buildings. The shock waves from their incompetence may still be bouncing around down there to this day.

Please be careful in what you decide. We don't need any depressing blighted closed schools in town.

Many thanks!

Regards,  
Robert LaPorta  
8 Dover Circle

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**From:** Erardi, Joe erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** Re: OPINION: School Closing  
**Date:** June 4, 2015 at 10:43 AM  
**To:** Robert LaPorta - MSR Classics robert@msrcd.com  
**Bcc:** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us

---

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Many thanks!

Regards,  
Robert LaPorta  
8 Dover Circle

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**From:** Erardi, Joe erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** Re: School closing  
**Date:** June 14, 2015 at 9:19 AM  
**To:** Rose passerorose@yahoo.com  
**Cc:** Newtown BOE NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us

DE

Rose

Thank you and I will play your message forward to the school board.

JE

On Sat, Jun 13, 2015 at 8:20 AM, Rose <passerorose@yahoo.com> wrote:

I am writing as a Newtown resident of 35 years and a former employee of middle Gate School of 20 years. This is a very emotionally charged issue for this town. Now is not the time to put an issue like this before Newtown residents. The people in this town have suffered enough. It is morally wrong. Time will tell if this is the write step for the Town to make.

A concerned resident,  
Rose Passero

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**From:** Erardi, Joe erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** Re: School Closing Forum  
**Date:** May 28, 2015 at 5:43 PM  
**To:** Russell Anderson russell.frederick.anderson@gmail.com  
**Bcc:** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us

---

Russ

Your respectful tone and manner in which you share your opinion is greatly appreciated.....

I will share your thoughts with the school board.

Thanks for taking the time to do this -

JE

On Thu, May 28, 2015 at 1:37 PM, Russell Anderson <[russell.frederick.anderson@gmail.com](mailto:russell.frederick.anderson@gmail.com)> wrote:  
Dr. Erardi,

I won't be able to make it to the forum tonight, but I was encouraged by the PTA to email you directly with my thoughts on the school closing dilemma. I am a parent of a current second grader and a soon-to-be Kindergarten student at HOM.

While I do not profess to have all of the data, it seems that closing the Middle School is the best bet, with the idea that students from that school could be pushed down to Reed or up to extra, separated capacity at the High School. 5th graders from Reed could be further pushed down to the elementary schools if needed. On an emotional level, no one that I've spoken to wants to see their elementary school or the newest school (Reed) closed. Further, it seems that closing the Middle School may better permit simplification of the bus runs and administrative savings while providing a space in a central location for other possible town projects, such as the considered community center or new police station (which could be converted back when the space is required again).

Thanks for listening.

Best,  
Russ Anderson

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**From:** news8 news8@wtnh.com  
**Subject:** Newtown BOE meeting 6/2/15  
**Date:** June 2, 2015 at 9:32 PM  
**To:** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us

Good evening,

Wanted to reach out to see if there us anyone that can respond tonight regarding the BOE meeting that is discussing the consideration of closing one of the schools in town based on estimates that that the school system could potentially lose about 200 students per year for the near future.

I'm guessing there is no decision being reached tonight, but wanted to see what was discussed, what if any was the overall consensus of the talk? And what is the next step?

Thank you,

Scott Powell  
News 8  
203-784-8801

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From: gainesc@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Subject: FEMA Online Training Course  
Date: May 27, 2015 at 2:53 PM  
To: Newtown BOE NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us

The following email message was sent to all NTBOE staff:

**TO ALL NBOE EMPLOYEES**  
**FEMA ICS-100sca / Incident Command for Schools**  
**Online Training Course**

**CT Public Act 13-3 recommends that all school district employees take the online Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Course, “ICS-100sca – Introduction to the Incident Command System for Schools.” The Newtown Public Schools requires all Administrators and school-based Emergency Response Team (ERT) members to complete the course.**

**The course takes approximately three (3) hours to complete on-line. However, you do not have to take the course all at once. There is no cost to take the course. Upon completion of the course, there is a 20-25 question final exam that is also completed on-line. Passing the exam earns the student a FEMA Certificate of Completion in ICS-100sca, which can be printed out and framed.**

**The Newtown Public Schools District Security and Safety Committee (DSSC) want to make all NBOE employees aware of the opportunity to take this on-line course. The objectives of the course include familiarization with; (1) ICS applications in school-based incidents, (2) ICS organizational principals and elements, (3) ICS positions and responsibilities, (4) ICS facilities and functions, and, (5) ICS planning. In addition, employees will learn the steps to take in order to be accountable for their actions during an incident. To take the ICS-100sca Course, please go to [www.training.fema.gov](http://www.training.fema.gov).**

**Although there is no requirement for employees other than administrators and ERT members to take the course, the DSSC encourages NBOE employees to take advantage of this valuable and cost-free training opportunity.**

**Sincerely,**

**Tom Kuroski, Co-Chair**

**Mark Pompano, Co-Chair**  
**Newtown Public Schools**  
**District Security and Safety Committee**

Carlen Gaines

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**From:** Sheri LeRow sheri.lerow@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Hawley School - PLEASE DON'T CLOSE!  
**Date:** June 10, 2015 at 9:27 PM



**To:** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, Irocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com  
**Cc:** erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov, SugrBrk@aol.com, okjt@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkortze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net, george-ferguson@earthlink.net, jgnewtownct@yahoo.com, lundquist.paul@gmail.com, merola1lc@sbcglobal.net, ryan.w.knapp@gmail.com, danielthonan@gmail.com, mjacob4404@charter.net, evalazu@hotmail.com, amaralpoggy@aol.com, nkc@4newtown.com, tonyfiliato@ymail.com, ppcarroll13@gmail.com

Dear Newtown BOE,

I am writing to express my thoughts related to the potential closing of the Hawley School. I feel very strongly that now is not the time to close a school in Newtown. I ask you kindly to consider the following:

1. The introduction of the Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections, the analysis from which the recommendation to close a school is based, expressly notes, "Because this analysis was conducted less than two years after the Sandy Hook tragedy, it is difficult to discern the long-term effects of that event on enrollments and the variables influencing enrollments. Whether Newtown has reached a new normal, or previously existing trends experienced only a brief disruption remains to be seen over the next couple of years." It continues, "The introduction of full-day kindergarten in 2013-14 is another change likely to have short- and long-term influence on enrollment patterns, but cannot be determined at this time. Especially because of these recent events, Newtown Public Schools should pay close attention to the variables discussed in this report, as changes in any one trend could impact enrollments." I ask you, what is the rush at this time to close a school? Why can't we wait a few years and then reevaluate the enrollment numbers?
2. Of the seven school closing options presented in the Facility and Enrollment Study, three options require the use of portable classrooms to accommodate the enrollment predictions for the 2016-2017 school year. Waiting just one more year opens three additional possible configurations that could prove better for the town of Newtown and the education of our students. Why would we close a school only to have our students have to learn out of portable classrooms? Can you please help me understand why this would be a good thing?
3. Did you know that the year 2021 marks the 100th anniversary of the gift of the Hawley School to Newtown by benefactress Mary Elizabeth Hawley? Wouldn't it be great to be able to celebrate that occasion as a town? We're SOOOO close!!! In closing Hawley School, the only historic school in the Newtown School district, we leave virtually no possibility that it could be reopened as a school in the future; is it sensible, in this historic New England town, to close Hawley School permanently based on a temporary decline in enrollment?

I feel the Facility and Enrollment Study does not demonstrate sufficient cost savings to justify closing a school in Newtown. Should it be considered that a Newtown School be closed to attain savings that equate to less than 1% of the cumulative approved 2014-2015 Town Budget, I believe the evidence above clearly indicates that the 2016-2017 school year is not the time to close a Newtown School. Please wait and don't rush into this. Keeping this school open means so much to me and many other people in Newtown. Once it closes, there is no turning back. The eyes of our fellow statesman and countrymen are upon us as we make this crucial decision (as there are already news articles around the country on this subject) and I urge you to PLEASE demonstrate leadership by voting "No" to the closing of any of our Newtown schools.

Sincerely,  
Sheri LeRow

From: **Sherry Chapman** sherry@cmgrafik.com  
Subject: Timing Implications of Closing Hawley School for the 2016-2017 School Year  
Date: June 10, 2015 at 11:36 PM



To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, Irocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com, erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Cc: pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov, SugrBrk@aol.com, okjt@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkortze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net, george-ferguson@earthlink.net, jgnewtownct@yahoo.com, lundquist.paul@gmail.com, merola11c@sbcglobal.net, ryan.w.knapp@gmail.com, danielthonan@gmail.com, mjacob4404@charter.net, evalazu@hotmail.com, amaralpoggy@aol.com, nkc@4newtown.com, tonyfiliato@ymail.com, ppcarroll13@gmail.com

Dear Newtown BOE ,

Before I go into the reasons I feel strongly that now is not the time to close a school in Newtown. I want to share with you a piece of our story.

We moved to Newtown, CT in 2009. We choose Newtown and we purchased a house in the Borough. This decision was based on the community and the school. We decided we wanted our children to attend Hawley Elementary School. We have two children at Hawley. One who is finishing fourth grade this year and our youngest child who is in first grade. We are very concerned for her education. **We do not want to see our daughter's elementary education scattered across several Newtown schools.** With the proposed closure she could spend second grade at Hawley, third grade at a different elementary and fourth grade at Reed. This is not the elementary education she deserves. This is not the elementary education we invested in when we moved to Newtown, CT. **We invested in a home, in a community, in schools and we have entrusted you the elected officials with this investment.**

I invite you to consider the following:

1. The introduction of the Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections, the analysis from which the recommendation to close a school is based, expressly notes, "Because this analysis was conducted less than two years after the Sandy Hook tragedy, it is difficult to discern the long-term effects of that event on enrollments and the variables influencing enrollments. Whether Newtown has reached a new normal, or previously existing trends experienced only a brief disruption remains to be seen over the next couple of years." It continues, "The introduction of full-day kindergarten in 2013-14 is another change likely to have short- and long-term influence on enrollment patterns, but cannot be determined at this time. Especially because of these recent events, Newtown Public Schools should pay close attention to the variables discussed in this report, as changes in any one trend could impact enrollments."

2. Of the seven school closing options presented in the Facility and Enrollment Study, three options require the use of portable classrooms to accommodate the enrollment predictions for the 2016-2017 school year. Waiting just one more year opens three additional possible configurations that could prove better for the town of Newtown and the education of our students. If we see a better fit of facilities and enrollment

predictions by waiting two more years before closing a school, why recommend a closing now?

**Two more years would give our community more time to heal from the tragedy. Recovery takes time and we ask for your patience. Please wait and allow us the space and time we need to recover. Grant us the security we have found in our familiar elementary school. Grant us the safety of loving friends and school community we have established at Hawley.**

3. In closing Hawley School, the only historic school in the Newtown School district, we leave virtually no possibility that it could be reopened as a school in the future; is it sensible, in this historic New England town, to close Hawley School permanently based on a temporary decline in enrollment? What would it cost to open another elementary in twenty or fifty years? Will closing a school attract new families? What will it do to our real estate market?

I feel the Facility and Enrollment Study does not demonstrate sufficient cost savings to justify closing a school in Newtown. Should it be considered that a Newtown School be closed to attain savings that equate to less than 1% of the cumulative approved 2014-2015 Town Budget, **I believe the evidence above clearly indicates that the 2016-2017 school year is not the time to close a Newtown School.** The eyes of our fellow statesman and countrymen are upon us as we make this crucial decision and I urge you to demonstrate leadership by voting "No" to the closing of any of our Newtown schools.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Sherry Chapman  
4 Knollwood Drive  
Newtown, CT  
203-304-9061

**From:** SOLEDAD AKBAS soledad.akbas@gmail.com

**Subject:** Hawley school

**Date:** June 7, 2015 at 8:54 PM

**To:** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, lrocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com, erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, pat.lodra@newtown.ct.gov, SugrBrk@aol.com, okjt@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkorlze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net

---

Dear Newtown BOE,

Based on the following points, I feel the Facility and Enrollment Study does not demonstrate sufficient cost savings to justify closing Hawley School nor any other school in Newtown. I hope you will give thought to these issues as you formulate your decision regarding the future of Newtown schools.

- 1) The \$14.3M cost avoidance figure, presented as the primary savings driver to the Board of Education budget to close Hawley School, is not a savings to the Newtown taxpayers as the maintenance of the Hawley School building will remain the responsibility of the taxpayers once the building is relinquished to the Town of Newtown.
- 2) Costs associated with the closing of a school have been mentioned but not yet presented and must be considered to make an accurate savings determination.
- 3) Cost data to reopen a school, or build a new school, in the event that enrollment reaches the potential high growth projections outlined in the 2014 Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections have not be provided and must be considered as a considerable cost risk to the taxpayer in making a decision on a school closing.

Can you please provide a clear explanation of how the \$14.3 million Cost Avoidance Projects are required and planned within 5 years as they are not represented in full in the 2013/14, 2014/15 nor the 2015/16 CIP?

I appreciate your commitment to Newtown Schools and hope you can agree that, based on its financial implications, closing Hawley School is not in the best interest of Newtown and its students.

Sincerely,

Soledad Akbas  
Hawley Parent

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From: SOLEDAD AKBAS soledad.akbas@gmail.com

Subject: PLEASE DON'T CLOSE HAWLEY SCHOOL!

Date: June 10, 2015 at 10:16 PM

To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, Laura Roche Irocheboe@gmail.com, Kathy Hamilton kathyhamilton@alt.net, Debbie Leidlein boedebbie@gmail.com, John Vouros jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, Michelle Embree Ku michelleku.boe@gmail.com

Cc: Joe Erardi erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, pat.ilodra@newtown-ct.gov, SugrBrk@aol.com, okjt@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, John Kortze jkortze@yahoo.com, John Godin jgodin1312@gmail.com, Michael Portnoy mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net, george-ferguson@earthlink.net, jgnewtownct@yahoo.com, lundquist.paul@gmail.com, merola1lc@sbcglobal.net, ryan.w.knapp@gmail.com, danielthonan@gmail.com, nijacob4404@charter.net, evalazu@hotmail.com, amaralpoggy@aol.com, nkc@4newtown.com, tonyfiliato@ymail.com, ppcarroll13@gmail.com



Dear Newtown BOE,

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1. The introduction of the Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections, the analysis from which the recommendation to close a school is based, expressly notes, "Because this analysis was conducted less than two years after the Sandy Hook tragedy, it is difficult to discern the long-term effects of that event on enrollments and the variables influencing enrollments. Whether Newtown has reached a new normal, or previously existing trends experienced only a brief disruption remains to be seen over the next couple of years." It continues, "The introduction of full-day kindergarten in 2013-14 is another change likely to have short- and long-term influence on enrollment patterns, but cannot be determined at this time. Especially because of these recent events, Newtown Public Schools should pay close attention to the variables discussed in this report, as changes in any one trend could impact enrollments."
2. Of the seven school closing options presented in the Facility and Enrollment Study, three options require the use of portable classrooms to accommodate the enrollment predictions for the 2016-2017 school year. Waiting just one more year opens three additional possible configurations that could prove better for the town of Newtown and the education of our students.
3. In closing Hawley School, the only historic school in the Newtown School district, we leave virtually no possibility that it could be reopened as a school in the future; is it sensible, in this historic New England town, to close Hawley School permanently based on a temporary decline in enrollment?

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Sincerely

Soledad Akbas

From: **Kathy Hamilton** kathyhamilton@att.net  
Subject: Re: Facility and Enrollment study  
Date: June 15, 2015 at 11:53 AM  
To: **Steve Rosenblatt** stevedot213@gmail.com  
Cc: **John Kortze** jkortze@mac.com



Hi Steve,

I think it would be best if John Kortze answer your question as it is the responsibility of the BOF to pull the CIP together from both the Town and School district. I really can only speak to the school projects.

All My Best,

Kathy

On Jun 9, 2015, at 12:06 PM, Stephen Rosenblatt <[stevedot213@gmail.com](mailto:stevedot213@gmail.com)> wrote:

I would endorse and support the decision by the BoE to close HES and develop the necessary K-12 organization.

My question is, if the building is re-purposed would the CIP cost remain the same?

I would think the building would make a great place for the Police and a Senior Center. Putting the SC in that building would quiet all the chatter over putting it in the proposed Community Center. And it would probably open soon than the CC.

Steve Rosenblatt

From: **Steven Eide** beva53@hotmail.com

Subject: Please Save Hawley

Date: June 8, 2015 at 6:32 PM

To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, lrocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com

Cc: erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov, SUGRBrk@aol.com sugrbrk@aol.com, okjt@aol.com, james.filan@gmail.com, jkearney19@aol.com, jkortze@yahoo.com, jgodin1312@gmail.com, mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net



Dear Newtown BOE,

Based on the following points, I feel the Facility and Enrollment Study does not demonstrate sufficient cost savings to justify closing Hawley School nor any other school in Newtown. I hope you will give thought to these issues as you formulate your decision regarding the future of Newtown schools. If you were to close a school I would expect my taxes to drop by a minimum of \$650 per year. The impact of closing a historical landmark such as Hawley is not worth the miniscual cost savings I am going to see. If you decided to close Reed I would certainly be disappointed in the decision to have built the school and burden myself and the rest of the Newtown tax payers with the cost of the school. In a business environment, some people would be losing their job over such poor planning,

- 1) The \$14.3M cost avoidance figure, presented as the primary savings driver to the Board of Education budget to close Hawley School, is not a savings to the Newtown taxpayers as the maintenance of the Hawley School building will remain the responsibility of the taxpayers once the building is relinquished to the Town of Newtown. As I understand it, the Mary Hawley maintenance fund will also be terminated.
- 2) Costs associated with the closing of a school have been mentioned but not yet presented and must be considered to make an accurate savings determination.
- 3) Cost data to reopen a school, or build a new school, in the event that enrollment reaches the potential high growth projections outlined in the 2014 Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections have not be provided and must be considered as a considerable cost risk to the taxpayer in making a decision on a school closing. If you decide to close a school please don't consider asking for more funds for a new school or for school expansion for a very long time. If you do, I will respond with a NO on any budget presented to me and I would implore my friends and family to do the same. We as town taxpayers can't be expected to continue paying for lack of foresight on the part of the board.

Can you please provide a clear explanation of how the \$14.3 million Cost Avoidance Projects are required and planned within 5 years as they are not represented in full in the 2013/14, 2014/15 nor the 2015/16 CIP?

I appreciate your commitment to Newtown Schools and hope you can agree that, based on its financial implications, closing Hawley School is not in the best interest of Newtown and its students. I would also ask you to remember who we are. We are Newtown and we are different then other towns. The character of the town is based on structures like the flag pole and Hawley School. Start taking them away and you will lose the character

the hay pole and Hawley School. Start taking them away and you will lose the character of the town as well as the kind of people that want to live in that kind of town. What's next, replace the General Store with a McDonald's?

A wise man (my dad) once said to me "be careful what you ask for, you just might get it".

Respectfully  
Steven Eide



From: **Susan and Yun Kee Chung** sychung@charter.net

Subject: Potential School Closing

Date: June 9, 2015 at 10:34 AM

To: **Alexander Keith** alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, **Freedman David** dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, **Hamilton Kathy** kathyhamilton@att.net, **Ku Michelle** michelleku.boe@gmail.com, **Leidlein Debbie** boodebbie@gmail.com, **NewtownBOE** @newtown.k12.ct.us, **Roche Laura** lrocheboe@gmail.com, **Vouros John** jnvboe@gmail.com

Cc: **Erardi Joseph** erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, **Filan James** james.filan@gmail.com, **Gaston James** okjt@aol.com, **Godin John** jgodin1312@gmail.com, **Kearney Joseph** jkearney19@aol.com, **Kortze John** jkortze@yahoo.com, **Llodra Patricia** pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov, **Portnoy Michael** mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, **Rogers William** sugrbrk@aol.com, **Waterbury Harrison** harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net



Newtown BOE and other officials,

Based on the following points, I feel the Facility and Enrollment Study does not demonstrate sufficient cost savings to justify closing Hawley School nor any other school in Newtown. I hope you will give thought to these issues as you formulate your decision regarding the future of Newtown schools.

- 1) The \$14.3M cost avoidance figure, presented as the primary savings driver to the Board of Education budget to close Hawley School, is not a savings to the Newtown taxpayers as the maintenance of the Hawley School building will remain the responsibility of the taxpayers once the building is relinquished to the Town of Newtown.
- 2) Costs associated with the closing of a school have been mentioned but not yet presented and must be considered to make an accurate savings determination.
- 3) Cost data to reopen a school, or build a new school, in the event that enrollment reaches the potential high growth projections outlined in the 2014 Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections have not be provided and must be considered as a considerable cost risk to the taxpayer in making a decision on a school closing.

Can you please provide a clear explanation of how the \$14.3 million Cost Avoidance Projects are required and planned within 5 years as they are not represented in full in the 2013/14, 2014/15 nor the 2015/16 CIP?

I appreciate your commitment to Newtown Schools and hope you can agree that, based on its financial implications, closing Hawley School is not in the best interest of Newtown and its students.

Sincerely,  
YunKee Chung

From: chungfamily4synp@gmail.com  
Subject: School Closing - Now is not the time!!  
Date: June 11, 2015 at 1:06 PM



To: Alexander Keith alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, Freedman David dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, Hamilton Kathy kathyhamilton@att.net, Ku Michelle michelleku.boe@gmail.com, Leidlein Debbie boedebbie@gmail.com, NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, Roche Laura lrocheboe@gmail.com, Vouros John jnvboe@gmail.com  
Cc: Erardi Joseph erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, Filan James james.filan@gmail.com, Gaston James okjt@aol.com, Godin John jgodin1312@gmail.com, Kearney Joseph jkearney19@aol.com, Kortze John jkortze@yahoo.com, Llodra Patricia pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov, Portnoy Michael mike.e.portnoy@gmail.com, Rogers William sugrbrk@aol.com, Waterbury Harrison harrison.waterbury@sbcglobal.net

Dear Newtown BOE,

I feel strongly that now is not the time to close a school in Newtown. The tragedy of 12/14 is still too close to us. We have not completed healing yet. As this new debate has come to us, I have been reminded of all that we went through just a short while ago. Having had 2 children at Hawley School that day and knowing what they heard and went through and hearing helicopters overhead all day at my home, I am feeling re-traumatized by having to fight to protect all of the children in town. We all need more time.

In addition I feel the Facility and Enrollment Study does not demonstrate sufficient cost savings to justify closing a school in Newtown. Should it be considered that a Newtown School be closed to attain savings that equate to less than 1% of the cumulative approved 2014-2015 Town Budget, I believe the evidence above clearly indicates that the 2016-2017 school year is not the time to close a Newtown School. The eyes of our fellow statesman and countrymen are upon us as we make this crucial decision and I urge you to demonstrate leadership by voting "No" to the closing of any of our Newtown schools.

I invite you to consider the following:

1. The introduction of the Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections, the analysis from which the recommendation to close a school is based, expressly notes, "Because this analysis was conducted less than two years after the Sandy Hook tragedy, it is difficult to discern the long-term effects of that event on enrollments and the variables influencing enrollments. Whether Newtown has reached a new normal, or previously existing trends experienced only a brief disruption remains to be seen over the next couple of years." It continues, "The introduction of full-day kindergarten in 2013-14 is another change likely to have short- and long-term influence on enrollment patterns, but cannot be determined at this time. Especially because of these recent events, Newtown Public Schools should pay close attention to the variables discussed in this report, as changes in any one trend could impact enrollments."
2. Of the seven school closing options presented in the Facility and Enrollment Study, three options require the use of portable classrooms to accommodate the enrollment predictions for the 2016-2017 school year. Waiting just one more year opens three additional possible configurations that could prove better for the town of Newtown and the education of our students.
3. In closing Hawley School, the only historic school in the Newtown School district, we leave virtually no possibility that it could be reopened as a school in the future; is it sensible, in this historic New England town to close Hawley School permanently based on a temporary decline in

requesting New England to try to close the school permanently based on a temporary decline in enrollment?

Sincerely,  
Susan Chung

**From:** Erardi, Joe erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** Re: Newtown school closing vote  
**Date:** June 4, 2015 at 10:56 AM  
**To:** higgins00@aol.com  
**Bcc:** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us

---

Susan

Thanks for taking the time to share your thoughts.....JE

On Wed, Jun 3, 2015 at 10:34 PM, <[higgins00@aol.com](mailto:higgins00@aol.com)> wrote:

My vote is for :  
K-3 4-6 7-8 9-12

Most cost efficient  
Less Cons

Great age groups (preparing 7-8 for high school & early morning bus runs)  
(keeping 8th grade away from high school behavior)  
(4-6 great age grouping perfect for Reed)  
(K-3 can't go wrong)

Keeping Middle school open so kids will be closer in town for things to do  
Close Hawley

Good job,  
Thank you  
Susan Gouveia

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From: **Erardi, Joe** [erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us)  
Subject: **Fwd: Response Needed: Session Details**  
Date: June 10, 2015 at 2:38 PM  
To: Newtown BOE [NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us)



Informational

JE

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tamika Childs, Educational Issues** [tchilids@afl.org](mailto:tchilids@afl.org)

Date: Tue, Jun 9, 2015 at 4:05 PM

Subject: Response Needed: Session Details

To: "lisabethkuroski@sbeglobal.net" [lisabethkuroski@sbeglobal.net](mailto:lisabethkuroski@sbeglobal.net), "pescarmonat@newtown.k12.ct.us" [pescarmonat@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:pescarmonat@newtown.k12.ct.us),  
<[pescarmonat@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:pescarmonat@newtown.k12.ct.us)>, "connollym@newtown.k12.ct.us" [connollym@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:connollym@newtown.k12.ct.us), "sullivanj@newtown.k12.ct.us" [sullivanj@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:sullivanj@newtown.k12.ct.us),  
<[sullivanj@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:sullivanj@newtown.k12.ct.us)>, "erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us" [erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us) <[erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us)>

Cc: "Tish Olshefski, Office of the Secretary-Treasurer" [tolshefs@afl.org](mailto:tolshefs@afl.org)



Dear Presenters,

We are looking forward to seeing you next month at the TEACH conference. By now, you should have received confirmation of your attendance for the conference. If not, please contact Heidi Glidden at [hglidden@afl.org](mailto:hglidden@afl.org) or 202-393-7476.

This email provides key details about your session and important deadlines for the program and shipping. Please note that the first deadline is coming up quickly (next week!).

**Session details (due June 5):**

Below you will find your final session details. The description has been edited for length and consistency for the printed program. Please review this information and contact us by Friday, June 5 if you have any changes. If we receive your changes after the 5th, we will not be able to include them in the printed program, but we will be able to include them on the website.

Your session is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 15, 2015 at 8:00 AM.**

**Title**

*Transforming the State of Your Union*

**Description**

*The presentation will take us from where we were (2012) to where we are today. The focus will be on the many collaborative initiatives taking place between the Newtown Federation of Teachers and the Newtown Board of Education designed to help improve communication, climate and culture throughout the educational community.*

**Presenters:**

*Tom Kuroski  
Tom Pescarmona  
Mary Connolly  
John Sullivan  
Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr.*

**You have requested the following A/V:**

*Chart paper, easel, markers, LCD, sound*

**Bio details (due July 1):**

Following this email, each of you will receive a personal email with a unique url. This url will allow you to upload your bio and photo to the mobile app. Please complete your online profile by **Wednesday, July 1.**

**Materials:**

- If you have materials you would like printed for your attendees, please send us your documents (preferably in pdf) by **Saturday, June 20**. We will have them waiting for you in your session room.
- If you have materials you would like available to your session participants but not printed, please send us your documents and videos by **Wednesday, July 1**. We will upload them to the mobile app after your session.
- If you plan to send your materials in advance, but do not need anything printed by us, your shipment should arrive at the AFT by **Wednesday, July 1**. After that date, you will need to carry your materials with you.

We will be back in touch in a few weeks with details on your assigned room and setup. If you have any questions, please let us know.

---

Tamika Childs

Administrative Assistant | Educational Issues Dept.

T: [202-393-6388](tel:202-393-6388) | F: [202-393-6371](tel:202-393-6371) | E: [tchilds@aft.org](mailto:tchilds@aft.org)

American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO  
555 New Jersey Ave. N.W. | Washington, DC 20001 | [202-879-4400](tel:202-879-4400)  
[www.aft.org](http://www.aft.org) | [www.facebook.com/AFTunion](https://www.facebook.com/AFTunion) | [www.twitter.com/AFTunion](https://www.twitter.com/AFTunion)

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From: **Theresa Diaspro** teebarr@charter.net  
Subject: Save our Schools  
Date: June 12, 2015 at 2:01 PM  
To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us, alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us, lrocheboe@gmail.com, kathylhamilton@att.net, boedebbie@gmail.com, jnvboe@gmail.com, dfboenewtown@hotmail.com, michelleku.boe@gmail.com  
Cc: erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us, pat.lodra@newtown-ct.gov



Dear Newtown BOE,

Hello. Thank you for taking the time to read my note. I also appreciate the time you gave the Hawley Families on Tuesday night to discuss this very important topic.

We really feel strongly, (if you haven't noticed ;0)) that you should not be closing any Newtown schools right now. What is the Rush???! We still need time to heal and figure out where we are, after the incredibly hard opening of the new Sandy Hook School. That opening will be so devastating for all of us. More of course for those going to Sandy Hook, but we will be there for our Sandy Hook Families as they have to relive one of the hardest days of their lives. As we will too. I am not sure you have a grasp on how that day effected all of us in Newtown....those with Children in Newtown. There are still many days where many of us still cry over the thoughts of that day. We are not healed. A simple sign, or fundraiser, or 5k....brings tears to my eyes. Please don't knock us down any more. There is not much more we can take. I think about all the time us parents are giving to this campaign. Late nights.....rushing while they are in school, as to not take away time with our children. We are putting all in....so they can continue to shine. This is just another distraction for us.....I want to focus on my children. Hoping that you will tell us that you will vote no to closing our school. Our second home.

It also doesn't make sense as closing any of the 7 schools, will result in needing portable classroom in a few years. Also, during the 2016-2017 school year, if Hawley School is to close, the Reed Intermediate School will be filled to near capacity at a projected 923 students (largest enrollment in 2005-2006; 915 students).

Also, your enrollment numbers are absolutely skewed. They would have to be after the tragedy we endured. As you know the November 2014 Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections was used by the Facility and Enrollment Study Committee to make their school closing recommendation. In the introduction of this report, it expressly notes, "Because this analysis was conducted less than two years after the Sandy Hook tragedy, it is difficult to discern the long-term effects of that event on enrollments and the variables influencing enrollments. Whether Newtown has reached a new normal, or previously existing trends experienced only a brief disruption remains to be seen over the next couple of years." It continues, "The introduction of full-day kindergarten in 2013-14 is another change likely to have short- and long-term influence on enrollment patterns, but cannot be determined at this time. Especially because of these recent events, Newtown Public Schools should pay close attention to the variables discussed in this report, as changes in any one trend could impact enrollments." That being said, the numbers are not as accurate as they could be. This leads me to think we need more time to see how the cycle of events turn out.

In addition, the November 2014 Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections cautions, "We must point out that the opening of the new Sandy Hook school could significantly alter these projections, as the new facility may serve to attract new families to the Sandy Hook district. It is impossible to factor that externality into these projections at this time, when the new school will not be populated for at least another two school years. " So with all this unknown, how do we make such a huge decision that will CRUSH so many. I don't see this helping the children at all. If you are saying your #1 priority is our children, then please tell me how this is helping any of them. IT IS NOT!! This has caused such anxiety for these little ones especially. I have heard many stories of the Kindergartners and 1st graders coming home crying with news that their beloved Hawley is closing. Don't let them lose their 2nd home. Don't pull them away from their classmates and

teachers. And please, please do not use the fact that Newtown is a very welcoming town against us. Please don't say the kids will adapt quickly. They really should not have to. They are too little to have to deal with all this. Studies have shown that this will only hurt them. So again I ask, how is this helping the children?

WHY close now? Please tell me. Is there something we don't know? Do you already have plans? Then what is the rush?

How do we close Hawley, with virtually no possibility of reopening it. If we have to pay more taxes in 10 years to open a new school, that will not go over well with anyone. Everyone will look very foolish.

You are hurting our town in so many ways. Please end this now on a happy note so we can move on and continue to heal.

I urge you, I beg you, to demonstrate leadership by voting "No" to the closing of any of our Newtown schools.

Sincerely,

Theresa and Joe Diaspro



**From:** Alexander, Keith alexanderk\_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** Re: ASK - Asking Saves Kids  
**Date:** June 4, 2015 at 11:27 PM  
**To:** danburybradychapter@gmail.com  
**Bcc:** NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us

Hello Tom,

Child safety is top on the list at Newtown Public Schools. I will work with the administration to get this information out to our families.

--Keith

On Tue, Jun 2, 2015 at 9:33 AM, Tom Campbell <[danburybradychapter@gmail.com](mailto:danburybradychapter@gmail.com)> wrote:  
Mr. Keith Alexander

The Brady Campaign has been actively supporting ASK (Asking Saves Kids) since its inception 15 years ago. We recently requested Pat Llodra to issue a Proclamation acknowledging June 21 as ASK Day in an effort to 'spread the word' in time for the start of summer. She suggested that the BOE might be a very effective vehicle in this regard. Would you help us distribute ASK information to local households through flyers or electronic means?

The basic concept of ASK is to get parents and guardians to check on the safe storage of guns and ammunition whenever they are arranging play-dates for their kids with friends, neighbors, and relatives.

Far too many accidents occur when kids and adolescents find unlocked, and usually loaded, guns in their own and others' homes; the national numbers - 10 shootings with 2-3 fatalities per week - are probably understated due to inconsistent reporting requirements throughout the country.

**But, simply by ASK-ing a question, we can save lives and avoid horrible injuries.**

Sadly no town is immune to additional heartbreak from a child finding a loaded gun. I know December 14 remains a lasting burden on the community and I think your neighbors would appreciate a common sense approach to prevent further tragedy. As someone who has lost a family member years ago when a neighbor left his service revolver in a bureau drawer for his adolescent son to find and use, I can speak directly to these heartbreaks.

Please take a look at the attached ASK flyer and visit <http://askingsaveskids.org/> for more information on the program. I will be delighted to address any lingering questions or comments.

As a postscript, our Brady Chapter covers Greater Danbury so we are asking for help from all the towns in that footprint. We work closely with other like-minded groups to prevent gun violence including The Newtown Foundation where I am a board member.

--

Tom Campbell, President  
The Brady Campaign  
Greater Danbury Chapter

Facebook: Greater Danbury Brady Chapter

--  
Respectfully,

**Keith Alexander**  
*Chair, Newtown Board of Education*  
<http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us/>

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From: **Wendy Nielsen** woncoach@gmail.com  
Subject: Concerned citizen  
Date: June 10, 2015 at 8:30 PM  
To: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us



Dear Newtown BOE,

I feel strongly that now is not the time to close a school in Newtown. I invite you to consider the following:

1. The introduction of the Newtown Comprehensive School Enrollment Analysis and Projections, the analysis from which the recommendation to close a school is based, expressly notes, "Because this analysis was conducted less than two years after the Sandy Hook tragedy, it is difficult to discern the long-term effects of that event on enrollments and the variables influencing enrollments. Whether Newtown has reached a new normal, or previously existing trends experienced only a brief disruption remains to be seen over the next couple of years." It continues, "The introduction of full-day kindergarten in 2013-14 is another change likely to have short- and long-term influence on enrollment patterns, but cannot be determined at this time. Especially because of these recent events, Newtown Public Schools should pay close attention to the variables discussed in this report, as changes in any one trend could impact enrollments."
2. Of the seven school closing options presented in the Facility and Enrollment Study, three options require the use of portable classrooms to accommodate the enrollment predictions for the 2016-2017 school year. Waiting just one more year opens three additional possible configurations that could prove better for the town of Newtown and the education of our students.
3. In closing Hawley School, the only historic school in the Newtown School district, we leave virtually no possibility that it could be reopened as a school in the future; is it sensible, in this historic New England town, to close Hawley School permanently based on a temporary decline in enrollment?

I feel the Facility and Enrollment Study does not demonstrate sufficient cost savings to justify closing a school in Newtown. Should it be considered that a Newtown School be closed to attain savings that equate to less than 1% of the cumulative approved 2014-2015 Town Budget, I believe the evidence above clearly indicates that the 2016-2017 school year is not the time to close a Newtown School. The eyes of our fellow statesman and countrymen are upon us as we make this crucial decision and I urge you to demonstrate leadership by voting "No" to the closing of any of our Newtown schools.

Sincerely,  
Wendy N  
Sent from my iPhone

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**NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT  
MAY 31, 2015**

**SUMMARY**

The attached is the eleventh financial report for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. During the month of May, the Board of Education spent approximately \$4.6M; \$3.5M on salaries, \$128K for benefits, and \$990K for all other objects. All the main object accounts on the first page are in a positive balance position.

The “Anticipated Obligations” reflect the best current estimate for expenditures beyond active encumbrance for the remainder of the year. The entries here now include the final amounts for the offsetting receipts related to the excess cost and agency placement grants which were received in May. The Offsetting Revenue report following the financial details the specific receipts by category.

Positive balances have become more evident in accounts as we approach the end of the year. The initially identified problem accounts of Homebound Tutors, Professional Services, Out of District Tuition, and Electricity are still the problem accounts. Relief in other areas and last month’s transfers has allowed the opportunity to purchase items previously on hold in the areas of supplies, textbooks, and maintenance.

This budget is extremely tight and will be carefully monitored. As you can see there is no predictable balance. Final obligation review will be ongoing from now until the end the fiscal year to remain within the overall allotted budget.

**EXPENSE CATEGORY CONDITIONS**

**100 SALARIES**

The total salary budget will be adequate to continue all the planned services to the end of the year with a decreased projected balance in certified salaries. An additional \$24,000 is now required for vacation accumulation payout for administrators that are leaving and retiring. Homebound tutors continue to require additional funding due to increased student needs. May alone identified the additional need for \$25,000, a similar amount expected for June. The anticipated non-certified balance has declined due to increased extra work in the district, custodial overtime to keep up with end of year requirements and additional special education substitute Paras along with behavior therapy services.

## **200 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

Current estimates are on track with minimal change.

## **300 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Professional services which include legal services (special education & regular), psychological and medical evaluations, and speech & hearing services are expected to continue to exceed budget by about \$20,000. The balance in Professional Education Services has declined by about \$10,000 due to increased activity in this area as funding restrictions have been relaxed.

## **400 PURCHASED PROPERTY SERVICES**

This group of accounts provides services necessary to keep the buildings running, along with classrooms repairs and rentals. Building emergency repairs continue to occur and are expected to exceed last months' estimated need by another \$10,000 for a total of approximately \$26,000. We have placed a temporary hold on the maintenance garage repair in building and site improvements line for \$20,000 until we become more certain of final balances.

## **500 OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES**

The Out of District Tuition account will continue to be in the red by about \$165,000. Transportation may provide a balance of \$5,000 and contracted services balance can range from \$5,000 to \$11,000.

## **600 SUPPLIES**

This group of accounts includes the electricity, gas, fuel, along with supplies, materials, and textbooks. Additional available funds have been spent on supplies for the schools during this month as the primary reason for this balance declining.

## **700 PROPERTY**

Current estimates continue to be on track with no change.

## **800 MISCELLANEOUS**

Current estimates continue to be on track with no change.

## **REVENUE**

The final payment for High School spring pay for sports participation of \$25,568 has been received in May.

## **OFFSETTING REVENUE**

The column titled 'Anticipated' now reflects the final receipt on the Excess Cost and Agency Placement Grants. The total for the year is \$1,338,377.

The budget will continue to be carefully monitored.

### **Note:**

*An issue has developed, where I have only recently been notified that there will be a required diesel fuel liquidation because the Town has not purchased all the gallonage they contracted for. The quantity the Board will be responsible for has not been determined and the situation requires more investigation as we reduced our expected quantity for this year based on a similar occurrence last year. This will result in an unanticipated expense that will need to be accommodated in our final month of operation.*

Ron Bienkowski  
Director of Business  
June 17, 2015

## **TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**

The Newtown Board of Education's Monthly Financial Report provides summary financial information in the following areas:

- Object Code – a service or commodity obtained as the result of a specific expenditure defined by eight categories: Salaries, Employee Benefits, Professional Services, Purchased Property Services, Other Purchased Services, Supplies, Property, and Miscellaneous.
- Expense Category – further defines the type of expense by Object Code
- Expended 2013-14 – actual (audited) expenditures of the prior fiscal year (for comparison purposes)
- Approved Budget – indicates the town approved financial plan used by the school district to achieve its goals and objectives.
- YTD Transfers - identified specific cross object codes requiring adjustments to provide adequate funding for the fiscal period. This includes all transfers made to date.
- Current Transfers – identifies the recommended cross object codes for current month action. (No current transfers indicated)
- Current Budget – adjusts the Approved Budget calculating adjustments (+ or -) from transfers to the identified object codes.
- Year-To-Date Expended – indicates the actual amount of cumulative expenditures processed by the school district through the month-end date indicated on the monthly budget summary report.
- Encumbered – indicates approved financial obligations of the school district as a result of employee salary contracts, purchasing agreements, purchase orders, or other identified obligations not processed for payment by the date indicated on the monthly budget summary report.
- Balance – calculates object code account balances, subtracting expenditures and encumbrances from the current budget amount, indicating unobligated balances or shortages.
- Anticipated Obligation – is a column which provides a method to forecast expense category fund balances that have not been approved via an encumbrance, but are anticipated to be expended or remain with an account balance to maintain the overall budget funding level. Receivable revenue (i.e., grants) are now included in this column which has the effect of netting the expected expenditure.

- Projected Balance – calculates the object code balances subtracting the Anticipated Obligations. These balances will move up and down as information is known and or decisions are anticipated or made about current and projected needs of the district.

The monthly budget summary report also provides financial information on the State of Connecticut grant reimbursement programs (Excess Cost and Agency Placement Grants and Magnet Grant Transportation). These reimbursement grants/programs are used to supplement local school district budget programs as follows:

Excess Cost Grant – this State of Connecticut reimbursement grant is used to support local school districts for education costs of identified special education students whose annual education costs exceed local prior year per pupil expenditure by 4 ½. Students placed by the Department of Child and Family services (DCF) are reimbursed after the school district has meet the prior year’s per pupil expenditure. School districts report these costs annually in December and March of each fiscal year. State of Connecticut grant calculations are determined by reimbursing eligible costs (60%-100%) based on the SDE grant allocation and all other town submittals. Current year receipts results from the state reporting done in December. We receive notice of what we are eligible for in early April.

Magnet Transportation Grant – provides reimbursement of \$1,300 for local students attending approved Magnet school programs. The budgeted grant is \$62,400 for this year while the expected receipt is now \$67,600.

The last portion of the monthly budget summary reports school generated revenue fees that are anticipated revenue to the Town of Newtown, Fees include:

- High school fees for three identified programs with the highest amount of fees anticipated from the high school sports participation fees.
- Building related fees for the use of the high school pool facility, and
- Miscellaneous fees.

## NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

## BUDGET SUMMARY REPORT

FOR THE MONTH ENDING - MAY 31, 2015

OBJECT CODE	EXPENSE CATEGORY	EXPENDED 2013 - 2014	YTD				YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBER	BALANCE	ANTICIPATED OBLIGATIONS	PROJECTED BALANCE
			APPROVED BUDGET	TRANSFERS 2014 - 2015	CURRENT TRANSFERS	CURRENT BUDGET					
<b><u>GENERAL FUND BUDGET</u></b>											
100	SALARIES	\$ 45,029,126	\$ 44,999,627	\$ (165,000)	\$ -	\$ 44,834,627	\$ 37,538,244	\$ 7,099,993	\$ 196,390	\$ 150,583	\$ 45,807
200	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$ 10,633,809	\$ 11,169,344	\$ (18,000)	\$ -	\$ 11,151,344	\$ 10,836,706	\$ 67,378	\$ 247,260	\$ 224,450	\$ 22,810
300	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$ 863,909	\$ 749,083	\$ 165,000	\$ -	\$ 914,083	\$ 737,894	\$ 122,972	\$ 53,218	\$ 54,125	\$ (908)
400	PURCHASED PROPERTY SERV.	\$ 2,418,651	\$ 2,139,419	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,139,419	\$ 1,878,162	\$ 181,561	\$ 79,696	\$ 62,152	\$ 17,544
500	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$ 6,809,463	\$ 7,197,647	\$ 5,600	\$ -	\$ 7,203,247	\$ 6,276,491	\$ 879,599	\$ 47,157	\$ 189,299	\$ (142,142)
600	SUPPLIES	\$ 4,619,171	\$ 4,480,093	\$ 12,400	\$ -	\$ 4,492,493	\$ 3,749,180	\$ 429,509	\$ 313,804	\$ 265,063	\$ 48,741
700	PROPERTY	\$ 552,547	\$ 534,735	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 534,735	\$ 474,924	\$ 46,715	\$ 13,096	\$ 11,116	\$ 1,980
800	MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 71,445	\$ 75,356	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,356	\$ 66,551	\$ 375	\$ 8,430	\$ -	\$ 8,430
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET</b>		\$ 70,998,119	\$ 71,345,304	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 71,345,304	\$ 61,558,151	\$ 8,828,102	\$ 959,051	\$ 956,788	\$ 2,263
900	TRANSFER NON-LAPSING	\$ 47,185									
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		\$ 71,045,304	\$ 71,345,304	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 71,345,304	\$ 61,558,151	\$ 8,828,102	\$ 959,051	\$ 956,788	\$ 2,263

( Audited )



NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

BUDGET SUMMARY REPORT

FOR THE MONTH ENDING - MAY 31, 2015

OBJECT CODE	EXPENSE CATEGORY	EXPENDED 2013 - 2014	YTD				YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBER	BALANCE	ANTICIPATED OBLIGATIONS	PROJECTED BALANCE
			APPROVED BUDGET	TRANSFERS 2014 - 2015	CURRENT TRANSFERS	CURRENT BUDGET					
<b>100</b>	<b>SALARIES</b>										
	Administrative Salaries	\$ 3,013,832	\$ 2,969,510	\$ 11,950		\$ 2,981,460	\$ 2,719,941	\$ 271,761	\$ (10,242)	\$ 14,404	\$ (24,646)
	Teachers & Specialists Salaries	\$ 30,557,381	\$ 30,434,118	\$ (188,828)	\$ -	\$ 30,245,290	\$ 24,425,483	\$ 5,764,872	\$ 54,935	\$ 7,266	\$ 47,669
	Early Retirement	\$ 16,000	\$ 32,000	\$ -		\$ 32,000	\$ 32,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Continuing Ed./Summer School	\$ 85,584	\$ 89,175	\$ 763		\$ 89,938	\$ 86,414	\$ 3,414	\$ 110	\$ -	\$ 110
	Homebound & Tutors Salaries	\$ 388,172	\$ 243,875	\$ 71,405		\$ 315,280	\$ 307,334	\$ 18,940	\$ (10,994)	\$ 18,829	\$ (29,823)
	Certified Substitutes	\$ 599,679	\$ 641,325	\$ (90,000)		\$ 551,325	\$ 476,286	\$ 27,270	\$ 47,769	\$ 26,000	\$ 21,769
	Coaching/Activities	\$ 524,130	\$ 529,749	\$ -		\$ 529,749	\$ 517,857	\$ -	\$ 11,892	\$ 7,370	\$ 4,522
	Staff & Program Development	\$ 172,357	\$ 199,768	\$ -		\$ 199,768	\$ 133,840	\$ 50,873	\$ 15,055	\$ 14,000	\$ 1,055
	<b>CERTIFIED SALARIES</b>	<b>\$ 35,357,135</b>	<b>\$ 35,139,520</b>	<b>\$ (194,710)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 34,944,810</b>	<b>\$ 28,699,155</b>	<b>\$ 6,137,130</b>	<b>\$ 108,525</b>	<b>\$ 87,869</b>	<b>\$ 20,656</b>
	Supervisors/Technology Salaries	\$ 628,445	\$ 634,244	\$ 10,632		\$ 644,876	\$ 578,433	\$ 65,284	\$ 1,160	\$ (730)	\$ 1,890
	Clerical & Secretarial salaries	\$ 1,961,645	\$ 2,001,381	\$ 9,090		\$ 2,010,471	\$ 1,793,211	\$ 216,047	\$ 1,213	\$ 5,600	\$ (4,387)
	Educational Assistants	\$ 2,007,432	\$ 1,957,487	\$ 136,710		\$ 2,094,197	\$ 1,899,107	\$ 193,255	\$ 1,835	\$ 7,200	\$ (5,365)
	Nurses & Medical advisors	\$ 647,415	\$ 658,255	\$ -		\$ 658,255	\$ 568,671	\$ 67,692	\$ 21,892	\$ -	\$ 21,892
	Custodial & Maint Salaries	\$ 2,807,655	\$ 2,857,565	\$ (23,753)		\$ 2,833,812	\$ 2,528,582	\$ 288,194	\$ 17,037	\$ 2,800	\$ 14,237
	Non Certified Salary Adjustment	\$ -	\$ 66,716	\$ (30,670)		\$ 36,046	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,046	\$ 27,258	\$ 8,788
	Career/Job salaries	\$ 112,160	\$ 222,898	\$ (22,342)		\$ 200,556	\$ 183,008	\$ 18,626	\$ (1,077)	\$ 500	\$ (1,577)
	Special Education Svcs Salaries	\$ 727,151	\$ 928,549	\$ (50,150)		\$ 878,399	\$ 764,626	\$ 96,365	\$ 17,407	\$ 2,000	\$ 15,407
	Attendance & Security Salaries	\$ 381,784	\$ 209,824	\$ 193		\$ 210,017	\$ 195,305	\$ 16,711	\$ (1,999)	\$ 900	\$ (2,899)
	Extra Work - Non-Cert	\$ 76,137	\$ 69,825	\$ -		\$ 69,825	\$ 74,388	\$ 690	\$ (5,253)	\$ 3,000	\$ (8,253)
	Custodial & Maint. Overtime	\$ 280,772	\$ 210,363	\$ -		\$ 210,363	\$ 218,090	\$ -	\$ (7,727)	\$ 6,000	\$ (13,727)
	Civic activities/Park & Rec	\$ 41,394	\$ 43,000	\$ -		\$ 43,000	\$ 35,668	\$ -	\$ 7,332	\$ 8,186	\$ (854)
	<b>NON-CERTIFIED SALARIES</b>	<b>\$ 9,671,991</b>	<b>\$ 9,860,107</b>	<b>\$ 29,710</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 9,889,817</b>	<b>\$ 8,839,088</b>	<b>\$ 962,863</b>	<b>\$ 87,865</b>	<b>\$ 62,714</b>	<b>\$ 25,151</b>
	<b>SUBTOTAL SALARIES</b>	<b>\$ 45,029,126</b>	<b>\$ 44,999,627</b>	<b>\$ (165,000)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 44,834,627</b>	<b>\$ 37,538,244</b>	<b>\$ 7,099,993</b>	<b>\$ 196,390</b>	<b>\$ 150,583</b>	<b>\$ 45,807</b>

## NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

## BUDGET SUMMARY REPORT

FOR THE MONTH ENDING - MAY 31, 2015

OBJECT CODE	EXPENSE CATEGORY	EXPENDED 2013 - 2014	YTD				YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBER	BALANCE	ANTICIPATED OBLIGATIONS	PROJECTED BALANCE
			APPROVED BUDGET	TRANSFERS 2014 - 2015	CURRENT TRANSFERS	CURRENT BUDGET					
<b>200</b>	<b>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>										
	Medical & Dental Expenses	\$ 8,206,890	\$ 8,736,119	\$ (18,000)		\$ 8,718,119	\$ 67,378	\$ 11,723	\$ 6,520	\$ 5,203	
	Life Insurance	\$ 87,200	\$ 87,337	\$ -		\$ 87,337	\$ -	\$ 9,923	\$ 7,086	\$ 2,837	
	FICA & Medicare	\$ 1,357,437	\$ 1,335,674	\$ -		\$ 1,335,674	\$ -	\$ 187,061	\$ 189,561	\$ (2,500)	
	Pensions	\$ 458,311	\$ 441,667	\$ -		\$ 441,667	\$ -	\$ 675	\$ 580	\$ 95	
	Unemployment & Employee Assist.	\$ 61,034	\$ 83,560	\$ -		\$ 83,560	\$ -	\$ 32,570	\$ 20,703	\$ 11,867	
	Workers Compensation	\$ 462,937	\$ 484,987	\$ -		\$ 484,987	\$ -	\$ 5,307	\$ -	\$ 5,307	
	<b>SUBTOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>	<b>\$ 10,633,809</b>	<b>\$ 11,169,344</b>	<b>\$ (18,000)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 11,151,344</b>	<b>\$ 67,378</b>	<b>\$ 247,260</b>	<b>\$ 224,450</b>	<b>\$ 22,810</b>	
<b>300</b>	<b>PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</b>										
	Professional Services	\$ 660,280	\$ 540,851	\$ 165,000		\$ 705,851	\$ 78,683	\$ 7,249	\$ 49,625	\$ (42,376)	
	Professional Educational Ser.	\$ 203,629	\$ 208,232	\$ -		\$ 208,232	\$ 44,289	\$ 45,969	\$ 4,500	\$ 41,469	
	<b>SUBTOTAL PROFESSIONAL SVCS</b>	<b>\$ 863,909</b>	<b>\$ 749,083</b>	<b>\$ 165,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 914,083</b>	<b>\$ 122,972</b>	<b>\$ 53,218</b>	<b>\$ 54,125</b>	<b>\$ (908)</b>	
<b>400</b>	<b>PURCHASED PROPERTY SVCS</b>										
	Buildings & Grounds Services	\$ 653,698	\$ 651,600	\$ -		\$ 651,600	\$ 30,408	\$ 27,145	\$ 18,152	\$ 8,993	
	Utility Services - Water & Sewer	\$ 113,321	\$ 117,000	\$ -		\$ 117,000	\$ 26,161	\$ 8,319	\$ -	\$ 8,319	
	Building, Site & Emergency Repairs	\$ 503,610	\$ 460,850	\$ -		\$ 460,850	\$ 24,216	\$ (12,612)	\$ 13,302	\$ (25,914)	
	Equipment Repairs	\$ 275,163	\$ 270,433	\$ -		\$ 270,433	\$ 29,892	\$ 9,245	\$ 9,198	\$ 47	
	Rentals - Building & Equipment	\$ 300,843	\$ 305,536	\$ -		\$ 305,536	\$ 17,961	\$ 6,741	\$ 1,500	\$ 5,241	
	Building & Site Improvements	\$ 572,017	\$ 334,000	\$ -		\$ 334,000	\$ 52,923	\$ 40,857	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,857	
	<b>SUBTOTAL PUR. PROPERTY SER.</b>	<b>\$ 2,418,651</b>	<b>\$ 2,139,419</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,139,419</b>	<b>\$ 181,561</b>	<b>\$ 79,696</b>	<b>\$ 62,152</b>	<b>\$ 17,544</b>	

## NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

## BUDGET SUMMARY REPORT

FOR THE MONTH ENDING - MAY 31, 2015

OBJECT CODE	EXPENSE CATEGORY	EXPENDED 2013 - 2014	YTD				YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBER	BALANCE	ANTICIPATED OBLIGATIONS	PROJECTED BALANCE
			APPROVED BUDGET	TRANSFERS 2014 - 2015	CURRENT TRANSFERS	CURRENT BUDGET					
<b>500</b>	<b>OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES</b>										
	Contracted Services	\$ 363,526	\$ 427,574	\$ -		\$ 427,574	\$ 68,730	\$ 15,028	\$ 3,558	\$ 11,470	
	Transportation Services	\$ 3,714,217	\$ 3,891,158	\$ (40,000)		\$ 3,851,158	\$ 309,471	\$ 167,773	\$ 161,994	\$ 5,779	
	Insurance - Property & Liability	\$ 297,870	\$ 319,261	\$ 5,600		\$ 324,861	\$ -	\$ (726)	\$ -	\$ (726)	
	Communications	\$ 120,492	\$ 118,143	\$ -		\$ 118,143	\$ 9,795	\$ 1,513	\$ 1,957	\$ (444)	
	Printing Services	\$ 32,365	\$ 39,782	\$ -		\$ 39,782	\$ 17,268	\$ 3,794	\$ -	\$ 3,794	
	Tuition - Out of District	\$ 2,074,030	\$ 2,177,958	\$ 40,000		\$ 2,217,958	\$ 464,595	\$ (162,125)	\$ 2,981	\$ (165,106)	
	Student Travel & Staff Mileage	\$ 206,963	\$ 223,771	\$ -		\$ 223,771	\$ 9,741	\$ 21,900	\$ 18,809	\$ 3,091	
	<b>SUBTOTAL OTHER PURCHASED SE</b>	<b>\$ 6,809,463</b>	<b>\$ 7,197,647</b>	<b>\$ 5,600</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 7,203,247</b>	<b>\$ 879,599</b>	<b>\$ 47,157</b>	<b>\$ 189,299</b>	<b>\$ (142,142)</b>	
<b>600</b>	<b>SUPPLIES</b>										
	Instructional & Library Supplies	\$ 906,748	\$ 911,614	\$ -		\$ 911,614	\$ 56,258	\$ 69,196	\$ 13,000	\$ 56,196	
	Software, Medical & Office Sup.	\$ 175,444	\$ 210,966	\$ -		\$ 210,966	\$ 65,483	\$ 12,085	\$ 4,600	\$ 7,485	
	Plant Supplies	\$ 351,501	\$ 375,100	\$ -		\$ 375,100	\$ 17,938	\$ (11,252)	\$ 2,000	\$ (13,252)	
	Electric	\$ 1,406,552	\$ 1,406,127	\$ 57,400		\$ 1,463,527	\$ 137,494	\$ 137,986	\$ 138,500	\$ (514)	
	Propane & Natural Gas	\$ 319,537	\$ 338,737	\$ (20,000)		\$ 318,737	\$ 1,000	\$ 59,056	\$ 47,681	\$ 11,375	
	Fuel Oil	\$ 662,339	\$ 528,038	\$ -		\$ 528,038	\$ -	\$ (4,336)	\$ 17,514	\$ (21,850)	
	Fuel For Vehicles & Equip.	\$ 531,906	\$ 452,503	\$ (25,000)		\$ 427,503	\$ 117,109	\$ 5,136	\$ -	\$ 5,136	
	Textbooks	\$ 265,144	\$ 257,008	\$ -		\$ 257,008	\$ 34,228	\$ 45,932	\$ 41,768	\$ 4,164	
	<b>SUBTOTAL SUPPLIES</b>	<b>\$ 4,619,171</b>	<b>\$ 4,480,093</b>	<b>\$ 12,400</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 4,492,493</b>	<b>\$ 429,509</b>	<b>\$ 313,804</b>	<b>\$ 265,063</b>	<b>\$ 48,741</b>	

NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

BUDGET SUMMARY REPORT

FOR THE MONTH ENDING - MAY 31, 2015

OBJECT CODE	EXPENSE CATEGORY	EXPENDED 2013 - 2014	YTD				YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBER	BALANCE	ANTICIPATED OBLIGATIONS	PROJECTED BALANCE
			APPROVED BUDGET	TRANSFERS 2014 - 2015	CURRENT TRANSFERS	CURRENT BUDGET					
<b>700</b>	<b>PROPERTY</b>										
	Capital Improvements (Sewers)	\$ 124,177	\$ 124,177	\$ -	\$ 124,177	\$ 124,177	\$ -	\$ 0	\$ -	\$ 0	
	Technology Equipment	\$ 329,592	\$ 378,900	\$ -	\$ 378,900	\$ 325,131	\$ 41,940	\$ 11,829	\$ 11,829	\$ 0	
	Other Equipment	\$ 98,778	\$ 31,658	\$ -	\$ 31,658	\$ 25,616	\$ 4,775	\$ 1,267	\$ (713)	\$ 1,980	
	<b>SUBTOTAL PROPERTY</b>	<b>\$ 552,547</b>	<b>\$ 534,735</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 534,735</b>	<b>\$ 474,924</b>	<b>\$ 46,715</b>	<b>\$ 13,096</b>	<b>\$ 11,116</b>	<b>\$ 1,980</b>
<b>800</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>										
	Memberships	\$ 71,445	\$ 75,356	\$ -	\$ 75,356	\$ 66,551	\$ 375	\$ 8,430	\$ -	\$ 8,430	
	<b>SUBTOTAL MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>\$ 71,445</b>	<b>\$ 75,356</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 75,356</b>	<b>\$ 66,551</b>	<b>\$ 375</b>	<b>\$ 8,430</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 8,430</b>
<b>TOTAL LOCAL BUDGET</b>		<b>\$ 70,998,119</b>	<b>\$ 71,345,304</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 71,345,304</b>	<b>\$ 61,558,151</b>	<b>\$ 8,828,102</b>	<b>\$ 959,051</b>	<b>\$ 956,788</b>	<b>\$ 2,263</b>

NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

BUDGET SUMMARY REPORT

FOR THE MONTH ENDING - MAY 31, 2015

OBJECT CODE	EXPENSE CATEGORY	EXPENDED 2013 - 2014	YTD				YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBER	BALANCE	ANTICIPATED OBLIGATIONS	PROJECTED BALANCE
			APPROVED BUDGET	TRANSFERS 2014 - 2015	CURRENT TRANSFERS	CURRENT BUDGET					

	2014-15 APPROVED BUDGET	RECEIVED	BALANCE	% RECEIVED
<b><u>SCHOOL GENERATED FEES</u></b>				
<b><u>HIGH SCHOOL FEES</u></b>				
NURTURY PROGRAM	\$8,000	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	100.00%
PARKING PERMITS	\$20,000	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	100.00%
PAY FOR PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS	\$84,800	\$84,800.00	\$0.00	100.00%
	\$112,800	\$112,800.00	\$0.00	100.00%
<b><u>BUILDING RELATED FEES</u></b>				
ENERGY - ELECTRICITY	\$313	\$0.00	\$313.00	0.00%
HIGH SCHOOL POOL - OUTSIDE USAGE	\$500	\$0.00	\$500.00	0.00%
	\$813	\$0.00	\$813.00	0.00%
MISCELLANEOUS FEES	\$150	\$345.00	(\$195.00)	230.00%
<b>TOTAL SCHOOL GENERATED FEES</b>	<b>\$113,763</b>	<b>\$113,145.00</b>	<b>\$618.00</b>	<b>99.46%</b>

## NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

## BUDGET SUMMARY REPORT

FOR THE MONTH ENDING - MAY 31, 2015

## OFFSETTING REVENUE INCLUDED IN ANTICIPATED OBLIGATIONS

OBJECT	EXPENSE CATEGORY	BUDGETED	ANTICIPATED	RECEIVED	EXPECTED	BALANCE
100	SALARIES	\$ (105,874)	\$ (95,288)	\$ (95,288)	\$ -	\$ -
200	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
300	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$ (69,991)	\$ (71,897)	\$ (71,897)	\$ -	\$ -
400	PURCHASED PROPERTY SERV.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
500	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$ (1,102,170)	\$ (1,171,192)	\$ (1,171,192)	\$ -	\$ -
600	SUPPLIES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
700	PROPERTY	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
800	MISCELLANEOUS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET</b>		\$ (1,278,035)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,338,377)	\$ -
<b>100</b>	<b>SALARIES</b>					
	Administrative Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Teachers & Specialists Salaries	\$ (23,564)	\$ (22,061)	\$ (22,061)	\$ -	\$ -
	Early Retirement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Continuing Ed./Summer School	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Homebound & Tutors Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Certified Substitutes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Coaching/Activities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Staff & Program Development	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	<b>CERTIFIED SALARIES</b>	\$ (23,564)	\$ (22,061)	\$ (22,061)	\$ -	\$ -
	Supervisors/Technology Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Clerical & Secretarial salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Educational Assistants	\$ (11,353)	\$ (3,731)	\$ (3,731)	\$ -	\$ -
	Nurses & Medical advisors	\$ (20,301)	\$ (20,947)	\$ (20,947)	\$ -	\$ -
	Custodial & Maint Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Non Certified Salary Adjustment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Career/Job salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Special Education Svcs Salaries	\$ (50,656)	\$ (48,549)	\$ (48,549)	\$ -	\$ -
	Attendance & Security Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Extra Work - Non-Cert	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Custodial & Maint. Overtime	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Civic activities/Park & Rec	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	<b>NON-CERTIFIED SALARIES</b>	\$ (82,310)	\$ (73,227)	\$ (73,227)	\$ -	\$ -
	<b>SUBTOTAL SALARIES</b>	\$ (105,874)	\$ (95,288)	\$ (95,288)	\$ -	\$ -

<b>200</b>	<b>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>									
	<b>SUBTOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$
<b>300</b>	<b>PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</b>									
	Professional Services	\$	(69,991)			\$	(71,897)	\$	(71,897)	\$
	Professional Educational Ser.	\$	-			\$	-	\$	-	\$
	<b>SUBTOTAL PROFESSIONAL SVCS</b>	\$	(69,991)	\$	-	\$	(71,897)	\$	(71,897)	\$
<b>400</b>	<b>PURCHASED PROPERTY SVCS</b>									
	<b>SUBTOTAL PUR. PROPERTY SER.</b>	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$
<b>500</b>	<b>OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES</b>									
	Contracted Services	\$	(1,596)			\$	-	\$	-	\$
	Transportation Services	\$	(277,990)			\$	(264,375)	\$	(264,375)	\$
	Insurance - Property & Liability	\$	-			\$	-	\$	-	\$
	Communications	\$	-			\$	-	\$	-	\$
	Printing Services	\$	-			\$	-	\$	-	\$
	Tuition - Out of District	\$	(822,584)			\$	(906,817)	\$	(906,817)	\$
	Student Travel & Staff Mileage	\$	-			\$	-	\$	-	\$
	<b>SUBTOTAL OTHER PURCHASED SER.</b>	\$	(1,102,170)	\$	-	\$	(1,171,192)	\$	(1,171,192)	\$
<b>600</b>	<b>SUPPLIES</b>									
	<b>SUBTOTAL SUPPLIES</b>	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$
<b>700</b>	<b>PROPERTY</b>									
	<b>SUBTOTAL PROPERTY</b>	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$
<b>800</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>									
	Memberships					\$	-	\$	-	\$
	<b>SUBTOTAL MISCELLANEOUS</b>	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$
	<b>TOTAL LOCAL BUDGET</b>	\$	(1,278,035)	\$	-	\$	(1,338,377)	\$	(1,338,377)	\$

Excess Cost and Agency placement Grants were budgeted at 75%. The estimated grant is calculated at 80.45%.

**Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process**

It is the goal of the Newtown Board of Education to ensure the safety and welfare of all students in attendance, and to maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning. In keeping with this goal, students are expected to comply with school rules and regulations, as well as Board policies. Students may be disciplined for conduct on school grounds or at any school-sponsored activity that endangers persons or property is seriously disruptive of the educational process, or that violates a publicized policy of the Board. Students may be disciplined for conduct off school grounds if such conduct is seriously disruptive of the educational process and violates a publicized policy of the Board.

In working with students, emphasis shall be placed upon developing effective self-discipline as the most effective disciplinary approach.

**A. Definitions**

1. **“Exclusion”** shall be defined as any denial of public school privileges to a student for disciplinary purposes.
2. **“Removal”** shall be defined as an exclusion from a classroom for all or a part of single class period, provided such exclusion shall not extend beyond ninety (90) minutes.
3. **“In-School Suspension”** shall be defined as an exclusion from regular classroom activity for no more than ~~five~~ **ten** consecutive school days, but not exclusion from school, provided such exclusion shall not extend beyond the end of the school year in which such in-school suspension was imposed. Such suspensions shall be served in the school attended by the student.
4. **“Suspension”** shall be defined as an exclusion from school privileges or from transportation services for no more than ten (10) consecutive school days, provided such exclusion shall not extend beyond the end of the school year in which such suspension was imposed. Suspensions shall be in-school suspensions unless the administration determines that (1) the student being suspended poses such a danger to persons or property or such a disruption of the educational process that the student shall be excluded from school during the period of suspension, or (2) that an out-of-school suspension is appropriate based on evidence of previous disciplinary problems that have led to suspensions or expulsion of the student and efforts by the administration to address such disciplinary problems through means other than out-of-school suspension or expulsion, including positive support strategies.
5. **“Expulsion”** shall be defined as an exclusion from school privileges for more than ten (10) consecutive school days and shall be deemed to include but not be limited to, exclusion from the school to which such student was assigned at the time such disciplinary action was taken, provided that assignment to a regular classroom program in a different school in the district shall not constitute a suspension or an expulsion. Such period of exclusion may extend to the school year following the school year in which the exclusion was imposed, up to one calendar year.
6. **“Emergency”** shall be defined as a situation under which the continued presence of the student in the school imposes such a danger to persons or property or such a disruption of the educational process that a hearing may be delayed until a time as soon after the exclusion of such student as possible. ~~In the event of an emergency, the informal hearing shall be held as soon as possible after the suspension~~
7. **“Days”** is defined as days when school is in session.
8. **“School-sponsored activity”** is defined as any activity sponsored, recognized or authorized by the Board of Education and includes activities conducted on or off school



## Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

property.

9. **“Possess”** means to have physical possession or otherwise to exercise dominion or control over tangible property.
10. **“Deadly weapon”** means any weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged, or a switchblade knife, gravity knife, billy, blackjack, bludgeon, metal or brass knuckles, any BB gun, any blackjack, any metal or brass knuckles, any police baton or nightstick, any dirk knife or switch knife, any knife having an automatic spring release device by which a blade is released from the handle, having a blade of over one and one-half inches in length, any stiletto, any knife the edged portion of the blade of which is four inches or over in length, any martial arts weapon or electronic defense weapon, as defined in section 53a-3, or any other dangerous or deadly weapon or instrument.
11. **“Firearm”** means 1) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; 2) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; 3) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or 4) any destructive device. Firearm does not include any antique firearm. For purposes of this definition “destructive device” shall include, but is not limited to, any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas device, bomb, grenade, **rocket having a propellant charge of more than 4 ounces**, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than ¼ ounce, mine, or device similar to any of the weapons described herein.
12. **“Vehicle”** means a **“motor vehicle”** as defined in Section 14-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes, snow mobile, any aircraft, or any vessel equipped for propulsion by mechanical means or sail.
13. **“Martial arts weapon”** means a nunchakum kama, kasari-fundo, octagon sai, tonfa or chinese star.
14. **“Dangerous Drugs and Narcotics”** is defined as any controlled drug in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §219-240.
15. **“Destructive Device”** shall include but is not limited to any explosive, incendiaries, or poison gas device, including a bomb, a grenade, a rocket having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one quarter ounce, a mine, or a similar device; or any weapon (other than a shotgun or shotgun shell particularly suited for sporting purposes) that will or may be converted to expel a projectile by explosive or other propellant having a barrel with a bore of more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter. The term "destructive device" does not include, however, an antique firearm; a rifle intended to be used by the owner solely for sporting, recreational, or cultural purposes; or any device which is neither designed nor redesigned for use as a weapon.
16. **“Dangerous Instrument”** is any instrument, article or substance that, under the circumstances in which it is used or attempted or threatened to be used, is capable of causing death or serious physical injury, and includes a "vehicle".

**B. Removal From Class**

1. All teachers are hereby authorized to remove a student from class when such student causes a serious disruption of the educational process within the classroom.
2. Such teacher shall send the student to a designated area and shall immediately inform the building Principal or his/her designee as to the name of the student and the reason for

**Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process**

removal.

3. No student shall be removed from class more than six (6) times in any year nor more than twice in one week, unless such student is referred to the Building Principal or his/her designee and granted an informal hearing in accordance with the provisions of this policy, as stated in GS 10-233b.

**C. Exclusion from Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities ~~Revocation of Privileges~~**

Participation in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities is a privilege and not an entitlement. Students involved in such programs are expected to follow all school rules and demonstrate good citizenship. Failure to do so may result in partial or complete exclusion from said activities and programs. Activities include, but are not limited to, athletic programs, musical or drama productions, clubs, field trips, and school trips out-of-state and abroad. ~~This procedure may be applied for violation of school regulations that authorize the student to use school facilities to receive special school privileges, e.g., parking permit, early school dismissal, school dances, co-curricular activities.~~

**D. Suspension and Expulsion**

1. A student may be suspended or expelled for conduct on school property or at a school-sponsored activity that endangers persons or property, is a violation of a publicized policy of the Board, or is seriously disruptive of the educational process, including but not limited to one or more of the following reasons:
  - a. ~~Conduct causing danger to the physical well-being of himself/herself or other people that is not reasonably necessary for self-defense;~~
  - b. Intentionally causing or attempting to cause physical injury to another person that is not reasonably necessary for self-defense;
  - c. Intentionally causing or attempting to cause damage to school property or material belonging to staff (private property);
  - d. Stealing or attempting to steal private or school property or taking or attempting to take personal property or money from any other person;
  - e. The use, either spoken or written on clothing, of obscene or profane language or gestures on school property or at a school-sponsored activity;
  - f. Deliberate refusal to obey the directions or orders of a member of the school staff;
  - g. Harassment and/or hazing/bullying on the basis of that person's race, religion, disability, ethnic background, gender or sexual orientation;
  - h. Open defiance of the authority of any teacher or person having authority over the student, including verbal abuse;
  - i. Threatening in any manner, including orally, in writing, or via electronic communication, a member of the school including any teacher, a member of the school administration or any other employee, or a fellow student;
  - j. ~~Blackmailing a member of the school community, including any teacher, member of the school administration or any other employee or fellow student;~~
  - k. Possession of a firearm, deadly weapon, weapon facsimile, dangerous instrument, or martial arts weapon, as defined in Section 53a-3, such as a pistol, knife, blackjack, etc.;
  - l. Possession of any weapon or weapon facsimile, including but not limited to knife, pistol, pellet guns BB gun and/or air soft pistols.
  - m. Possession, transmission, distribution, selling, use or consumption of alcoholic beverages, dangerous drugs or narcotics or intoxicant of any kind or any facsimile of a dangerous drug, narcotic or intoxicant of any kind;
  - n. ~~Knowingly being in the presence of those who are in possession of using, transmitting, or being under the influence of any dangerous drug, narcotic,~~

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- o. hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind;
- p. Participation in any unauthorized occupancy by any group of students or others of any part of any school, school premises or other building owned by any school district after having been ordered to leave said school premises or other facility by the Principal or other person then in charge of said school building or facility;
- q. Participation in any walkout from a classroom or school building by any group of students and refusing to immediately return to said classroom or school building after having been directed to do so by the Principal or other person then in charge of said classroom or school building;
- r. Intentional incitement which results in an unauthorized occupation of, or walkout from, any school building, school premises, facility or classroom by any group of students or other persons;
- s. Repeated unauthorized absence from or tardiness to school;
- t. Intentional and successful incitement of truancy by other students;
- u. The use or copying of the academic work of another and the presenting of it as one's own without proper attribution;
- v. Violation of school rules and practices or Board policy, regulation or agreement, including that dealing with conduct on school buses and the use of school district equipment;
- w. Violation of any federal or state law that would indicate that the violator presents a danger to any person in the school community or to school property;
- x. Lying, misleading or being deceitful to a school employee or person having authority over the student;
- y. Unauthorized leaving of school or school-sponsored activities;
- z. Violation of smoking policy.
- aa. Possession or ignition of any fireworks or other explosive materials, or ignition of any material causing a fire.
- ab. Making false or actual "bomb threats" or similar threats.
- ac. Trespassing on school grounds while on out-of-school suspension or expulsion.
- ac. Unauthorized use of any school computer, computer system, computer software, Internet connection or similar school property or system, or the use of such property or system for unauthorized or non-school related purposes.

**E. Suspension for Conduct Off School Grounds**

1. Students are subject to suspension for conduct off school property and outside of school-sponsored activities in accordance with law, for conduct that violates a publicized policy of the Board and is seriously disruptive of the educational process, including but not limited to the following:
  - a. Conduct leading to a violation of any federal or state law if that conduct is determined to pose a danger to the student himself/herself, other students, school employees or school property.
  - b. Adjudication as a delinquent or a youthful offender as the result of a felony if the conduct leading to the adjudication is determined to pose a danger to the student himself/herself, other students, school employees or school property.
2. In making a determination as to whether conduct is "seriously disruptive of the educational process," the Administration, Board of Education or impartial hearing board may consider, but such consideration shall not be limited to; (1) whether the incident occurred within close proximity of a school; (2) whether other students from the school were involved or whether there was any gang involvement; (3) whether the conduct involved violence, threats of violence or the unlawful use of a weapon as defined in General Statute 29-38 and whether any injuries occurred, and (4) whether the conduct involved the use of alcohol, narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate

**Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process  
or marijuana.****F. Mandatory Expulsion**

It shall be the policy of the Board to expel a student for one full calendar year if:

1. The student, on grounds or at a school-sponsored activity, was in possession of a firearm, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921\*, as amended from time to time, or deadly weapon, dangerous instrument or martial arts weapon, as defined in C.G.S. 53A-3; or the student, off school grounds, did possess such firearm in violation of C.G.S. 29-35 or did possess and use such a firearm, instrument or weapon in the commission of a crime; or the student, on or off school grounds offered for sale or distribution a controlled substance, as defined in subdivision (9) of C.G.S. 21a-240, whose manufacture, distribution, sale, prescription, dispensing, transporting or possessing with intent to sell or dispense, offering or administering is subject to criminal penalties under C.G.S. 21-277 and 21a-278.
2. Such a student shall be expelled for one calendar year if the Board of Education or impartial hearing board finds that the student did so possess or so possess and use, as appropriate, such a weapon or firearm, instrument or weapon or did so offer for sale or distribution such a controlled substance.
3. The Board may modify the period of a mandatory expulsion on a case-by-case basis.
4. A firearm, as defined by C.G.S. 53a-3 includes any sawed-off shotgun, machine gun, rifle, shotgun, pistol, revolver, or other weapon, whether loaded or unloaded from which a shot may be discharged, or a switchblade knife, a gravity knife, billy, black jack, bludgeon or metal knuckles.

\*A firearm; currently defined by 18 U.S.C. 921, is any weapon that can expel a projectile by an explosive action, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, a muffler or silencer, or any destructive device

**G. Suspension Procedure**

1. The Administration of each school shall have the authority to invoke suspension for a period of up to ten days or to invoke in-school suspension for a period of up to ten school days of any student for one or more of the reasons stated in paragraph D, above, in accordance with the procedure outlined in this paragraph. Suspensions shall be in-school suspensions unless the administration determines that the student being suspended poses such a danger to persons or property or such a disruption of the educational process that the student shall be excluded from school during the period of suspension. The administration may also consider a student's previous disciplinary problems when deciding whether an out-of-school suspension is warranted, as long as the school previously attempted to address the problems by means other than an out-of-school suspension or an expulsion.

The Administration is expected to use the guidelines developed and promulgated by the Commissioner of Education to help determine whether a student should receive an in-school or out-of-school suspension.

The administration shall also have the authority to suspend a student from transportation services whose conduct while awaiting or receiving transportation violates the standards set forth in paragraph D, above. The administration shall have the authority to immediately suspend from school any student when an emergency exists as that term is defined in paragraph A, above.

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If an emergency situation exists, the hearing outlined in paragraph G(3) shall be held as soon as possible after the exclusion of the student.

2. In the case of suspension, the administration shall notify the student's parents/guardians and the Superintendent of Schools not later than twenty-four (24) hours of the suspension as to the name of the student who has been suspended and the reason therefore. Any student who is suspended shall be given an opportunity to complete any class work including, but not limited to, examinations that such student missed during the period of his/her suspension.
3. Except in the case of an emergency, as defined in paragraph A, above, a student shall be afforded the opportunity to meet with the administration and to respond to the stated charges prior to the effectuation of any period of suspension or in-school suspension. If, at such a meeting the student denies the stated charges, he/she may at that time present his/her version of the incident(s) upon which the proposed suspension is based. The Administration shall then determine whether or not suspension or in-school suspension is warranted. The Administration cannot look to a past disciplinary problem in rendering a decision as to whether the student is guilty of the alleged violation. In determining the length of a suspension period, the administration may receive and consider evidence of past disciplinary problems that have led to removal from a classroom, in-school suspension, or expulsion.
4. For any student who is suspended for the first time and who has never been expelled, the school administration may shorten the length of or waive the suspension period if the student successfully completes an administration-specified program and meets any other administration-required conditions. Such program shall be at no expense to the student or his/her parents/guardians.
5. No student shall be suspended more than ten times or a total of fifty (50) days in one school year, whichever results in fewer days of exclusion, unless a hearing as provided in paragraph H(5) is first granted.
6. No student shall be placed on in-school suspension more than **ten** times or a total of fifty (50) days in one school year, whichever results in fewer days of exclusion, unless a hearing as provided in paragraph H(5) is first granted.

**H. Multiple Suspensions Procedures**

The Board is concerned when students are suspended on multiple occasions. To encourage proper conduct and to facilitate an atmosphere of good order and discipline the following additional procedures must be undertaken:

1. When a student has been suspended for the fifth (5th) time in one school year, the administrator will make a planning and placement team ("PPT") referral. The PPT will follow the appropriate special education laws, including but not limited to, determining whether the student is eligible for special education services and to develop an appropriate program if determined eligible.
2. When a student had been suspended for the eighth (8th) time, the student's parent(s) or guardian(s), along with the student, or the adult student, must appear before the Superintendent for a formal hearing. The building principal, and/or designee(s), and the Director of Pupil Services should be present at this hearing. A positive attempt will be made at the hearing to help the student, to review alternatives, and to convey to the student that possible expulsion from school could result.
3. After a student has been suspended for the tenth (10th) time, the student will be provided

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the opportunity for a formal hearing, under the expulsion procedures set forth below, which may result in continued suspension or recommendation for expulsion from school.

### I. Expulsion Procedures

1. The Board of Education may, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, expel any student for one or more of the reasons stated in this policy if in the judgment of the Board of Education, such disciplinary action is in the best interest of the school system.
2. Upon receipt of a recommendation for expulsion from the Superintendent of Schools the Board shall, after giving written notice to the student and his parents or guardian, if said student is less than 18 years of age, conduct a hearing prior to taking any action on the expulsion of said student, provided however, that in the event of an emergency as defined in this policy, the student may be expelled prior to the hearing but in such case even a hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible. The notice shall include information concerning legal services that are provided free of charge or at a reduced rate that are available locally (CT Legal Service a source of such services) and how to access such services.
3. Three members of the Board of Education shall constitute a quorum for an expulsion hearing. A student may be expelled if a majority of the Board members sitting in the expulsion hearing vote to expel and provided at least three affirmative votes for expulsion are cast. Alternatively, the Board may appoint an impartial hearing officer to hear and decide the expulsion matter provided that three members of the Board are not available to serve on the panel.
4. **A special education student's handicapping conditions shall be considered before making a decision to expel. A Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meeting must be held to determine whether the behavior or student actions violate Board of Education standards set forth in policy governing suspension and expulsion are the result of the student's handicapping condition.**
5. The procedure for any hearing conducted under this paragraph shall at least include the right to:
  - a. Notice prior to the date of the proposed hearing which shall include a statement of the time, place and nature of the hearing; a statement of the legal jurisdiction under which the hearing is to be held; and a statement that the board is not required to offer an alternative educational opportunity to any student between 16 and 18 who was previously expelled or who is found to have engaged in conduct endangering persons which involved (1) possession of a firearm, deadly weapon, dangerous instrument or martial arts weapon on school property or school transportation or at a school sponsored activity or (2) offering for sale or distribution on school property or at a school sponsored activity a controlled substance, as defined in Section 21a-240(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes.
  - b. A short and plain statement of the matters asserted, if such matters have not already been provided in a statement of reasons requested by the student;
  - c. The opportunity to be heard in the student's own defense;
  - d. The opportunity to present witnesses and evidence in the student's defense;
  - e. The opportunity to cross-examine adverse witnesses;
  - f. The opportunity to be represented by counsel at the parents'/student's own expense; and

- g. Information concerning legal services provided free of charge or at a reduced rate that are available locally and how to access such services;
      - h. The opportunity to have the services of a translator, to be provided by the Board of Education whenever the student or his/her parent or legal guardian do not speak the English language;
      - i. The prompt notification of the decision of the Board of Education, which decision shall be in writing if adverse to the student concerned.
- 6. The record of the hearing held in any expulsion case shall include the following:
  - a. All evidence received and considered by the Board of Education;
  - b. Questions and offers of proof, objections and ruling on such objections;
  - c. The decision of the Board of Education rendered after such hearing; and
  - d. A copy of the initial letter of notice of proposed expulsion, a copy of any statement of reasons provided upon request, a statement of the notice of hearing and the official transcript, if any or if not transcribed, any recording or stenographic record of the hearing.
- 7. Rules of evidence at expulsion hearings shall assure fairness, but shall not be controlled by the formal rules of evidence, and shall include the following:
  - a. Any oral or documentary evidence may be received by the Board of Education, but, as a matter of policy, irrelevant, immaterial or unduly repetitious evidence may be excluded. In addition, other evidence of past disciplinary problems which have led to removal from a classroom, in-school suspension, suspension, or expulsion may be received for considering the length of an expulsion and the nature of the alternative educational opportunity, if any, to be offered;
  - b. The Board of Education shall give effect to the rules of privilege by law;
  - c. In order to expedite a hearing, evidence may be received in written form, provided the interest of any party is not substantially prejudiced thereby;
  - d. Documentary evidence may be received in the form of copies or excerpts;
  - e. A party to an expulsion hearing may conduct cross-examination of witnesses where examination is required for a full and accurate disclosure of the facts;
  - f. The Board of Education may take notice of judicially cognizable facts in addition to facts within the Board's specialized knowledge provided, however, the parties shall be notified either before or during the hearing of the material noticed, including any staff memoranda or data, and an opportunity shall be afford to any party to contest the material so noticed;
  - g. A stenographic record or audio-recording of any oral proceedings before the Board of Education at an expulsion hearing shall be made provided, however, that a transcript of such proceedings shall be furnished upon request of a party with the cost of such transcript to be paid by the requesting party. Findings of fact made by the Board after an expulsion hearing shall be based exclusively upon the evidence adduced at the hearing.
  - h. Decisions shall be in writing if adverse to the student and shall include findings



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of fact and conclusions necessary for the decision. Findings of fact made by the Board after an expulsion hearing shall be based exclusively upon the evidence adduced at the hearing.

8. For any student expelled for the first time and who has never been suspended, the Board of Education may shorten the length of or waive the expulsion period if the student successfully completes a Board specified program and meets any other conditions required by the Board. Such a Board specified program shall not require the student or the parent/guardian of such student to pay for participation in the program.

**J. Notification**

1. All students and parents within the jurisdiction of the Board of Education shall be informed, annually, of Board Policy governing student conduct by the delivery to each said student of a written copy of said Board Policy.
2. The parents or guardian of any minor student either expelled or suspended shall be given notice of such disciplinary action no later than 24 hours of the time of the institution of the period of expulsion or suspension.
3. The notice of an expulsion hearing to the student and his/her parents or guardians, if said student is less than 18 years of age shall include information concerning legal services that are provided free of charge or at a reduced rate that are available and how to access such services.

**K. Students with Disabilities**

A special education student and/or 504 disability shall be considered before making a decision to suspend. A student with disabilities may be suspended for up to ten school days in a school year without the need for the district to provide any educational services. A disabled student may be additionally removed (suspended) for up to ten school days at a time for separate acts of misconduct as long as the removals do not constitute a pattern. During any subsequent suspension of ten days or less of a student with disabilities, the district shall provide services to the disabled student to the extent determined necessary to enable the student to appropriately advance in the general education curriculum and toward achieving his/her IEP goals. In cases involving removals for ten days or less, school personnel (school administration) in consultation with the child's special education teacher, shall make the service determination.

If the disabled student's suspensions beyond ten school days in a school year constitute a pattern because of factors such as the length of each removal, the total amount of time the child is removed and the proximity of the removals to one another, the IEP team (PPT) shall conduct a manifestation determination. Meetings of a student's IEP team (PPT) are required to develop a behavioral assessment plan or to review and modify as necessary one previously developed when the disabled student has been removed (suspended) from his/her current placement for more than ten school days in a school year and when commencing a removal (suspension) that constitutes a change in placement.

Whenever a student is suspended, notice of the suspension and the conduct for which the student was suspended shall be included on the student's cumulative educational record. Such notice, except for notice of an expulsion based on possession of a firearm or deadly weapon as described in subsection (a) of this section, shall be expunged from the record by the Board if the student graduates from high school.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the following procedures shall apply to students who have been identified as having one or more disabilities under the IDEA and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (a "student with disabilities"):



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1. If a student with disabilities engages in conduct that would lead to a recommendation for expulsion, the district shall promptly convene an IEP team (PPT) meeting to determine whether the misconduct was caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the student's disability or if the conduct in question was the direct result of the District's failure to implement the IEP. A student may be suspended for up to ten days pending the IEP team (PPT) determination.
2. If the District, parent and relevant members of the IEP team (PPT) determine that the misconduct was not caused by the disability, the Superintendent may proceed with a recommendation for expulsion. During any period of expulsion, a student with disabilities under the IDEA shall receive an alternative educational plan consistent with the student's educational needs as determined by the IEP team (PPT) in light of such expulsion and the student's IEP. The services must continue to the extent determined necessary to enable the disabled student to appropriately advance in the general education curriculum and to advance toward achieving the goals of his/her IEP, and be provided a free appropriate public education.
3. If the District, parent and relevant members of the IEP team (PPT) determine that the misconduct was caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the disability, or the conduct in question was the direct result of the District's failure to implement the student's IEP, the Superintendent shall not proceed with the recommendation for expulsion. The IEP team (PPT) shall consider the student's misconduct and revise the IEP to prevent a recurrence of such misconduct and to provide for the safety of the other students and staff. A functional behavioral assessment shall be conducted, if not previously done, and a behavioral intervention plan implemented or revised, if in existence. The student shall be returned to the placement from which he/she was removed unless agreed otherwise by the District and parent.
4. Should a parent of a student with disabilities who is eligible for services under the IDEA (or the student himself/herself if eighteen years of age or older) file a request for a due process hearing to contest an expulsion under subparagraph (2) above or a proposed change in placement under subparagraph (3), unless the parents (or student if eighteen years of age or older) and the Board otherwise agree, the child shall stay in the interim alternate educational setting, if so placed by student authorities, pending decision in said due process hearing and any subsequent judicial review proceedings.
5. Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding subparagraph (4), a student with disabilities may be assigned to an interim alternative educational setting for not more than forty-five (45) school days if the student brings a weapon to school or to a school function or knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at school or a school function, or has inflicted serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function. For purposes of this paragraph, "weapon" means a device instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, but excludes a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2 ½ inches in length. "Serious bodily injury" is defined as bodily injury which involves a substantial risk of death, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ or mental faculty. The interim alternative placement shall be determined by the IEP team (PPT). If a due process hearing is requested, the student shall remain in said interim alternative placement pending a decision in the due process hearing, unless the Board and the parents otherwise agree, or the Board obtains a court order.
6. In order for the district to unilaterally obtain a 45 day change in placement from a federal judge of Connecticut hearing officer, it must prove by substantial evidence, that maintaining the current placement of the student is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or others. The school must also prove that it has made reasonable efforts to

**Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process**

minimize the risk of harm the student presents in the current placement.

**L. Alternative Educational Opportunity**

The Board of Education recognizes its obligation to offer any student under the age of sixteen (16) who is expelled an alternative educational opportunity during the period of expulsion. Any parent or guardian of such student who does not choose to have his or her child enrolled in an alternative educational program shall not be subject to the provision of Section 10-184 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Any expelled student who is between the ages of sixteen (16) and eighteen (18) not previously expelled and who wishes to continue his or her education shall be offered an alternative educational opportunity if he or she complies with conditions established by the Board of Education. Such alternative educational opportunity may include, but shall not be limited to, the assignment of a student (who is sixteen years of age or older) to an adult education program or placement of such student in a regular classroom program of a school other than the one from which the student has been excluded. Any student participating in an adult education program during a period of expulsion shall not be required to withdraw from school under C.G.S. 10-184. In determining the nature of the alternative education opportunity to be offered under this Section, the Board of Education may receive and consider evidence of past disciplinary problems which have led to removal from a classroom, suspension, or expulsion.

The Board of Education is not obligated to provide such alternative educational opportunity to any student eighteen years of age or older. The Board of Education is not required to offer such alternative educational opportunity to any student between the ages of sixteen and eighteen who is expelled because of conduct which endangers person, if it was determined at the expulsion hearing that the conduct for which the student was expelled involved (a) carrying on or introducing onto school property a firearm, deadly weapon or dangerous instrument as defined in C.G.S. 53a-3 or (b) offering for sale or distribution on school property or at a school sponsored activity a controlled substance, as defined in subdivision (8) of C.G.S. 21a-240, whose manufacture, distribution, sale, prescription, dispensing, transporting, or possessing with the intent to sell or dispense, offering, or administration is subject to criminal penalties under C.G.S. 21a-277 and 21a-278. If the Board expels a student for the sale or distribution of such a controlled substance, the Board shall refer the student to an appropriate state or local agency for rehabilitation, intervention or job training, or any combination thereof, and inform the agency of its action. If a student is expelled for possession of a firearm or deadly weapon, the Board shall report the violation to the local police department.

This provision shall not apply to students requiring special education who are described in subdivision (1) of sub-section (e) of C.G.S. 10-76a. The alternative educational opportunity for any such student shall be established by the IEP team (PPT) in accordance with the procedures described above.

Whenever the Board notifies a student between the ages of sixteen and eighteen or the parents/guardians of such student, that an expulsion hearing will be held, the notification shall include a statement that the Board is not required to offer an alternative educational opportunity to any student who is found to have engaged in conduct including possession of a martial arts weapon, firearms, deadly weapons or dangerous instruments on school property or at a school function.

**M. Other Considerations**

1. If a student is expelled, notice of the expulsion and the conduct for which the student was expelled shall be included on the student's cumulative educational record. Such notice shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record by the Board if the student graduates from high school unless the expulsion notice is based on possession of a firearm or deadly weapon.
2. If a student's expulsion is shortened or the expulsion period waived based upon the fact

**Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process**

that the student was expelled for the first time, had never been suspended, and successfully completed a Board specified program and/or met other conditions required by the Board, the notice of expulsion shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record if the student graduates from high school or, if the Board so chooses, at the time the student completes the Board specified program and meets any other conditions required by the Board.

3. The Board may adopt the decision of a student expulsion hearing conducted by another school district provided such Board of Education held a hearing pursuant to C.G.S.10-233d(a). Adoption of such a decision shall be limited to a determination of whether the conduct which was the basis for the expulsion would also warrant expulsion under the policies of this Board. The student shall be excluded from school pending such hearing. The excluded student shall be offered an alternative education opportunity in accordance with item K above.
4. Whenever a student against whom a expulsion hearing is pending withdraws from school and after notification of such hearing but before the hearing is completed and a decision rendered, (1) notice of the pending expulsion hearing shall be included on the student's cumulative educational record and (2) the Board shall complete the expulsion hearing and render a decision.
5. A student expelled for possession of a firearm or deadly weapon shall have the violation reported to the local police department.
6. The period of expulsion shall not extend beyond a period of one calendar year. A period of exclusion may extend into the next school year.
7. An expelled student may apply for early readmission to school. Such readmission shall be at the discretion of the Board of Education/Superintendent of Schools. Readmission decisions shall not be subject to appeal to Superior Court. The Board or Superintendent, as appropriate, may condition such readmission on specified criteria.
8. Any student who commits an expellable offense and is subsequently committed to a juvenile detention center, The Connecticut Juvenile Training School or any other residential placement for such offense may be expelled by the local board of education. The period of expulsion shall run concurrently with the period of commitment to a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School or any other residential placement.

**Readmission of Student from a Residential Placement**

A District student who has committed an expellable offense who seeks to return to a District school, after having been in a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School or any other residential placement, for one year or more, in lieu of expulsion from the District, shall be permitted to return to the appropriate school setting within the District. Further, the District shall not expel the student for any additional time for the offense(s).

Students and parents shall be notified of this policy annually.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

4-176e through 4-180a. Contested Cases. Notice. Record, as amended

10-233a through 10-233f Suspension, removal and expulsion of students, as amended by PA 95-304, PA 96-244, PA 98-139, PA 07-66, PA 07-122, PA 08-160, PA 09-82, PA 09-6 (September Special Session), PA 10-111 and PA 11-126.

**Students**  
**Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process**

5114

53a-3 Definitions.

53a-217b Possession of Firearms and Deadly Weapons on School Grounds.

PA 94-221 An Act Concerning School Discipline and Safety.

GOALS 2000: Educate America Act, Pub. L. 103-227.

18 U.S.C. 921 Definitions.

Title III - Amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Sec. 314  
(Local Control Over Violence)

Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 as amended by the Gun Free Schools Act of 1994

P.L. 105-17 The Individuals with Disabilities Act, Amendments of 1997.

*Kyle P. Packer PPA Jane Packer v. Thomaston Board of Education.*

20 U.S.C. Section 7114, No Child Left Behind Act

P.L. 108-446 The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004

Policy adopted: xx/xx/xxxx (replaces 7-401)

*Proposal Cover Page*

**Connecticut State Department of Education  
District Technology Upgrades to Support Transition to the New Standards  
2015 -16**

**Applicant:**

This proposal is submitted on behalf of the following:

**Newtown Public Schools**

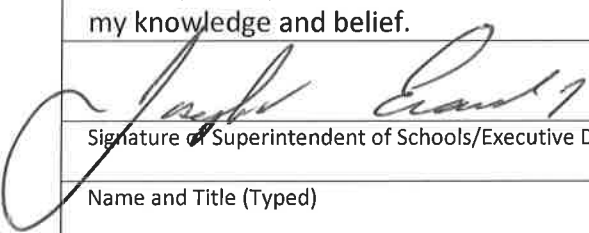
**Contact Information:**

Name, title, address, telephone, e-mail

Carmella Amodeo  
Director of Technology  
Newtown Public Schools  
3 Primrose Street  
Newtown, CT 06470  
203-270-6132  
amodeoc@newtown.k12.ct.us

**Certification:**

I hereby certify that the information contained in this proposal is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Signature of Superintendent of Schools/Executive Director

Name and Title (Typed)

Joseph V. Erardi ED. D.  
Superintendent of schools

## PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

The Newtown Public Schools (NPS) respectfully submits this request for the amount of \$103,700. We are seeking funds to assist in updating a portion of our obsolete inventory to ensure the successful delivery and assessment of the common core curriculum. This will also assist the District in moving to a 6-year obsolescence refresh cycle going forward.

Each year the District's technology inventory is reviewed to identify areas of need. The Strategic Plan and the District's goals, along with a review of the issues and concerns raised by the District Technology Committee and the technology help desk, are all considered when identifying District needs. This year's evaluation of building technologies highlighted areas of need that have been partially included in the 2015-2016 NPS operating budget. Among them are the replacement of obsolete equipment at two elementary schools and a lab at the high school, and an upgrade to the high school network infrastructure, both wired and wireless. Funds to upgrade the high school infrastructure have been included in the NPS operating budget. Funds to replace the obsolete equipment across the district are also included in the NPS budget but are not sufficient to replace all of the identified desktop and laptops. The award of funds from the *Connecticut State Department of Education District Technology Upgrades to Support Transition to the New Standards Grant* would allow the district to complete the replacement of obsolete desktops and support the transition from a 7-year to 6-year obsolescence plan.

### Replace Obsolete Computers

Until the 2015-2016 school year, seven-year-old laptops and computers were defined as obsolete by district guidelines. The seven-year guideline had been driven by the District's ability to budget dollars. With the 2015-2016 budget, the Board of Education has endorsed the adoption of a 6-year obsolescence for

desktops and laptops. Due to past variations in funding and the age of the District's current inventory, this year is the optimum timing for moving to the 6-year obsolescence.

The District's guideline for replacing obsolete inventory annually helps to reduce maintenance costs and increase system reliability. This is supported by a review of the technology help ticketing system. The replacement of these units has always been a priority as the District recognizes this this is needed to provide equitable and consistent access to technology for staff and students.

Experience proves that working on a seven-year old desktop or laptop presents staff and students with long wait times to complete basic tasks such as logging on, opening software, creating files, viewing videos or collaborating through Google Apps, hence making their use inefficient. Not only are staff and students frustrated, time is wasted and the enrichment gained by using multimedia is lessened if not lost. The need to have technology that is powerful and responsive and that can work with today's multimedia is critical in the delivery of the curriculum as well as, in the support of online learning and assessments at all grade levels.

The District's inventory that now meets this age guideline includes 434 desktops (405 of which are 7-years old), and 140 laptops (48 of which are 7-years old). The replacement models chosen meet or exceed the recommended *Smarter Balanced Technology Strategy Framework and System Requirements Specifications*. Without the award of these funds, the complete replacement of identified obsolete equipment would take place over two years; with the award, the replacement would be completed during the 2015-2016 school year.

The replacement of these units will ensure that the elementary teachers in these buildings will have the necessary technology to deliver a common core curriculum which is media rich. It will also provide students with access to computers that will help to ensure that the technology they use for the Smarter Balance assessments will work efficiently and consistently.

This request is seeking funds to replace the teacher desktops and student computer lab desktops at two elementary schools as well as, replace obsolete desktops in a high school computer lab.

### Teaching and Learning

The Newtown Strategic Plan includes an objective that states: *We will ensure that each student has continuous access to personal information technology in order to empower students and staff to improve teaching and learning.* Similarly, Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the 2012-2015 Newtown Educational Technology Plan contain action steps for meeting the district vision of preparing students for lifelong learning and workforce readiness through access to educational technology. Each goal in the district plan speaks to the need for educational technology in achieving district teaching and learning objectives; these goals include, but are not limited to, adequate bandwidth, student devices, and access to online assessments, instructional resources and professional learning opportunities for all staff.

The school district has put available resources behind curriculum alignment with Common Core State Standards, preparation for the 2015 Smarter Balanced Assessment with access to the resources of Digital Library, and moving to computer-adaptive district assessments (adoption of NWEA in 2013-2014). In addition to embedding Connecticut Core Standards in district curricula, Newtown's Information Literacy curriculum was completed last year and work is underway to embed those standards as well.

The District has taken on the goal to ensure that it provides staff and students with an adequate number of devices and the bandwidth needed to meet the recommended Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) guidelines. Attaining and maintaining these recommended specifications as they evolve, will enable teachers and administrators to better evaluate assessment results based on student learning rather than technology limitations. Newtown staff and students will be better positioned to use technology for computer-based instruction, practice and assessment. Receiving the requested grant funds will assist Newtown Public Schools in meeting the needs of instruction and the ability to administer the Smarter Balance



assessments and informative standardized assessments (such as NWEA), directly impacting teaching and learning. It will also allow Newtown High School students to succeed in meeting the Information Literacy standard for graduation.

Timeline of Implementation:

The purchase of desktops and laptops to replace our obsolete devices would begin on July 1, 2015 with district funds. The final order would be placed upon receipt of a favorable decision on the grant. The units will be purchased with an image installed that includes the operating system and applications to minimize setup time. Quotes have already been acquired for this purchase.

The deployment will begin as soon as the first units arrive and will be completed by the end of October 2015.

Evaluation

Completing this replacement will result in staff and student satisfaction in having a productive educational experience not hindered by the devices provided.

This will be evident in:

- the request for less tech help calls being received from the two elementary schools,
- the absence of issues with more continuous and simultaneous access to curriculum, information and assessment,
- and, the successful administration of the SBAC assessment.

**ED 114 Budget Form**

**GRANTEE NAME:** Newtown Public Schools **TOWN CODE:** 097

**GRANT TITLE:** *District Technology Upgrades to Support Transition to the New Standards*

**ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **FUND:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SPID:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BUDGET REFERENCE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PROGRAM:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHARTFIELD 1:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CHARTFIELD 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GRANT PERIOD:** September, 2015-June 30, 2016

CODE	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET
340	Other Professional Services	
530	Communication	
650	Supplies-Technology Related	
	Technology-Related Hardware	
	Dell Optiplex Desktop, i5-4590 Quad Core Processor, 8G RAM, 500G Hard Drive – QTY 142	\$ 85,200
	Dell Precision Desktop, i5-4590 Quad Core Processor, 8G RAM, 500G Hard Drive – QTY 25	\$ 18,500
734		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 103,700</b>

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
PROGRAM MANAGER AUTHORIZATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE OF APPROVAL

## **Budget Codes**

### **340 Other Professional Services**

Professional services other than educational services that support the operation of the school district. Included, for example, are medical doctors, lawyers, architects, auditors, accountants, therapists, audiologists, dieticians, editors, negotiations specialists, paying agents, systems analysts and planners.

### **530 Communication**

Services provided by persons or businesses to assist in transmitting and receiving messages or information. This category includes telephone and voice communication services; data communication services to establish or maintain computer-based communications, networking, and Internet services; video communications services to establish or maintain one-way or two-way video communications via satellite, cable or other devices; postal communications services to establish or maintain postage machine rentals, postage, express delivery services and couriers.

### **650 Supplies -Technology Related**

Technology-related supplies include supplies that are typically used in conjunction with technology related hardware or software. Some examples are CDs, flash or jump drives, parallel cables and monitor stands. Software costs below the capitalization threshold should be reported here.

### **734 Technology -Related Hardware**

Expenditures for technology-related equipment and technology infrastructure. These costs include those associated with the purchase of network equipment, servers, PCs, printers, other peripherals and devices. Technology-related supplies should be coded to object code 650, Supplies-Technology Related.

## Sustainability

Newtown Public Schools is committed to maintaining and improving technology access in our district schools to the best of its ability. It recognizes this as a requirement for meeting teaching, learning and assessment goals and in ensuring the success of students in a global setting. The past two operating budgets show a growth in the staffing of the technology department, and in the funding for the purchase of equipment to meet the defined goals and needs.

The District's commitment is exemplified in its Strategic Plan, Educational Technology Plan and district policies. The district's continual review of goals and action plans, led by the District Technology Committee demonstrates its resolve in meeting the needs of all students.

This commitment is also evident by recent actions of the Board of Education. The Newtown Board of Education working to identify and adopt an annual budgetary amount for technology equipment needs to stabilize and ensure funding in future budgets. During the 2015-2016 budgeting process, the Board of Education also endorsed the district's proposal to move from a seven-year obsolescence to a six-year. Clearly, the importance of quality educational technology in a 21" century classroom is understood and embraced by the Board of Education and the Newtown Public Schools.

**APPENDIX A**

**STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES**

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
STANDARD STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES  
GRANT PROGRAMS

**PROJECT TITLE:** District Technology Upgrades to Support  
Transition to the New Standards

**THE APPLICANT:** Newtown Public Schools HEREBY ASSURES THAT:  
(insert Agency/School/CBO Name)

- A. The applicant has the necessary legal authority to apply for and receive the proposed grant;
- B. The filing of this application has been authorized by the applicant's governing body, and the undersigned official has been duly authorized to file this application for and on behalf of said applicant, and otherwise to act as the authorized representative of the applicant in connection with this application;
- C. The activities and services for which assistance is sought under this grant will be administered by or under the supervision and control of the applicant;
- D. The project will be operated in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and in compliance with regulations and other policies and administrative directives of the State Board of Education and the Connecticut State Department of Education;
- E. Grant funds shall not be used to supplant funds normally budgeted by the agency;
- F. Fiscal control and accounting procedures will be used to ensure proper disbursement of all funds awarded;
- G. The applicant will submit a final project report (within 60 days of the project completion) and such other reports, as specified, to the Connecticut State Department of Education, including information relating to the project records and access thereto as the Connecticut State Department of Education may find necessary;
- H. The Connecticut State Department of Education reserves the exclusive right to use and grant the right to use and/or publish any part or parts of any summary, abstract, reports, publications, records and materials resulting from this project and this grant;
- I. If the project achieves the specified objectives, every reasonable effort will be made to continue the project and/or implement the results after the termination of state/federal funding;
- J. The applicant will protect and save harmless the State Board of Education from financial loss and expense, including legal fees and costs, if any, arising out of any breach of the duties, in whole or part, described in the application for the grant;
- K. At the conclusion of each grant period, the applicant will provide for an independent audit report acceptable to the grantor in accordance with Sections 7-394a and 7-396a of the Connecticut General

Statutes, and the applicant shall return to the Connecticut State Department of Education any moneys program/operation budget as determined by the audit;

**L. REQUIRED LANGUAGE (NON-DISCRIMINATION)** References in this section to “contract” shall mean this grant agreement and to “contractor” shall mean the Grantee.

(a) For purposes of this Section, the following terms are defined as follows:

- i. "Commission" means the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities;
- ii. "Contract" and “contract” include any extension or modification of the Contract or contract;
- iii. "Contractor" and “contractor” include any successors or assigns of the Contractor or contractor;
- iv. "Gender identity or expression" means a person's gender-related identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person's physiology or assigned sex at birth, which gender-related identity can be shown by providing evidence including, but not limited to, medical history, care or treatment of the gender-related identity, consistent and uniform assertion of the gender-related identity or any other evidence that the gender-related identity is sincerely held, part of a person's core identity or not being asserted for an improper purpose;
- v. “good faith" means that degree of diligence which a reasonable person would exercise in the performance of legal duties and obligations;
- vi. "good faith efforts" shall include, but not be limited to, those reasonable initial efforts necessary to comply with statutory or regulatory requirements and additional or substituted efforts when it is determined that such initial efforts will not be sufficient to comply with such requirements;
- vii. "marital status" means being single, married as recognized by the state of Connecticut, widowed, separated or divorced;
- viii. "mental disability" means one or more mental disorders, as defined in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders", or a record of or regarding a person as having one or more such disorders;
- ix. “minority business enterprise" means any small contractor or supplier of materials fifty-one percent or more of the capital stock, if any, or assets of which is owned by a person or persons: (1) who are active in the daily affairs of the enterprise, (2) who have the power to direct the management and policies of the enterprise, and (3) who are members of a minority, as such term is defined in subsection (a) of Connecticut General Statutes § 32-9n; and
- x. "public works contract" means any agreement between any individual, firm or corporation and the State or any political subdivision of the State other than a municipality for construction, rehabilitation, conversion, extension, demolition or repair of a public building, highway or other changes or improvements in real property, or which is financed in whole or in part by the State, including, but not limited to, matching expenditures, grants, loans, insurance or guarantees.

For purposes of this Section, the terms "Contract" and “contract” do not include a contract where each contractor is (1) a political subdivision of the state, including, but not limited to, a municipality, (2) a quasi-public agency, as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 1-120, (3) any other state, including but not limited to any federally recognized Indian tribal governments, as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 1-267, (4) the federal government, (5) a foreign government, or (6) an agency of a subdivision, agency, state or government described in the immediately preceding enumerated items (1), (2), (3), (4) or (5).

(b) (1) The Contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the Contract such Contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, mental retardation, mental disability or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such Contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the State of Connecticut;

and the Contractor further agrees to take affirmative action to insure that applicants with job-related qualifications are employed and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, mental retardation, mental disability or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by the Contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved; (2) the Contractor agrees, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Contractor, to state that it is an "affirmative action-equal opportunity employer" in accordance with regulations adopted by the Commission; (3) the Contractor agrees to provide each labor union or representative of workers with which the Contractor has a collective bargaining Agreement or other contract or understanding and each vendor with which the Contractor has a contract or understanding, a notice to be provided by the Commission, advising the labor union or workers' representative of the Contractor's commitments under this section and to post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment; (4) the Contractor agrees to comply with each provision of this Section and Connecticut General Statutes §§ 46a-68e and 46a-68f and with each regulation or relevant order issued by said Commission pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §§ 46a-56, 46a-68e and 46a-68f; and (5) the Contractor agrees to provide the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities with such information requested by the Commission, and permit access to pertinent books, records and accounts, concerning the employment practices and procedures of the Contractor as relate to the provisions of this Section and Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-56. If the contract is a public works contract, the Contractor agrees and warrants that he will make good faith efforts to employ minority business enterprises as subcontractors and suppliers of materials on such public works projects.

- (c) Determination of the Contractor's good faith efforts shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following factors: The Contractor's employment and subcontracting policies, patterns and practices; affirmative advertising, recruitment and training; technical assistance activities and such other reasonable activities or efforts as the Commission may prescribe that are designed to ensure the participation of minority business enterprises in public works projects.
- (d) The Contractor shall develop and maintain adequate documentation, in a manner prescribed by the Commission, of its good faith efforts.
- (e) The Contractor shall include the provisions of subsection (b) of this Section in every subcontract or purchase order entered into in order to fulfill any obligation of a contract with the State and such provisions shall be binding on a subcontractor, vendor or manufacturer unless exempted by regulations or orders of the Commission. The Contractor shall take such action with respect to any such subcontract or purchase order as the Commission may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §46a-56; provided if such Contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction by the Commission, the Contractor may request the State of Connecticut to enter into any such litigation or negotiation prior thereto to protect the interests of the State and the State may so enter.
- (f) The Contractor agrees to comply with the regulations referred to in this Section as they exist on the date of this Contract and as they may be adopted or amended from time to time during the term of this Contract and any amendments thereto.
- (g) (1) The Contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the Contract such Contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of sexual orientation, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or the State of Connecticut, and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their sexual orientation; (2) the Contractor agrees to provide each labor union or representative of workers with which such Contractor has a collective bargaining Agreement or other contract or understanding and each vendor with which such Contractor has a contract or understanding, a notice to be provided by


the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities advising the labor union or workers' representative of the Contractor's commitments under this section, and to post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment; (3) the Contractor agrees to comply with each provision of this section and with each regulation or relevant order issued by said Commission pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-56; and (4) the Contractor agrees to provide the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities with such information requested by the Commission, and permit access to pertinent books, records and accounts, concerning the employment practices and procedures of the Contractor which relate to the provisions of this Section and Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-56.

(h) The Contractor shall include the provisions of the foregoing paragraph in every subcontract or purchase order entered into in order to fulfill any obligation of a contract with the State and such provisions shall be binding on a subcontractor, vendor or manufacturer unless exempted by regulations or orders of the Commission. The Contractor shall take such action with respect to any such subcontract or purchase order as the Commission may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-56; provided, if such Contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction by the Commission, the Contractor may request the State of Connecticut to enter into any such litigation or negotiation prior thereto to protect the interests of the State and the State may so enter.

M. The grant award is subject to approval of the Connecticut State Department of Education and availability of state or federal funds.

N. The applicant agrees and warrants that Sections 4-190 to 4-197, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes concerning the Personal Data Act and Sections 10-4-8 to 10-4-10, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies promulgated there under are hereby incorporated by reference.

I, the undersigned authorized official; hereby certify that these assurances shall be fully implemented.

Superintendent Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: (typed): Joseph V. Erardi ED. D. \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: (typed): Superintendent of Schools \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: 6/17/15 \_\_\_\_\_



**APPENDIX B**  
**APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

This grant money is for the following purposes:

- purchase of new devices; *and/or*
- purchase of interschool or intraschool bandwidth/infrastructure, interdistrict school or facility bandwidth/infrastructure.

Successful applications will have all of the following components. **Failure to include any of these necessary components will result in no award.** The “RFP Page” column references the page in this RFP where that component is more fully described.

Required Component	Special Notes	RFP Page	Check Box
Proposal Cover Page	Form included in this RFP	Page 7	
No more than one proposal per district	As listed in Appendix C	Page 1	
Grant application is received by the CSDE by the due date. Both e-mail and hardcopy versions are due by this date.	July 17, 2015, by 3 p.m.	Page 3	
Grant application links spending to the CCS and associated statewide assessments.	This includes the Smarter Balanced test and potentially the CTAA	Page 2	
Grant application includes a complete <b>proposal narrative</b> including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• program need and program plan</li> <li>• teaching and learning</li> <li>• project timeline</li> <li>• evaluation plan</li> </ul>	This section cannot exceed <b>five pages.</b>	Page 4	
Grant application includes a completed <b>Budget Form ED 114.</b>	Monies need to be allocated to the identified budget categories only.	Page 8	
Grant application includes a <b>budget narrative</b> and two-year sustainability plan.	Including the Budget Form ED 114; this section cannot exceed <b>three pages.</b>	Page 5	
Total request cannot exceed maximum allocation by LEA. Maximum allocation can be calculated as \$22 per student.	LEAs will reference total enrollment using October 2014 PSIS District Enrollment Data.	Page 2 and Appendix C	
Statement of Assurances	Requires superintendent signature.	Appendix A	