

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE

The Board of Finance held their regular meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2015 in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT. Chairman John Kortze called the meeting to order at 7:20pm.

**Present:** John Kortze, Harry Waterbury, John Godin, Mike Portnoy, Joe Kearney, James Filan

**Also Present:** First Selectman Pat Llodra, Director of Finance Bob Tait, Keith Alexander, Dr. Erardi, Tonya Gouveia, 65 members of the public

**VOTER COMMENTS:** NONE

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Update on the Census bureau and the birth rates (Attachment A), email from Kinga Walsh about school operating expenses (Attachment B), and an e-mail urging the BOF spending more money on roads (Attachment C).

**MINUTES** – Tabled

**FIRST SELECTMANS REPORT** – None

**FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT** – None

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Board of Education Budget Presentation* –(Attachment D) Chairman of the BOE, Keith Alexander thanked the Superintendent and his administration staff. They have developed a budget that maintains their commitment to students and to tax payers.

Dr. Erardi articulated that the 1.27% budget increase request is the need. What is unique about the budget is the balancing between grant funds and how those funds are being sunset and the continuing needs. 3 dozen employees received notification that their job may be compromised not because of ability because of dollars.

2015-2016 Superintendent's Budget Changes reflects over 2 million dollars in reductions that took place before the budget was proposed to the BOE. The largest driver is salaries. Because of the early retirement incentive it is not a dominate piece. When Reed school opened it had 40 teachers, now there are 30.

There is a significant increase in property and equipment to enhance technology. Some of that is driven by the state of CT mandates with the smarter balance assessment which is a test taken by grades 3-12 that is technology based.

They are continuing negotiations with All Star Transportation in regards to their fleet for next year.

Mr. Portnoy questioned the number of children in the schools. The presentation says 4,738 and another handout says 4,782.

Mr. Kearney asked if in the budget is there any new mandates from the state that has caused the numbers to increase from last year to this year. Dr. Erardi replied that the student assessment piece was a pilot last year and this year all students must take it. It is technology based test which was a driving force to the increased technology line item. There is also legislative that has been in place which is the High

School Reform Act increasing the amount of credits needed for graduation. This will begin with the incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade class and has driven the staffing needs at the High School.

Mr. Kortze asked if a definition of a non-educational expense exist?

Mr. Kortze also asked what are the net reductions year over year in staffing and insurance and any other items found and what that number was in cost savings.

Mr. Kortze asked for greater detail in regards to electricity and fuel. Is there current data so they can understand how those items have moved?

The town did a study, there were three phases, the first phase was moving to the same payroll system. What are we doing as a town to further phase II and phase III?

Bussing is a topic that is linked to enrollment. It is not a one to one ratio but it is clear with the drop in enrollment, there needs to be a good discussion as to why we have what we have based on what is going on in the district because that is a large number.

It would be helpful to have a document so the public and the BOF as to what the way points are in the process that we are going through as a town in regards to municipal and educational space needs. What are the points that they are working too and where we are now so they can see what the chronology looks like on both sides.

Mr. Kortze asked for an update on the non-lapsing account.

Enrollment – Why should we support additional funding with the declining enrollment. Dr. Erardi will be able to provide some clarity at the next meeting as well.

Dr. Erardi will get back to the board with answers to all the questions at the March meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Arlene Miles, Clerk

# Attachment A

**From:** George Ferguson [mailto:george-ferguson@earthlink.net]

**Sent:** Thursday, February 19, 2015 12:32 PM

**To:** Kortze, John; Mary Ann Jacob; Pat Llodra; Keith Alexander; Joe Erardi, Ed.D.

**Cc:** Dan Honan; Dan Amaral; Joe Girgasky; Robert Merola; Paul Lundquist; Phil Carroll; Neal Chaudhary; Anthony Filiato; Ryan Knapp; Eva Bermudez; Debbie Leidlein; John Vouros; Kathy Hamilton; Michelle Embree Ku; Laura Roche

**Subject:** U.S. Census Bureau Corrects Major Flaw in Population Projections

Hi Board Chairs and All,

The following U.S. Census information attention is worthy of note as it significantly revises data that was used in our recent enrollment study and its attendant projections.

GTF

## **Census Bureau Corrects Major Flaw in Population Projections - Projects Fewer Births**

The Census Bureau's new population projections correct a major flaw in the previous set of numbers released two years ago--the failure to account for the ongoing baby bust.

The new forecast incorporates the baby bust, adjusting births downward by 200,000 to 400,000 a year over the projection time period. The numbers add up.

From 2015 to 2060, the bureau forecasts nearly 15 million fewer births than in the previous series. Here's a comparison of the projections for 2015...

Number of births projected for 2015

New projections: 3,998,730

Old projections: 4,290,077

According to the new projections, the annual number of births will exceed 4 million again in 2016. But births will not surpass the 2007 record of 4,316,233 until 2044. The old projections had that record being broken in 2017.

<http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2014/cb14-tps86.html>

(<http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2014/cb14-tps86.html>)

<http://www.census.gov/population/projections/data/national/2014.html>

(<http://www.census.gov/population/projections/data/national/2014.html>)

## Re: Board of Finance Budget School Closing Discussion

Thu 2/19/2015 12:51 PM

**From:** JOHN KORTZE

**To:** Arlene Miles

**Cc:** Michael Portnoy, Joe Kearney, Harry Waterbury, Jim Filan, John Godin



---

Please add to correspondence for tonight.

On Feb 19, 2015, at 10:07 AM, John Godin <jgodin1312@gmail.com> wrote:

FYI - A tax payer response to my February 9th presentation.

Best,

John

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

**From:** Kinga Walsh <kingawalsh@gmail.com>

**Date:** Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 7:46 AM

**Subject:** Board of Finance Budget School Closing Discussion

**To:** jgodin1312@gmail.com

Dear John,

Hope all is well!

I am reaching out with some thoughts on the recent BOF discussion on closing a school. Although I couldn't attend the 2/9 meeting, I did watch the video. Based on what I heard and can read from the spreadsheet included in the minutes, besides working really hard, you are trying to be objective in your analysis. And with any analysis, there are "balancing" figures that need to be considered. So my question is this: when will you/BOF be outlining the other costs with closing a school? Specifically, how much will it cost to build-out for another use (e.g., town facility)? How much will it cost to re-open a closed building in 3, 5, 8, 10 years? Based on the enrollment study, Newtown will again grow in population starting in 8-10 years. If a school is closed, where will these new students fit and what would be the cost to build a replacement school? Where is the long-term planning and analysis of this action where long term is 5, 10, 15, 20+ years out?

Also, there are qualitative costs that should be discussed. For example, the outlined transportation savings. Granted, enrollment decreases do equal less students riding the buses; however, the geographical scope of where the buses have to travel to pickup the kids may not nor does the importance of limiting the amount of time children spend on the bus. Redistricting will help with this, but I would ask that these and all consideration points be discussed openly given they may not be as quantifiable as mileage or fuel. Again, based on the 2/9 meeting video, there was discussion on collaborating with the Board of Education on an actual decision which is reassuring and the BOE can bring clarity to some of these qualitative costs.

Investigating all cost centers for savings and efficiencies is expected and appreciated. But even though there may be savings to the education budget from closing a school it may not necessarily equate to a savings for the tax payer because costs will be shifted from the education to the town side. Even long-term incremental costs will not be too welcomed by taxpayers. Any analysis should fairly and objectively outline any and all costs and savings, on both sides of the spreadsheet, that will impact the taxpayer because in the long run, it may end up costing the tax payer more.

Thank you for your time and dedication to Newtown.

Regards,

Kinga Walsh

Attachment B

Fwd: Budget for roads in newtown - from paul parvis - feb 18



Thu 2/19/2015 1:07 PM

From: JOHN KORTZE

To: Arlene Miles

---

Please add to correspondence for tonight

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Llodra, Pat" <pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov>  
**To:** Paul Parvis <pbparvis@sbcglobal.net>  
**Cc:** "Hurley, Fred" <fred.hurley@newtown-ct.gov>, "Kortze, John" <jkortze@mac.com>, "Jacob, Mary Ann" <mjacob4404@charter.net>  
**Subject:** re: Budget for roads in newtown - from paul parvis - feb 18  
**Date:** February 18, 2015 at 12:35:32 PM EST  
**Reply-To:** pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov

Good afternoon.

I am copying this to Fred Hurley. He will be able to provide more detail in terms of what we should be able to accomplish with a capital road fund of \$2.5 million - the amount we are requesting this year (\$1.5 mil from operating budget, \$1 mil from CIP).

I am certain that both the BoF and the Legislative Council know that funding for capital road is my number 1 budget priority - just as it was last year. I have been very clear about that priority in my discussions with both bodies - as well as in public statements. I have found support for the priority and have not encountered any resistance - to date. We are at the very beginning of the budget process so many more discussions will take place. And the BoF is just now considering the request for a modified CIP, to include the additional \$1 million. That discussion then proceeds to the LC.

I appreciate your willingness to rally around the issue of funding for roads. I appreciate too that you understand the impact that a deteriorating infrastructure has on the growth and development of a community. (The capital road account has been underfunded for 10 years - and we now face the daunting task of repairing many miles of road with insufficient resources!) All that said, it is still critical that we balance our pursuit of good roads against the taxation necessary to achieve that goal. I am calling for a substantial increase in the level of funding - but with an eye to not increase taxes or our level of debt. The question now lies with the Board of Finance and then on to the LC. Those persons have the authority to add or subtract from my requests.

I am copying also the chairs of the BoF and the LC. I am certain that they will carefully consider your perspective. If you choose to communicate directly: Board of Finance Chair is John Kortze. His email is jkortze@mac.com. Chair of the Legislative Council is MaryAnn Jacob. Her email is MJacob4404@charter.net. Any communication you send to them in their official capacity is made part of the record and so has potential to reach other persons as well.

Thanks again for your very good efforts on behalf of this challenge.

Pat

E. Patricia Llodra  
First Selectman  
Town of Newtown

Attachment C

3 Primrose Street  
Newtown, CT 06470

(203) 270-4201 - Office  
(203) 270-4205 - FAX

---

**From:** "Paul Parvis" <pbparvis@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2015 8:54 AM  
**To:** pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov  
**Cc:** mcparvis@sbcglobal.net  
**Subject:** re: Budget for roads in newtown - from paul parvis - feb 18

Greetings Pat,

We totally appreciate the conundrum regarding needed capital for road repair and higher taxes, and agree that bonding is often the overused panacea. In my humble opinion, the annual budgeting, though a good and assuring effort, will be dauntingly overwhelmed soon to keep up with the accelerated deterioration of the roads, and therefore may need to consider a one-time assessment or something complemented by ongoing annual budgeting commitments. Many, not all, of the roads are in such a state that one, safety and property damage are of great concern, and secondly, potential buyers may think twice before moving to Newtown vs. some other town whose infrastructure is in better shape. Driving on crumbling, pot hole-ridden scarred roads, including state roads passing through Newtown, does nothing for my pleasant demeanor during the daily commute from Watertown to Newtown, especially once entering the latter's city limits. The situation is unfortunately influencing the priority--ready or not.

How many miles of road will be repaired based on this year's budget proposal?

What would you suggest to ensure that the road repair is a top priority during the budget discussions? Whom else should I/we write? Could the road issue and possible solutions appear in the Newtown Bee? I think many people would rally, no pun intended, around this concern. Please advise.

Thank you very, very much for quickly replying to my e-mail--greatly appreciated.

Best regards.  
Paul Parvis

-----  
On Mon, 2/16/15, Llodra, Pat <pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov> wrote:

Subject: re: Budget for roads in newtown - from paul parvis - feb 12  
To: "Paul B. Parvis" <pbparvis@sbcglobal.net>, finance.director@newtown-ct.gov  
Cc: first.selectman@newtown-ct.gov  
Date: Monday, February 16, 2015, 2:35 PM

Good afternoon  
Paul.

The proposed additional \$1million is in the hands of

the Board of Finance and, if approved will go to the Legislative Council for approval. These additional monies are in the CIP, not the operational budget - an approach that we hope is successful. There is great pressure on the operational budget and a goal for no tax increase. We cannot achieve that with any substantial boost in the capital road account - using the CIP is the right way to get the additional monies.

In terms of how much to ask for, to do at any one time through the budget or the CIP, it is the belief of the public works director (and I concur) that the most sustainable approach to improving our road infrastructure is through annual budgeting - not via a massive bonding action which only guarantees that the same borrowing action will have to be taken in some follow-on years as all those same roads will fail again at the same time. It is the belief of the director that we can make a significant 'dent' in the problems with an additional \$1 million each year from the CIP for the next few years, while at the same time we increase our annual operating budget up to a \$2 million.

We think that the combination of these approaches (CIP and annual budget) is the most appropriate and manageable way to respond - and reflects good short and long term thinking and planning. While this conservative strategy will require a few more years before most roads are generally in a good state, each year will provide good progress and the financial impact will be sustainable.

I will copy John Kortze, chair of the Board of Finance, on these comments. The BoF has the power to add more to the CIP proposal should those members believe it to be the right strategy.

E. Patricia Llodra

First Selectman

Town of Newtown

3 Primrose Street

Newtown, CT 06470

(203) 270-4201 - Office

(203) 270-4205 - FAX

From: "Paul B. Parvis" <pbparvis@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2015 1:44 PM

To: finance.director@newtown-ct.gov

Cc: first.selectman@newtown-ct.gov

Subject: Budget for roads in newtown - from paul parvis - feb 12

Greetings Mr Tait and Ms Lodra:

The lack of genuine attention regarding funds budgeted for roads in the Newtown Bee article prompted this e-mail. Road repair warrants high priority status in the Bee and elsewhere. How many miles of road will be replaced at \$2.5mm? Perhaps doubling the budget to aggressively address the dangerous and totally unacceptable condition of many roads in town may be necessary. There is an urgent need to focus on this issue and it will only exacerbate if not taken seriously.

I do not mind a tax increase if the money actually pays for improvements. I hasten to add, that along with a tax increase, a very transparent exercise of cutting or deferring nice-to-have-but-non-essential costs should also take place. Unfortunately I can't attend the Feb 19 hearing due to a

business trip.

Please let me know your thoughts.

Best regards.

Paul and Martha Parvis

18 Leopard Drive

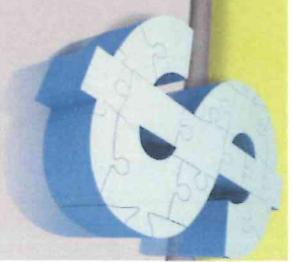
Sandy Hook

# Board of Education's Proposed Operating Budget Plan

2015 - 2016

Newtown  
Public Schools

# Proposed Budget 2015-2016



## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Keith Alexander ~ Chair  
Laura Roche ~ Vice-Chair  
Kathy Hamilton ~ Secretary

David Freedman

Michelle Ku

Debbie Leidlein

John Vouros

## CENTRAL OFFICE

Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr. ~ Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Linda Gejda ~ Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Ron Bienkowski  
Director of Business

Julie G. Haggard, M.S. Ed.  
Director of Pupil Services

Gino Faiella  
Director of Facilities

Carmella Amodeo  
Director of Technology

Michelle Hiscavich  
Director of Music

Dr. David Abbey (.6 FTE)  
Director of Human Resources

Mark Pompano  
Director of Security

Judy Blanchard

Director/Department of Education Grant

K-12 Health Education Coordinator

# Proposed Budget 2015-2016



## Newtown Middle School

**Thomas Einhorn**  
*Principal*  
**Jim Ross**  
*Assistant Principal*

## Newtown High School

**Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue**  
*Principal*  
*Assistant Principals*  
**Kathy Boethner**  
**Jaime Rivera**  
**David Roach**

## Reed Intermediate School

**Anne Uberti**  
*Principal*  
**Jill Bontatibus Beaudry**  
*Assistant Principal*

*Athletic Director*  
**Greg Simon**

## Hawley Elem School

**Christopher Moretti**  
*Principal*  
**Keri Snowden**  
*Lead Teacher*

## Middle Gate Elem School

**Christopher Geissler**  
*Principal*  
**Peggy Kennedy**  
*Lead Teacher*

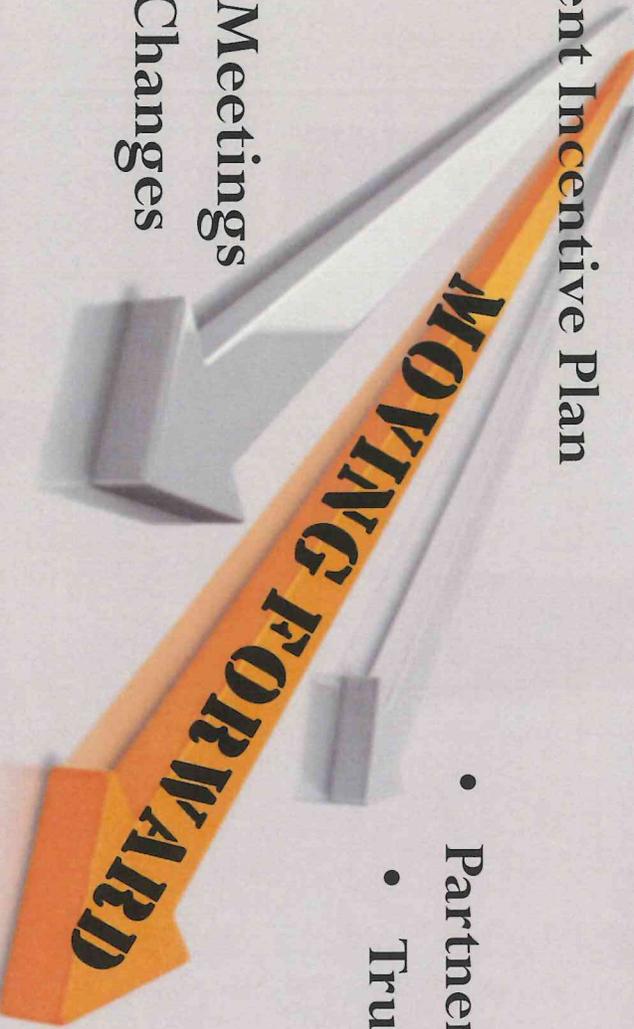
## Sandy Hook Elem School

**Dr. Kathy Gombos**  
*Principal*  
**Tim Napalitano**  
*Assistant Principal*  
**Brian Kirmil (.4 FTE)**  
*Assistant Principal*

## Head O'Meadow Elem School

**Barbara Gasparine**  
*Principal*  
**Carol Danenberg**  
*Lead Teacher*

- Budget Building Protocol
- Unique to Newtown Public Schools
  - Grant Funds
  - Decline In Enrollment
  - Early Retirement Incentive Plan
- Answers With Integrity
  - Fact Based
  - Accountability
- Partnership
  - Trust
- Next Steps
  - Informational Meetings
  - Updating +/- Changes



**MOVING FORWARD**

**As of February 5, 2015**

# Budget Reductions



From Budget Builder → Superintendent → Board of Education → Board of Finance

Administrators' Initial Budget Request	\$74,971,589	5.08%
Superintendent's Total Budget Reduction	(\$2,572,403)	(3.61%)
Superintendent's Budget Request to the BOE	\$72,399,186	1.48%
BOE Budget Reduction	\$145,698	.21%
Board of Education's Budget Request	\$72,253,488	1.27%

# Board of Education's Budget 2015-2016

**Description**

**15-16 Proposed**

SALARIES	\$ 45,107,597
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$ 11,231,193
PURCHASED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$ 788,173
PURCHASED PROPERTY SERVICES	\$ 2,137,580
OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$ 7,655,929
SUPPLIES	\$ 4,443,567
PROPERTY - EQUIPMENT	\$ 819,493
OTHER OBJECTS	\$ 69,956

**TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET**

**\$ 72,253,488**

**OPERATING BUDGET INCREASE**

**1.27 %**

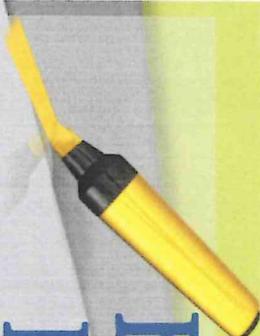
# Budget Increase Breakdown



**Budget increase requested is 1.27%**

## THE BREAKDOWN

<b>Regular Education</b>	<b>0.52%</b>	<b>\$369,745</b>
<b>Special Education &amp; Pupil Personnel</b>	<b>0.61%</b>	<b>\$436,457</b>
<b>Others</b>	<b>0.14%</b>	<b>\$101,982</b>



# Framework for the 2015-2016 Board of Education's Proposal



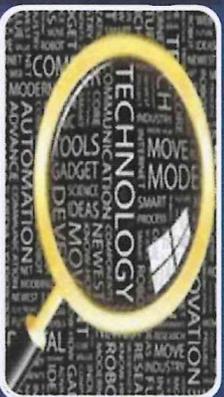
Appropriately supporting CCSS and State directives

1



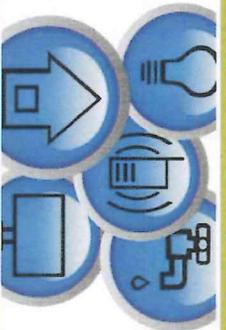
Requested New Staff

2



Property & Equipment

3



Other Purchased Services

# Budget Reductions

From Budget Builder → Superintendent → Board of Education → Board of Finance

Administrators'  
Proposed New  
Staffing Request

**\$716,435**

Reductions

**\$414,240**

Superintendent  
/Board of Education  
Supporting New  
Staffing Requests

**\$302,195**

# Requested New Staff

1

## REQUESTED NEW STAFF

FTE

AMOUNT

### ADMINISTRATION:

Supervisor to Replace Chair Sp.Ed. Supervisor to replace (1.0 FTE) NHS Dept. Chair

\$21,770

### CERTIFIED STAFFING:

Teacher – Gifted (Elementary School)	1.0	\$56,594
Teachers - Unified Theater (0.20 NHS), World Language (0.50 Elem School)	.70	\$39,616
Special Education Supervisor (ESY)		\$18,501
Academic Officer (NHS)	.40	\$22,638
Stipends for NICE Program Expansion (K-12)		\$10,000
NHS Guidance – Previously funded by SERV Grant	1.0	\$55,322
Athletic Coaches – Track, Gymnastics, Girls' Golf		\$14,370

### NON-CERTIFIED STAFF:

Differential (K-12) Custodial Supervisor (replacing 1.0 FTE custodian)		\$37,840
Security Guard-Previously funded by SERV Grant*	1.0	\$21,123
Clerk	.16	\$ 4,421

10 \* Present SERV funded (4 FTE), 2015-16 funded 3 FTE (reallocation of Guidance funds)

# Proposed 2015-2016 Staffing

## 2015-2016 Proposed Net Additions to Staff

Certified Additions	3.10	\$238,811
Non-Certified Additions	1.16	\$ 63,384
Total Additions to Cert. & Non-Cert Position	4.26	\$302,195

# Proposed 2015-2016 Staffing

## 2015-2016 Proposed Net Reductions to Staff

<b>Certified Reductions</b>		
- 2 elementary teaching positions (1 classroom, 1 Art)	-8.30	(\$473,092)
- 4 positions at the Intermediate School-Art, Music, PE, Classroom (2)		
- 1.3 teachers at Middle School -Art, Music, PE		
- 1 Speech & Language Pathologist		
<b>Non-Certified Reductions</b>		
Paraeducators	-9.13	(\$160,492)
<b>Total Reductions in Cert. &amp; Non-Cert. Positions</b>		
	-17.43	(\$633,584)
<b>Net Total - Additions/Reduction -Certified</b>		
	-5.20	(\$234,281)
<b>Net Total - Additions/Reduction-Non-Cert.</b>		
	-7.97	(\$ 97,108)
<b>Total BOE Changes in Staff</b>		
	-13.17	(\$331,389)

# Property & Equipment

2

*Increase Funding for Property & Equipment*

**2014-2015**  
**\$534,735**

Note: Increase was \$18,987

**2015-2016**  
**\$819,493**

Note: Increase is \$284,758

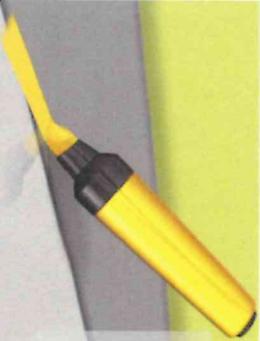
# Requested Property & Equipment

2

**This increase is \$284,758 which represents 0.39% of the total budget increase.**

- Technology equipment increase of \$169,033
- Additional radios, cameras and computers for security \$34,692
- Custodial replacement equipment increased by \$30,650
- District replacement furniture \$25,000
- Musical instruments, an additional \$11,410
- All other equipment went up by \$13,973

**\$284,758**



## Other Purchased Services

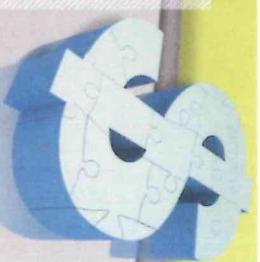
3

This increase is \$452,682 or a 0.62% increase to the total budget. The four larger areas of increase are:

- Out of District Tuition – increased by \$211,687
- Transportation Services - \$168,074 is required for transportation. Of this, \$76,128 is for the basic contract.
- Contracted Services – increased by \$34,903
- All other services, insurance, communication, student and staff travel increased by \$38,018 collectively.

**\$452,682**

# Costs Driving the 2015-2016 Budget



**Cost Increase**      **% of Budget Increase**

**Total Personnel Costs**

**\$107,970**

**0.15%**

**Other Purchased Services**

**\$452,682**

**0.62%**

**Property & Equipment**

**\$284,758**

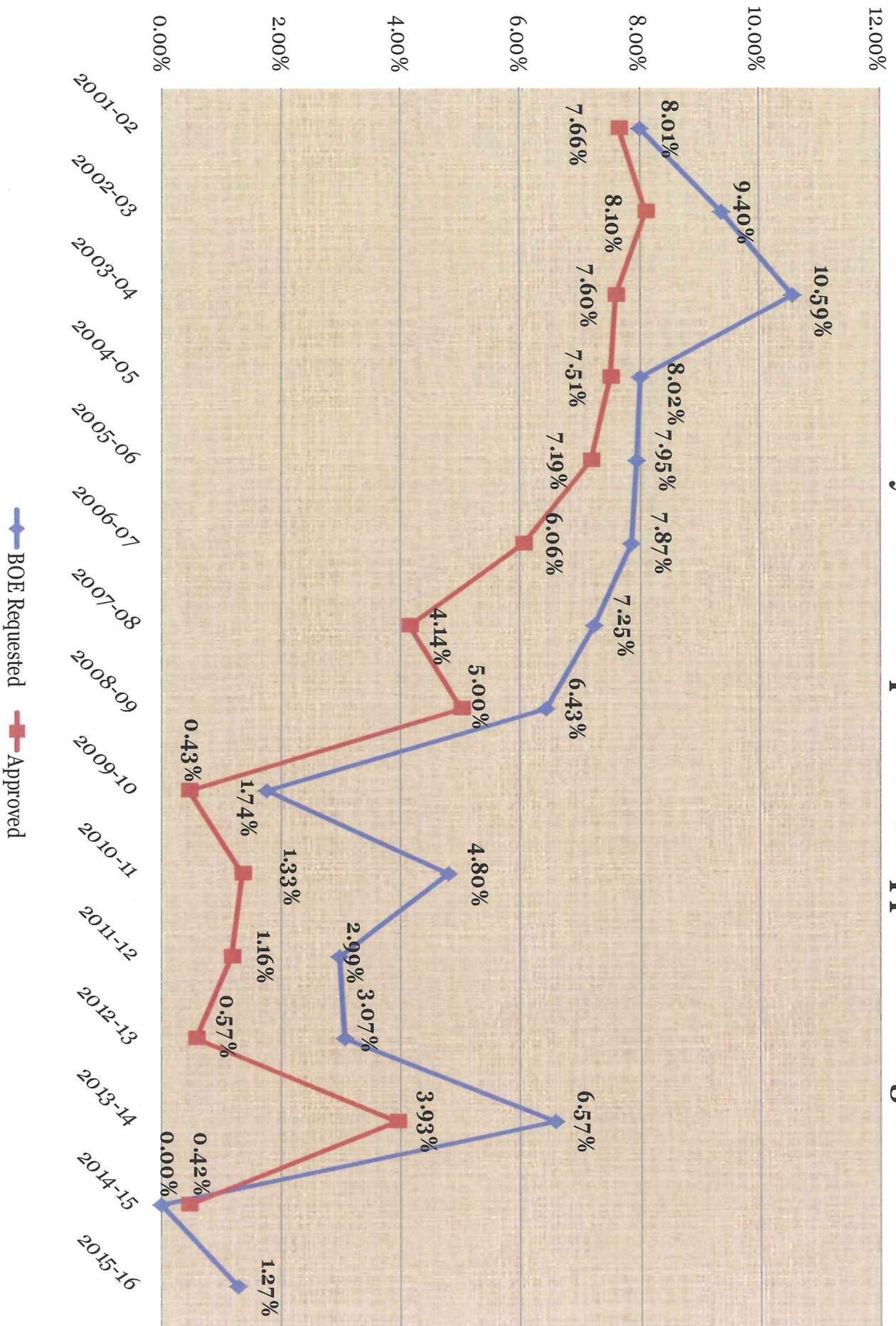
**0.39%**

**Employee Benefits**

**\$79,849**

**0.11%**

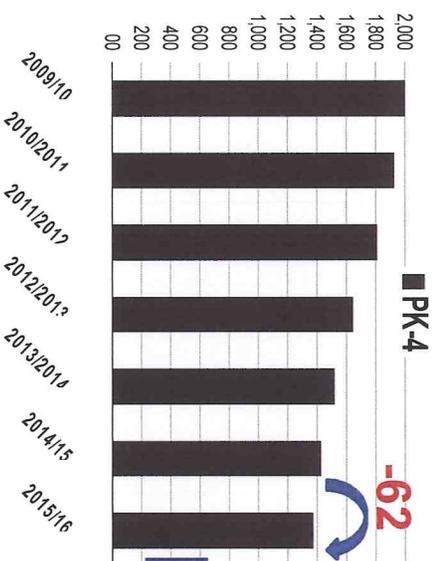
# History of BOE Requested vs. Approved Budget



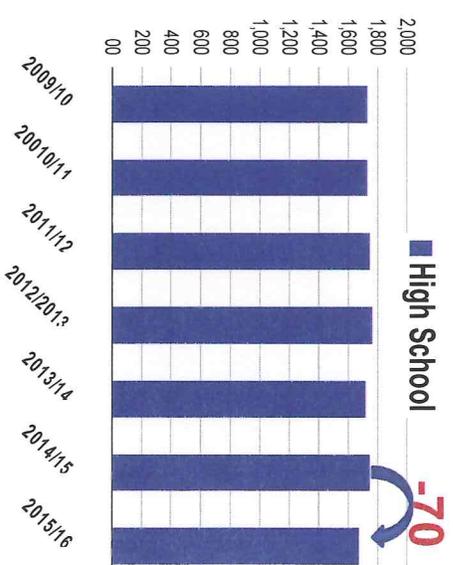
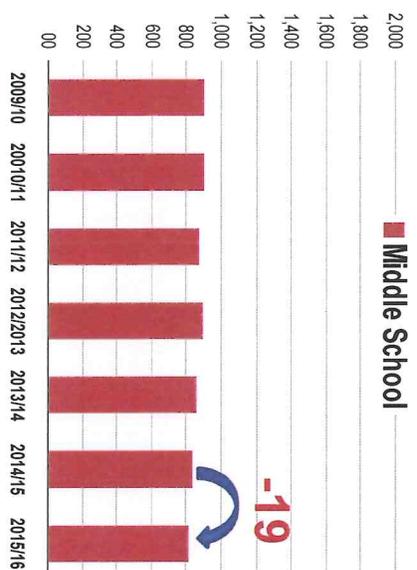
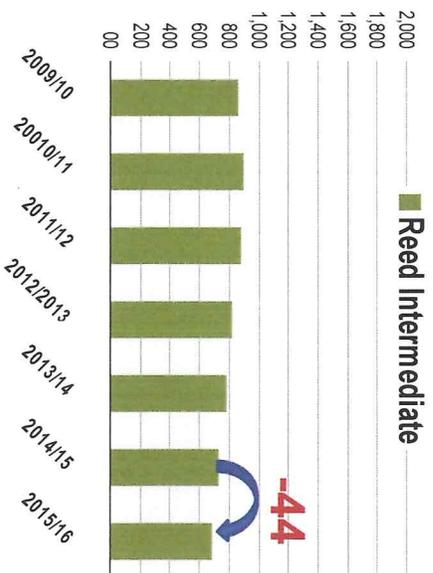
# Enrollment Overview

District Enrollment  
 2014/15 total: 4,738  
 2015/16 projected: 4,543

**-195**



Hawley	300
Head O Meadow	311
Middle Gate	367
Sandy Hook	343
Prek	50



# 2015/16 District Comparison Requested Budget Increase

## DRG - B Districts

School District	Requested Budget Increase 2015-2016
Cheshire	5.19%
South Windsor	4.71%
Brookfield	4.07%
Fairfield	3.29%
Glastonbury	3.03%
Trumbull	2.94%
Guilford	2.64%
Madison	2.49%
New Fairfield	2.48%
Monroe	2.25%
Amity	2.12%
Greenwich	2.00%
Avon	1.30%
<b>Newtown</b>	<b>1.27%</b>
Simsbury	1.17%

## Fairfield County Districts

School District	Requested Budget Increase 2015-2016
Danbury	4.89%
Seymour	3.10%
Bethel	2.97%
Weston	2.94%
Ridgefield	2.68%
Westport	2.08%
Wilton	1.98%
<b>Newtown</b>	<b>1.27%</b>
Redding (PK-8)	0.81%

**Newtown:**  
**1.27%** requested budget increase

## Final Thoughts

- Inform Community
- Transparency
- Respecting Differences
- Model – Local Government
- Partnership

*Care*

**MORE THAN OTHERS THINK IS WISE.**

*Expect*

**MORE THAN OTHERS THINK IS POSSIBLE.**

Newtown Board of Education  
3 Primrose Street  
Newtown, CT 06470

February 13, 2015

Dear Board of Finance and Legislative Council Members:

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Education adopted a budget for the 2015-2016 school year of \$72,253,488. The budget represents the original recommendation of the Superintendent, Dr. Erardi, along with reductions found through on-going refinement of the budget details. Budget increases come from existing contracts and negotiated labor costs along with increases in out-of-district tuition and replacement of services previously covered by the district SERV grant. Budget savings have come from a net reduction of 13 staff positions due to declining enrollment.

The budget also includes initiatives which continue to *inspire each student to excel*, as described in the mission statement of the Newtown Public Schools. With this budget, the Board of Education is recommending support for the NICE program and a kindergarten language immersion pilot along with other educational support for teaching and learning.

The Superintendent and Board of Education have worked hard to develop a responsible budget that maintains our commitment to students and our commitment to taxpayers.

Enclosed, the Board of Education submits a budget with an increase of \$908,184 (1.27%) over the current 2014-2015 budget for your consideration. We feel we are continuing to address the concern of spending in light of declining enrollment while continuing our pursuit of rigorous education for our students. We will continue to evaluate spending to remain an efficient school district throughout the budget process and into future budget cycles.

Sincerely,

Keith Alexander  
Chair, Newtown Board of Education

# 2015-16 SUPERINTENDENT'S BUDGET CHANGES

TOTAL  
ADJUSTMENT

ALL ELEMENTARY

?	INCREASE HOURS OF UNARMED SECURITY - 8:30-5:00 COVERAGE	?
	TEACHERS - 1 TO 2 MORE PROF. DEVELOPMENT DAYS	(\$166,975) PER DAY
?	RECLASSIFY LEAD TEACHERS/EVALUATOR PROGRAM/DEPT. CHAIRS	?
?	INCREASE OF BCBA SUPPORT SERVICES	?
?	EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS - KINDERGARTEN	?
?	EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS - SUPERVISE LUNCH/RECESS	?
?	+ 5 MINUTES TO SPECIALS CLASS TIME	?

REPRESENT REQUESTS WHICH WERE NOT COSTED OUT

HAWLEY

-1.00	TEACHER - GRADE 4 POSITION	(\$56,594)
-0.10	TEACHER - EARLY INTERVENTION (READING)	(\$5,455)
-0.40	TEACHER - EARLY INTERVENTION (MATH)	(\$22,638)

SANDY HOOK

-1.00	TEACHER - GRADE 4	(\$56,594)
-------	-------------------	------------

MIDDLE GATE

-0.25	TEACHER - EARLY INTERVENTION (READING)	(\$15,719)
?	COMPUTER & TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE	?
?	DISTRICT SUPPORT - K-6 LANGUAGE ARTS & MATH COORD.,	?
?	INCREASE HUMAN RESOURCE DIR., ADD ASST. SUPERINTENDENT	?

HEAD O'MEADOW

-1.00	TEACHER - GRADE 1 (PROPOSED - WATCH)	(\$56,594)
1.00	TEACHER - GRADE 4 POSITION FROM HAW	\$56,594
-0.93	EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT - CLASSROOM	(\$16,325)

REED

-0.50	TEACHER - ART	(\$28,297)
-0.50	TEACHER - MUSIC	(\$28,297)
-1.00	TEACHER - PE	(\$56,594)
-2.00	TEACHERS - GRADE 5	(\$113,188)

MIDDLE SCHOOL

-1.00	DEAN OF STUDENTS	(\$62,253)
	TEACHER - COMPUTER (2 EXTRA DAYS)	(\$737)
-0.30	TEACHER - ART	(\$16,978)

# 2015-16 SUPERINTENDENT'S BUDGET CHANGES

	TOTAL ADJUSTMENT
BOARD OF EDUCATION	
MEMBERSHIPS - CUT TRI-STATE	(\$7,500)
SECURITY	
STAFF TRAINING - CUT 1 TABLE TOP EXERCISE	(\$14,500)
BENEFITS	
MEDICAL SELF FUNDED TO 0% INCREASE	(\$98,227)
EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	(\$6,100)
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	
BUILDING & SITE MAINT. PROJECTS	
HAWLEY	
INSTALL GENERATOR & TRANSFER SWITCH	(\$75,000)
REPAINT CAFETERIA	(\$15,000)
REPLACE CARPETING - MAIN OFFICE	(\$7,500)
HEAD O'VEADOW	
REPAINT LMC CEILING	(\$25,000)
REPAINT/REPAIR INTERIOR DOOR FRAMES	(\$15,000)
REED INTERMEDIATE	
REPAINT CLASSROOMS & HALLWAYS	(\$25,000)
CELL PHONE REPEATER	
MIDDLE SCHOOL	
INSTALL ACOUSTICAL CEILING & LIGHTING IN THE LMC	(\$22,000)
A-WING GYM - CLOSE UP WALL & INSTALL DOOR	(\$15,000)
HIGH SCHOOL	
UPGRADE SOUND SYSTEM IN AUDITORIUM	(\$90,000)
ELECTRICITY REDUCTION	(\$83,269)
EQUIPMENT - MAINT. VEHICLE REPLACEMENT	(\$45,000)
<b>TOTAL SUPERINTENDENT'S BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS</b>	<b>(\$2,572,403)</b>

? REPRESENT REQUESTS WHICH WERE NOT COSTED OUT

To: Newtown Board of Education Members  
From: Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr.  
Date: December 23, 2014  
Re: **Superintendent's Proposed Education Operational Plan 2015-2016**

The Superintendent's Proposed Operational Budget for 2015-2016 is \$72,399,186, which reflects a 1.48% increase over the 2014-2015 school year spending plan. This proposed plan maintains the core of all existing programs and also includes initiatives that will move the Newtown Public Schools toward a district of distinction.

It is important to note that this budget is built on meeting the needs of all state and federal legislation; however, this budget does not reflect support for P.A. 10-111 (high school reform) as the upcoming legislature will, once again, examine the present bill that will impact local districts with both daily cost and capital needs as early as July 2015.

More specifically:

***Restoration of Lost Staffing and Programming:***

- An additional 1.0 FTE has been proposed at an expense of \$56,594 to support the return of an enrichment teacher for K-4 learning;

***Proposed New Support Staff for Teaching, Learning, Activities and Athletics, Operations, and Safety:***

- An additional 1.0 FTE special education supervisor to replace the vacant 1.0 FTE special education department chair position at Newtown High School at a cost of \$21,770
- An additional .4 FTE Academic Officer at Newtown High School to assist with the increasing demands being placed on administration from both state and federal legislation at a cost of \$22,638
- An additional .5 FTE to support the acquisition of world language at the primary grade level costing \$28,297
- The movement of a 1.0 FTE operations and maintenance staff member to the role of Assistant Facilities Director at a net cost of \$37,840
- An additional .2 FTE in the Newtown High School Performing Arts department to continue the grant funded Unified Theater class at a cost of \$11,319
- An additional \$14,370 to move the following coaching stipends into the operational plan: indoor track, gymnastics, and girls' golf
- An increase of .16 staffing for the special education clerk pertaining to summer programming at a cost of \$4,421
- An additional five stipends totaling \$10,000 to support global awareness and international travel (N.I.C.E)
- A Special Education Supervisor to cover the summer programming at a cost of \$18,501

The enhancements mentioned above represent \$225,750 of new staff spending which is reflected in the proposed operational plan.

*Staff spending is also increasing by \$76,445 to fund a security guard and high school counselor previously paid by the SERV grant.*

***Reduction of Workforce Proposed for the 2015-2016 Operational Plan***

A detailed analysis of all programming and staffing was completed by administration and the following reductions are proposed within the new school year spending plan:

- The elimination of 8.3 FTE certified staff members at a savings of \$473,092
- The elimination of 9.13 non-certified staff members at a savings of \$160,492

**Thus, the proposed operational plan with requested new staff and with the reduction in workforce nets a cost savings of \$331,389.**

# BUDGET NEWS 2015-2016

## NEWTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

### BOARD OF EDUCATION PROPOSED BUDGET

On Feb. 5, The Board of Education approved adjustments to the Superintendent's Budget. The 2015-2016 budget was passed by the Board for \$72,253,488.

During workshops on the budget in January and February, the Board of Education heard from the school district on new initiatives and savings set out in the Superintendent, Dr. Erardi's Proposed Budget. During the final budget meeting, several changes were suggested to reduce the budget including several recommended by the Superintendent's office. The accepted adjustments outlined below brought the 2015-2016 budget request to a 1.27% increase over the 2014-2015 approved budget.



The budget includes net staff reductions of 13 positions throughout the district to reflect declining enrollment which, along with other savings, helped offset regular yearly contracted increases.

#### FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2015

##### In this issue:

Board of Education Proposed Budget	1
Recommended Budget Adjustments	1
Budget Estimates	2
Superintendent Availability	2
Points of Pride	2
More Information	2

#### Upcoming Budget Meetings

Feb. 19	7:00pm—Board of Finance Meeting Public Hearing and BOE Presentation
Mar. 2	7:30pm—Board of Finance BOE to Answer Questions
Mar. 12	7:30pm—Board of Finance Vote on Budget Recommendation

### RECOMMENDED BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

2014-15 Approved Budget	\$ 71,345,304
2015-16 Superintendent original proposal	\$ 72,399,186
<i>Adjustments</i>	
Diesel fuel - \$3.1449 to \$2.65 per gallon	\$ (54,989)
Worker's compensation plus 3% to 5%	\$ 10,144
Liability Insurance policies plus 3% to 5%	\$ 7,782
Medical self-insurance	\$ (67,120)
Dental insurance	\$ (4,000)
Transportation	\$ (37,515)
<b>Final, budget approved by Board of Education</b>	<b>\$ 72,253,488</b>

# 2015/16 Changes in Enrollment

DRG- B Districts		
School District	2014-2015 Enrollment	2015-2016 Change in Enrollment
Cheshire	4,556	-128
South Windsor	4,100	-51
Brookfield	2,730	TBD
Fairfield	10,160	17
Glastonbury	6,095	-200
Trumbull	6,737	-177
Guilford	3,472	-141
Madison	3,173	-185
New Fairfield	2,661	-97
Monroe	3,341	-201
Amity	2,356	TBD
Greenwich	8,800	21
Avon	3,376	TBD
<b>Newtown</b>	<b>4,782</b>	<b>-239</b>
Simsbury	4,271	-131

Fairfield County Districts		
School District	2014-2015 Enrollment	2015-2016 Change in Enrollment
Danbury	10,904	TBD
Seymour	2,280	-22
Bethel	2,948	-4
Weston	2,398	-27
Ridgefield	5,113	-59
Westport	5,779	1
Wilton	4,280	-61
<b>Newtown</b>	<b>4,782</b>	<b>-239</b>
Redding (PK-8)	1,009	-67

**Newtown:**  
**-239 change in enrollment**

## Budget Meeting Calendar

Meeting	Date	Time	Meeting Location
Edmond Town Hall Board of Managers	February 10th	6:30 p.m.	Mary Hawley Room, Edmond Town Hall
Economic Development Commission	February 10th	7:00 p.m.	Shared Meeting Room 3
Quarter Revision Commission	March 2nd	7:30 p.m.	Lower Conference Room, Town Hall South
Police Commission	March 3rd	6:30 p.m.	Lower Conference Room, Town Hall South
Conservation Commission	March 9th	7:00 p.m.	Shared Meeting Room 3
Edmond Youth and Family Services	March 23rd	6:30 p.m.	15 Berkshire Road, Sandy Hook, CT
Board of Fire Commissioners	March 23rd	7:00 p.m.	Sandy Hook Fire Department
Edmond Cultural Arts Commission	March 24th	7:00 p.m.	Lower Conference Room, Town Hall South
Public Safety Committee	April 1st	10:00 a.m.	Municipal Center
Board of Selectman	April 6th	7:30 p.m.	Council Chambers
Board of Finance	April 13th	7:30 p.m.	Council Chambers
Park and Recreation Commission	April 14th	6:00 p.m.	Lower Conference Room, Town Hall South
Edmond Board of Burgesses	April 14th	7:30 p.m.	Edmond Town Hall Borough Office
Legislative Council	April 15th	7:30 p.m.	Council Chambers
Sustainable Energy Commission	April 16th	7:00 p.m.	Shared Meeting Room 3
Planning & Zoning Commission	April 16th	7:30 p.m.	Council Chambers
Commission on Aging	April 20th	5:00 p.m.	Senior Center
Airfield Hills Authority	April 27th	7:00 p.m.	Shared Meeting Room 3
Board of Ethics			
Edmond Zoning Board of Appeals			
Edmond Zoning Commission			
Edmond Zoning Commission			
Edmond Wetlands Commission			
Edmond Lillinonah Authority			
Edmond Zoar Authority			
Edmond Pension Commission			
Edmond Safety Committee			
Edmond Permanent Memorial Commission			
Edmond Public Building & Site Commission			
Edmond Water & Sewer Authority			
Edmond Zoning Board of Appeals			

## Budget Meeting Calendar

Meeting	Date	Time	Meeting Location
Housatonic Valley Waldorf School Faculty Meeting	January 29th	4:00 p.m.	Housatonic Valley Waldorf School, 1 Jacklin Road
St. Rose School Faculty Meeting	February 5th	3:30 p.m.	St. Rose School
Fraser Woods School Faculty Meeting	February 18th	3:30 p.m.	Fraser Woods School
Sandy Hook School Faculty Meeting	February 19th	7:45 a.m.	Sandy Hook School
High School Faculty Meeting	March 2nd	2:15 p.m.	High School
Hawley School Faculty Meeting	March 17th	8:00 a.m.	Hawley School
Head O'Meadow Faculty Meeting	March 10th	8:00 a.m.	Head O'Meadow School
Middle Gate Faculty Meeting	April 7th	8:00 a.m.	Middle Gate School
Middle School Faculty Meeting	March 5th	2:15 p.m.	Middle School
Reed Intermediate School Faculty Meeting	March 23rd	3:10 p.m.	Reed Intermediate School
Head O'Meadow School PTA Meeting	March 4th	9:45 a.m.	Head O'Meadow School
Hawley School PTA Meeting	March 12th	9:30 a.m.	Hawley School
Middle School PTA Meeting	March 16th	5:30 p.m.	Middle School
Sandy Hook School PTA	April 2nd	6:30 p.m.	Reed Intermediate School
Reed Intermediate School PTA	April 6th	7:00 p.m.	Reed Intermediate School
High School PTA Meeting	April 7th	9:30 a.m.	High School
Middle Gate School PTA Meeting	Schedule Conflict		
Rotary Club	Student of Month Dinner		
Chamber of Commerce	March 3rd	8:00 a.m.	My Place Restaurant
Newtown Womens Club	March 19th	12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	(waiting for confirmation on exact time)
Newtown Lions Club	Schedule Conflict		