



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL Education Committee

Minutes

The Education Committee of the Legislative Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, in the Shared Meeting Room #1 at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT.

Members Present - Ben Ruben, Jennifer Nicoletti, Jill Solderholm, Jordana Bloom, Eric Paradis, Keith Alexander (ex-officio)

Guests - Alison Plante, Board of Education Chair, Tanja Vada, NPS Finance Director

Public - one person

Election of Vice-Chair to the Education Committee - nomination of Ben Ruben by Jordana Bloom, seconded by Jennifer Nicoletti. Ben accepted. No other nominations, Ben Ruben accepted and was elected unanimously.

Discussion of Proposed Board of Education budget

- reviewed BoE adjustments to Superintendent's budget
 - questions on staffing levels and if there was an independent audit of teaching levels
 - state regulations and contractual class size reviewed
 - discussion on Dean positions
 - teacher contract with stipend
 - increased support for building admin to focus on improving learning
 - requested information on bullying claims and definitions of major incidents
 - other staffing issues
 - increasing salary for security guards and library media specialists
 - increasing FTE for athletic trainer
 - Board Certified Behavior Analyst increase in FTE
- reviewed Board of Finance adjustments
 - moving funds for building projects to capitol/non-recurring fund
 - further reduction by Board of Finance, unsure of any specific rationale for the cuts
- general budget discussion
 - definition of FAPE and implications for students with individualized education plans
 - changes in reading curriculum that are required by new legislation
 - increasing cost of insurance rates across the Board's contract
 - staffing levels across the district
 - requested information on FTE levels over the past years
 - current budget cuts 2.0 teaching FTE
 - HS staffing has been reduced from 130+ staff to 110+ staff over the last few years

No action was taken on recommendations to the full Legislative Council
No voter comment, meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Eric Paradis, Education Chair