

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

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on April 23, 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. Gouveia
S. Tomai	
C. Gilson	
D. Linnetz	
B. Leonardi	
G. Petertonjes (absent)	
I. Khazadian (absent)	

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

Item 1 – Pledge of Allegiance

Item 2 – Consent Agenda

MOTION: Mr. Gilson moved that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda which includes the donation to Newtown High School and the correspondence report. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 3 – Public Participation

Item 4 – Reports

Chair Report: Mrs. Plante offered thanks and well wishes to Mr. Melillo and appreciated his services to the Newtown schools. He helped the district focus on teaching and learning and the instructional core and wished him the best of luck on the next leg of his journey.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Melillo spoke about the facilities work done over the April break. He mentioned Reed's production of the play *Matilda, Jr.* this weekend. He reminded the community to vote before the polls close at 8 PM. As Superintendent, he is committed to the Newtown Public Schools by actively supporting the Board of Education during this time of transition for his departure. This was a decision he has made with his family and its one that is in the best interest for him, the district and his wife and children. He thanked the Board for their support.

Committee Reports:

Mr. Gilson attended the Ridgefield Board of Education meeting where he presented the CABE award for excellence in communications and their website and newsletter stayed for their meeting. A volunteer worked on their website and offered help with any questions we might have for ours. Their Board is also having some contentious issues with adjusting their start times. CABE has a meeting next week and a wrap up session regarding legislation. Mrs. Plante said we are planning for a legislative wrap up with our State delegation at the May 21 meeting.

Mr. Gilson continued that he would be chaperoning the middle school field trip to Boston. Also, he and Mr. Ramsey attended the DEAI workshop and was impressed with the staff participation. Mr. Leonardi spoke with the Hawley PTA co-presidents and highlighted some of their work. Mr. Vouros noted that the Outstanding Educational Leader Award from the Connecticut PTA was given to Sara Wasley, Library Media Specialist at Reed.

Mr. Ramsey highlighted veteran middle school teacher Phil Cruz who developed a unit which is a mock trial of John Brown before the Civil War and applied and received a grant from Choose Your Donor and the Connecticut Department of Education. This enabled him to purchase robes, a podium, a gavel and the equipment for the trial.

Financial Report Month Ending March 31, 2024:

MOTION: Mr. Gilson moved that the Board of Education approve the financial report for the month ending March 31, 2024. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Ms. Gouveia presented her financial report.

Motion passes unanimously.

Item 5 – Old Business

Mrs. Plante said we would not address the policies tonight.

Mrs. Linnetz reported that these policies were for second read. Because there may be possible changes to the statutes that apply to these policies we decided to wait until the May 7 meeting when we should know of any changes.

Item 6 – New Business

MOTION: Mr. Gilson moved that the Board of Education establish a Personnel Search Committee for the purpose of recommending to the Board one or more candidates for the position of Superintendent of Schools, and move further, that the Personnel Search Committee be comprised of the following individuals in their capacity as members of the Board: Alison Plante, John Vouros, Don Ramsey, Shannon Tomai, Chris Gilson, Doria Linnetz, and Brian Leonardi. Mrs. Tomai seconded.

Mrs. Plante noted that the search process will last a few months with this motion as the first step. She thanked Mr. Ramsey and Mr. Gilson for being co-chairs for that committee.

Motion passes unanimously,

MOTION: Mr. Gilson moved that the Board of Education approve the 2023-2024 Non-renewal List. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Gilson moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of April 1, 2024. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Gilson moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of April 2, 2024. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Mr. Leonardi noted that his name was omitted from the list of attendees at the top. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 7 – Public Participation

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

Item 8 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Donald Ramsey
Secretary