

**TOWN OF NEWTOWN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2014  
NEWTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER, NEWTOWN, CT**

**PRESENT:** George Ferguson, Ryan Knapp, Neil Chaudhary, Mary Ann Jacob, Phil Carroll, Dan Honan, Anthony Filiato, Joe Girgasky, Paul Lundquist, Dan Amaral, Lisa Romano, Bob Merola

**ALSO PRESENT:** First Selectman Pat Llodra, Finance Director Bob Tait, Board of Education members Debbie Leidlein, Kathy Hamilton, Laura Roche and Michele Ku, Board of Finance Chair John Kortze, Superintendent John Reed, Assistant Superintendent Linda Gejda, Business Director Ron Bienkowski, nine members of the public and 1 press.

Ms. Jacob called the meeting to order at 7:00PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**VOTER COMMENT:** Dr. Reed supports the budget. He hopes people understand the council cannot add money to the budget. People who believe in the school system need to support this budget. The low budget increase was impacted by the decline in enrollment. We can meet the needs in an appropriate fashion.

Lynn Edwards, 3 Sand Hill Rd, SH, asked for the budget to be moved to referendum with no reductions. Dr. Reed presented a lean and responsible budget which appropriately addressed enrollment reductions while maintaining a quality education. Believes the reductions made by the BOE were not in best interests of district. NEASC needs to be considered when determining funding resources for the high school to avoid warning status.

Karyn Holden, 68 Berkshire Rd, SH, thanked the administration for a conservative and responsible budget while still maintaining the integrity of education, and the Board of Finance for acknowledging it is a good budget. Has concern about high school enrollment conversations because of NEASC accreditations and belief enrollment will increase. Doesn't think enrollment is down at the high school enough to reduce teachers. State standards and graduation requirements have changed and more students taking AP courses. Classes have been added to address student needs. We have a quality school system, let's keep it that way. Please send the budget to voters without any reductions.

Denise Tramposch, 35 Little Brook Ln, Newtown, read a letter from all 7 PTA's. They believe this is a frugal, practical and fair budget. Dr. Reed and the BOE paid attention to enrollment and grants and presented a budget without increase. They request the budget be adopted as is, without any reductions.

Laura Terry, 64 Robin Hill Rd, Newtown, supports the SSO model presented. She wasn't happy with reductions the BOE made but fully supports the budget as is today and asked that no further cuts be made. She supports the BOS budget but has concerns about senior tax relief and wants to be sure funds go to those who most need it.

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ANNOUNCEMENT: Next meeting will be April 2 at 7:30pm.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business, the Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:13

Respectfully Submitted,

Carey Schierloh  
Recording Secretary

*These are draft minutes and as such are subject to correction by the Legislative Council at the next regular meeting. All corrections will be determined in minutes of the meeting at which they were corrected.*