

Neil Chaudhary, Chair
Dan Amaral
Phil Carroll
Tony Filiato, Secretary
Paul Lundquist, Vice Chair
Dan Wiedemann



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TOWN OF NEWTOWN

Draft Minutes of the Legislative Council Education Committee Meeting.

The Education Committee met on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, in Room 3, Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Lane, Newtown. Chairman Neil Chaudhary called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Mr. Amaral, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Chaudhary, Mr. Filiato, Mr. Lundquist, and Mr. Wiedemann

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Upon the motion of Mr. Lundquist and seconded by Mr. Filiato, the minutes of the meeting of March 16, 2017 were accepted as an accurate account of that meeting.

Mr. Chaudhary led a discussion pertaining to the current "surplus" held by the BOE. Dr. Erardi cautioned that the discussion should take into account that a quarter of the school term remained to play out and although the numbers appeared to holding, that unforeseen events may cause the BOE to draw on the funds. However, consensus appeared to be reached that remaining surplus could be used to advance items from next year's budget, thus lower line items in the 2017-18 budget.

The discussion next turned to the possibility of delaying certain repairs and maintenance items for a year. Mr. Erardi reported that he had discussed with staff and that this was possible excepting certain items that that were deemed to be safety concerns. The Middle School internal communication/loudspeaker systems were cited as an example.

Delaying the roll back of "pay for play" as to extra-curriculum sports activities was again discussed noting that a year's delay would maintain approximately \$35k in revenue in the budget.

It was noted that the above items had the potential to reduce the budget in excess of \$500k without impacting instruction.

A discussion of headcount/FTE was conducted with concentration particularly focused on the high school. Ms. Ku commented that headcount had been reduced whereas Mr. Chaudhary noted that last year's budget projected a decrease of approximately 5 FTE at the high school, yet the actuals showed a reduction of only .34 FTE.

In light of the uncertainties in the Governor's proposed budget, it was agreed that further discussions should be held in abeyance until the Town Attorney provided a report to the Legislative Council the following evening and the committee, therefore, agreed to hold all motions until the next meeting.

The date of the next meeting was set as Thursday, March 23, 2017, at 8pm at the Municipal Center.

Upon the motion of Mr. Lundquist and seconded by Mr. Filiato, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anthony R. Filiato, Esq.
Secretary
Legislative Council Education Committee