

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

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on April 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Municipal Office, Building, 3 Primrose Street.

A. Plante, Chair	C. Melillo
J. Vouros, Vice Chair	A. Uberti
D. Ramsey, Secretary	T. Vadas
S. Tomai	3 Staff
C. Gilson	6 Public
D. Linnetz	1 Press
G. Peteronjes	
I. Khazadian	

MOTION: Mrs. Tomai moved that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss two personnel leave of absence requests and invite Mr. Melillo. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 1 – Executive Session

Executive session began at 6:50 p.m. and ended at 6:55 p.m.
Mrs. Plante called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item 2 – Pledge of Allegiance

Item 3 – Vote on Executive Session Items

MOTION: Mrs. Tomai moved that the Board of Education approve the one-year leave of absence for Katie Mauro. Mr. Gilson seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Tomai moved that the Board of Education approve the one-year leave of absence for Abbey Clements. Mr. Gilson seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 4 – Consent Agenda

MOTION: Mrs. Tomai moved that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda which includes the donations to Sandy Hook School and the correspondence report. Mrs. Linnetz seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 5 – Public Participation

Item 6 – Reports

Chair Report: Mrs. Plante gave a budget update. The Legislative Council put forth the Board of Finance recommendation for the Board of Education budget. The referendum is April 23 and she urged everyone to vote. She also thanked those who attended the budget meetings.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Melillo spoke about preparation for the April 8 partial solar eclipse. We will emphasize safety and provide certified eclipse glasses for students and all athletic activities will not be held outdoors until after 4:00. Middle School walkers must have a form from their parents saying they can do so. He contacted other districts, our weather person, and Dr. Machado who feel it is important to embrace this educational opportunity for students. Principals also have plans in place during dismissal times.

Committee Reports: Mrs. Linnetz attended a Bandorama at the high school with 450 students playing in the gym. She also attended an event at the middle school on Thursday when an author spoke to 7th and 8th grade students about how his primary school experiences helped him learn about creating stories.

Mr. Ramsey reported on the Curriculum and Instruction meeting on March 26 with Mrs. Uberti updating them on new state guidelines on the teacher evaluation program. The 2024-25 school year will remain status quo and we will work on implementing the program for the following year. The kindergarten enrollment is at 17 students in the K readiness program. Mrs. Uberti and Mrs. DiBartolo will be creating a webinar on the K-5 reading program.

Mr. Gilson reported that CAFE will be sending out information on the legislative session. He's going to Ridgefield because they received an award for their district website. Danbury also won this award. He would like to look at ways to improve our website.

Mr. Melillo suggested a meeting with Dennis Colclough who is working on updating our website. We recognize the need to modernize the design.

Student Reports:

Mr. Peteronjes reported that last Wednesday underclassmen took the SATS. Last Thursday Families United in Newtown hosted the Barbi and Ken Dream Night Prom. Yesterday the girls' softball team had their season opener.

Ms. Khazadian noted that it was Autism Awareness Day so many students wore blue in support of autism science and advocacy. Some of our students left for Spain today and will meet with the students who came to Newtown in the fall. On Wednesday, student government is hosting a debate on gun violence between students from Junior Newtown Action Alliance and the Debate Club. Friday is the junior prom at the Aqua Turf.

Item 7 – Old Business

Facilities Study:

MOTION: Mrs. Tomai moved that the Board of Education approve Bureau Veritas to conduct the facilities study. Mrs. Linnetz seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

John Barlow, Director of Facilities, spoke about the process for choosing Bureau Veritas.

Mr. Ramsey asked when it would begin.

Mr. Barlow said students will be in the building during some of this work, it will involve two or four people touring the facilities, and begin two weeks after the contract is signed. He received the contract today to start reviewing so it could start by the end of April. They will also look at the enrollment projections over 10 years and our space needs.

Mr. Gilson asked if he had any experience with their cost estimates and how much the cost will actually be.

Mr. Barlow said they could be between 5 and 15 percent on the estimates.

Mrs. Tomai recalled it was between 15 and 20 percent but they won't always know what the real costs were but this works for budgetary purposes.

Mr. Leonardi asked if they have experience working in a similar district like Newtown where enrollment has declined.

Mr. Barlow said they have done studies across the country so it is possible they have.

Mr. Leonardi asked to explain the scope of a space needs analysis.

Mr. Barlow said the State doesn't have a standard for existing space requirements. We have to see if our space meets the current educational standards.

Mr. Leonardi asked if that could include a recommendation to consolidate buildings. Mr. Barlow said there would be no recommendations. They will just bring back data on the buildings.

Mr. Leonardi asked if this group would reach out to departments like technology before the assessment begins and who manages the output of it to share with the stakeholders. Mr. Barlow said we would reconvene as a committee and share the draft copy with the stakeholders to make adjustments to the report.

Mr. Ramsey said there has been a lot of discussion about the air conditioning issue in the upper wing of the middle school and putting in an electrical infrastructure to enable portable air conditioners to help with the heat.

Mr. Barlow refused to spend \$450,000 through CIP for air conditioners without knowing more about the facility. They will look into the electrical system and putting air conditioning in the building. There's been talk about putting things in on a temporary level. He wants to see where the study lands before we start upgrading the electrical system.

Mrs. Linnetz spoke about the high school roof issues which is ongoing. We know we have to replace the roof because there are pretty regular disruptions. She asked how he prioritized the roof solution.

Mr. Barlow said a replacement roof would not be able to be done over the summer because it's a complete removal of the roof first. We are actively making repairs and doing inspections. The goal would be to apply for a non-priority grant through the State of Connecticut and make adjustments in the CIP for next summer. We could make a temporary repair to C-wing for \$93,000 but we also have leaks in A and B wings and the auditorium. The roof has gotten brittle over the years and cracks with the temperature changes.

Mrs. Linnetz confirmed replacing the roof for next summer.
Mrs. Plante asked if the Municipal Center and Central Office is in the scope.

Mr. Barlow said it was not but Jeff Capeci was involved, is impressed with the pricing that came through for the study and is thinking about checking all of the town buildings.

Mrs. Plante asked if they would be looking at the middle school first.
Mr. Barlow said they will be putting data in for each school and will go school by school with follow-up meetings where we get draft copies. It will take 12 weeks for the report. The CIP is in July and August. Upon the approval tonight, Jeff Capeci was authorized to sign the final contract.

Motion passes unanimously.

Item 8 – New Business

First Read of Policies:

Mrs. Linnetz referred to Policy 6114 Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness. We received a CAFE model policy and also included feedback from Mark Pompano, Chris Melillo, Anne Uberti, and the District Safety and Security Committee as well as from principals. It is very detailed on how we handle emergencies in the district.

Mrs. Linnetz said they took the same approach on Policy 6114.1 Fire Emergency (Drills) Crisis Response Drills/Bus Safety Drills and reviewed the CAFE model and contacted the same stakeholders. She also thanked Todd Higgins for his many hours working on these policies.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Mrs. Tomai moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of March 19, 2024. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 9 – Public Participation

John Barlow shared cards he received from students from the greenhouse because his crew did an amazing job putting automation into the greenhouse through a grant.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to adjourned. Mrs. Linnetz seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 10 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Donald Ramsey
Secretary



**Sandy Hook School
12 Dickinson Drive
Sandy Hook, CT 06482
(203) 426-7657**

Memorandum

To: Newtown Board of Education
From: Erin Ardino
Date: 3/20/2024
Subject: Donation from VOX Publishing

VOX Publishing donated the attached list of VR titles to the library media center at Sandy Hook School. The value of this donation totals \$4,708.46.

These titles have been added to our virtual reality collection ahead of our author visit planned for March 27th.

If you have any questions, please contact our office.

Thank you!



NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mauro, Katie <maurok@newtown.k12.ct.us>

Order #5464 confirmed

VOX Books <voxshop@libraryideas.com>
To: maurok@newtown.k12.ct.us

Wed, Feb 21, 2024 at 1:15 PM



ORDER #5464

Thank you for your order!

Hi Katie, your order has been submitted and is being processed and you will be notified when it ships.

Please submit a Sales Tax Exemption form to accounting@libraryideas.com or by fax to 571-730-4305.

If you have any questions, please call 571-730-4300 or email us at accounting@libraryideas.com. PO Number: 02212024

[View your order](#) or [Visit our store](#)

Order summary



The Couch Potato × 1

\$49.95



Ivy and Bean Break the Fossil Record × 1

\$57.95

Twig and Turtle 2: Toy Store Trouble × 1

\$57.95



Wind Riders: Search for the Scarlet Macaws × 1

\$54.95



Simone Biles (Sports Superstars) × 1

\$48.95



Plesiosaurs (Ancient Marine Life) × 1

\$48.95



Fossils (Rocks & Minerals) × 1

\$48.95



Polar Bears (Animals at Risk) × 1

\$48.95



Elephants (Animals at Risk) × 1

\$48.95



Mountain Gorillas Animals of the Mountains: Blastoff!
Readers × 1

\$48.95



Scorpion vs. Tarantula (Animal Battles) × 1

\$48.95



The Loch Ness Monster (Unexplained Mysteries) × 1

\$48.95

Wolverine vs. Honey Badger (Animal Battles) × 1

\$48.95



Dump Trucks (Machines with Power!) × 1

\$48.95



Red Pandas (Animals of the Mountains) × 1

\$48.95



Sloths (Animals of the Rain Forest) × 1

\$48.95



Beavers (Animals of the Wetlands) × 1

\$48.95



Goby Fish and Snapping Shrimp (Animal Tag Teams) × 1

\$48.95



Collared Lizards (Animals of the Desert) × 1

\$48.95



Golden Retrievers - Blastoff! Readers: Level 2: Awesome Dogs! × 1

\$48.95



Diggers - Blastoff! Readers: Mighty Machines × 1

\$49.95



Puffer Fish - Blastoff! Readers: Oceans Alive × 1

\$48.95

Stingrays - Blastoff! Readers: Oceans Alive × 1

\$48.95



Squids - Blastoff! Readers: Ocean Life Up Close × 1 \$48.95



Lovely Beasts: The Surprising Truth × 1 \$48.95



In the Past × 1 \$48.95



UFOs (Unexplained Mysteries) × 1 \$48.95



A Hundred Billion Trillion Stars × 1 \$48.95



Warthogs and Banded Mongooses - Blastoff! Readers:
Animal Tag Teams × 1 \$48.95



Baby Elephants - Blastoff! Readers: Super Cute! × 1 \$48.95



Humpback Whales - Blastoff! Readers: Ocean Life Up
Close × 1 \$48.95



Home For a Penguin, Home for a Whale × 1 \$48.95



Monster Trucks - Blastoff! Readers: Monster
Machines × 1

\$49.95



Hedgehogs - Blastoff! Readers: Animal Safari × 1

\$48.95



Giant Pandas - Blastoff! Readers: Animal Safari × 1

\$48.95



Dolphins - Blastoff! Readers: Oceans Alive × 1

\$49.95



Life in a Coral Reef (Biomes Alive!) × 1

\$48.95



Arctic Foxes (Animals of the Arctic) × 1

\$48.95



Snow Leopards (Animals of the Mountains) × 1

\$48.95



Harp Seals (Animals of the Arctic) × 1

\$48.95



Giraffes (Animals of the Grasslands) × 1

\$48.95



Macaws (Animals of the Rain Forest) × 1

\$48.95



Backhoes (Machines with Power!) × 1

\$48.95



Working Dogs (Dog Groups) × 1

\$48.95



Platypuses (Animals of the Wetlands) × 1

\$48.95



Toy Dogs (Dog Groups) × 1

\$48.95



River Otters (Animals of the Wetlands) × 1

\$48.95



Sea Turtles (Ocean Life Up Close) × 1

\$48.95



Fishing Cats Animals of the Wetlands: Blastoff!
Readers × 1

\$48.95



Animal Adaptations (Engineered by Nature) × 1

\$48.95



Playing at the Border: A Story of Yo-Yo Ma × 1

\$49.95



Crows (World's Smartest Animals) × 1

\$48.95



Mountain Goats (Animals of the Mountains) × 1

\$48.95



Bald Eagles (North American Animals) × 1

\$48.95



Gray Wolves (Animals of the Forest) × 1

\$48.95



Glaciers (Our Planet Earth) × 1

\$48.95



Orangutans (Animals at Risk) × 1

\$48.95



Severe Weather (Understanding Weather) × 1

\$48.95



Poison Dart Frogs (Animals of the Rain Forest) × 1

\$48.95



Sea Scorpions (Ancient Marine Life) × 1

\$48.95



Tasmanian Devils (Animals at Risk) × 1

\$48.95



Baby Goats (Too Cute!) × 1

\$48.95



Batcat: The Ghostly Guest × 1

\$57.95



When Clouds Touch Us × 1

\$62.95



A Wolf Called Wander × 1

\$54.95



A Whale of the Wild × 1

\$54.95



Twig and Turtle 1: Big Move to a Tiny House × 1

\$57.95



Wind Riders: Shipwreck in Seal Bay × 1

\$54.95



Ivy and Bean × 1

\$57.95



Zombies Don't Eat Veggies! × 1

\$49.95



The Good Egg × 1

\$49.95



The Cool Bean × 1

\$49.95



The Sour Grape × 1

\$49.95



Every Little Thing × 1

\$48.95



One Love × 1

\$48.95



Don't Stop × 1

\$48.95



These Boots Are Made for Walkin' × 1

\$48.95



Respect × 1

\$48.95



Strawberry Swing × 1

\$48.95



Oona and the Shark × 1

\$49.95



P Is for Pterodactyl: The Worst Alphabet Book Ever × 1

\$48.95



The World's Most Fantastic Plants (Extreme World) × 1

\$48.95



The 59th Street Bridge Song (Feelin' Groovy) × 1

\$49.95



Good Times Roll × 1

\$49.95



Lean on Me × 1

\$48.95



Shiny Happy People × 1

\$48.95



Forever Young × 1

\$48.95



In My Life × 1

\$48.95



With a Little Help From My Friends × 1

\$48.95



Imagine by John Lennon × 1

\$48.95



Pizza and Taco: Best Party Ever! × 1

\$57.95



Baby Hippos (Too Cute!) × 1

\$48.95



Creepy Crayon! x 1

\$49.95



The Thingity-Jig x 1

\$49.95



Sweet Child o' Mine x 1

\$48.95



Peace Train x 1

\$49.95



(Sittin' On) the Dock of the Bay x 1

\$48.95



If Dogs Run Free x 1

\$49.95



If Not for You x 1

\$48.95



Pizza and Taco: Who's the Best? x 1

\$54.95

Discount AUTOMATIC 6% OFF ORDERS OVER \$2,500 - \$300.54

Subtotal \$4,708.46

Shipping \$0.00

Total **\$4,708.46 USD**

You saved \$300.54

Customer information

Shipping address

Katie Mauro
Sandy Hook Elementary School
12 Dickinson Drive
Sandy Hook CT 06482
United States

Billing address

Katie Mauro
Sandy Hook Elementary School
12 Dickinson Drive
Sandy Hook CT 06482
United States

Shipping method

Standard Shipping

If you have any questions, reply to this email or contact us at voxshop@libraryideas.com



**Sandy Hook School
12 Dickinson Drive
Sandy Hook, CT 06482
(203) 426-7657**

Memorandum

To: Newtown Board of Education
From: Erin Ardino
Date: 3/20/2024
Subject: Donation from Bellwether Media, Inc.

Bellwether Media donated the attached list of VR titles to the library media center at Sandy Hook School. The value of this donation totals \$1,952.00.

These titles have been added to our virtual reality collection ahead of our author visit planned for March 27th.

If you have any questions, please contact our office.

Thank you!

BELLWETHER 

→ Donation to
SHS

Bellwether Media, Inc.

Phone: 612-825-2545
Fax: 612-825-2544
Email: orders@bellwethermedia.com

Cart

Cart ID: 31502
Date: 18 March 2024

Customer Details

Name:
Category:
Phone:
Email:

Product	Format	ISBN	Qty	Price	Total
Video Games	Reinforced book	979-8-86687-181-4	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
Super Soakers	Reinforced book	978-1-64487-770-8	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
Board Games	Reinforced book	978-1-64487-769-2	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
Lemon Sharks	Reinforced book	978-1-64487-439-4	1	\$18.95	\$18.95
Angel Sharks	Reinforced book	978-1-64487-243-7	1	\$18.95	\$18.95
Nurse Sharks	Reinforced book	978-1-64487-440-0	1	\$18.95	\$18.95
Dogs	Reinforced book	978-1-64487-239-0	1	\$18.95	\$18.95
Blue Sharks	Reinforced book	978-1-64487-244-4	1	\$18.95	\$18.95
Sand Tiger Sharks	Reinforced book	978-1-64487-249-9	1	\$18.95	\$18.95
My Pet Sugar Glider	Reinforced book	978-1-64487-186-7	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
American Bullfrogs	Reinforced book	978-1-62617-981-3	1	\$18.95	\$18.95
Northern Leopard Frogs	Reinforced book	978-1-62617-913-4	1	\$18.95	\$18.95
Gray Foxes	Reinforced book	978-1-62617-912-7	1	\$18.95	\$18.95
Wolverines	Reinforced book	978-1-62617-731-4	1	\$18.95	\$18.95
River Otters	Reinforced book	978-1-62617-730-7	1	\$18.95	\$18.95
Mountain Lions	Reinforced book	978-1-62617-639-3	1	\$18.95	\$18.95
Roadrunners	Reinforced book	978-1-62617-568-6	1	\$18.95	\$18.95
Prairie Dogs	Reinforced book	978-1-62617-402-3	1	\$18.95	\$18.95
Walruses	Reinforced book	978-1-62617-424-5	1	\$18.95	\$18.95
Red Squirrels	Reinforced book	978-1-62617-336-1	1	\$18.95	\$18.95
Fossils	Reinforced book	978-1-60014-979-5	1	\$18.95	\$18.95
F-14 Tomcats	Reinforced book	978-1-60014-941-2	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
Apache Helicopters	Reinforced book	978-1-60014-816-3	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
B-2 Stealth Bombers	Reinforced book	978-1-60014-883-5	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
Sea Snakes	Reinforced book	978-1-60014-320-5	1	\$18.95	\$18.95
Dog Breeds	Reinforced book	900018	1	\$208.45	\$208.45

Product	Format	ISBN	Qty	Price	Total
NFL Teams	Reinforced book	900079	1	\$638.40	\$638.40
Baby Cats	Reinforced book	978-1-60014-923-8	1	\$18.95	\$18.95
Caring for Your Cat	Reinforced book	978-1-60014-465-3	1	\$18.95	\$18.95
Baby Elephants	Reinforced book	979-8-88687-404-4	1	\$17.95	\$17.95
Baby Kangaroos	Reinforced book	979-8-88687-405-1	1	\$17.95	\$17.95
Baby Sheep	Reinforced book	979-8-88687-406-8	1	\$17.95	\$17.95
Baby Tigers	Reinforced book	979-8-88687-407-5	1	\$17.95	\$17.95
Baby Lions	Reinforced book	979-8-88687-772-4	1	\$17.95	\$17.95
Baby Seals	Reinforced book	979-8-88687-773-1	1	\$17.95	\$17.95
Baby Skunks	Reinforced book	979-8-88687-774-8	1	\$17.95	\$17.95
Baby Turtles	Reinforced book	979-8-88687-775-5	1	\$17.95	\$17.95
Juan Soto	Reinforced book	979-8-88687-156-2	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
Lionel Messi	Reinforced book	979-8-88687-158-6	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
Patrick Mahomes	Reinforced book	979-8-88687-159-3	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
Aaron Judge	Reinforced book	979-8-88687-460-0	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
Chloe Kim	Reinforced book	979-8-88687-462-4	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
Cristiano Ronaldo	Reinforced book	979-8-88687-463-1	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
Escaping the Nazis: Jan Baalsrud's Story	Reinforced book	978-1-64487-546-9	1	\$21.95	\$21.95
Shark Attack!: Bethany Hamilton's Story	Reinforced book	978-1-64487-549-0	1	\$21.95	\$21.95
Gorilla vs. Leopard	Reinforced book	978-1-64487-156-0	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
Rhinoceros vs. African Elephant	Reinforced book	978-1-64487-160-7	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
Dingo vs. Kangaroo	Reinforced book	978-1-64487-532-2	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
Praying Mantis vs. Black Widow Spider	Reinforced book	978-1-64487-625-1	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
Asiatic Lion vs. Bengal Tiger	Reinforced book	978-1-64487-759-3	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
Mantis Shrimp vs. Lionfish	Reinforced book	978-1-64487-761-6	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
Dung Beetle vs. Tarantula Hawk	Reinforced book	979-8-88687-165-4	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
Ostrich vs. Cheetah	Reinforced book	979-8-88687-166-1	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
Tiger Shark vs. Leopard Seal	Reinforced book	979-8-88687-167-8	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
Burmese Python vs. Sun Bear	Reinforced book	979-8-88687-457-0	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
Harpy Eagle vs. Ocelot	Reinforced book	979-8-88687-459-4	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
African Wild Dog Pack vs. Leopard	Reinforced book	979-8-88687-822-6	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
Red Fox vs. Fisher	Reinforced book	979-8-88687-826-4	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
Saltwater Crocodile vs. Great Hammerhead Shark	Reinforced book	979-8-88687-827-1	1	\$19.95	\$19.95
				Subtotal:	\$1,952.00

Coupon Code:
Item Count: 59
Title Count: 100

Correspondence Report
03/19/2024 – 04/02/2024

Date	Name	Subject
03/19/2024	Ramsey, Donald	Correspondence Report for the BOE meeting 03/19/2024
03/20/2024	Hiscavich, Michelle	Musical – Congratulations!
03/21/2024	Plante, Alison	Welcome Brian
03/21/2024	Melillo, Christopher	Rumor at Reed School
03/24/2024	Melillo, Christopher	3/24 Superintendent’s Sunday Update
03/24/2024	Plante, Alison	March 24 – Week in Preview
03/25/2024	Melissa Martucci Gomez	Library Media Policy
03/26/2024	Talk with Tiffany	Budget Letter
03/28/2024	June, Kathy	BOE Mailing – April 2, 2024
03/28/2024	June, Kathy	April 1 Special Meeting Agenda
03/28/2024	Susan Marci	Amended BOS agenda 4/1/24
03/31/2024	Melillo, Christopher	3/31 Superintendent’s Sunday Update
04/01/2024	Plante, Alison	April 1 – Week in Preview

Facilities Study Overview

Bureau Veritas

Process of RFP review

- 3 RFP's were received
- 1 RFP was disqualified
- 1 RFP was \$160,000 over budget of \$130,000
- Committee conducted an interview of Bureau Veritas

Committee Members:

John Barlow

Fred Hurley

Ned Simpson

Al Adriani

Shannon Tomai

Chris Melillo

Bureau Veritas Experience

Connecticut

Hartford Public Schools

New Britain Public Schools

Milford Public Schools

Rocky Hill Public Schools

Granby Public Schools

Stamford Public Schools

City of Danbury

Region

Rhode Island Dept of Education

Vermont Agency of Education

Boston Public Schools

Maryland Statewide K-12 Schools

District of Columbia Public Schools

Project Understanding and Deliverables

- Comprehensive assessment of all sites, buildings, building systems and infrastructure.
- Determine Present conditions and estimated life expectancy of building systems, physical assets and grounds.
- Recommend corrections and cost estimates for corrections.
- Establish anticipated renewal and replacement costs for various systems and components.
- Collect equipment inventory and nameplate data from all equipment

Project Understanding and Deliverables- cont.

- A strategic plan for capital repairs, lifecycle component replacement and building modernization.
- Barcoding / QR coding all equipment.
- Provide preventative maintenance schedule.
- Provide assessment software and database. CMMS integration
- Provide a space needs analysis.

Fee Proposal and Schedule

Total estimated cost for the study is	\$69,517
Total estimated cost for option 1 and 2	\$29,880
Total budget from BOE nonlapsing and Town.....	\$130,000
Balance.....	\$30,603

Schedule to complete is 12 week from executing contract.

Original Policy

6114

Instruction

Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness

The Board of Education recognizes its obligation to students, staff and the community to be prepared to deal with various emergencies as they arise, ensuring to the greatest extent possible the safety of District students, staff and visitors.

The administration shall require the Building Principal to maintain procedures for fire, civil defense, and other emergencies, in accordance with the District's plan and to ensure the maintenance of the fire alarm system and regular and emergency exits of all buildings. Each school shall establish a school security and safety committee that will assist in developing and administering the school's security and safety plan.

In addition to the District Emergency Preparedness Plan, all building safety and security plans must be compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), incorporate the National Incident Command System and be based upon the standards issued by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. Governmental agencies and bodies vested with the responsibility for directing and coordinating emergency services on local and state levels shall be included in the preparation and implementation of the plan.

The District will cooperate with local law enforcement, fire department and civil defense authorities and other civic agencies in the event of a declared emergency situation.

First Aid

At least one person at each school site should hold current first aid and/or CPR certification.

- (cf. 5141.6 – Crisis Prevention/Response)
- (cf. 5142 – Student Safety)
- (cf. 6114.1 – Fire Emergency/Crisis Response Drills)
- (cf. 6114.3 – Bomb Threats)
- (cf. 6114.6 – Emergency Closings)
- (cf. 6114.7 – Safe Schools)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules

10-231 Fire drills

52-557b Immunity from liability for emergency medical assistance, first aid or medication by injection. School personnel not required to administer or render.

P.A. 13-3 An Act Concerning Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety (Section 86, 87, 88)

Policy adopted: New, 6/3/2014

Instruction

Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness

The Board of Education, using a district security and safe committee (“DSSC”) composed of the Superintendent, the Director of Security and other designated district personnel as the Superintendent may determine, shall develop and maintain the District’s emergency operations plans (“EOP”) including district-level and individual school-level security and safety plans. recognizes its obligation to students, staff and the community to be prepared to deal with various emergencies as they arise, ensuring to the greatest extent possible the safety of District students, staff and visitors. Such security and safety plans shall utilize an all-hazards approach and utilize the School Security and Safety Plan template made available by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DESPP/DEMHS). The district-level and individual school-level security and safety plans shall be in compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), and incorporate the National Incident Command System, and be based upon the School Security and Safety Plan Standards issued by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for the EOP in partnership with the Director of Security and the DSSC. The DSSC shall meet on a regular basis and will rely on community involvement, including but not limited to the chief executive officer of the municipality, law enforcement, fire, public health, and emergency management to develop and maintain the EOP, including district-level and individual school-level security and safety plans. At least one Board of Education member shall serve as a Board liaison to the DSSC, and the Superintendent shall report to the full Board of Education on matters of security and safety promptly following each meeting of the DSSC.

The administration shall require the Building Principal to maintain procedures for fire, civil defense, and other emergencies, in accordance with the District’s plan and to ensure the maintenance of the fire alarm system and regular and emergency exits of all buildings. Each school shall establish a school security and safety committee (“SSSC”), to meet at least annually, that will assist in the developmenting and administering implementation of the school’s security and safety plan. The Director of Security shall work closely with school Principals and their respective SSSC to develop district-wide and individual school security and safety plans. Each individual school security and safety plan and any subsequent changes shall be approved in writing by the superintendent.

The Board of Education shall direct the Superintendent and/ or their designee to conduct a security vulnerability assessment of each school every two years; the results of which shall be incorporated into the EOP, including district-level and individual school security and safety plans, and reported to the DEMHS Regional Coordinator.

Instruction

Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness

A crisis management plan will be developed and maintained as part of the EOP and shall ensure an established set of directives to guide the actions of those involved and responsible for the safety of students and property. The crisis management plan shall be developed and maintained within the context of the four recognized plans for crisis management (1) Preparedness, (2) Response, (3) Recovery, and (4) Mitigation. In accordance with Policy 6114.1, district-level and school-level emergency response drill activities related to fire safety and other emergencies will be conducted by the District to ensure adherence to EOP and individual school security and safety plan processes and procedures, incident command, internal and external communication, and the orderly movement and placement of students to the safest available space(s) should an emergency occur, including, but not limited, to the following:

- Severe weather
- Fire
- Flood
- Terrorism
- Missing student(s)
- Suicide
- Threatening person(s)
- Weapons/ explosives found on school site
- Any other situation the Safe Schools Committee deems appropriate

The Superintendent, or his/her designee, is responsible for maintaining communication with other community agencies to share information on preparedness and planned emergency response procedures set forth in the EOP. It shall also be the responsibility of the Superintendent to ensure that each school in the district works in cooperation with these other community agencies during such emergencies.

Emergency preparedness and response procedures should be periodically discussed with teachers, parents/guardians and students as deemed appropriate by the district and/or individual school-level administrators. Each classroom shall have ready access to emergency response procedures, including, but not limited to fire, safe school mode, shelter in place, and evacuation ("Classroom Emergency Materials") and such Classroom Emergency Materials as are appropriate for public dissemination shall be made readily accessible to parents/guardians at the start of each school year and thereafter at any time upon request. All District personnel shall make themselves familiar with these procedures.

Crisis management must be viewed as a continuous process in which all phases of the EOP are being reviewed and revised. The EOP must be continuously updated based upon experience, research and changing vulnerabilities.

~~In addition to the District Emergency Preparedness Plan, all building safety and security plans must be compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), incorporate the National Incident Command System and be based upon the standards issued by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. Governmental agencies and bodies vested with the responsibility for directing and coordinating emergency services on local and state levels shall be included in the preparation and implementation of the plan.~~

~~The District will cooperate with local law enforcement, fire department and civil defense authorities and other civic agencies in the event of a declared emergency situation.~~

~~First Aid~~

~~At least one person at each school site should hold current first aid and/or CPR certification.~~

(cf. 5141.6 – Crisis Prevention/Response)
(cf. 5142 – Student Safety)
(cf. 6114.1 – Fire Emergency/Crisis Response Drills)
(cf. 6114.3 – Bomb Threats)
(cf. 6114.6 – Emergency Closings)
(cf. 6114.7 – Safe Schools)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules

10-231 Fire drills

52-557b Immunity from liability for emergency medical assistance, first aid or medication by injection. School personnel not required to administer or render.

P.A. 13-3 An Act Concerning Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety (Section 86, 87, 88)

~~10-222m – School security and safety plans. School security and safety committees~~

~~10-222n – School security and safety plan standards~~

Policy adopted: New, 6/3/2014

Instruction

Fire Emergency (Drills)/Crisis Response Drills/Bus Safety Drills

A fire drill shall be held at least once a month in each school building. The initial fire drill must be held not later than thirty days after the first day of each school year. A crisis response drill shall be substituted for one of the required monthly school fire drills every three months. Each Building Principal shall prepare a definite fire emergency plan, and furnish to all teachers and students information as to route and manner of exit. Fire drills shall be planned in such a way as to accomplish the evacuation of school buildings in the shortest possible time and in the most efficient and orderly fashion.

The format of the crisis response drill shall be developed in consultation with the appropriate local law enforcement agency. Further, a representative of the law enforcement agency may supervise and participate in any of the required crisis response drills. Such drills shall incorporate the basic protocols of lock-in open lockdown, lock-in closed lockdown, evacuation and shelter-in-place responses. The activation and utilization of the Incident Command System shall also be a part of the crisis response drills.

Bus safety drills shall be conducted at least two (2) times during each school year to instruct students in safe riding practices and emergency evacuation. The school principals and the designated school transportation authority will develop schedules and plans to implement the required safety drills.

Principals shall keep a record of all fire, crisis response and bus safety drills held in their schools, stating the date the drill was held and the time required for the response protocols utilized in the drill. They shall furnish such reports to the Superintendent or his designate as may from time to time be required.

Local law enforcement and other local public safety officials shall evaluate, score and provide feedback on fire drills and crisis response drills conducted pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 10-231. The Board of Education shall annually submit reports to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection regarding such fire drills and crisis response drills.

(cf. 5141.6 – Crisis Management Plan)
(cf. 5142 – Student Safety)
(cf. 6114 – Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-231 Fire drills. (as amended by PA 00-220 and PA 09-131)

Policy adopted: 6/3/2014 (This policy replaces 2-500)

Instruction**Fire Emergency (Drills)/Crisis Response Drills/Bus Safety Drills**

A fire drill shall be held at least once a month in each school building. The initial fire drill must be held not later than ~~thirty ten~~ days after the first day of school each ~~school~~ year. In addition to the initial fire drill, each school shall conduct a safe school mode drill, shelter in place drill, fire/ campus evacuation drill and a lockdown drill no later than thirty days after the first day of school. Afterwards, Aa crisis response drill shall be substituted for one of the required monthly school fire drills every three months. All emergency response drills shall be scheduled and the results documented in the district's emergency exercise software.-

Each Building Principal shall prepare a ~~definite~~ comprehensive fire emergency plan, ~~and furnish to all teachers and students information~~ as to route and manner of exit ~~and furnish it to all staff and students~~. Fire drills shall be planned ~~in such a way as and conducted~~ to accomplish the evacuation of school buildings in the shortest possible time and in the most efficient and orderly fashion.

The format of the crisis response drill shall be developed in consultation with the ~~appropriate local law enforcement agency~~ District Security and Safety Committee (DSSC). Further, a representative of the local law enforcement agency, fire department, and/or town emergency management team may supervise and participate in any of the required crisis response drills. Such drills shall incorporate the basic protocols of fire evacuation, safe school mode lock-in open lockdown, lock-in closed lockdown, campus evacuation and shelter-in-place responses. The activation and utilization of the Incident Command System shall also be a part of these se crisis response drills.

~~Bus safety drills shall be conducted at least two (2) times during each school year to instruct students in safe riding practices and emergency evacuation. The school principals and the designated school transportation authority will develop schedules and plans to implement the required safety drills.~~

The school bus transportation company (contractor) shall conduct a minimum of two (2) bus safety drills each school year. The purpose of these drills is to educate students in safe riding practices, and how to safely and expeditiously evacuate a school bus during an emergency incident. At least one of these drills shall require students to actually physically perform the evacuation procedures. The transportation company shall coordinate the dates and times of bus safety drills in advance with each school principal to ensure that local first responders have the opportunity to evaluate, score, and provide feedback.

Principals shall ~~keep maintain~~ a record of all fire, ~~and~~ crisis response and bus safety drills held in their schools in the district's emergency exercise software, stating the date and time the drill was held, ~~and the time required for the response protocols utilized into complete the drill utilizing the appropriate response procedures, actions taken prior to the drill to notify parents/ students of the drill (if needed), as well as actions taken following the drill to address opportunities for improvement. They shall furnish such reports to the Superintendent or his designate as may from time to time be required.~~

Local law enforcement and other local public safety official shall evaluate, score and provide feedback on fire drills and crisis response drills conducted pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 10-231. "Public Safety Officials" include the local emergency management director, fire marshal, building inspector and emergency medical services representative. Each of the

named officials should evaluate and provide feedback on a representative sampling of fire/crisis response drills each year.
The Board of Education shall annually submit reports to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection regarding such fire drills and crisis response drills.

(cf. 5141.6 – Crisis Management Plan)
(cf. 5142 – Student Safety)
(cf. 6114 – Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-231 Fire drills. (as amended by PA 00-220 and PA 09-131)

P.A. 13-3 An Act Concerning Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety

10-222m – School security and safety plans. School security and safety committees

10-222n – School security and safety plan standards

Policy adopted: 6/3/2014 (This policy replaces 2-500)

**Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut**

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on March 19, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Municipal Office Building, 3 Primrose Street.

A. Plante, Chair	C. Melillo
J. Vouros, Vice Chair	A. Uberti
D. Ramsey, Secretary	T. Vadas
S. Tomai	3 Staff
C. Gilson (virtual)	6 Public
D. Linnetz	1 Press
I. Khazadian	
G. Peteronjes	

Mrs. Plante called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Item 1 – Pledge of Allegiance

Item 2 – Vote to Fill Board of Education Vacancy

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved that the Board of Education appoint Brian Leonardi as a new member of the Board of Education. Mrs. Tomai seconded. Vote: 2 ayes (Mr. Ramsey, Mrs. Tomai)

Mr. Ramsey spoke about the process and they came to a consensus to appoint Mr. Leonardi. He is a very articulate, friendly and compassionate man and is very knowledgeable about legal matters and protocols, and will be a great addition.

Mrs. Linnetz thanked Mrs. Tomai and Mr. Ramsey for running a very thoughtful and inclusive process and appreciated being included in the interviews. She thanked all of the candidates who stepped forward, and welcomed Mr. Leonardi to the Board.

Mrs. Plante said that consistent with our charter only the remaining members of the former members political party could vote who are Mr. Ramsey and Mrs. Tomai. She thanked them for including all Board members in the process. She congratulated Mr. Leonardi and thanked him for his willingness to serve.

Vote: 2 ayes (Mr. Ramsey, Mrs. Tomai) Motion passes.

Item 3 – Celebration of Excellence

Matt Memoli, Athletic Director, spoke about the three SWC Championships won by the Newtown High School Cheerleading Team, Dance Team and Indoor Track Team. Some of the coaches and team captains attended the meeting. He spoke about the time commitment and dedication by these students and was very proud of them.

Item 4 – Consent Agenda

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda which includes the correspondence report. Mrs. Linnetz seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 5 – Public Participation

Item 6 – Reports

Chair Report: Mrs. Plante enjoyed the high school play and she, Mr. Melillo and Mrs. Vadas would be attending the full Legislative Council meeting tomorrow night.

Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Melillo noted that March was Board of Education Appreciation Month and, on behalf of the district, expressed appreciation for the Board's leadership and support.

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Tomai reported that the CFF Subcommittee met this evening and reviewed some items in the financial report.

Mrs. Linnetz noted that the Policy Committee met and are making progress on the emergency and disaster preparedness policy and our drill policy, as well as the safe schools and international travel policies.

Student Representative's Report:

Ms. Khazadian reported that a group of students traveled to Mohegan Sun in honor of Newtown's student section winning the CIAC battle of the fans competition and also supported a group of Newtown Unified Basketball players who also went and played at half-time. Winter sports have come to a close and spring sports kicked off this past weekend.

Mr. Petertonges said the high school play was successful over the weekend. Winterguard won the SWC championship recently. On Thursday there will be a college fair at the high school and the Hawks Honors Association is hosting a food drive. Last Friday the school hosted a check-in fair at lunch in support of student mental health. This week the Hope Squad is hosting Hope Week to promote hope and kindness across the school.

Mr. Ramsey thanked the students for attending the Board meetings and providing important information.

Financial Report for the Month Ending February 29, 2024:

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved that the Board of Education approve the financial report for the month ending February 29, 2024. Mrs. Linnetz seconded.

Mrs. Vadas spoke about the financial report.

Motion passes unanimously.

Item 7 – Old Business**Strategic Plan Update:**

Mr. Melillo presented the strategic plan update.

Mr. Ramsey complimented the tenets of the portrait of a graduate and helping students survive post-graduation. Students should be made aware of this strategic plan and see where it applies to help them do what they need to do.

Mr. Gilson referred to the Smarter Balance charts and asked if the district has goals where they look at i-Ready and Dibels data and asked how he looked at the data.

Mr. Melillo said school goals are tied to SBA and standardized testing and wants to see 100% of the students above, but we are still dealing with learning loss and gaps in learning. SBA isn't the end all. He looks to be sure students get what they need. Schools have intervened in addressing learning gaps. The instructional core is providing teachers with what they need to provide for engagement in the classroom. We want everyone to get what they need.

Mr. Gilson said regarding the fourth to fifth grade transition, the SBA data shows a huge gap in 2019. He asked what the district has done to make the transition easier.

Mr. Melillo said the pandemic disrupted learning but we have developed a robust support for students and are closing the gap. It's also work that was done prior to him coming on board. Dr. Rodrigue invested in ESSR funds which played a big part in this. It's not time to tighten our budget because we have data points that what we are doing is working.

Mr. Ramsey referred to the learning walks when staff observes staff and asked if any of the observations were repeated and if these walks increased student instruction.

Mr. Melillo said he's seen the same classrooms multiple times but things could be done better and we are looking at the needs of our staff. Teachers are enjoying observing other teachers.

Mrs. Plante referred to Strategic Priority #1 and asked if we implemented new curriculum in the past three years and when we evaluate the success of a curriculum.

Mr. Melillo said it usually takes about three years for teachers to be comfortable with new curriculum implementation. The implementation has been overseen by Mrs. Uberti and Mrs. DeBartolo to ensure the curriculum is working well. It involves working with teachers and getting strong professional development. He credited Mrs. Uberti and Mrs. DeBartolo for what is involved in the implementation.

Mrs. Plante asked if there were other measures regarding test scores.

Mr. Melillo said we survey teachers, conduct the learning walks, and look for student engagement.

Mrs. Plante referred to the grade 6 to 8 ELA pilot and where we were landing between those two programs.

Mrs. Uberti said there has been a dip in student performance due to the extra transition. One strategy we tried is to have programs run from K-5 with the change in the program happening in the same school. We are only in the first year of Into Math. Either program is a significant elevation from the previous curriculum. For the English program, Abby Marks from the high school is coming to do observations in 8th grade. We will look at a program selection in April.

Mr. Vouros asked what we have in our budget to maintain and enhance the strategic plan going forward for areas everyone needs to understand and to let this made known to the Legislative Council.

Mr. Melillo reported that we are looking to add up to 11 courses at the high school to provide students the dual enrollment opportunity for college credit. We are looking to add the grade 6-8 reading program which is a big investment and maintain the K-5 reading program materials. We are also looking to add more programming combined with career pathways. The Dean positions will handle behavior issues which will allow the principals to be instructional leaders and will build relationships with students along with the home/school connection. They will also deal with attendance issues and chronic absenteeism. We have almost \$1M invested in curriculum enhancement and professional development. We look to add a BCBA to intervene to keep students in the classroom and deal with behavior issues.

Action on Policies:

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved that the Board of Education approve Policy 3542.22 Food Service Personnel – Code of Conduct. Mr. Vouros seconded.

Mrs. Linnetz didn't receive any comments since it was introduced so there are no changes.

Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved that the Board of Education approve Policy 6114.6 Emergency Closings. Mr. Vouros seconded.

Mrs. Linnetz said there were no comments on this one either.

Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved that the Board of Education approve the Modern U.S. History Curriculum. Mrs. Tomai seconded.

Mr. Ramsey appreciated input from the public particularly in the areas of history and social studies. We are also in alignment with the state standards.

Motion pass unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved that the Board of Education approve the American Government and Politics Curriculum. Mrs. Tomai seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 8 – New Business

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved that the Board of Education approve June 11 for the Newtown Middle School Moving Up Ceremony and June 12 for the Newtown High School Graduation with June 13 as the rain date. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of March 5, 2024. Mrs. Linnetz seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of March 11, 2024. Mrs. Linnetz seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 9 – Public Participation

MOTION: Mr. Vouros moved to adjourn. Mrs. Tomai seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Donald Ramsey
Secretary