

The Legislative Council Education Committee meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm.

Attendance:

Education Committee Members:

Jeff Capeci, Legislative Council
George Ferguson, Legislative Council
Kathy Fetchick, Legislative Council
Dan Honan, Legislative Council
Paul Lundquist, Legislative Council
Dan Wiedemann, Legislative Council

Carmella Amodeo, School Director of Technology
(Security Committee Member)
Ron Bienkowski, School Financial Director
Dr. Gejda, Assistant Superintendent
Jaime Rivera, Assistant High School Principal
(Security Committee Chair)
Dr. Robinson, Superintendent
Laura Roche, Board of Education Vice Chair
One Member of the Public

VOTER COMMENTS

None.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- Motion made by Mr. Ferguson/second by Mr. Lundquist and unanimously approved by the committee the minutes of 10/17/2012.
- Motion made by Mr. Ferguson/second by Mr. Lundquist and unanimously approved by the committee the minutes of 2/20/2013.

COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Fetchick informed the committee that the Legislative Council may vote on the budget at its April 3rd meeting. The Education Committee had a scheduled meeting for April 1st and that members should be prepared to vote at that meeting. Any additional information/questions that may be required should be forwarded to Ms. Fetchick.

NEW BUSINESS

School Security:

Motion made by Mr. Ferguson/second by Mr. Lundquist and unanimously approved by committee to enter into executive session to discuss the specifics of the overall school security plan. In addition to the Education Committee, the following people were invited to attend: Carmella Amodeo, Mr. Bienkowski, Dr. Gejda, Mr. Rivera, Dr. Robinson, Ms. Roche and Mr. Merola.

Exited executive session approximately 9:05pm.

2013-14 Board of Education Budget:

Questions were submitted to the Board of Education prior to the meeting. See Attachment A for the answers to those questions. Some questions on attachment were answered verbally:

Rec'd. for Record 4-1 2013
 Town Clerk of Newtown 8:30am
 Debbie A. Aurelia

- 1/2. See Attachment C for examples of IT costs.
3. Smart document cameras allow the presenter to put a paper under the camera and it can then be projected onto a screen.
4. Regarding the security officer in the BOE offices: There was a threat to the BOE offices. The police have resolved it, and the security officer is now on duty at the High School.
7. See Attachment B.
8. There are many more severely handicapped children in the district, which has increased out-placements. The burden of proof is on the school district to prove that children do not get out-placed. It is expensive to litigate. Last year it was reported that the prevalence of autism has grown 600% over the last 8 years (*fact to be checked by Dr. Robinson*).
9. With the exception of transportation to/from Chalk Hill, the bussing budget is within budget. Extra costs incurred because of Chalk Hill include more fuel and overtime will be covered by insurance.
10. This year the district is piloting our own teacher evaluation process, which is *not* part of the state piloting project. Every teacher will be observed 6 times/year – 3 of these can be informal. Formal observations include a pre-conference, formal observation by a 092 certified staff member and a post-conference. Department heads at the high school have been given permission by the union to do informal observations but not formal observations. Other factors to be included in teacher evaluations are student assessments/outcomes, surveys (parent/student/peer) and overall performance of the and in the school. Every teacher will be given a rating that needs to be sent to the state by June of each year. Some districts are hiring retired administrators to do these observations. Implementation of an evaluation process must be in place by July 2013.

VOTER COMMENTS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

See above.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Mr. Wiedemann/second by Mr. Honan and agreed to unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10 pm.

Submitted: Kathy Fetchick, LC Education Chair

Attachments A, B, C

Attachment A

1. I'm a strong supporter of IT, but I have a few detailed questions to help me understand better.

- Are there any technology grants or outstanding offers made to Newtown Schools as a whole post-12/14?

I cannot answer absolutely, as I believe there is a chance that there may be possible donations that have not come to the attention of Technology Department.

*We are in the process of identifying funds to install equipment donated by Cisco. The donation valued at \$596,000. - Chalk Hill School
Other than a firewall replacement, a Voice over IP router upgrade, and a telecommunication unit for each school; the equipment will replace the equipment currently in use at Chalk Hill that was loaned to Newtown by a customer of our Cisco integrator.*

The other donation that are pending:

Apple. - Details of this donation will be outlined at a meeting scheduled for this Thursday.

IBM - KidSmart program Young Explorer units for Preschool and possibly kindergarten

- Can I see a breakdown of cost components for an \$805 desktop computer? And a \$917 laptop? Seems expensive, so I'd like to be able to answer when asked.
- Hoping to understand (typical) model number, costs to carry a warranty, costs for Windows/other software licensing (do we need to re-buy these or do they just transfer from machines being replaced)?

I have attached the quote that was the basis for these numbers. Since the budget needs to be assembled in October, these models are no longer those that would be purchased but the newer model would. They have a 3 year warranty on them.

Windows software is purchased through our OVES agreement which covers all versions of the OS. We ask that the vendor quote the cheapest OS they can since they will not sell it without an OS.

• Are we also replacing monitors? What's the opinion on why?

We are only replacing the older CRT monitors that require more electricity to run.

If we have already put an LCD in place we would not replace the monitor. I will qualify though that if an office staff member who uses their computer all day requests a larger monitor, we will try to accommodate them.

My concern is a major replacement of 290 desktop/laptop computers, which will lock us

into mediocre technology for the next 7 years (not exactly cutting edge today). My issue is that there are elements of our IT infrastructure that should not stay stagnant for another 7 yrs (based on our recent history).

2. I would like to hear a discussion around the possibility of several areas for consideration:

- Across all of our schools, are we considering centralized servers (or cloud-based) utilizing latest VM Ware capabilities? Could significantly reduce costs for locally installed software, as well as lower the burden of processing power for individual desktops/laptops.

We are currently piloting the use of virtual desktops at the Middle School. In August of 2012 six servers were purchased to provide 200 virtual desktops. The solution selected was VDI-in-a-box. We are continuing to use the now 8 year old Optiplex 270 desktops as clients.

The hope was that this solution would be viable for the student stations K-8. We have not yet been able to iron out all of the nuances of this solution. As a result standard desktops were put into place for SIIIS instead of the virtual desktop solution. We are only now able to return our attentions to this pilot and have been working with dell on an almost daily basis.

Additionally we will be exploring virtualizing our servers. We are in the process of understanding the sizing requirements for moving the payroll and human resource applications to virtual servers. This project is done in coordination with the Town technology department so that we can provide redundancy for these critical functions.

-
- Has anyone seriously weighed the option of purchasing refurbished desktop/laptops with a shorter replacement window? Cost could be 50% or less, and could potentially help our schools stay more current with regard to technology because replacement window is shorter.

Ideally, with a seven year replacement schedule, we would be looking to replace one seventh of our inventory every year. If we just look at desktops we have approximately 2100 or 300 needing to be replaced every 7 years. At a three year replacement using refurbished machines, even though the cost goes down by 50%, the number needing to be purchased would be $2100/3$ or 700 per year. So the cost goes up and we are still working with 6 year old technology, (three years old when comes off lease and three years in use by us.) We have purchased refurbished unit when the dollars are better spent than they would be to buy replacement motherboards for 6 year old equipment

I am not an IT Pro, but have repeatedly weighed these options in a corporate setting. Could be that these types of questions are considered every year, and there may be very reasonable answers to share.

3. What are "Smart Document Cameras" (\$7,390)?

Smart Document cameras are made by Smart Technologies, the manufacturer of the Smart Boards. They are used to display print materials and manipulatives for demonstration purposes. This cost is for 10.

SECURITY:

4. Is there a one-pager that now exists that can describe everything that we're doing to improve school security? This bridges Muni/BOE, but hopefully this info exists now in a clear format.

- List for each school – indicate whether new or already in place:
armed police/SRO - cost to town/cost to BOE/is it covered by grant (for how long) □ # unarmed security - cost to town/cost to BOE/is it covered by grant (for how long)
- In addition to security personnel above, what other steps are being implemented to harden or improve technology? (Cost for each item and whether covered in grant)
- List provision for each private school. Assuming renewable yearly grant of \$50,000, provide examples of what that would likely cover. I recognize spending is at discretion of each school, but specifically, would like to know whether it is enough to cover armed security guards?
- Why is there a security guard in the BOE offices?
- What are the qualifications for the security guard position? What are their duties?

6. I'm interested in understanding the allowed amounts of "MBR" reductions that could have been taken since 2006... That is by school year 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 if available

7. Please discuss the preschool program, it's budget and it's current location.

8. Please discuss the increases that we are seeing in the special education budget.

9. Please detail where we are with the bussing budget

10. Please review with our committee ~~the~~ process of teacher evaluation at the high school.

Education Subcommittee Report

As communicated on the Connecticut State Department of Education website, “special education and related services are required by federal and state law. The laws are intended to ensure that young children with disabilities are provided a free and appropriate public education in accordance with their individual needs. Early childhood special education as defined by the federal law known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is for 3-, 4- and 5-year-old children with disabilities who require special education. In Connecticut, special education and related services are available to eligible children by age 3 and are provided by local and regional school districts”.

In Newtown, our preschool program currently serves 52 children distributed among three classrooms. Due to space limitations, one classroom is located at Head O’Meadow and the two others are located at NHS. Each classroom at NHS services 17 students respectively and the classroom at HOM services 18 students at this time. These classrooms are a mixture of special education students and non-disabled peers who are vital to supporting the development of our identified students.

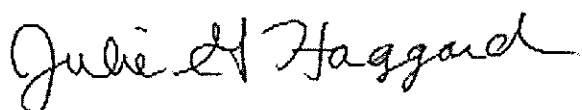
Throughout the school year, the program enrollment may change as newly turned three-year olds transition from birth-three services or as additional children are referred for special education evaluation through pediatricians, local daycare providers or parents. Through the provision of “child find” we are required to evaluate and serve students who qualify for services through our district preschool program.

I have attached the current operating costs for preschool. Please keep in mind that as student needs are further identified through the planning and placement team process (PPT), additional

resources may be added or removed as stipulated in a student's IEP (Individualized Education Program).

**Please see the narratives that further detail the increases in special education and pupil services located on pages 181 and 191 of the Board of Education's Requested Budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie G. Haggard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "H".

Julie G. Haggard

Director of Pupil Services

Newtown Public Schools

Salaries Pre-School

Teachers	3	\$239,745
Speech Pathologists	2	\$177,479
Educational Assistants	6 part-time	\$62,676
Behavioral Therapists	2 1 full time,1 part time	\$43,845
Occupational Therapist	1 full time	63,758
Physical Therapist	1 part time	\$32,412
Total		\$619,915
Transporation		\$31,000
Supplies		\$15,000
Total Cost for Program		\$665,915

DELL**QUOTATION**

QUOTE #: 629038383

Customer #: 16072001

Contract #: WN82ADS

Customer Agreement #: 11PSX0248

Quote Date: 8/13/12

Date: 8/13/12 3:37:39 PM

Customer Name: NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2004115941742

TOTAL QUOTE AMOUNT:	\$13,236.96		
Product Subtotal:	\$13,236.96		
Tax:	\$0.00		
Shipping & Handling:	\$0.00		
Shipping Method:	Ground	Total Number of System Groups:	1

GROUP: 1	QUANTITY: 16	SYSTEM PRICE: \$827.31	GROUP TOTAL: \$13,236.96
Base Unit:	OptiPlex 790 Minitower Base, Standard PSU (225-0781)		
Processor:	Core i3-2130, 3.4GHz, 3M, VT-x, 65W, OptiPlex 790 (317-8362)		
Memory:	8GB, Non-ECC, 1333MHz DDR3, 2x4GB, Dell OptiPlex 990 (317-6782)		
Keyboard:	Dell USB Entry Keyboard, No Hot Keys, English, OptiPlex (331-2024)		
Monitor:	No Monitor Selected, Dell OptiPlex (320-3704)		
Video Card:	1GB AMD RADEON HD 6460 Graphics w/ Single DP/DVI, Full Height, OptiPlex 790 (320-2222)		
Hard Drive:	500GB SATA 5.8Gb/s and 16MB Data Burst Cache, Dell OptiPlex 790 (342-2484)		
Operating System:	Windows 7 Home Premium, No Media, 64-bit, OptiPlex, English (421-5549)		
Operating System:	Windows 7 Label, OptiPlex, Fixed Precision, Vostro Desktop (330-6228)		
Operating System:	Dell Client System Update (Updates latest Dell Recommended BIOS, Drivers, Firmware and Apps), OptiPlex (421-8334)		
Mouse:	Dell MS111 USB Optical Mouse, OptiPlex and Fixed Precision (330-9458)		
NIC:	Intel Standard Manageability, Dell OptiPlex 790 (331-2680)		
CD-ROM or DVD-ROM Drive:	Dell 19 in 1 Media Card Reader, OptiPlex 990 (331-1138)		
CD-ROM or DVD-ROM Drive:	Cyberlink Power DVD 9.5, No Media, Dell OptiPlex, Latitude and Precision Workstation (421-4370)		
CD-ROM or DVD-ROM Drive:	Roxio Creator Starter, No Media, Dell OptiPlex, Latitude and Precision Workstation (421-4539)		
CD-ROM or DVD-ROM Drive:	8X DVD+-RW, Data Only, Dell OptiPlex 790 Small Form Factor and Ultra Small Form Factor (318-0877)		
CD-ROM or DVD-ROM Drive:	Sata cable for optical disk drives, Dell OptiPlex (331-2464)		
Sound Card:	Heat Sink, Mainstream, Dell OptiPlex 790 Minitower (331-2021)		
Speakers:	Internal Speaker, OptiPlex (318-0319)		
Cable:	Enable Low Power Mode for EUP Compliance, Dell OptiPlex (330-7422)		
Cable:	Dell Data Protection Access, OptiPlex (421-5078)		
Cable:	OptiPlex 790 Minitower Standard Power Supply (318-0874)		
Cable:	Regulatory Label, Dell OptiPlex 790 Minitower (331-2089)		
Documentation Diskette:	Power Cord, 125V, 2M, C13, Dell OptiPlex (330-1711)		
Documentation Diskette:	Documentation, English and French, Dell OptiPlex (331-2030)		
Bundled Software:	Microsoft Office Starter 2010, Dell OptiPlex, Precision and Latitude (410-8348)		
Factory Installed Software:	Dell Energy Smart Power Management Settings Enabled, This Item is Not EStar Qualified, OptiPlex (330-4817)		
Software Disk Two:	Chassis Intrusion Switch, Dell OptiPlex (310-8719)		
Feature:	No Resource DVD for Dell OptiPlex, Latitude, Precision (313-3673)		
	Basic Hardware Service: Next Business Day Onsite Service After Remote Diagnosis 2 Year		

Service:	Extended (938-7662)
Service:	Basic Hardware Service: Next Business Day Onsite Service After Remote Diagnosis Initial Year (951-7510)
Service:	Dell Limited Hardware Warranty Plus Service Extended Year(s) (935-2478)
Service:	Dell Limited Hardware Warranty Plus Service Initial Year (929-6637)
Misc:	CFI, Fee, Integration, Order Ready, BASWC (365-0529)
Misc:	1 W ready mode - exceeds FEMP 3W recommendation. Mode can be disabled in BIOS. OptiPlex (310-1969)
Misc:	No Quick Reference Guide, Dell OptiPlex (310-9444)
Misc:	Shipping Material for System, Minitower, Dell OptiPlex (331-1268)

SALES REP:	Scott J Sterba	PHONE:	1-866-537-0706
Email Address:	Scott_Sterba@Dell.com	Phone Ext:	5139158

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Newtown Public Schools

E-quote Number: 1013560810998

E-quote Name	Flex teachers	E-Quote Description	2 laptops flex
Saved By:	Carlen Gaines	Phone Number:	(203) 270-5140
Saved On:	gainescc@newtown.k12.ct.us	Purchasing Agent:	
Expires On:	Monday, April 30, 2012	Notes/Comments:	
Premier Page Name	Newtown Public Schools	Additional Comments:	

Flex

Description



Popular Configuration Latitude E5420 For presentation and spreadsheet applications

Date & Time: April 30, 2012 2:05 PM CST

SYSTEM COMPONENTS

Popular Configuration Latitude E5420 For presentation and spreadsheet applications

Latitude E5420, Genuine Windows® 7 Home Premium, No Media, 32-bit, English

Qty 2

Unit Price \$916.88

Catalog Number: 25 K1302_BRC_1

Module	Description	Show Details
Latitude E5420	Latitude E5420	
Operating Systems	Genuine Windows® 7 Home Premium, No Media, 32-bit, English	
Processor	Intel® Core™ i5-2520M processor (2.50GHz, 3M cache, with Turbo Boost Technology 2.0)	
Memory	2.0GB, DDR3-1333MHz SDRAM, 1 DIMM	
Internal Keyboard	Internal English Single Pointing Keyboard	
Expansion Slot	PC Card	
Primary Storage	320GB 5400rpm Hard Drive	
Touchpad and Fingerprint Reader Options	Dell Touchpad with Anti-microbial protection	
LCDs	14.0" HD(1366x768) Anti-Glare LED-backlit	
Bluetooth	Dell Wireless® 375 Bluetooth Module	
Modem	No Modem	
AC Adapter	90W A/C Adapter (3-pin)	
Primary Optical Device	8X DVD with Cyberlink Power DVD™, no media	
Camera and Microphone	Noise Cancelling Digital Array Microphone	
Wireless LAN (802.11)	Intel® Centrino® Advanced-N 6205 802.11a/b/g/n Half Mini Card	
Productivity Software	Microsoft Office Starter: reduced-functionality Word and Excel with ads. No PowerPoint or Outlook	

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Primary Battery 6-cell (60Wh) Primary Lithium Ion Battery
 Hardware Support Services 3 Year ProSupport with 3 Year NBD Limited Onsite Service After Remote Diagnosis
 Energy Star & EPEAT Energy Star 5.0 Enabled / EPEAT Gold
 Documentation Thank you for choosing a 5USE54 Dell

ACCESSORIES

Targus Meridian II Messenger Case fits up to 15.6"	Qty	2
Dell Part# A1734722	Unit Price	\$40.14
Manufacturer Part# TSM091US		
Dell Part# A1734722		
		TOTAL: \$1,914.04

	Total Price
Sub-total	\$1,914.04
Tax	-
Total Price ¹	-

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