

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

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on March 5, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Municipal Office Building, 3 Primrose Street.

A. Plante, Chair	C. Melillo
J. Vouros, Vice Chair	A. Uberti
D. Ramsey, Secretary	T. Vadas
S. Tomai	1 Staff
C. Gilson	2 Public
D. Linnetz	1 Press
G. Petertonjes	
A. Jerfy	

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved that the Board of Education go into executive session regarding a personnel request and invite Mr. Melillo. Mrs. Tomai seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 1 – Executive Session

Executive session began at 6:45 and ended at 6:48 p.m.

Mrs. Plante called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item 2 – Pledge of Allegiance

Item 3 – Action on Personnel Request

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved that the Board of Education support, as recommended by the Superintendent, Julie Shull's request pertaining to Article 31.2 of the teacher contract.

Mrs. Linnetz seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 4 – Consent Agenda

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda which includes a donation to Newtown High School and the correspondence report.

Mrs. Linnetz second. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 5 – Public Participation

Item 6 – Reports

Chair Report: Mrs. Plante reported that the Board of Finance made a recommendation to the Legislative Council to reduce the Board of Education budget by approximately \$1M. Of that amount, \$455,000 will be replaced by funds from the Town's nonrecurring account and those funds will go to our buildings and grounds projects as in the past. Now it proceeds to the Legislative Council. She and Mr. Melillo will be at their Education Subcommittee meeting on March 11. Also, she and several Board members were at Sandy Hook School to celebrate Read Across America and enjoyed reading to students.

Superintendent's Report: Last Friday he also read in Ms. Walsky's kindergarten class at Sandy Hook School for Read Across America Day. He attended the Newtown Band and Guard extravaganza Saturday night with over 25 teams competing. He congratulated Emily Metzker, Grace Fischer, Tanner Mapes, and Hope Kenney for being given the Newtown Rotary Club's Student of the Month award, which recognizes their hard work, dedication and exemplary character. March marks Women's History Month, which celebrates contributions and achievements of women throughout history and empowers students to appreciate and honor their contributions and accomplishments.

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Linnetz reported on the Policy Committee meeting and thanked Mr. Ramsey for joining the committee. They discussed the emergency preparedness and safety policies along with the two new policies on the agenda regarding emergency closings and food service personnel code of conduct which is a required policy.

Mrs. Tomai asked if they were going to address the policy on parents opting out of books. Mrs. Linnetz expects it to be on Monday's agenda.

Mr. Ramsey reported that Curriculum and Instruction reviewed presentations on the two curriculums on the agenda.

Mrs. Tomai noted that Head O'Meadow will celebrate literacy week the end of March and invited parents and Board members to read books to their students on March 25.

Mr. Ramsey attended the percussion extravaganza hosted by the high school which included students from towns in Connecticut and New York. He was honored to hand out awards.

Student Reports:

Mr. Petertonjes reported that winter athletics were coming to an end and students are signing up for spring sports. The boys' lacrosse team is hosting a dodgeball tournament where teams compete for the final cash prize as a fundraiser for their team later this month. The Computer Honor Society is working with the middle school on an event to convince incoming students to take computer science classes at the high school.

Mr. Jerfy said more and more seniors are using the career center for college and scholarship information. AP Government classes have been hosting mock trials and debates on gun violence over the past couple of weeks. Members of the local government have been in the lunchroom today giving students 18 or turning 18 before the election the opportunity to register to vote. The high school is preparing to perform their rendition of the musical comedy "Urinetown."

Financial Report Month Ending January 31, 2024:

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved that the Board of Education approve the financial report and transfers for the month ending January 31, 2024. Mrs. Tomai seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 7 – Old Business**Item 8 – New Business**

Mrs. Linnetz spoke about Policy 3542.22 Food Service Personnel – Code of Conduct. We put this forward as a CABE recommended policy. Mrs. Vadas researched this policy and reported that it was the standard for other districts also.

Mr. Gilson asked if it was required.

Mrs. Linnetz said in the beginning of the year we found this policy was missing.

Mrs. Vadas said it is required and other districts have it.

Mrs. Linnetz referred to Policy 6114.6 Emergency Closings and said we don't currently have this and is recommended but not required. We felt it should be one of ours. Mr. Melillo was integral in providing feedback on the CABE recommended policy and also recommended some edits along with other committee members.

First Read of Modern U.S. History Curriculum:

Mr. Ramsey appreciated this curriculum and it also aligns well with the State standards.

Mr. Gilson said he was impressed with the teachers and asked for the presentation slides.

First Read of Modern U.S. History Curriculum:

Mr. Ramsey said we have a good dialogue with the teachers at the C & I meetings. They are engaged with the students in these classes.

Mr. Gilson noted that Candi Dietter engages the students taking this course and also provides multi-media resources.

Mrs. Uberti saw students in this class today learning about the Electoral College and they were encouraging those who will be 18 to register to vote. An option is also to record their presentations to share with the Board.

Minutes of February 22, 2024:

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of February 22, 2024. Mrs. Tomai seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 9 – Public Participation

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

Item 10 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Donald Ramsey
Secretary