Board of Education Newtown, Connecticut

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on October 29, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT.

A. Plante, Chair

J. Vouros, Vice Chair

D. Zukowski, Secretary

S. Tomai (virtual)

C. Gilson

D. Linnetz

B. Leonardi

A. Uberti

T. Gouveia (absent)

3 Staff

2 Public

1 Press

Mrs. Plante called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Item 1 – Pledge of Allegiance

Item 2 – Consent Agenda

MOTION: Ms. Zukowski moved that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda which includes the Newtown High School Choir trip to Orlando, Florida. Mrs. Linnetz seconded. Ms. Zukowski amended the motion to include the correspondence report. Mrs. Linnetz seconded. All were in favor of the amendment. Main motion passes unanimously.

Item 3 – Public Participation

Item 4 – Reports

Chair Report: Mrs. Plante thanked Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote for her service to the Newtown Public Schools since July and noted that she would be leaving on November 1st. We are grateful for her time with us and her work on our policies, jobs descriptions and special education.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Uberti spoke about busing concerns. A letter was sent to All-Star about their failures to fulfill their contractual obligations and if they aren't resolved in 30 days we will be seeking damages as outlined in their contract. We are also working on the school to home routes impacted by their lack of drivers. We met with Steve Gardner and Alan Colangelo to better understand the impact the two-tier system has on the ongoing issues and their ability to provide services outlined in their contract. There is no intention of returning to a three-tier system but we will continue to see if bus issues are caused by that change. We will continue to work with them. Budgets are due from the departments the end of this week. Tonight the middle and high schools will present their school strategic plans. On behalf of the Newtown Public Schools, Mrs. Uberti offered condolences to the Blomberg family for the unexpected death of Peter Blomberg. He served in our custodial department for 19 years and just retired last month. Our thought and prayers go out to his family and friends.

Mr. Leonardi appreciated acknowledging Mr. Blomberg. Regarding Hawley School, he asked for an update on the status of the HVAC there and our concerns about getting it functioning.

Committee and Liaison Reports:

Dr. Gilson noted that the CABE/CAPSS Convention is coming up November 15. He attended last year and it was very informative.

Mrs. Linnetz said the Policy Committee met and are continuing their work. We have a tracker that included what policies we will be reviewing.

Ms. Zukowski attended the National Honor Society and Music Honor Society programs. The joint budget workgroup met recently and they are looking to make the budget process work better.

Mrs. Plante noted that we would leverage the budget presentations and materials to the Board of Finance to bring them up to speed on our budget.

Ms. Zukowski said the Board of Finance needs to understand the rationale for our budgets so they can make the case to the Legislative Council.

Mrs. Plante said the Charter dictates how the process works. We will present our budget to the Board of Finance and they send it to the Legislative Council which begins with their Education Subcommittee where we will also provide a presentation.

Mrs. Uberti noted that our budget book is very thorough. There is a better way to present the budget and share what is being requested and reduced. Our process is quite lengthy and she wants to streamline our message, which will be beneficial for all.

Item 5 – Presentations

Newtown Middle School Strategic Plan:

Jim Ross, Newtown Middle School Principal, spoke about the four strategic priorities, which included their desired outcomes, action plans, and deliverables (evidence) for the middle school.

Mr. Leonardi asked him to expand on priority #3 regarding grading practices being inconsistent. Mr. Ross said that sometimes you find teachers who develop their own system and are not the same as others so we need to tighten up the practices to address inconsistencies.

Mr. Leonardi has observed differences in grading and subject matter.

Mr. Ross stated we needed to make it easier for families to understand what a grade means.

Mr. Leonardi asked if Mr. Ross' work on this plan will be presented to the Board and needs our approval.

Mrs. Uberti responded that this was not something that needs Board approval. Parents need to understand the grades so we would communicate his plan.

Mrs. Linnetz referred to the testing baselines. What can we do regarding the 7th and 8th grade testing results?

Mr. Ross said the middle school is more challenging. We will look to have a creative schedule where the students take a test with their subject teacher. Regarding the scores, when we adopt a new resource it's not uncommon to see grades take a dip.

Dr. Gilson asked how he was looking to decrease the percentage of absences.

Mr. Ross said we meet with our clusters and review data which includes attendance. We partner with parents to see how we can help.

Ms. Zukowski asked how we would know how well we are doing helping students become self-directed learners.

Mr. Ross said to measure that we look at them in class and being on task and giving them feedback. We also see if the instruction motivates the students.

Mr. Leonardi agrees to having a rigorous approach to grading. In speaking about students handing in homework late and not being a big concern, sometimes there are extenuating circumstances to be considered. He wants to be sure in setting up students to thrive post-graduation they need to know there are deadlines and consequences for not meeting those deadlines. He wants to make sure that element is part of the process.

Mr. Vouros spoke about the cluster concept in the middle school. If a family unit is solid, the students do well. That happiness translates into wonderful behavior and grades. Not every cluster is the same but the rigor has to be there. The more in 8th grade there is, the better off we are as they go to the high school. He also suggested having students switch clusters for a specific class if possible.

Newtown High School Strategic Plan:

Dr. Kim Longobucco, Newtown High School Principal, also spoke about the four strategic priorities and their desired outcomes, action plans, and deliverables (evidence) for the high school.

Mrs. Uberti noted an error on the chart on the last page. The green bar should be red. Also, besides the students, the teachers are not using cell phones in class either.

Mr. Leonardi referred to outcome #3 regarding post high school career options and asked if they looked to partner with companies who have offices in the area such as Sikorskys.

Dr. Longobucco said we have a board with local agencies who tell us what they can offer which includes banking to professional culinary people. They are just speaking to us about these options for now.

Mr. Leonardi asked if there were presentations by the military also.

Dr. Longobucco stated that we have all branches who come into the high school and stay through the lunch waves so we give students that possibility.

Mr. Vouros asked what other trade courses are offered besides auto and culinary.

Dr. Longobucco said many of those programs could be certificate program we are looking into. We offer graphics, filmmaking, robotics, engineering, architectural design, video game design, travel and tourism, business law, and banking and management.

Ms. Zukowski referred to the 24 new courses from universities and asked what was happening to the courses our students are currently taking.

Dr. Longobucco said we aren't collapsing courses to get these in. There are just three or four new ones. The others are pre-existing.

Ms. Zukowski asked how we would know that students are becoming more self-directed and can take ownership of their futures before they go further.

Dr. Longobucco said the expectations for students in 9th and 10th grades are higher. The Capstone Project is completely self-lead. There are skills received through other exposures.

Mrs. Linnetz said guidance is critical for students and asked how you build community at the high school.

Dr. Longobucco stated that students rally together and attend many activities. Some students do the morning announcements. They find their own in the high school and we have activities that all can participate in. She agrees that counselors have a critical role to help students select

the right courses. The school counseling role shifts as they approach their junior year and begin to address what they want to do.

Mr. Vouros asked how often guidance counselors meet with struggling students.

Dr. Longobucco said they meet with them all of the time and with the assistant principals once a rotation to bring struggling student to them. Freshman meet twice in quarter one and quarter two they go into counselor workshops.

Mr. Vouros told her that when she presents the high school budget to be sure whatever help is needed to relieve her and the assistant principals from clerical work is included because that is taking you away from the classrooms and students.

<u>Item 6 – Old Business</u> (none)

Item 7 – New Business

MOTION: Ms. Zukowski moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of October 15, 2024. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 8 – Public Participation

MOTION: Mr. Vouros moved to adjourn. Ms. Zukowski seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 9 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

respectany submitted.
Deborra J. Zukowski
Debolia J. Zukowski
Secretary
Secretary

Respectfully submitted:

NEWTOWN HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR JANE MATSON, DIRECTOR DESTINATION: ORLANDO, FL DATES: APRIL 24-27, 2025

SUGGESTED ITINERARY AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2024

Travel Consultant, Ben Spalding

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

Please Note: Transportation to and from Bradley International Airport (BDL) is not included in

your proposal pricing and is the responsibility of the school and or individual

travelers to arrive to the airport on time.

AM Arrive at the Bradley International Airport (BDL)

~ Meet your BRT Airport Greeter at check-in ~

Upon arrival

Begin check-in process and head through security. Anyone 18 yrs. and older will require REAL ID driver's license, REAL ID state id or passports. Anyone 17 yrs or

younger is asked to bring a school id just for identification purposes. Minors

аге

not expected to have acceptable REAL ID identification. Keep them handy throughout check-in and security processing. **1 checked bag has been included per traveler.**

AM Depart for Orlando International Airport (MCO)

AM Arrive in Orlando

~ Meet your professional BRT Tour Director at baggage claim ~

AM Collect luggage at baggage claim; begin loading one **56-passenger motor**

coach

PM Check in at Endless Summer Resort Dockside Inn & Suites

PM Enjoy the pool and the hotel amenities for the afternoon/evening

~ 1 Private nighttime security chaperones at the hotel from 10:30pm - 5:30am ~

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

7:30 AM Enjoy breakfast at the hotel

8:30 AM Take Universal transportation to your various Universal STARS workshops

9:00 AM **Newtown High School Choir** participates in the

Sound Design: Music and the Art of Foley Workshop

(Time and location TBD; pending application and acceptance – apply 1 year out)

Experience life as a working movie musician, syncing music – including Foley and digital sound effects – to real movie scenes from hits like Illumination Entertainment's Despicable Me, Trolls, or The Secret Life of Pets. Robert W. Smith designed this 90-minute workshop to reinforce National Core Arts Standards.

9:00 AM Newtown High School Band & Orchestra participate in the Sound Design: Music and the Art of Foley Workshop

(Time and location TBD; pending application and acceptance – apply 1 year out)

Experience life as a working movie musician, syncing music – including Foley and digital sound effects – to real movie scenes from hits like Illumination Entertainment's Despicable Me, Trolls, or The Secret Life of Pets. Robert W. Smith designed this 90-minute workshop to reinforce National Core Arts Standards.

10:30 AM Enjoy the day at Universal Studios AND Universal Islands of Adventure (2 day-2 park ticket included)

Head to: "The Wizarding World of Harry Potter" and stroll the streets of Hogsmeade,

exploring sights and sounds and magical wonders therein. Experience thrilling rides and attractions that bring the adventures of Harry Potter and his friends to

life.

Experience: Platform 9 ¾ Board the train and travel between both Hogsmeade™ and

London via the Hogwarts™ Express with a Park-to-Park admission ticket

PM Enjoy lunch in the park (student cost)

Check out: Harry Potter and the Escape from Gringotts: At the far end of Diagon Alley™

stands Gringotts™, the goblin-run bank. Inside, you'll experience a pulsepounding adventure on the groundbreaking, multi-dimensional thrill ride that puts you right in the middle of the action as you navigate your way through the perils of the Gringotts vaults – encountering Harry, Ron, and Hermione along the way!

PM Enjoy dinner in the park (student cost)

PM View Universal's Mardi Gras Parade: Catch beads flying through the air as you

enjoy a dazzling Mardi Gras parade in Universal Studios Orlando with authentic

floats direct from New Orleans! (pending 2026 calendar)

9:00 PM Return to your hotel for the evening

~ 1 Private nighttime security chaperones at the hotel from 10:30pm - 5:30am ~ SATURDAY, APRIL 26

7:30 AM Enjoy breakfast at the hotel

Depart for Universal Orlando Resort 8:30 AM

6000 Universal Boulevard, Orlando, FL 32819

Enjoy the day at Universal Studios AND Universal Islands of Adventure 9:00 AM

Skull Island: Reign of Kong: Brave the dangers of a 1930's expedition that is Don't miss: caught in the clash of prehistoric predators and fearsome creatures. As ferocious beasts battle, King Kong hurls himself between you and certain doom. Welcome to Kong's kingdom, where only he reigns.

> Jurassic World VelociCoaster: Feel the Rush of the Hunt. Speeding through the jungle, rising high above the terrain, it's the apex predator of roller coasters: the Jurassic World VelociCoaster. Board your vehicle for a high-speed dash through the park's raptor paddock. Feel the rush of the hunt as you race alongside these nimble predators, twisting and soaring above the land and water. Jurassic World VelociCoaster is now open at Universal's Islands of Adventure.

Enjoy lunch in the park (student cost) PM

Check out:

The Hulk: Enter the laboratories of Dr. Bruce Banner and marvel at the towering scientific machinery. As you approach his gamma-ray accelerator warning lights flash and sirens sound – something's gone terribly wrong with the experiment. Your surroundings go rushing by you in a blur as you feel yourself transformed

into The Incredible Hulk®.

Enjoy an early dinner in the park (student cost) PM

PM Return to your hotel for the evening

~ 1 Private nighttime security chaperones at the hotel from 10:30pm - 5:30am ~

SUNDAY, APRIL 27



7:30 AM	Enjoy breakfast at the hotel
8:30 AM	Check out of hotel; begin loading motor coach
9:00 AM	Depart for the airport
10:00 AM	Arrive at Orlando International Airport (MCO)
Upon arrival	Begin check-in process and head through security. Anyone 18 yrs. and older will require REAL ID driver's license, REAL ID state id or passports. Anyone 17 yrs or younger is asked to bring a school id just for identification purposes. Minors are not expected to have acceptable REAL ID identification. Keep them handy throughout check-in and security processing. 1 checked bag has been included per traveler.
AM	Enjoy lunch at the airport (student cost)

Upon arrival Collect baggage from baggage claim

Arrive in Connecticut

Please Note: Transportation to and from Bradley International Airport is not included in your proposal pricing.

Depart for Bradley International Airport (BDL)

WELCOME HOME!
THANK YOU FOR TRAVELING WITH BOB ROGERS TRAVEL.
WE HOPE YOU HAVE MADE MANY SPECIAL MEMORIES!

PM PM

Touring from 4/24/2025 through 4/27/2025

Flying



TOUR PROPOSAL

Every Bob Rogers Travel tour comes with these essentials:

- Motor coach operators that adhere to the strict USDOT standards for safety
- Payment options tailored to fit your group's needs and schedule (including the option to have BRT automatically collect payments from travelers through our BRT Payments System)
- Professional liability insurance and a consumer protection plan as recommended by the Student & Youth Travel Association
- The same high level of service and attention to detail which the company was founded on in 1981

YOU WANT TO GIVE YOUR STUDENTS THE WORLD.
WE HELP YOU TAKE THEM THERE.







Founded by a former music educator, Bob Rogers Travel has been making student travel simple since 1981. Our team's singular focus is to allow you to keep yours – because when you can focus on inspiring students while we handle your trip, we all do our best work. Our team is comprised of educators, musicians and travel professionals. Together, we've planned over 6,000 memorable student travel experiences.

Founded by a music educator in 1981

Over **9,000** trips with **700,000** students

Over 500 successful international trips every trip is **CUSTOM** notwo trips are alike

Contact Ben Spalding at (800) 373-1423 ext 334 or bspalding@bobrogerstravel.com

VALID THRU 11/8/2024

bobrogerstravel.com

(800) 373-1423



Flying



Touring from 4/24/2025 through 4/27/2025

TOUR PROPOSAL

TOUR FEATURES

AIRFARE

- Round-Trip Airfare (subject to change until time of booking) Based on \$450 airfare per person
- 1st Checked Baggage fee (\$40 per person, total of \$80 round trip)

MOTOR COACH

- Local Motor Coach Transportation as needed per the Itinerary
- · Gratuities for your motor coach driver(s)

HOTEL

- 3 Nights' accommodations at Universal's Endless Summer Resort Dockside Inn and Suites
- Breakfast at hotel
- All Students will pay Quad Occupancy Price (Quad Occupancy must be maximized)

SECURITY

1 Dedicated overnight chaperone(s)

THEATER/ATTRACTION TICKETS

 2-Park 2-Day Park-to-Park Ticket to Universal Orlando Resort

CLINIC

 Participation in Universal's Sound Design Workshop: Choir

ADDITIONAL INCLUSIONS

- BRT Payments Online Payment
 System
- 5 Complimentary Director Package(s) (based on double occupancy)
- 3 Complimentary Director Package(s) (based on single occupancy)
- BRT Drawstring bag for every participant
- BRT Video Souvenir & Tracking/Messaging App
- 1 Onsite Company Tour Director(s)
- Company representative for airport check-in

Contact Ben Spalding at (800) 373-1423 ext 334 or bspalding@bobrogerstravel.com

VALID THRU 11/8/2024

bobrogerstravel.com

(800) 373-1423



Touring from 4/24/2025 through 4/27/2025

Flying



TOUR PROPOSAL

TOUR PRICING

	and the second s		
		Paying	
		Participants	
	Occupancy	50-54	
	Sextuplet	\$1,502	
	Quint	\$1,520	
	Quad	\$1,550	
	Triple	\$1,629	
	Double	\$1,700	
-2	Single	\$1,999	

Non-inclusions/Options

- Meals stated at student cost
- Rental costs for chairs, stands, instruments or keyboards for performances/clinics (BRT can assist in arranging the rental of these items)
- TripMate offers a specially priced Enhanced Trip Protection which includes a CFAR*
 (Cancel For Any Reason) feature for BRT travelers. *CFAR coverage covers 75% of the
 nonrefundable trip cost. Trip cancellation must be made with BRT 2 days or more prior to
 scheduled departure. Traveler must "opt in" to this plan within 14 days of initial deposit to be
 eligible for CFAR coverage. This benefit is not available for residents in New York.

Contact Ben Spalding at (800) 373-1423 ext 334 or bspalding@bobrogerstravel.com

bobrogerstravel.com



Newtown Board of Education

Correspondence Report 10/15/2024 - 10/28/2024

Date	Sender Name	Subject
10/14/2024	Alison Plante	Fwd: Italian Day Celebration 2024*
10/15/2024	Deborra Zukowski	Correspondence Report for Oct 15 mtg.
10/15/2024	Sarah Connell	Policies for October 15 BOE meeting
10/15/2024	Kate Kirdzik	Stone Bridge Center Trunk or Treat October 25th
10/15/2024	Wendy Leon-Gambetta	Keep the DEAI Subcommittee**
10/16/2024	Laura Main	FOIA requests
10/16/2024	Vishal Swamy	Strengthening School Security
10/18/2024	Kathy June	Board Meeting Date Change
10/18/2024	Anne Uberti	Friday Notes 10.16.24
10/18/2024	Kymberly Noone et. al.	NAHS & Tri-M Induction Ceremony Invite
10/20/2024	Alison Plante	Week in Preview - 10/20
10/21/2024	Sarah Connell	BOE Policy Subcommittee Minutes 10-16-24
10/21/2024	Doria Linnetz	Re: BOE Policy Subcommittee Minutes 10-16-24
10/21/2024	Anne Uberti	NPS Weekly Update 10.21.24
10/22/2024	Laura Main	Re: FOIA requests
10/24/2024	BoardBook	Meeting Notification: October 29, 2024 at 7:00
		PM - Special BOE Agenda
10/25/2024	Anne Uberti	Friday Notes 10.25.24
	William Lennon	Wilson College OTD Program Affiliation
10/28/2024	Anne Uberti	NPS Weekly Update 10.28.24
10/28/2024	Anne Uberti	Re: FOIA requests

10/15/2024 Correspondence Report Errata

- * The 10/14/2024 email appeared after the 10/15/2024 Correspondence Report had been sent.
- ** Ms. Leon-Gambetta's 10/7/2024 email, included in the previous Correspondence Report, was sent to only the members of the DEI committee.

Also, my sincere apologies for misspelling Doria Linnetz's first name in the 10/15/2024 Correspondence Report. I very much appreciate being apprised of such (and other) errors.

Strategic Plan 2024 - 2025 Newtown Middle School

Strategic Priority Alignment: Strategi	Strategic Priority Alignment: Strategic Priority 1: Ensure Stimulating, Engaging,	and Challenging Learning Opportunities.	nities.
Desired Outcome #1	Action	Deliverables (Evidence)	Timeline
Students proficiency levels will increase by 5% in the three state	ELA: Provide ongoing support and professional development regarding HMH lit (curriculum and tooching professions)	ELA PLC & Department Meetings Agenda	2024-2025
as determined by a body of evidence that includes but is not limited to:	וווגס בור (כמוווכמומווו מוומ ופמכוווון 6 הומכווכפי)	PD Plan	
District Appropriate (iDoods)		Classroom observations	
State Summative Assessments (SBAC & NCSS)		Action Step(s) in Teacher SLOs	
SBAC Baseline Results:	ELA: Teachers engage in "Coachly" coaching cycles	ELA Coachly Schedule	2024-2025
7th Grade Math: 63% 8th Grade Math: 67%	MATH: Teachers engage in professional development (during PLC & Department meetings) sessions to learn more about Talk	Math PLC & Department Meetings Agenda	2024-2025
7th Grade ELA: 63% 8th Grade ELA: 62%	Moves & Math Language Routines to implement in their classrooms	Coachly Schedule for Math Specialist (to be linked)	
8th Grade Science (5th Grade data):		PD Plan	
*; 00%		Classroom observations	
beginning and mid-point of the year to		Action Step(s) in Teacher SLOs	
inform instructional practices and curricula decisions to support student growth in achievement.	MATH: Unpacking Into Math resource unit by unit and create common experiences by grade level	Google Document of unpacked units (to be linked here)	2024-2025
	MATH: Read, discuss, and implement Tool Kit 1 from BTC	Math PLC & Department Meetings Agenda	2024-2025

	ELA Consultant to provide PD through Co-Prep meetings and UA Department meetings	utilizing SBAC vocabulary - ELA & MATH, incorporating SBAC language on department assessments, etc.)
iers,	Action step(s) on individual teachers' goals as appropriate	ALL DEPARTMENTS: All teachers identify ways to help foster academic growth (i.e. reinforcing reading strategies - <u>SIGNPOSTS</u> ,
	Action Step(s) in Teacher SLOs	
	Classroom observations	iidai y
(CD	PD, in consultation with EdAdvance	skills in Informational Text, Research, and
	PLC/Dept Meetings	SOCIAL STUDIES: Department focus on
	Updated Assessments (to be linked once created)	SCIENCE: Pilot use of InnerOrbit for assessment purposes
	PD time with Discovery Education - TBD	SCIENCE: Professional Development on enhancing the use of the Discovery Ed Textbook
₈	IAB Schedule (by department) & Data (centralized reporting system)	Department meetings
ρg	Completion of PLC Form each meeting time - Compilation Link	ELA, MATH, & SCIENCE: Analyze student work/data (curriculum-based, standardized assessments & IARs) during PLC &
I=	Conversations at PLCs & Department Meetings concerning learning walks and/or peer-to-peer observations	Science = department learning walks only
ร	Schedule of peer-to-peer observations	departments and implementation Learning Walks
	Data from implementation walks	ELA, MATH & SCIENCE: Peer-to-peer
	Completed Forms	ELA & MATH: Students engage in goal-setting process
	Classroom observations	

	Desired Outcome #2
The state of the s	

Desired Outcome #2	Action	Deliverables (Evidence)	Timeline
Create an amazing school climate for students, staff, and families so that the learning environment and the school	Explore and carry out Jostens School Mark Project	School Mark Committee Google Document	2024-2025
community are welcoming and supportive spaces for all our students. This includes		Survey Results	
developing the necessary skills to succeed in the next steps of their		Updated WIN 1 curriculum	
educational journey and life outside of school as determined by a hody of		Updated appearance for NMS	
evidence that includes but is not limited to: Safe School Climate Committee	Safe School Climate Committee	Completion of monthly event	2024-2025
Absenteeism Data	implementing Jostens Renaissance ideas	documented in SCC Agenda	

Αb
sen
teei
] ms
)ata

- District School Climate Surveys
- NMS Admin Survey

incentives)

Implement Attendance Plan (including

Attendance Plan

2024-2025

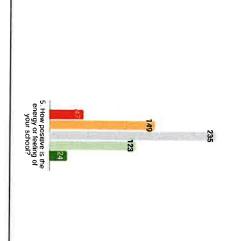
Teachers implement relationship building

First 2 Weeks of School

2024-2025

Attendance Incentive Plan

- Students:
 -Chronic Absenteeism: 10.3%
- -Goal: Decrease by 2%
- -How positive is the energy or feeling of your school -25% responded favorable (baseline)
- -Goal: Increase by 20%



year

Host Student/family events throughout the

Calendar of events to be linked

2024-2025

activities on a monthly basis during Community Days with students	Community Days Schedule
Staff Community Committee holds monthly events that fosters a positive climate	Event calendar of staff community days (to be linked)
Student Council facilitates Mid-Year Pep Rally of Excellence and end-of-year Awards Assembly (sports/unified, attendance, academics, behavioral, etc.)	Pictures and videos of the rally
Communicate & engage families in the school community with a focus on attendance and school climate information among other school related highlights	Weekly newsletters (admin), timely communication by staff (newsletters & emails/phone calls)

enjoy going to your child's school To what extent do you think students -Goal increase by 10% -48% responded favorably (baseline) -Goal: Increase by 10% -57% responded favorably (baseline) with your students conversations about race-related topics How comfortable are you having 5. How comfortable would you be having conversations about race-related topics with your students? To what extent do you think students enjoy going to your child's school? = 4 (A shared experiences boards, bulletin boards, & newsletters) and Celebrate cultures and differences through support to staff: emotional learning. messaging (morning announcements, digital Provide Professional Development and **DEAI Equity Team members** Provide Professional Development to new teacher, counselor, etc) include a diverse population of staff members Expand school **DEAI Equity Teams** to instructional best practices and social provide access to the latest research on Create a professional library for staff to trainings Staff engage in restorative practices (ie: special education teacher, specials **Understanding Dimensions of Navigating Necessary** Diversity **Creating Welcoming Spaces** Conversations Presentations provided to the staff Attendance at in person training with Leader Team meetings PD attendance Celebration Calendar Nixon and Co. Agendas and minutes from Equity Observations DEAI PD Calendar Library books 2024-2025 2025-2026 2024-2025

- 1		-	_
			Strategic Priority Alignment: S
	Strategic Priority 3: Hire, Retain and Develop a Diverse and Exceptional Faculty and Staff	State of the state	Strategic Priority Alignment: Strategic Priority 1: Engure Stimulating Enguine and Ob. II
	-		

			7 1111
Desired Outcome #3	Action	Deliverables (Evidence)	Timeline
Improved instruction by teachers and enhanced	Assemble a grading study team	List of names	2024-2025
feedback for students/families by creating a school-wide,	Grading study team produces a PD plan to implement	Grading Study PD Plan	2024-2025
NMS Grading Beliefs Document Document	Staff engages in a grading study by reading the book Grading for Equity with monthly professional dialogue occurring at book club meetings (staff, cluster & department)	Grading for Equity Schedule	2024-2025
Grading Practices Documents (in alignment with school	The grading study team produces a summary of grading best practices - NMS Grading Beliefs	NMS Grading Beliefs Google Document linked later in the year	2024-2025
bellers)	Each department produces their own grading practices that are in alignment with NMS grading beliefs	Department Grading "One Pagers" Google Document linked later in the year	2024-2025
	Administration rolls out NMS beliefs of grading at Open House	Open House Slides	2025-2026
	Teachers implement grading best practices	Teacher gradebooks	2025-2026

Strategic Plan 2024 - 2025 Newtown High School

	SAI/ACT OF AP.	
	0 AT/A OT 1: AD	
	grade students that reach benchmark on	
	2 - C - C - C - C - C - C - C - C - C -	
	 Increase the percentage of 11th & 12th 	
	(FOF) courses.	
	(ECE) colleges	
	participating in AP & dual enrollment	
	Increase the Halliber of Students	
	Increase the number of students	
	 Plan and host an ECE information event. 	6 Courses
	courses.	
 Next Generation Accountability rating, 	Space the brogram of stadies with Hew	Indicator #6 FOO!
Noxt Constitution Appearate Life and	 Undate the program of studies with new 	23-24 -
Student class lists/ rosters 25-26	to the given University.	
 Course sign ups 25-26. 	 Write a letter for each teacher to submit 	5 Courses
night.		
	chair	Indicator #6 - 58%
Dual enrollment/ECF information	school counseling and each department	22-23 -
department.	 Weetings with grant writer, director of 	
for the 25-26 school year by	nie Nijo stali.	י יסססמווימטוויא ויסטסורי
5 di occor y or new courses developed	the NILO etats	Accountability Report
Directory of new courses developed	 Schedule a panel of experts to speak to 	the Next Generation
December 2024.	chairs about potential courses.	measured by indicator #6 of
 Complete use of grant funds by 	• racilitate meetings with department	postsecondary readilless as
• Completed patier from 4 Offiversities	Topilitate montines with depotential	ń
Completed panel from All biographics	(ECE) classes offered at NHS.	students demonstrating
Department chair agendas	 Increase the number of dual enrollment 	Increase the number of
Deliverables (Evidence)	Tonon.	
Dollygrobles (Evidence)	Action	Desired Outcome #1
	post-graduation	2) Prepare students to thrive post-graduation
	1) Ensure Stimulating, Engaging, and Challenging Learning Opportunities.	1) Ensure Stimulating, Engag
		Strategic Priority Alignment:

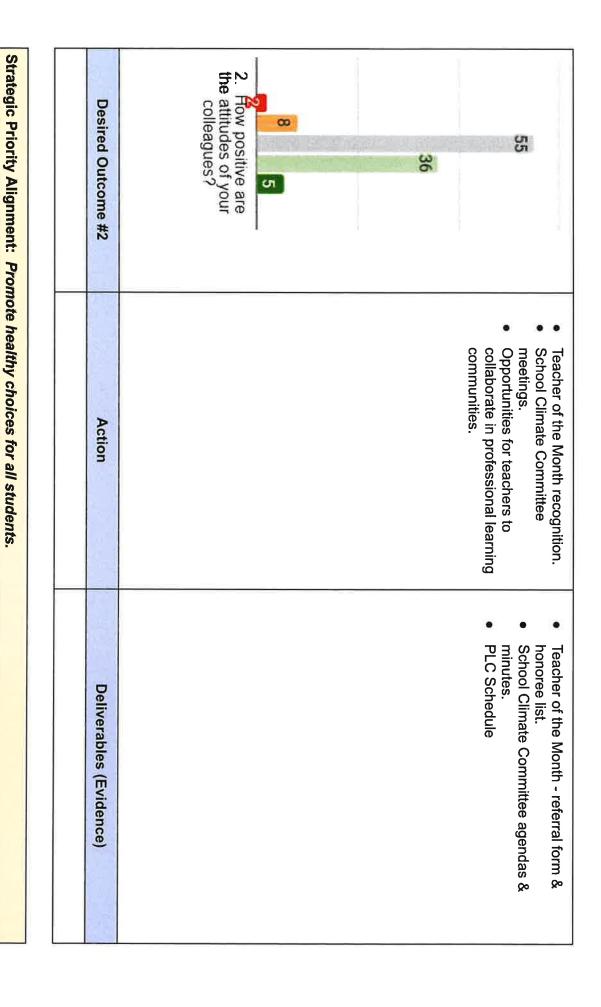
Desired Outcome #2	Action	Deliverables (Evidence)
Increase the participation and	Facilitate a data review of fitness	 Completed pre and post test data for
passing rate for CT Physical	participation and student scores from	every 9th grade student.
Fitness Test as measured by	22-23 & 23-24.	 Completed pre and post test data for
indicator #11 of the Next	 Collaborate with the PE department chair 	any 10th, 11th or 12th grade student
Generation Accountability	in a meeting with the State about our	not yet tested.
Report.	reporting.	 Completed state reporting form.
	 Research the potential to change the 	 Next Generation Accountability rating.
22-23 -	schedule for PE 1.	
Participation - 71%	 Connect with surrounding high schools 	
Meeting Standard - 55%	about testing and data collection.	
	 Create tracking sheets for student 	
23-24 -	testing.	
Participation - 85%	 Identify areas of weakness and adjust 	
Meeting Standard - 40%	curriculum accordingly.	
	 Request a complete list of students that 	
	were not tested (10th, 11th, 12th).	
	 Pull students during study halls/free periods who are not assigned to a PE 	
	class to complete testing.	

Create opportunities for career speakers,	 Flyers/information on expert panels & guest
and field trips.	speakers
priate students to attend	 List of student names through SAT meetings,
	referrals and conversations
mation to school counselors	 Attendance & agendas at counseling
gh school careers.	department meetings
e career opportunities with	 Career Center newsletter, Principal updates,
amilies.	PTSA highlights
tudents in SAIL & TAP have	 Planning document specific to TAP/SAIL on
st high school career	expert panels, guest speakers, field trips,
	certification programs
	shadow days and field trips. Recruit appropriate students to attend events. Present information to school counselors about post high school careers. Communicate career opportunities with parents and families. Assure that students in SAIL & TAP have access to post high school career planning.

Desired Outcome #4	Action	Deliverables (Evidence)
Reduce the percentage of	 Daily automated text to parents. 	 List of students reaching 10 days at the end
students that are chronically	 Warning letters at the halfway point. 	of Q1, Q2, S1, Q3, Q4 & Y1.
absent as defined by the	 10 day alert letter with clear directions. 	 List of students on AP individual meet list.
CSDE, "students missing	 Individual meetings when students miss 	 SAT referral document.
10% of school days or more	more than 5 consecutive days.	 FLEX pipeline
for any reason."	 Individual meetings with AP's when 	 TAP pipeline
	students have met the chronic threshold.	 Next Generation Accountability rating.
22-23 - 12%	 Parent and team meetings to support 	 In-Danger Meetings
	student attendance.	 Attendance Contracts
23-24 - 10.3%	 Consistent review of data at SAT 	
	(student assistance team) meetings -	
	once per rotation.	
	 Oversight of program to support student 	
	attendance - FLEX, SAIL, TAP	

Strategic Priority Alignment: Stra	Strategic Priority Alignment: Strategic Priority 3: Hire, Retain, and Develop a Diverse Strategic Priority 4: Strengthen District, Family and Cor	Diverse and Exceptional Faculty and Staff and Community Partnerships
Desired Outcome #1	Action	Deliverables (Evidence)
Create opportunities for students to learn about people from different races, religions, ethnicities & colors.	 Collaborate with Nixon & Co. on planning specific to NHS. Schedule and set up follow up student focus groups with Nixon & Co. 	 Agendas for meetings and communication with Nixon & Co. Schedule for follow up student focus groups at NHS. Monthly DEAI building based committee
Opportunities to learn about the achievements of women and girls.	 Co. Support and participate in building based DEAI Committee. Create and implement professional 	 Monthly DEAI building based committee agendas and minutes. Professional Development slides for staff. Emails and notes supporting teachers
Opportunities to learn about the achievements of people with	learning opportunities to NHS staff. Support teachers when teaching	Record keeping of diverse applicants.
disabilities.	about races, religions, ethnicities, colors, genders and people with disabilities.	
35 36 37 38 38 38 38 39 39 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30	 Hire highly qualified staff of minority groups. 	

 Create a climate where teachers are excited to come to work and proud to work at NHS Regular meetings with teachers. Google form survey opportunities to share anonymously. Plan and encourage fun staff events. Agendas for union meetings. Calendar invites - teacher meetings by request. Google form survey results. Flyers for fun staff events. 	Desired Outcome #2	Action	Deliverables (Evidence)
	Create a climate where teachers are excited to come to work and proud to work at NHS	 Regular meetings with teachers. Google form survey opportunities to share anonymously. Plan and encourage fun staff events. 	 Agendas for union meetings. Calendar invites - teacher meetings by request. Google form survey results. Flyers for fun staff events.



and other illegal substance

and bathrooms

Improve monitoring of common areas

Action

Reduce free periods throughout the day

Health curriculum review

Health guest speakers

Number of students to complete the online

Students schedules - no free periods

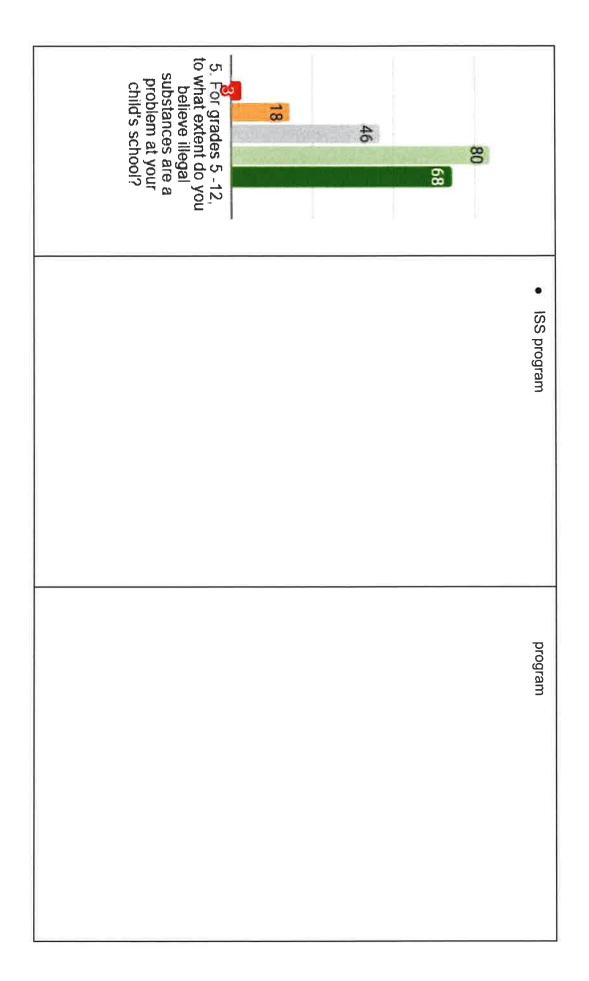
Duty schedule

Deliverables (Evidence)

Respond to vape detector alerts Review Health Curriculum Reduce prevalence of vaping

Desired Outcome

use.



Board of Education Newtown, Connecticut

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on October 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT.

A. Plante, Chair
J. Vouros, Vice Chair
D. Zukowski, Secretary
S. Tomai
C. Gilson
D. Linnetz

A. Uberti
T. Gouveia
9 Staff
7 Public
1 Press

Mrs. Plante called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Item 1 - Pledge of Allegiance

B. Leonardi

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education amend the agenda to add three policies for first read under New Business:

- Policy 1050 Regarding Non-Discrimination (Community Members)
- Policy 4118.11/4218.11 Non-Discrimination (Personnel)
- Policy 4118.14/4218.14 Regarding Employees and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education amend the agenda to add two groups of policies to rescind. (Policies Under Revision, Policies of Instruction on the Board of Education Policies page and Policies to Rescind Upon Adoption of Policies Under Old Business.) Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 2 - Consent Agenda

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda which includes the Newtown High School NICE trip to Spain and the correspondence report.

Mr. Vouros seconded.

Mr. Vouros referred to the trip to Spain approved tonight and shared that high school exchange students from Spain would be here this evening.

Motion passes unanimously.

Item 3 – Public Participation

Laura Main, 42 The Old Road, spoke about the lack of teachers of color but the percentage of students of color has increased and the Increased Educator Diversity Plan.

Carrie Grummons, 5 Black Walnut Drive, spoke about racial slurs at Reed and other schools with the same issues. She asked for staff training on how to handle these situations.

Danielle Lozer, 1 Grays Plain Road, has a deep concern about the potential dissolution of the DEI subcommittee because much remains to be done.

Item 4 – Reports

There was no Chair Report.

Superintendent's Report:

Mrs. Uberti reported that Tasha Moffat began as the new terminal manager for All-Star. She thanked Alan Colangelo and wished him the best. She and Ms. Gouveia met with them this week. Additional drivers will be starting and we are monitoring all complaints. This was also

discussed tonight at the CFF meeting. The Policy Subcommittee is working to bring policies up to date. School strategic plans for the K-6 schools will be presented tonight. The reports focus on the high level practices they are engaged in. We will also hear from our HR director regarding our Increasing Educator Diversity Plan revisions. This plan was initially approved by the State but we received recommendations for improvements, which will be presented.

Committee and Liaisons Reports:

Dr. Gilson spoke as Chair of the DEAI Committee and reported that they have been overseeing the work in the district and getting updates from Nixon and Company. He would like a Board member to attend their workshops. We need to see what we are actually going to do to be actionable and he wants to make the committee more effective. They will meet again in December.

Mrs. Tomai reported on the CFF Subcommittee meeting this evening. They went through the financial report and were told our electricity costs would increase by 38%. The facilities study should be done in the next few weeks. We purchased nine air conditioning units for Middle Gate School and discussed the \$250,000 for the middle school electrical engineering. Ms. Zukowski noted that she and Mr. Vouros attended the assembly on social media at the middle school.

Student Representatives Report:

Mr. Jerfy reported that students are starting to prepare for the end of the first quarter of this school year. The Club Fair was held October 2nd and senior attended Senior Sunrise in the Blue and Gold Stadium at 6 a.m. to watch the sun rise before taking their senior class picture. The Grasso Festival was held October 5.

Ms. Ihlefeld reported that the various athletic groups have been raising money for Breast Cancer Awareness. Newtown High School was recognized at the CIAC's Annual Sportsmanship Conference for receiving the Michael Jewelers Achievement Cup Award for exemplary sportsmanship. Spirit Week will kick off with a pep rally on October 25 and homecoming early in November.

Financial Report for Month Ending September 30, 2024:

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve the financial report for the month ending September 30, 2024. Mrs. Tomai seconded.

Ms. Gouveia presented the financial report. The demand for electricity delivery has gone up and our virtual net metering credits have gone down 46%. She foresees over \$190,000 demand increase and a loss in virtual net credits for \$162,000 which will be a 37% increase over budget. Ms. Zukowski asked to monitor this with a report to the Board.

Mr. Vouros asked if the five Behavioral Therapists were being hired through a service.
Ms. Gouveia said we have and they have been in place since the beginning of the year. We are fully staffed but some are outsourced by a contracted service.
Motion passes unanimously.

Mrs. Plante noted that these presentations began with one from the Director of Teaching and Learning who outlined the various measures the district is observing to track student success. We also had a presentation from our Superintendent who gave us a snapshot of academic achievement to establish a baseline of where we are today. Tonight we have the elementary and intermediate principals to present their plans to drive improvement from that baseline.

Item 5 – Presentations

Elementary School Strategic Plans:

Chris Moretti, Hawley School Principal, reported that there will be a tremendous amount of commonality and similarity in the work we are doing at the elementary level combined with individuality which makes each one of our schools special. He began with Strategic Plan Priority #1, which is to ensure stimulating, engaging, and challenging learning opportunities tailored to the individual needs of students. Mr. Moretti spoke about the area of reading instruction and the implementation of year two of the new language arts program.

Chris Geissler, Middle Gate School Principal, also addressed Strategic Priority #1 and spoke about the area of math instruction, which has the same targets as the area of reading. To achieve high standards they frequently analyze data and look at ways to guide instruction.

Dr. Kathy Gombos, Sandy Hook School Principal, spoke about Strategic Priority #2 preparing students to be global citizens (thrive post-graduation). After family, a child's sense of worth starts in the elementary schools and we are working to uncover things that matter in the those years. We formalized the work of DEAI with professional development with Nixon and Company. It's important that children feel they belong and are valued.

Tim Napolitano, Head O'Meadow Principal, addressed Strategic Priority #3 to hire, retain, and develop a diverse and exceptional faculty and staff. We work to ensure staff have a sense of belonging and are part of the team. Activities are planned to bring staff together before and after school to build a sense of community. We have amazing staff in Newtown and appreciate all they do.

Mr. Vouros wanted to be sure the communication between the grade levels is addressed for students going from grade 4 to 5, grade 6 to 7 and grade 8 to 9.

Mr. Leonardi asked if the Board will have a presentation in the spring about desired outcomes on how we performed.

Mrs. Uberti will collect evidence based on the action steps, so the deliverables could be provided to the Board. We would see the results of the desired outcomes next fall.

Reed Intermediate School Strategic Plan:

Dr. Matt Correia, Reed Intermediate School Principal, referred to Strategic Priority #1 and that they are making sure every child excels in reading, language arts and math. His first priority is to do that. Jenna and he will help in providing teachers with support and the PD they need. We are also looking at formative and summative assessments.

With Strategic Plan #2 our priority is making sure our school is a positive environment for students. We are working with Nixon and Company and holding faculty meetings to give the staff what they need. We talk about being safe physically and emotionally. He spoke about navigating difficult conversations and partnering with parents to work on the issues.

With Strategic Priority #3, we are ensuring our building is a place that people are comfortable. We've hired new staff and it's important to empower them and meet regularly. They are also partnered with great mentors. It's important to maintain the climate we have.

Item 6 – Old Business

Action on Policies:

Mrs. Plante spoke referred to the following policies from the last Board meeting.

Ms. Zukowski expressed concerns on policies where parents may have some questions.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve Policy 5110 Non-discrimination (Students) Mr. Vouros seconded.

Ms. Zukowski asked for this policy to be removed from this group after providing her concerns. Mrs. Linnetz did not feel any modifications were required.

Vote: 6 ayes, 1 nay (Ms. Zukowski) Motion passes.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve Policy 5111 Admission to the Public Schools at or Before Age Five. Mrs. Tomai seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve Policy 5113 Student Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism. Mrs. Tomai seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve Policy 5118.1 Homeless Children and Youth. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve Policy 5126 Student Privacy Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve Policy 5131.6 Drug and Alcohol Use by Students. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve Policy 5133 Education Stability Procedures for Transportation Coordination with the Department of Children and Families. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve Policy 5135 Recess and Play-Based Learning. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve Policy 5141.25 Management Plan and Guidelines for Students with Food Allergies, Glycogen Storage Disease and/or Diabetes. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve Policy 5143 Chemical Health Policy for Student Athletes. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve Policy 5145.4 Policy Regarding Students and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve Policy 5145.5 Prohibition of Sex Discrimination, Including Sex-Based Harassment. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve Policy 6117 Curricular Exemptions. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve Policy 6145 Homework. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Policies to Rescind:

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education rescind Policies 5111 Admission/Placement, 5112 Ages of Entrance, 5113 Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal, 5113.2 Truancy, 5118.1 Homeless Students, 5131.6 Alcohol Use, Drugs and Tobacco (Including Performance Enhancing Substances), 5141 Student Health Services, 5141.3 Health Assessments and Immunizations, 5141.25 Life-Threatening Allergies and Glycogen Storage Disease Management, 5145.4 Americans with Disabilities Act/Section 504, and 5145.5 Sexual Discrimination and Sexual Harassment. Mrs. Tomai seconded.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved to amend the motion to include rescinding Policy 5141.3 Health Assessments and Immunizations and not rescind Policy 5141 Student Health Services. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education rescind 30 policies 8-202 through 8-703 as listed. Mr. Vouros seconded.

Ms. Zukowski asked to see the policies not required and to have the motion be moved to the next meeting.

Mrs. Linnetz said these policies are in the 800 series which are on the books and severely out of compliance. They have been cross checked and confirmed that everything required is in the policies approved tonight.

Ms. Zukowski wanted to see if they made sense to rescind.

Mrs. Uberti stated that we have redundant policies and there is no benefit keeping the 800 series which are very outdated. We have a lot of policies that are not required. She feels we should rescind these tonight and would provide Ms. Zukowski with the information she requested at the next meeting.

Ms. Zukowski felt the Board should determine if any should be kept and that we should postpone the motion until the next meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Zukowski moved to postpone the motion to rescind policies in the 800 series until the next meeting. Mrs. Tomai seconded.

Mrs. Tomai supported that to make sure we can make an informative decision.

Mrs. Tomai seconded.

Mrs. Linnetz stated that each policy in this series has to be rescinded. The committee can provide the information but we should rescind tonight.

Vote: 3 ayes, 4 nay (Mrs. Plante, Mr. Vouros, Mr. Gilson, Mrs. Linnetz) Motion fails.

Mr. Leonardi was inclined to agree with Ms. Zukowski and was concerned about rescinding these without seeing them. He would like more certainty that these policies are not thrown by the wayside in case they might be maintained.

Mrs. Uberti shared that we are putting together a tracking document which will list policies and how they are being addressed.

Mrs. Plante stated these will be reviewed at the next Policy Meeting.

Mrs. Linnetz suggested that they can be reviewed quickly and if there is a policy the Board feels is a priority we will have it on the agenda for the following Policy Committee to review but if the Board chooses to have it in our listing, it will require a new policy to be created. Vote on the main motion: 4 ayes, 3 nays (Ms. Zukowski, Mrs. Tomai, Mr. Leonardi) Motion passes.

Item 7 - New Business

Increasing Educator Diversity Plan:

Suzanne D'Eramo and Dr. Kathy Gombos addressed the plan. We received a conditional approval to our plan with significant feedback. We went back to the committee and submitted several proposals. This needs to be resubmitted to the State by November 1. We should receive a response by January 17.

Mrs. Uberti said the original plan required a vote by the Board. We will bring it back to the Board for approval after the State approves the revisions.

Mrs. Linnetz asked how Newtown's numbers looked compared to other districts.

Mrs. Uberti stated she would share comparative data with the Board.

Mr. Vouros asked how you would tap into these people.

Mrs. D'Eramo said we are trying to expand our advertising and create a recruitment video for our website. We have done job fairs also but the attendance has decreased.

Mr. Vouros said it was important that we hear how many diverse applicants we couldn't hire and the number that decided not to stay with us.

Minutes of October 1, 2024:

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of October 1, 2024. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

First Read of Policies:

Mrs. Linnetz spoke about the policies for first read and asked the Board to send questions or comments to her or Mrs. Plante.

Mrs. Plante said they will get the policies for rescinding also.

Ms. Zukowski referred to Policy 5134 and questioned if there were other items besides sunscreen such as Motrin, medicated cream or cough drops.

Mrs. Linnetz said this is a best practice policy but we will take that back to Shipman.

Mrs. Zukowski also questioned Policy 5119R transportation regulations and treating grade level students differently.

<u>Item 8 – Public Participation</u>

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

Item 9 - Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Deborra J. Žukowski

Secretary