

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 Thursday, March 23, 2017, in Room 3, Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Lane, Newtown. Chairman Neil Chaudhary called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: Laura Terry, 64 Robbinville Road expressed her support for the BOE budget as presented.

Upon the motion of Mr. Wiedemann and seconded by Mr. Carroll, the minutes of the meeting of March 21, 2017 were accepted as an accurate account of that meeting excepting that the conclusion of that meeting should be noted as 8:30pm.

Mr. Amaral led a discussion in regard to the impact on the mill rate of the budget as proposed. The mill rate would be 34.24 if the budget was passed as currently presented.

Mr. Chaudhary put forward a proposal in regard as to certain assumptions and proposed reductions in the BOE budget. The proposal was intended to reduce the budget without impacting instruction. It was noted that the Council does not have line item authority on the BOE budget, but it was thought important to provide the thought process behind the proposal. Mr. Chaudhary proposed that:

- surplus of \$265k be employed to complete certain repairs this year and thus be removed from next year's budget. It was noted that certain amounts were removed from surplus as they were believed to impact safety (\$55k) and some portion was left back to cover unforeseen costs through the end of the school year (\$20k).

- delay \$218k in repairs. It was noted that \$55k had been removed from this line item as it impacted safety. Another \$49K for repairs were described in the budget book and also not included in this calculation.

- delay the roll back of pay-for-play, which resulted in retention of \$35k in revenue

- remove \$173k proposed increase from medical self-insurance fund

- remove \$55k in proposed increase in pension fund

MR. CHAUDHARY MOVED THAT THE BOE BUDGET BE REDUCED BY \$746,000. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LUNDQUIST.

MR. CARROLL MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION BY REDUCING THE BOE BUDGET A FURTHER \$325,000. MR. FILIATO SECONDED THE MOTION FOR DISCUSSION.

Dr. Erardi clarified statements from earlier meetings that had been interpreted by certain members of the committee to mean that he was comfortable with absorbing two thirds of a further \$500k reduction in the overall budget, i.e. \$325k. Dr. Erardi clarified that the \$325k that he mentioned was inclusive of the items listed in the original motion and that he believed that an additional \$325k reduction would impact instruction.

MR. CARROLL'S MOTION FAILED 1-5 (MR. CARROLL VOTING IN FAVOR)

Mr. Wiedemann noted that Mr. Chaudhary's calculations in the original motion had removed the Middle School sound system repairs twice from the budget in that \$55k was removed from surplus and from delayed repair reductions.

MR. WIEDEMANN MOVED TO REDUCE THE BOE BUDGET A FURTHER \$56,000 BRINGING THE OVERALL PROPOSED REDUCTIONS TO \$800,000. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CARROLL.

THE MOTION TO AMEND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 6-0.

THE MAIN MOTION ALSO PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 6-0.

Mr. Lundquist commented that the figures could still be adjusted by the full Council based upon any further information received in regard to the state budget.

VOTER COMMENT: Ms. Terry commented that she believed that the Council and committee members had a tendency to only mention negative anecdotes from the public concerning the possibility of the BOE budget passing as presented. She hoped that positive anecdotes would also be mentioned publically.

Date of Next Meeting: None scheduled.

Upon the motion of Mr. Filiato and seconded by Mr. Carroll, the meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

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