

Neil Chaudhary, Chair
Paul Lundquist, Vice Chair
George Ferguson
Tony Filiato
Mary Ann Jacob
Dan Honan



3 Primrose Lane
Newtown, CT. 06470
Tel. (203) 270-4210
www.newtown-ct.gov

TOWN OF NEWTOWN

Draft Minutes of the Legislative Council Education Committee Meeting.

The Education Committee met on Wednesday, April 2, 2014 in Council Chambers, Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Lane, Newtown. Chairman Neil Chaudhary called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

Present: Mr. Chaudhary, Ms. Jacob, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Filiato, Mr. Honan, and Mr. Lundquist.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Mr. Ferguson moved to accept the minutes of the January 30, 2014 meeting. Mr. Merola seconded. The motion passed with minor revisions (spelling of and title for Dr. Gejda) without objection or abstention.

No outside communications were noted.

No voter comment.

Mr. Lundquist moved to accept the education budget as presented to the Legislative Council. Mr. Ferguson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Jacob initiated discussion in regard to technology purchases being planned in a manner that smoothed the line item out over a period of years so that there was less volatility in the item and suggested that it be recommended to the Legislative Council that the Council pass a formal resolution requesting that the Board of Education do so. Ms. Leidlein noted that this was already under discussion by the Board. Mr. Lundquist noted that as such a resolution would have no enforcement power behind it, that he questioned its effectiveness.

A discussion was then held regarding the types of technology that was facing obsolescence in the coming years with Ms. Leidlein, Mr. Vouros and Dr. Gejda providing examples of both hardware and software that will require replacement. Mr. Vouros noted that standardized testing was being moved to a computer platform rather than pencil and paper and that currently at Reed only the library has the necessary computers to do so. However, when the library is used for this purpose, it is unavailable to the students. Moreover, it was noted that besides current technology, it could not be predicted what new technology would be available in 5-7 years.

The discussion next moved to the concept of a contingency fund being built into the Education budget. There was debate as to whether such a fund was legally possible as opposed to a non-lapsing account. Mr. Bienkowski noted that recommendations as to setting up a non-lapsing account had been made, but not acted upon. However, when Finance Board made a final recommendation on the point, it was asked to follow through and create such an account. Mr. Lundquist noted that allow the Board of Education need not follow a Council recommendation that the Council did have options available in this regard.

Mr. Chaudhary summarized that the committee would like some advices as to the exact nature of contingency funds the Board of Education is legally permitted to maintain.

No voter comment.

Mr. Ferguson motioned to adjourn at 7:08 pm. Mr. Lundquist seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anthony R. Filiato, Esq.
Legislative Council Education Committee