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## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

TOWN OF NEWTOWN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2016  
NEWTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER, NEWTOWN, CT

**PRESENT:** George Ferguson, Dan Wiedemann, Chris Eide, Neil Chaudhary, Ryan Knapp, Paul Lundquist, Mary Ann Jacob, Dan Amaral, Tony Filiato, Phil Carroll, Dan Honan.

**ABSENT:** Judit DeStefano

**ALSO PRESENT:** First Selectman Pat Llodra, Finance Director Bob Tait, Superintendent Joseph V. Erardi, Jr., Board of Ed Keith Alexander, Michelle Embree Ku, Rebekah Harriman-Stities, Andrew Clure, Debbie Leidlein, Daniel Cruson, Jr., John Vouros, Board of Finance James Gaston, Aaron Carlson, Mark Boland, John Godin, Sandy Roussas, Kelley Johnson. Board of Selectman William Rogers, Herbert Rosenthal, EDC Member Wes Thompson, 20 members of the public, 2 press.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Jacob called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:31 pm. Ms. Jacob reviewed agenda.

**VOTER COMMENT:** None. Comments closed 7:34.

**MINUTES:** MR. FERGUSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 5, 2016 REGULAR MEETING. SECOND BY MR. FILIATO. ALL IN FAVOR.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Ms. Jacob referenced a number of communications that were received, most have gone out to council members via email. One went out to the Board of Finance chair to the capital improvement plan, the Legislative Council annual report that Ms. Jacob did for the town clerk, an email to all council members regarding the CCM convention. Ms. Jacob read a letter sent out tonight thanking the Charter Revision Commission members and Charter Revision Communication Committee members. (Attachment) In addition, the last piece of correspondence that was received was a letter confirming any potential conflicts with Mr. Eide whose wife has recently been employed by the Board of Ed. The letter will go on the record and be with the minutes tonight. (Attachment)

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Mr. Lundquist, reported on the Charter Revision Communications Committee, pointed out that Ms. DeStefano did a wonderful job as chair, along with Deb Zukowski and Jeff Capeci to help create all the communications that were done. Mr. Lundquist wished to point out that at our last meeting it was discussed to put forth in a motion, an official recommendation to the Legislative Council to consider an ordinance that the future charter revision committee provide pros and cons in order to effectively do the job of informing the public and embrace the idea of being completely neutral and not say much more than repeating the explanatory text. Through ordinance an opportunity to talk about rationality

Rec'd. for Record 11-22-2016  
Town Clerk of Newtown 10:00am  
Debbie Aurelia Halstead

for charter revision as it is to be up for vote, yet avoid advocacy. Ms. Jacob will put on a future agenda for discussion.

**FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT:** Ms. Llodra discussed an upcoming program, Livable Communities Presentation on November 29 at Newtown Middle School from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Ms. Llodra thought that this will be of interest to the Legislative Council, Board of Finance, Board of Selectman, and Board of Ed, as well as the general public. Friends of Newtown Seniors, the Newtown Commission on Aging, Newtown Social Services and Newtown Senior Services is hosting a presentation by AARP CT Road to Livability on Livable Communities. Ms. Llodra is considering ways to mitigate tax burdens of senior's in Newtown. The network of age-friendly communities focus on 8 domains of livability: Transportation; Outdoor spaces and buildings; Housing; Social participation; Respect and social inclusion; Civic participation and employment; Communication and information; Community support and health services. There are 123 Age-Friendly Communities in the United State with none in Connecticut. It is worth us taking a closer look at. Per John Boccuzzi of the Friends of Newtown Seniors, no other communities in Connecticut have applied. Ms. Llodra encouraged members of our boards to participate. (Attachment)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Center for Support and Wellness Presentation:** Jennifer Crane, Director, Valerie Le Cann Jones, LMFT, a survivor care navigator. Ms. Crane led a PowerPoint presentation in an effort to educate the group about who they are, history, how they are benefitting the community, and impact they hope to make on the town of Newtown. Prior to the center was the recovery and resilience team funded by the Department of Justice. The grant was time limited. The Center for Support and Wellness, located in Fairfield Hills, is the single point of entry which connects members of the community with wellness resources through a strong referral system and dedicates staff to families and individuals in need. The presentation included Who We Are, Referral Steps, Provider Referral, Advocacy & Support in the community, funding resources. Ms. Llodra and Dr. Erardi serve on the advisory board. Support includes working with the 26 families of those who lost their lives on 12/14 as well the Newtown community, related or not related to 12/14. Ms. Crane discussed Community Benefit, working closely with the Newtown School District, Social Services, Newtown Police Department, Municipal Staff. Positions funded by VOCA for the next 3 years, working on internal portal for the 26 families, scholarship information or other wellness information. Opportunity for community care providers. They have a staff member who will assist with red tape to find a provider. The center is looking to the future and working on operational logistics, database management, mail service, and bridging the gap between Social Services and CSW, strengthening relationships, best practices, vet providers, better serving the community. Ms. Crane requested to like them on their Facebook page. They are looking to future funding by non-grant funding sources, currently they are funded by VOCA grant, Newtown Sandy Hook Foundation, Town of Newtown, her hope is that they will continue with that, but sometimes grants are time limited. Important that they are trying to make an impact in Newtown, investment commitment in the future will be necessary. Survey to be sent out in January. Presentation ended, Ms. Crane asked for questions. Comment by Mr. Chaudhary who used the services with his family, very positive, open door, very comfortable. Ms. Llodra clarified that the VOCA grant is three-year grant with two one-year renewables. It is possible that the two positions will be funded for 5 years. They want to have a sustainable program, an umbrella organization that will bring together silos, focus the care that Newtown has talked about for several years, serving as a social worker for the town. Grand vision: Newtown will have an end organization where everyone can call for help, as a referral agency. Provide an ability to refer people to the right care provider in time need. Navigating that level of care, assisting with insurance details, people need a helping hand to guide people through the care process. We will need to ask the community to make the commitment to establish a place where that care can exist. (Attachment) Website: <http://newtowncsw.org/>

**Budget preview discussion with BOS, BOE, BOF**

**Board of Selectmen:** Ms. Llodra began the discussion and Mr. Tait distributed the Board of Selectmen 2017 – 2018 Budget Talking Points November 16, 2016 and set up the PowerPoint. (Attachment) Ms. Llodra spoke as we begin the budget development for the next fiscal year, she wanted to make the point that none of this has yet been discussed with the Board of Selectman. After presenting, this will go to the Board of Selectmen.

*Salaries and Benefits:* Ms. Llodra pointed out a 2.25% general wage increase. We have 3 union contracts that we will be negotiating this year. Those 3 contracts expire in 2017. Newtown is average in municipal contracts and generally lags behind the state average. There are 3 positions that will probably be discussed as enhancements. Ms. Llodra noted that we are losing our competitive edge and losing good people to other communities that are paying much more than we are paying for the same role. Just in the past couple of months we lost 2 of those people. In each of those cases, they received a significant increase for the same position in a neighboring community. We have always been proud of the people who work here, but we cannot expect them to work for a reduced wage. Ms. Llodra would like to draw attention to this matter because of what we experienced last year, losing 2 staff members to neighboring communities. We need to look at the Executive Assistant position in the First Selectman's Office. There used to be a receptionist position in the First Selectman's Office in addition to the Executive Assistant and Human Resources Director. The receptionist position has not been filled since 2008, since then the Executive Assistant and Human Resources Director have had to cover the responsibilities of that unfilled position. Ms. Llodra pointed out that we need to elevate the role of the Executive Assistant and Human Resources Director, not diminish it and compensate those positions appropriately. The Board of Fire Commissioners will make recommendations on the Fire Department Director whose role may be revisited. Our pension contributions will increase by 13.6% mainly due to pension asset performance. In 2015-16 BOS has worked over the last 2 years on pension performance, a complex task, now complete, they have made all adjustments as to how those assets are invested, changed the management structure to whole pension asset. Contribution to medical self-insurance, the claims have been very good, a small increase expected to the contributions to the self-insurance fund. No new positions.

*Town Commitment to Increasing Road Funds:* The town commitment to increase roads funds, the \$250,000 was to increase the operational road account to \$2 million, adding \$250,000 this year brings it to \$1,750,000. Two more years of bonding. The management structure changed asset performance, changes we need to make. The town needs to replace some municipal motor pool vehicles at \$25,000, make a third and final payment of \$100,000 on a loader, and pay \$240,000 installment for the town's property reval.

*Town Commitment to Capital Non-recurring Contributions:* Proposal for capital non-recurring. Saving for non-capital expenditures. Create a policy for capital non-recurring, save for known capital expenditures.

*Newtown Center for Support and Wellness:* Ms. Llodra referred to Ms. Crane's presentation and the grant for the positions from Sandy Hook Foundation for \$50,000 and Praxair for \$50,000. Ms. Llodra will ask for reissue of grants, but going forward move to Town of Newtown funded positions. Increase the contribution to the center and reduce the reliance on private grants over 2-3 years. This will demonstrate to our funders that we are committed to the Center.

*Debt Service:* The current debt service represents 8.16% of total budget, controlled by CIP process, 201718 should remain flat.



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

*Possible Reorganizations - Financial Impact Unknown, Expect Little Substantial Effect:* Fire Marshalls Office, Board of Fire Marshalls to look at reorganization. Economic Development Office, look at personnel and to what extent can we fund, coming forward.

*Purchasing Agent:* if there is a proposal for a Purchasing Agent it will come out of a joint discussion with BOS and BOE.

*Bottom Line Expectation:* 2% increase in overall budget. Mr. Wiedemann asked a question is the pension fund underfunded? Ms. Llodra responded that is the amount that we will need, an increase is the recommendation. Ms. Jacob stated that there is no revenue in this budget. Ms. Llodra replied that the spending side of the budget comes to the boards first, in a February/March we will have the revenue side. Discussion of concerns regarding state budget, layoffs did not meet savings gain. Mr. Ferguson: organic growth in the grand list and revenue, any sense of this? Ms. Llodra replied that it is premature to speculate, the assessor has to calibrate the grand list, some growth. Mr. Eide asked if there is any significant movement of interest rates of municipal bonds. Mr. Tait replied no real movement. Ms. Jacob asked regarding the assessor grand list is this number larger? Mr. Tait replied slightly larger. Mr. Amaral indicated the considerations to hold budget steady, Newtown has a 2% budget increase. Ms. Llodra added that pension and roads are of concern. Ms. Jacob asked 2% represents what dollar amount? Answer, as per Mr. Tait, roughly \$810,000. Mr. Lundquist asked about the Center for the Support and Wellness and the grants which are to expire. Ms. Llodra replied that we will continue you apply for the grants, the town supplies approximately half the cost, eventually the grants will go away and we should anticipate that. Ms. Jacob suggested applying for the capital non-recurring fund in the future. Ms. Llodra said that the costs are for personnel. Discussion of the importance of maintaining the Center going forward.

**Board of Education:** Dr. Erardi distributed handouts (Attachment) and began with stating that the impact of the Affordable Care Act on the budget will be marginal at best. Dr. Erardi also pointed out that good partnership and leadership has had a first referendum pass over the last 3 years. Proposed budget will be discussed on December 23. Dr. Erardi prepared to talk about Special Ed and Shared Services and Mr. Alexander is to speak on Enrollment and Facility. The Board of Ed is looking to regionalize special ed, pleased with the progress of those plans. The Board of Ed is continuing to have ongoing conversation with 3 divisions to work toward forming a single shared service department to include IT, human resources, and municipal facilities in partnership with all stakeholders during the budget season. Ms. Llodra added that the 3 areas they are referencing are 1) human resources coming together regarding the purchasing agent role, what the org chart might look like, 2) IT - need to have good redundancy, 3) effort to grapple with municipal facilities, and efficiencies that could be gained by having it all under one department. They are focusing on this work and noted that money not to be saved, but the money spent will be for a better purpose.

Dr. Erardi reviewed the decline in student enrollment of approximately 1% in the state from 2014-15 to 2015-16. With this decline, there was an increase in statewide spending of 3% of pupil expenditure. (Attachment) Newtown per pupil expenditure is \$15,870, just under the mean state average. Moving on to the enrollment discussion, Dr. Erardi wanted to mention that since July 1, Sandy Hook School picked up 32 additional students. When we finish our enrollment study, the decline continues to be of 180 this year, we continue to lose students, but if SHS is an indicator, we may need to readdress future planning. Mr. Alexander said that the Board of Ed has been looking at chronology study for some time over 2 years. Review the structure of overall grades, took out of the list of removing an elementary school, or Reed. The current scenario includes closing the Newtown Middle School. Moving 8<sup>th</sup> grade into the high school. Positive and negative aspects. The choice to close a school is directly related to better use of space and income and making sure that works for students. They have been having public forum for feedback and hopefully the Board of Ed will come to a decision next week. Projected savings: \$500,000 in year one, \$1

million in subsequent years. The savings may be offset in 10 years. Numbers are hard to be sure of, but in 10 years we may need to re-expand the space. Comments: Mr. Eide: the cost savings for closing a school is reflected in the education budget only, what is the BOS position on this? Ms. Llodra replied that they believe it should be an educational discussion first. Then the BOS can step in after. In Ms. Llodra's opinion, would be a consultant-based thorough evaluation of the building that is closed. Dr. Erardi and Mr. Alexander referred to a website posting:

<http://newtown1.schoolsdesk.net/DistrictInformation/BoardofEducation/FacilityConsiderations/tabid/98634/Default.aspx>

Mr. Gaston commented that the second year of \$1 million savings vs. \$700,000 savings. These are soft numbers, we need to be fully aware of that. Question: suppose we set aside numbers, the savings, what modality would be preferred for our students? The 5/6 current or what is proposed configuration? Dr. Erardi responded that the end result that this is the last, best option based on enrollment projections. At the last referendum, there were 2,200 students at NHS, present configuration projects 1,000 to 1,100. The refill of elementary will take place later. The conversation continued with Mr. Lundquist commenting on the conversation around the efficiency to reduce tax dollars and not compromise the integrity of the schools. Dr. Erardi: the complexity also includes that there are a number of stakeholders involved. Mr. Lundquist question: fitting kids into facilities is understood, does that mean there are existing high schools with 5 year this model? Dr. Erardi responded that according to our research, there are no comparative models, there have been temporary models. Regarding how to address a dedicated space for 8<sup>th</sup> grade at the high school, age disparity, they would also be in the cafeteria, bus, and not locked into just a dedicated space, but mainstreamed in the high school. Mr. Ryan asked if the projections are based on an updated report. Dr. Erardi replied that we are working with numbers since July 2014. Mr. Ryan commented that direct costs to education, when enrollment declines, our per pupil cost shares more of the cost, that does not add value to a program. Ms. Jacob has stated that this is not our purview, ultimately it will be up to the tax payers to decide and will let us know at budget time. Ms. Jacob encouraged the Board of Ed to think about that what this increase means to the tax payers. Ms. Jacob would like to hear of how this decision will benefit the students, she is a supporter of Newtown schools not just because of the buildings, but because of the teachers that have taught her children. It would be unfortunate to see an erosion in services, understanding that projects indicate 1,000 less students in the high school. Need to do what is right for our kids. Dr. Erardi referred to the talking points (Attachment)

Conversation ensued regarding population in Connecticut, 3% of population decline in Connecticut, each year, no indication overall demography for growth spurt, demographic shift, tax burden reductions and savings, education burden cost sharing regarding recent legislation in Hartford, considering the revenue side, risk taking, how to anticipate a growth cycle that may exist in 2016. Reference to study done by consultants, Milone and MacBroom. Dr. Erardi advised to refer to the Board of Ed website and projections done by the consultants. Ms. Llodra clarified the low point in 2023, crunch in 2026 for a realignment of grades again. Dr. Erardi appreciates the Board of Ed dealing with the complexity of information at hand. Regarding census data, Mr. Ferguson recommended that Milone and MacBroom incorporate the new numbers so we have more, better data. (9:40 BOE discussion concluded)

Ms. Jacob requested that the Council members advise her if they would like anyone present at our next meeting on December 7 in relation to debt service, she will put it on the agenda, Fire Marshall added.

**Board of Finance** – Mr. Gaston approached CIP related to debt service, analysis of debt should be looked at each year. With respect to the debt per capita, what we are proposing, BOE and BOS, the debt per capita for Newtown is \$2,636. We rank 40<sup>th</sup> out of 168 towns for debt per capita. One of our goals is to have a AAA rating with Moody's, which are \$2,875. Numbers from off the website ([www.moody.com](http://www.moody.com)). Good to look at for CFE analysis. CIP and debt service that we are asked to address. The agreement on the BOF is

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

to reduce cap below 9%. Ms. Jacob asked with regard to \$1.8 million for closing, will those expenses be required whether we close the school or it becomes a town building? We have 2 meetings to go through this, the BOF approved the CIP, brings us to the December 21 meeting. Most of our next meeting will be on CIP. Requested BOE and BOS be present. Mr. Knapp expressed concerns regarding trends media per capita income, time frames, construction schedules, Police building, viewed as placeholders right now. Mr. Gaston commented on our history and trends. Mr. Lundquist, stats debt per capita, importance of ranking.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S CONTRACT PER THE TEACHER'S NEGOTIATION ACT (CGS SECT. 10-153A ET SEQ.) MR. KNAPP MOVED TO TAKE NO ACTION. SECOND BY MR. WIEDEMANN. MOTION APPROVED. 1 abstained (Ms. Jacob)

Ms. Jacob requested that the following action on the agenda be postponed to the next meeting:

- Approval of the 2017 Budget Meeting Calendar

**OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Jacob requested that the following action on the agenda be postponed to the next meeting:


- First Selectman's Salary

**VOTER COMMENT:** Lynn Edwards, 3 Sand Hill Road, Sandy Hook provided input regarding grade redistribution. (Attachment)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
June Sgobbo  
Clerk

Attachments: Letter to the Charter Revision Commission Members, Conflict of Interest Letter, 2016 Legislative Council Annual Report, Friends of Newtown Flyer 11/29/2016 event, Newtown Center for Support and Wellness card, Town of Newtown Board of Selectmen 2017-2018 Talking Points, Board of Education Chronology Tri-Board Meeting Handout, Connecticut State Department of Education Bureau of Grants Management 2015-16 New Current Expenditures (NCE) per Pupil (NCEP) and 2016-17 Special Education Excess Cost Grant Basic Contributions for the February Payment, United States Census Bureau Population Projections 2014-2060 website address, United States Census Bureau 2014 National Population Projections website address, Letter from resident Lynn Edwards.

*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.*

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## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

TOWN OF NEWTOWN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2016  
NEWTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER, NEWTOWN, CT

### MOTIONS

**PRESENT:** George Ferguson, Dan Wiedemann, Chris Eide, Neil Chaudhary, Ryan Knapp, Paul Lundquist, Mary Ann Jacob, Dan Amaral, Tony Filiato, Phil Carroll, Dan Honan.

**ABSENT:** Judit DeStefano

**MINUTES:** MR. FERGUSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 5, 2016 REGULAR MEETING. SECOND BY MR. FILIATO. ALL IN FAVOR (11).

**NEW BUSINESS:** SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S CONTRACT PER THE TEACHER'S NEGOTIATION ACT (CGS SECT. 10-153A ET SEQ.) MR. KNAPP MOVED TO TAKE NO ACTION. SECOND BY MR. WIEDEMANN. MOTION APPROVED. 1 abstained (Ms. Jacob)

Ms. Jacob requested that the following actions on the agenda be postponed to the next meeting:

- Approval of the 2017 Budget Meeting Calendar
- First Selectman's Salary



From: "Mary Ann Jacob" <mjacob4404@charter.net>  
To: "June Sgobbo" <june.sgobbo@charter.net>  
Cc:  
Date: Monday November 21 2016 9:53:46PM

## Fwd: Charter REvision

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for the minutes

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Mary Ann Jacob <[mjacob4404@charter.net](mailto:mjacob4404@charter.net)>  
**Subject:** Charter REvision  
**Date:** November 16, 2016 at 5:07:57 PM EST  
**To:** Jeff and Tanya Capeci and Family <[Jeff@thecapecis.com](mailto:Jeff@thecapecis.com)>, Bob Hall <[Roberthall01@earthlink.net](mailto:Roberthall01@earthlink.net)>, Deborra Zukowski <[deborraz@gmail.com](mailto:deborraz@gmail.com)>, Dan Wiedemann <[dgw0315@yahoo.com](mailto:dgw0315@yahoo.com)>, Eric Paradis <[eric@paradistribe.net](mailto:eric@paradistribe.net)>, [kevin@klbattorney.com](mailto:kevin@klbattorney.com), George Guidera <[westonlawfirm@aol.com](mailto:westonlawfirm@aol.com)>, Tom Long <[tlong24@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tlong24@sbcglobal.net)>, James Ritchie <[james.ritchie37@gmail.com](mailto:james.ritchie37@gmail.com)>, Judit Destefano <[judit.destefano@gmail.com](mailto:judit.destefano@gmail.com)>, paul lundquist <[lundquist.paul@gmail.com](mailto:lundquist.paul@gmail.com)>

Dear Charter Revision Commission Members,

I wanted to write to thank you all for your work on both the Charter Revision Commission and the Charter Revision Communications Committee. The passage of the proposed changes on Election Day means the body of work you all helped to create and communicate to taxpayers will benefit the community for many, many years to come. Please know that we appreciate that you all spent many nights away from home in meetings as volunteers just because you care about Newtown, and want what's best for the community you live in. People with your dedication and willingness to serve are what makes our community a great place to live in.

Many Thanks,

Mary Ann



HERBERT L. COHEN  
(1928-1983)

October 18, 2016

AUSTIN K. WOLF  
RICHARD L. ALBRECHT  
JONATHAN S. BOWMAN  
IRVING J. KERN  
NEIL R. MARCUS  
G. KENNETH BERNHARD  
DAVID L. GROGINS  
GRETA E. SOLOMON  
ROBIN A. KAHN  
RICHARD SLAVIN  
DANIEL S. NAGEL  
RICHARD J. DI MARCO  
DAVID B. ZABEL  
MARK A. KIRSCH  
DAVID M. LEVINE  
JOSEPH G. WALSH  
MATTHEW C. SUSMAN  
DAVID A. BALL  
JOCELYN B. HURWITZ  
STUART M. KATZ  
MONTE E. FRANK  
PATRICIA C. SULLIVAN  
VINCENT M. MARINO  
JULIE D. KOHLER  
ARI J. HOFFMAN  
COURTNEY A. GEORGE  
BARBARA M. SCHELLENBERG  
RACHEL A. PENCU  
JASON A. BUCHSBAUM  
L. JOYELLE MAINI  
DAVID M. MOROSAN  
ANN L. FOWLER-CRUZ  
PHILIP C. PIRES  
MARCIA M. ESCOBEDO  
DAVID DOBIN  
ROBYN H. DRUCKER  
SHANE R. GOODRICH  
JARED L. SHWARTZ  
ALEXANDER COPP  
MATTHEW A. CARLEGLIO  
CHRISTINE M. BREW  
JOSHUA PEDREIRA  
BRITTANY M. REHMER

OF COUNSEL  
ANNMARIE P. BRIONES  
EILEEN LAVIGNE FLUG  
THEMIS KLARIDES  
ROSAMOND A. KOETHER  
JACK E. MCGREGOR  
JOHN PATRICK C. O'BRIEN  
ALLAN J. ROSEN  
MARTIN F. WOLF

**Via U.S. First Class Mail and Email**

Mary Ann Jacob  
Newtown Municipal Center  
3 Primrose Street  
Newtown, CT 06470

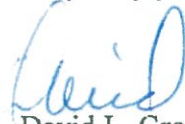
**Re: Conflict of Interest, Christopher Eide**

Dear Mary Ann:

I am writing to respond to a request made to you by a Member of the Legislative Council, Christopher Eide, concerning a potential conflict of interest. The conflict relates to the employment by Mr. Eide's wife by the Newtown Board of Education as a teacher. In this regard, I have addressed a similar question in the attached opinion letter dated May 19, 2010 concerning your employment by the Newtown Board of Education as a part time clerk.

In your situation, I concluded no conflict of interest existed but that a certain sensitivity was required to be exercised, especially on matters relating to your part time employment, ie., not participating as a Member of the Legislative Council's Education Subcommittee. My conclusion is the same for Mr. Eide, except in addition he should not vote on matters relating to Teacher's Union contracts.

Very truly yours,

  
David L. Grogins

DLG:cgh  
Enc.



DAVID L. GROGINS  
Please Reply To Danbury  
E-mail: dgrogins@cohenandwolf.com

May 19, 2010

HERBERT L. COHEN  
(1928-1983)

AUSTIN K. WOLF  
RICHARD L. ALBRECHT  
JONATHAN S. BOWMAN  
IRVING J. KERN  
STEWART I. EDELSTEIN  
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JESSE A. LANGER  
CARRIE L. LARSON  
RACHEL A. PENCU  
JASON A. BUCHSBAUM  
PAMELA A. LUTIN  
L. JOYELLIE DEFELICE  
DEBORAH S. ERICKSON  
LAUREN G. WALTERS  
DAVID M. MOROSAN  
AUSTIN D. KIM  
JOSEPH B. SCHWARTZ

OF COUNSEL  
MARTIN J. ALBERT  
PETER A. ARTURI  
LEONARD C. BLUM  
ANN L. FOWLER-CRUZ  
JOSHUA Z. HERSH  
ROSAMOND A. KOETHER  
JACK E. MCGREGOR  
KAREN WACKERMAN MYERS  
ALLAN J. ROSEN  
BARBARA M. SCHELLENBERG  
MARTIN F. WOLF

Jeffrey A. Capeci, Chairman  
Legislative Counsel  
Newtown Municipal Center  
3 Primrose Street  
Newtown, CT 06470

Re: Conflict of Interest

Dear Jeff:

You have requested my opinion relative to two questions concerning possible conflicts of interest:

1. Is it a conflict of interest for a member of the Legislative Council to serve on the council and also be employed as a part-time Librarian in the Newtown School System; and
2. Assuming the answer to question number one is no, is it a conflict of interest for the member to serve as Chairman of the Education Subcommittee of the Legislative Council?

To answer these questions, I have reviewed the Code of Ethics of the Town of Newtown, the Connecticut General Statutes, the Town Charter and applicable case law. The relevant provisions of the Ethics Code are as follows:

“No employee, with the exception of Fire Commissioners, of the Town shall be appointed to any board, commission or other Town body that deliberates and/or makes decisions directly or indirectly affecting that employee’s remuneration or working conditions.” (Code of Ethics, Article I, Section 36-5.F.)

“Officials and employees shall disqualify themselves from all discussions, attempts at influencing the view of others, and decision-making with respect to any issue in which their employment may conflict with their Town position.” (Code of Ethics, Article I, Section 36-8.B.)

Section 36-5.F. above does not apply since the Legislative Council members are elected and not appointed. Accordingly, it is my opinion that the answer to Question No. 1 is no. The provisions of Section 36-8.B. do apply and require the member to disqualify herself from “all discussions, attempts at influencing the view of others, and decision-making” in the circumstances described therein (i.e. where “their employment may conflict with their Town position.”)

1115 BROAD STREET  
P.O. BOX 1821  
BRIDGEPORT, CT 06601-1821  
TEL: (203) 368-0211  
FAX: (203) 394-9901

158 DEER HILL AVENUE  
DANBURY, CT 06810  
TEL: (203) 792-2771  
FAX: (203) 791-8149

320 POST ROAD WEST  
WESTPORT, CT 06880  
TEL: (203) 222-1034  
FAX: (203) 227-1373

657 ORANGE CENTER ROAD  
ORANGE, CT 06477  
TEL: (203) 298-4066  
FAX: (203) 298-4068

May 19, 2010

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An additional, and perhaps more pressing question, is whether the member in question may vote on the budget, and if so, participate in the discussions relative to the educational components thereof. The answer requires a brief analysis of the relationship between the local Board of Education and the Municipal Government. While the relationship has been described as complex (see New Haven v. State Board of Education, 228 Conn. 699, 705-706), fundamentally, the Board of Education is granted broad discretion in “. . . maintaining a program of educational opportunity which meets the requirements of State law . . .”; while the Town budget making authorities (Board of Finance and Legislative Council) are charged with seeing to it that, “expenditures for the educational program are kept within reasonable bounds in view of the over-all financial resources of the Town . . .” (Board of Education v. Naugatuck, 268 Conn. 295, 313. Also see C.G.S. § 10-222). In essence, the Board of Education is charged with the details of the educational program, while the Town budget making authorities are charged with the bottom line. Therefore, because the roles of the two bodies are very different, with the function of the budget making authority being broadly based, it is my opinion that the member in question may vote on the budget as a whole, including the educational component thereof.

In addition to the above analysis, my opinion is also based on the following language from the case of Dana-Robin Corporation v. Common Council, 166 Conn. 207, 214 (1974):

“The decision as to whether a particular interest is sufficient to disqualify is necessarily a factual one and depends on the circumstances of the particular case. In subjecting those circumstances to careful scrutiny, courts must exercise a degree of caution. Local governments would . . . be seriously handicapped if any conceivable interest, no matter how remote and speculative, would require the disqualification of an official.”

The fact that the member’s salary is relatively small when compared to the entire education budget (approximately \$67,000,000), and that the Legislative Council’s function is limited as set forth above, would seem to clearly bring this set of circumstances within the legal principle of the Dana-Robin case, above.

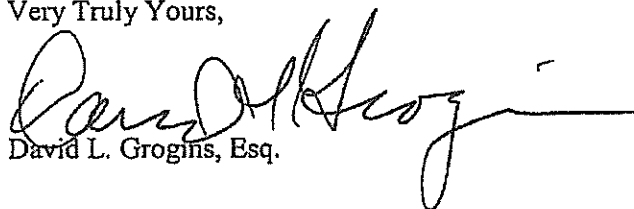
Notwithstanding the above, in the event the discussion of the Legislative Council moves in the direction of specific line items in the budget, including but not limited to, personnel, libraries, number of teachers, etc., the member should disqualify or recuse herself from participating in the discussion (see Section 36-8.B. of the Ethics Code).



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In summary, it is my opinion that it is not a conflict of interest for the member to continue to serve on the Legislative Council or to vote on the budget, including the educational component thereof. The member should carefully consider any discussions relative to the educational component of the budget and to be sensitive to those situations where her "employment may conflict with her town position." In this regard, I would recommend that the member should resign from the educational subcommittee for the practical reason that there could be a significant number of situations where she would have to recuse herself and thus impair her efficacy as a member thereof.

Very Truly Yours,



David L. Grogins, Esq.

DLG/pld

cc: Ms. A. Patricia Llodra, Newtown First Selectman

3 PRIMROSE STREET  
NEWTOWN, CT 06470  
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## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

### 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

The Legislative Council is comprised of twelve elected representatives, four from each of Newtown's three voting districts. It is the lawmaking body of the Town charged with adopting ordinances as needed, as well as the fiscal authority charged with sending an annual budget to the electorate at referendum, after giving due consideration to the recommendations of the Board of Finance.

One of the Council's main responsibilities is to research, write and implement ordinances. Ordinance had a very busy year updating many existing ordinances to reflect current realities. Alarms and Purchasing got significant update. Tax Abatement was expanded to include Underwater Search and Rescue and we added a newly state authorized abatement for totally disabled Veterans. We also removed term limits on the Sustainable Energy Commission. In addition, The council has asked the Ordinance Committee to review the Pension Ordinance, Senior Tax Relief, Roads and Code of Ethics, all of which are still in progress at the writing of this update.

As one of our main areas of responsibility is as the Fiscal Authority, the council voted to reduce spending on capital items this year in two significant ways. First by lowering the debt cap from 10% to 9.8% and second by reducing capital requests in several ways in the Capital Improvement Plan. The Community Center requests was reduced by \$5,000,000 and the Senior Center Request was pushed out one year.

Finally, we approved an annual budget with only a modest tax increase of 1.62% that passed on the first try; the third year in a row we were able to accomplish that difficult task. The process was not without controversy as the council lowered spending requests on both the BOE and BOS budgets and approved using money from a bond refinance to offset some capital requests. We continued our focus on road improvements as well as funding our school security at appropriate levels. As many state and federal grants are running out, the taxpayers have been forced to shoulder the responsibility of the costs of increased security and mental health support.

We continued to invest in areas of our community that give a wide variety of taxpayers a benefit for their substantial contributions. We bonded funds for more demolition at Fairfield Hills bringing the total number of buildings torn down to 10. We also bonded money for an addition to the sandy hook substation, new fire apparatus, another contribution to the new Hook and Ladder building, improvements to the Dickenson Parking Lot and Eichler's Cove, repairs to the Edmond Town Hall Boiler, another bridge improvement, improvements to high school auditorium, a new boiler at MG and the high school roof. Finally, we funded design and site work for the Sandy Hook Memorial.

Savings from our Capital Non Reoccurring Fund helped pay for 4 public works vehicles, 2 parks and rec vehicles and various sidewalk improvements. Grants also added to the sidewalk work, will pay a new bridge at Toddy Hill and more streetscape work at Fairfield Hills.

Business incentive plans were approved for another large project for Tractor Supply. We also approved the formation of a Shared Services Committee to look again at how we can reduce costs by working more closely together between departments and the municipal and school offices.

The council approved the work of the Charter Revision Commission, which made sweeping changes to the layout and organization of the charter. Of significant note it also eliminated the Town Meeting process, called for a majority of no more than 4 from any one political party on the BOE, revamped process and policy related to leasing, buying and selling land, reworded the confusing charter advisory questions. The council elected to hold off sending the vote to the ballot until the November 2016 election in order to ensure voter turnout was adequate. Also approved was the formation of a Communications Committee to inform the public of the changes they will be asked to vote on.

*Mary Ann Jacob*

Mary Ann Jacob

Chairman, Newtown Legislative Council





Join the Friends of Newtown Seniors, the Newtown Commission on Aging, Newtown Social Services and Newtown Senior Services as they host an in-depth discussion on livable communities

NOVEMBER 29, 2016

6p.m. – 7p.m.

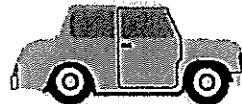
At

Newtown Middle School  
11 Queen Street, Newtown, CT

This discussion facilitated by the **AARP CT Road to Livability** team, will walk attendees through:

- *What makes a livable community?*
  - *What is a Livability Index?*
- *How can we work together to be a livable community?*

To register, contact John S. Boccuzzi from the Friends of Newtown Seniors at [info@friendsofnewtownseniors.org](mailto:info@friendsofnewtownseniors.org) or call 203.430.0633 to leave a message w/ the number attending and contact information.





### ***Our Mission:***

The Center for Support and Wellness is the single point of entry which connects members of the community with wellness resources through a strong referral system and dedicates staff to families and individuals in need.

### **Referral Process:**

The CSW supports the Newtown Community, families, and individuals in a judgement-free, confidential environment. Facing stressful times is challenging enough. It is our goal to effectively connect community members with appropriate mental health and wellness resources.

*Below is our referral process, however we recognize everyone is unique and may require additional help.*

1. Make an assessment appointment with one of our staff members (in the Center or a place more convenient for you).
2. During the assessment appointment we will discuss with you what you are seeking, your current insurance situation, your expectations and limitations.
3. Within a timely manner, we will find a resource that matches your needs, your insurance situation and a convenient location for you. We do the logistical research so you don't have to.
4. You will receive the referral information so that you can call the provider directly.
5. A staff member from the center will follow up until you are connected with an appropriate provider

### **Other Services:**

- Provide specific outreach and communications to the victim's families and survivors of the Sandy Hook tragedy.
- Collaborate with Newtown Schools to provide out of the classroom support for students and families.
- Partner with Social Services, Senior Center, and Newtown Police to connect community members with needed services.
- Provide training and networking opportunities for community providers.

### **Staff:**

Jennifer Crane, Director

*jennifer.crane@newtown-ct.gov*

Tricia Pinto, Victim Family Care Navigator

*tricia.pinto@newtown-ct.gov*

Valérie Le Cann Jones, Survivor Care Navigator

*valerie.jones@newtown-ct.gov*

Corinne Ofgang, Community Care Navigator

*corinne.ofgang@newtown-ct.gov*



Contact Information:  
Center for Support and Wellness  
28 Trades Ln. (Fairfield Hills Campus)  
Newtown, Connecticut 06470  
Phone: 203-270-4612  
Fax: 203-270-4614



**TOWN OF NEWTOWN**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN 2017 – 2018 BUDGET TALKING POINTS**  
**NOVEMBER 16, 2016**

- **SALARIES & BENEFITS**
  - 2.25% GENERAL WAGE INCREASE.
    - THREE UNION CONTRACTS NEED TO BE NEGOTIATED.
  - TARGETED SALARY ENHANCEMENTS – FS EXECUTIVE ASST; HR ADMIN; FIRE MARSHAL OFFICE.
  - PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS WILL INCREASE \$157,263 OR 13.6% MAINLY DUE TO PENSION ASSET PERFORMANCE IN 2015/16.
  - CONTRIBUTION TO MEDICAL SELF-INSURANCE FUND. MEDICAL CLAIMS EXPERIENCE FOR THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS HAS BEEN VERY GOOD. EXPECT A SMALL INCREASE IN CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEDICAL SELF INSURANCE FUND.
  - NO NEW POSITIONS.
  
- **TOWN COMMITMENT TO INCREASING ROAD FUNDS.**
  - +\$250,000 EACH YEAR.
  - TOTAL REQUEST FOR 2017-18 IS \$1,750,000.
  
- **TOWN COMMITMENT TO CAPITAL NON-RECURRING CONTRIBUTIONS.**
  - 0.3% OF TOTAL BUDGET = \$350,000.
  - 2016-17 WAS \$295,000; 2017-18 = \$375,000.
  - INCREASE IN REQUEST MAINLY DUE TO REVALUATION COST.
  
- **NEWTOWN CENTER FOR SUPPORT AND WELLNESS.**
  - SUPPORTED BY (2) \$50,000 PRIVATE GRANTS (BUDGETED IN REVENUES).
    - REDUCE RELIANCE ON PRIVATE GRANTS BY 40%; INCREASE BUDGET SUPPORT BY \$40,000.
  
- **DEBT SERVICE.**
  - CURRENT BUDGET DEBT SERVICE REPRESENTS 8.16% OF TOTAL BUDGET.
  - CONTROLLED BY THE CIP PROCESS.
  - 2017-18 BUDGET AMOUNT SHOULD REMAIN FLAT.
  
- **POSSIBLE REORGANIZATIONS – FINANCIAL IMPACT UNKNOWN, EXPECT LITTLE SUBSTANTIAL EFFECT .**
  - FIRE MARSHALLS OFFICE.
  - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE.
  
- **PURCHASING AGENT (50% BOS & 50% BOE)?**
  
- **BOTTOM LINE EXPECTATION – 2.00%.**



**Reserve Cap & Non Recurring:** The requested \$375,000 comprises the following (in **bold** print):

**Town Pooled Vehicle Replacement Program** (annual request)  
2017-2018 request **\$25,000**

**Assessor Grand List revaluation on 10/1/2017**

2015-2016 appropriation	\$75,000
2016-2017 appropriation	\$100,000
<b>2017-2018 request</b>	<b><u>\$240,000</u></b>
	\$415,000

**Public Works Loader**

2015-2016 appropriation	\$40,000
2016-2017 appropriation	\$60,000
<b>2017-2018 request</b>	<b><u>\$100,000</u></b>
	<b>\$200,000</b>

**Parks & Recreation – Court recoating (annual request)**

2015-2016 appropriation	\$10,000
2016-2017 appropriation	\$10,000
<b>2017-2018 request</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
2018-2019 planned	\$15,000
2019-2020 planned	\$15,000
2019-2020 planned	\$15,000

***Chronology of the Work***

- April 2014 – NBOE hires Milone and MacBroom to conduct the study
- November 2014 – Findings presented to the NBOE
- December 2014 / January 2015 – Committee constituted to synthesize and analyze data
- May 2015 – Committee reports analysis and recommendation to the NBOE
- June 2015 – NBOE places a one year moratorium on any school closing
- December 2015/January 2016 - Committee reconstituted with a redefined task
- July 2016 - Committee reports findings
- September 2016 - NBOE takes action to maintain four elementary schools
- October 2016 - Committee shares analysis of all nine options with potential implementation date (2018-19) of the option (K-4,5-7,8-12) that logistically is best suited for projected enrollment
- November / December 2016 - Final discussions
  - November 1<sup>st</sup> – Analytics / Space – NHS
  - November 15<sup>th</sup> - Continued discussion

***Additional Information***

- 2006-07 Student enrollment 5,667 Students
- 2016-2017 Student enrollment 4,491 Students
- 11 year decline = 1,176 Student

**Per Pupil Expenditure – State of CT**

- **Newtown Per Pupil Expenditure \$15,870**

- The **statewide NCEP average increased** from \$15,726 in 2014-15 to \$16,249 in 2015-16. This is an **increase of \$523 or 3%**.
- Among Connecticut's school districts, spending now ranges from \$12,794 per pupil in Danbury to \$30,191 in Cornwall. **This is a difference of \$17,397 per pupil.**
- The district with the **largest increase in spending in terms of dollars was Westbrook**, where per-pupil spending increased by \$2,605, or 13%.
- The district with the **largest decline in spending in terms of dollars was Regional District #1**, where per-pupil spending decreased by \$1,628, or -6%.

**Student Enrollment - State of CT:**

- **Total statewide daily membership declined by 5,493 students (1%)** from 530,913 in 2014-15 to 525,420 students in 2015-16.
- Average daily membership ranges from 21,523 in Hartford to 111 in Canaan.

**BOE Talking Points****SPED Reimbursement - Expected Return from the State of CT in March / April 2017**

- The amount due for 2014-15, \$80,479 will go back to the General Fund because our books and the Town's books are closed. This would be the only amount available for discussion concerning alternate usage.
- The amount due for 2015-16, \$83,284 has been booked as a receivable to prevent a deficit situation for the 2015-16 year due to the significant number of special ed placements. This constitutes an appropriate and necessary use of these funds. This has been included in the financials presented to the board in the year-end report and to the town auditors.
- The amount estimated for 2016-17, \$49,698 will be received and deposited in the current fiscal as excess cost against the eligible expenses that will be reported for this year. This will be a direct reimbursement and cannot be re-purposed in any other way.

**AHCA - Cadillac Tax**

- There has been additional federal legislation which has delayed the implementation of the Cadillac Tax. There will be no significant growth in the 17-18 proposed operational plan that is directly connected to this issue.

**Shared Services**

- Pat and I have met with staff and we will be prepared to speak to shared services as a unified voice within our budget proposals. We are presently working with three departments to further explore best practice, cost savings, and cost avoidance.

**Enrollment and Facility**

1. 5667 students were enrolled in 2006-2007 and as of October 1, 2016 there are 4,491 students enrolled in the district = 1,176 fewer students in the past 10 years.
2. Enrollment is projected to continue to drop until 2023-24 with forecasters bench-marking a potential low enrollment number of 3435 students.
3. The enrollment study began in April 2014. The BOE took action not to close an elementary school at the start of this school year.
4. Multiple measures have been exhausted to bring to the board consideration for a K-4 / 5-7 / 8-12 alignment that will hold (using the high enrollment projection which is now relevant) for approximately 10 years
5. Initial savings is projected at approximately \$500,000 year one and approximately \$1M each successive year.
6. If the BOE takes action to close the middle school the study committee is suggesting an implementation date of 2018-19.

Connecticut State Department of Education  
Bureau of Grants Management

2015-16 Net Current Expenditures (NCE) per Pupil (NCEP)  
and 2016-17 Special Education Excess Cost Grant  
Basic Contributions for the February Payment

District Code	District Name	(1) NCE 2015-16	(2) Average Daily Membership (ADM) 2015-16	(3) NCEP 2015-16 (Col 1 / Col 2)	(4) State Agency Placement Basic Contribution (Col 3 Rounded)	(5) Local Initiated Placement Basic Contribution (Col 3 x 4.5, Rounded)
1	ANDOVER	8,056,478	502.26	16,040.45	16,040	72,182
2	ANSONIA	35,389,845	2,524.46	14,018.78	14,019	63,085
3	ASHFORD	10,690,535	562.82	18,994.59	18,995	85,476
4	AVON	51,777,946	3,292.45	15,726.27	15,726	70,768
5	BARKHAMSTED	9,062,775	564.73	16,047.98	16,048	72,216
7	BERLIN	46,320,873	2,982.09	15,533.02	15,533	69,899
8	BETHANY	14,651,540	840.69	17,427.99	17,428	78,426
9	BETHEL	46,186,232	2,930.31	15,761.55	15,762	70,927
11	BLOOMFIELD	47,362,809	2,238.29	21,160.26	21,160	95,221
12	BOLTON	13,279,903	759.18	17,492.43	17,492	78,716
13	BOZRAH	5,412,396	307.70	17,589.85	17,590	79,154
14	BRANFORD	53,810,430	3,121.52	17,238.53	17,239	77,573
15	BRIDGEPORT	299,973,412	20,936.27	14,327.93	14,328	64,476
17	BRISTOL	116,640,298	8,392.67	13,897.88	13,898	62,540
18	BROOKFIELD	39,223,812	2,739.34	14,318.71	14,319	64,434
19	BROOKLYN	17,728,271	1,225.40	14,467.33	14,467	65,103
21	CANAAN	3,044,483	111.45	27,317.03	27,317	122,927
22	CANTERBURY	11,366,359	648.58	17,524.99	17,525	78,862
23	CANTON	25,290,768	1,638.21	15,438.05	15,438	69,471
24	CHAPLIN	5,784,325	287.63	20,110.30	20,110	90,496
25	CHESHIRE	67,059,564	4,401.39	15,236.00	15,236	68,562
26	CHESTER	8,115,906	444.20	18,270.84	18,271	82,219
27	CLINTON	31,249,583	1,890.27	16,531.81	16,532	74,393
28	COLCHESTER	39,810,264	2,705.29	14,715.71	14,716	66,221
29	COLEBROOK	3,580,866	195.34	18,331.45	18,331	82,492
30	COLUMBIA	12,093,380	697.64	17,334.70	17,335	78,006
31	CORNWALL	3,876,871	128.41	30,191.35	30,191	135,861
32	COVENTRY	26,922,190	1,736.74	15,501.57	15,502	69,757
33	CROMWELL	29,308,826	2,104.38	13,927.53	13,928	62,674
34	DANBURY	139,082,742	10,870.82	12,794.14	12,794	57,574
35	DARIEN	93,858,104	4,858.71	19,317.49	19,317	86,929
36	DEEP RIVER	11,064,774	624.40	17,720.65	17,721	79,743
37	DERBY	23,746,832	1,545.61	15,364.05	15,364	69,138
39	EASTFORD	3,684,857	178.50	20,643.46	20,643	92,896
40	EAST GRANBY	17,210,048	906.80	18,978.88	18,979	85,405
41	EAST HADDAM	19,797,097	1,107.85	17,869.84	17,870	80,414
42	EAST HAMPTON	29,184,590	1,984.02	14,709.83	14,710	66,194
43	EAST HARTFORD	108,731,623	8,092.09	13,436.78	13,437	60,466
44	EAST HAVEN	52,298,987	3,424.65	15,271.34	15,271	68,721
45	EAST LYME	40,890,719	2,615.95	15,631.31	15,631	70,341
46	EASTON	26,808,201	1,393.90	19,232.51	19,233	86,546
47	EAST WINDSOR	23,127,901	1,203.41	19,218.64	19,219	86,484
48	ELLINGTON	35,484,640	2,732.71	12,985.15	12,985	58,433
49	ENFIELD	77,164,457	5,552.78	13,896.54	13,897	62,534
50	ESSEX	15,106,873	815.42	18,526.49	18,526	83,369
51	FAIRFIELD	167,691,944	10,125.97	16,560.58	16,561	74,523
52	FARMINGTON	65,735,800	4,048.47	16,237.20	16,237	73,067
53	FRANKLIN	3,882,369	255.14	15,216.62	15,217	68,475
54	GLASTONBURY	97,713,997	6,212.51	15,728.59	15,729	70,779
56	GRANBY	27,942,924	1,921.12	14,545.12	14,545	65,453
57	GREENWICH	184,648,009	8,634.16	21,385.75	21,386	96,236
58	GRISWOLD	24,813,151	1,771.00	14,010.81	14,011	63,049
59	GROTON	76,524,979	4,903.74	15,605.43	15,605	70,224



Connecticut State Department of Education  
Bureau of Grants Management

2015-16 Net Current Expenditures (NCE) per Pupil (NCEP)  
and 2016-17 Special Education Excess Cost Grant  
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60	GUILFORD	58,135,365	3,451.22	16,844.87	16,845	75,802
62	HAMDEN	118,167,847	6,440.32	18,348.13	18,348	82,567
63	HAMPTON	3,830,206	174.78	21,914.44	21,914	98,615
64	HARTFORD	415,499,191	21,523.44	19,304.50	19,305	86,870
65	HARTLAND	5,088,334	275.35	18,479.51	18,480	83,158
67	HEBRON	25,516,863	1,663.57	15,338.62	15,339	69,024
68	KENT	6,884,781	291.88	23,587.71	23,588	106,145
69	KILLINGLY	40,365,144	2,412.35	16,732.71	16,733	75,297
71	LEBANON	18,185,115	1,028.06	17,688.77	17,689	79,599
72	LEDYARD	35,874,347	2,341.92	15,318.35	15,318	68,933
73	LISBON	9,707,550	570.63	17,011.99	17,012	76,554
74	LITCHFIELD	17,918,536	977.00	18,340.36	18,340	82,532
76	MADISON	51,363,568	3,029.35	16,955.31	16,955	76,299
77	MANCHESTER	118,302,213	7,279.66	16,251.06	16,251	73,130
78	MANSFIELD	32,626,803	1,863.71	17,506.37	17,506	78,779
79	MARLBOROUGH	15,070,074	1,105.79	13,628.33	13,628	61,327
80	MERIDEN	122,972,579	8,815.11	13,950.20	13,950	62,776
83	MIDDLETOWN	82,338,885	5,018.60	16,406.74	16,407	73,830
84	MILFORD	114,034,693	6,230.63	18,302.27	18,302	82,360
85	MONROE	53,196,952	3,249.48	16,370.91	16,371	73,669
86	MONTVILLE	36,601,295	2,389.18	15,319.61	15,320	68,938
88	NAUGATUCK	67,729,500	4,495.58	15,065.80	15,066	67,796
89	NEW BRITAIN	149,844,738	11,358.66	13,192.11	13,192	59,364
90	NEW CANAAN	83,885,244	4,262.56	19,679.55	19,680	88,558
91	NEW FAIRFIELD	36,592,235	2,425.67	15,085.41	15,085	67,884
92	NEW HARTFORD	16,842,035	1,030.53	16,343.08	16,343	73,544
93	NEW HAVEN	347,925,848	19,068.03	18,246.55	18,247	82,109
94	NEWINGTON	69,391,839	4,238.39	16,372.22	16,372	73,675
95	NEW LONDON	59,503,746	3,601.59	16,521.52	16,522	74,347
96	NEW MILFORD	58,562,960	4,153.42	14,099.94	14,100	63,450
97	NEWTOWN	74,232,561	4,677.36	15,870.61	15,871	71,418
98	NORFOLK	4,264,962	205.41	20,763.17	20,763	93,434
99	NORTH BRANFORD	29,480,648	1,958.11	15,055.66	15,056	67,750
100	NORTH CANAAN	8,655,815	389.60	22,217.18	22,217	99,977
101	NORTH HAVEN	50,147,820	3,245.53	15,451.35	15,451	69,531
102	NORTH STONINGTON	12,050,901	751.92	16,026.84	16,027	72,121
103	NORWALK	197,260,681	11,539.75	17,094.02	17,094	76,923
104	NORWICH	85,653,767	5,266.77	16,263.05	16,263	73,184
106	OLD SAYBROOK	25,450,112	1,338.24	19,017.60	19,018	85,579
107	ORANGE	39,709,346	2,303.50	17,238.70	17,239	77,574
108	OXFORD	28,102,306	2,037.13	13,795.05	13,795	62,078
109	PLAINFIELD	32,442,887	2,293.81	14,143.67	14,144	63,647
110	PLAINVILLE	35,885,400	2,415.16	14,858.39	14,858	66,863
111	PLYMOUTH	24,118,800	1,680.21	14,354.63	14,355	64,596
112	POMFRET	9,646,275	602.47	16,011.21	16,011	72,050
113	PORTLAND	20,366,384	1,400.51	14,542.12	14,542	65,440
114	PRESTON	10,865,144	648.09	16,764.87	16,765	75,442
116	PUTNAM	19,725,248	1,178.30	16,740.43	16,740	75,332
117	REDDING	31,596,149	1,488.05	21,233.26	21,233	95,550
118	RIDGEFIELD	85,437,137	5,014.77	17,037.10	17,037	76,667
119	ROCKY HILL	40,128,286	2,762.32	14,527.02	14,527	65,372
121	SALEM	10,853,077	630.45	17,214.81	17,215	77,467
122	SALISBURY	8,057,022	341.87	23,567.50	23,568	106,054

Connecticut State Department of Education  
Bureau of Grants Management

2015-16 Net Current Expenditures (NCE) per Pupil (NCEP)  
and 2016-17 Special Education Excess Cost Grant  
Basic Contributions for the February Payment

District Code	District Name	(1) NCE 2015-16	(2) Average Daily Membership (ADM) 2015-16	(3) NCEP 2015-16 (Col 1 / Col 2)	(4) State Agency Placement Basic Contribution (Col 3 Rounded)	(5) Local Initiated Placement Basic Contribution (Col 3 x 4.5, Rounded)
123	SCOTLAND	4,755,398	209.09	22,743.31	22,743	102,345
124	SEYMOUR	33,372,667	2,323.48	14,363.23	14,363	64,635
125	SHARON	6,590,826	230.40	28,606.02	28,606	128,727
126	SHELTON	69,195,209	5,178.70	13,361.50	13,362	60,127
127	SHERMAN	8,649,652	502.18	17,224.21	17,224	77,509
128	SIMSBURY	68,254,971	4,253.27	16,047.65	16,048	72,214
129	SOMERS	21,792,537	1,441.14	15,121.73	15,122	68,048
131	SOUTHINGTON	91,889,829	6,648.04	13,822.09	13,822	62,199
132	SOUTH WINDSOR	72,742,189	4,320.88	16,835.04	16,835	75,758
133	SPRAGUE	6,260,984	461.89	13,555.14	13,555	60,998
134	STAFFORD	27,479,671	1,596.49	17,212.55	17,213	77,456
135	STAMFORD	282,739,285	15,668.81	18,044.72	18,045	81,201
136	STERLING	7,965,013	581.75	13,691.47	13,691	61,612
137	STONINGTON	36,416,773	2,250.44	16,182.07	16,182	72,819
138	STRATFORD	106,007,763	7,245.55	14,630.74	14,631	65,838
139	SUFFIELD	35,495,522	2,261.12	15,698.20	15,698	70,642
140	THOMASTON	15,171,528	1,022.08	14,843.78	14,844	66,797
141	THOMPSON	18,213,723	1,044.94	17,430.40	17,430	78,437
142	TOLLAND	39,059,292	2,710.44	14,410.68	14,411	64,848
143	TORRINGTON	73,062,857	4,470.59	16,343.00	16,343	73,544
144	TRUMBULL	101,993,621	6,615.64	15,417.05	15,417	69,377
145	UNION	1,945,447	113.00	17,216.35	17,216	77,474
146	VERNON	54,344,988	3,512.44	15,472.15	15,472	69,625
147	VOLUNTTOWN	6,694,907	388.41	17,236.70	17,237	77,565
148	WALLINGFORD	103,255,762	6,135.01	16,830.58	16,831	75,738
151	WATERBURY	279,643,357	18,380.91	15,213.79	15,214	68,462
152	WATERFORD	46,050,351	2,903.54	15,860.07	15,860	71,370
153	WATERTOWN	40,331,163	2,830.26	14,249.99	14,250	64,125
154	WESTBROOK	17,419,638	783.00	22,247.30	22,247	100,113
155	WEST HARTFORD	152,214,085	10,132.47	15,022.41	15,022	67,601
156	WEST HAVEN	93,434,990	7,017.43	13,314.70	13,315	59,916
157	WESTON	49,434,511	2,383.27	20,742.30	20,742	93,340
158	WESTPORT	113,195,476	5,654.61	20,018.26	20,018	90,082
159	WETHERSFIELD	59,963,316	3,971.05	15,100.12	15,100	67,951
160	WILLINGTON	12,119,973	672.93	18,010.75	18,011	81,048
161	WILTON	81,242,292	4,155.30	19,551.49	19,551	87,982
162	WINCHESTER	22,764,054	1,184.51	19,218.12	19,218	86,482
163	WINDHAM	60,860,490	3,207.10	18,976.80	18,977	85,396
164	WINDSOR	68,247,233	3,936.72	17,336.06	17,336	78,012
165	WINDSOR LOCKS	32,381,830	1,703.28	19,011.45	19,011	85,552
166	WOLCOTT	34,067,207	2,546.62	13,377.42	13,377	60,198
167	WOODBIDGE	26,386,619	1,487.72	17,736.28	17,736	79,813
169	WOODSTOCK	16,938,381	1,264.53	13,395.00	13,395	60,278
201	DISTRICT NO. 1	10,557,465	420.00	25,136.82	25,137	113,116
204	DISTRICT NO. 4	16,712,441	953.00	17,536.66	17,537	78,915
205	DISTRICT NO. 5	39,839,514	2,294.52	17,362.90	17,363	78,133
206	DISTRICT NO. 6	16,357,179	828.92	19,733.12	19,733	88,799
207	DISTRICT NO. 7	17,321,021	1,020.64	16,970.74	16,971	76,368
208	DISTRICT NO. 8	24,866,227	1,703.00	14,601.43	14,601	65,706
209	DISTRICT NO. 9	20,755,826	1,050.74	19,753.53	19,754	88,891
210	DISTRICT NO. 10	35,579,507	2,463.12	14,444.89	14,445	65,002
211	DISTRICT NO. 11	6,208,971	286.07	21,704.38	21,704	97,670
212	DISTRICT NO. 12	19,765,846	677.12	29,191.05	29,191	131,360

October 2016

Connecticut State Department of Education  
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2015-16 Net Current Expenditures (NCE) per Pupil (NCEP)  
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District Code	District Name	(1) NCE 2015-16	(2) Average Daily Membership (ADM) 2015-16	(3) NCEP 2015-16 (Col 1 / Col 2)	(4) State Agency Placement Basic Contribution (Col 3 Rounded)	(5) Local Initiated Placement Basic Contribution (Col 3 x 4.5, Rounded)
213	DISTRICT NO. 13	33,855,224	1,771.35	19,112.67	19,113	86,007
214	DISTRICT NO. 14	29,479,834	1,501.24	19,636.99	19,637	88,366
215	DISTRICT NO. 15	63,221,073	3,804.09	16,619.24	16,619	74,787
216	DISTRICT NO. 16	35,261,139	2,290.89	15,391.90	15,392	69,264
217	DISTRICT NO. 17	37,031,817	2,164.57	17,108.16	17,108	76,987
218	DISTRICT NO. 18	27,068,354	1,374.06	19,699.54	19,700	88,648
219	DISTRICT NO. 19	17,559,240	975.00	18,009.48	18,009	81,043
		8,556,841,830	526,604.59	2,836,093.43	2,836,096	12,762,426

**ASSUMPTIONS**  
**2017-2018 BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET**

- The Newtown Board of Education's mission to inspire every student to excel will be the foundation of all decision making.
- Open and honest communication and cooperation will be maintained with other municipal boards and the community throughout the budget process.
- State and Federal financial support of education will not keep pace with increased programming mandates and will be further reduced by legislation and reductions of grants and other supports to local communities. The Department of Education support will come to close during the 2016-2017 school year and there will be a need for continued services and staffing for the 2017-2018 school year.
- Safety, security and health standards will be supported through continued training of staff; e.t., District Security Committee, Anti-bullying, Blood Borne Pathogens, Sexual harassment/Title IX, Mandated reporting, OSHA (Office of Safety and Health Administration).
- Salaries and benefits will be based on commitments incurred through collective bargaining and other employment agreements.
- Existing programs and services will be reviewed, evaluated, maintained or adjusted as the educational needs of students change.
- Overall certified and classified staffing levels will be adjusted based on enrollment, programming, safety factors and facility considerations.
- Purchased services and supply accounts will be reviewed and adjusted based on documented prices and trends; i.e., fuel, where appropriate, enrollment changes, and facility needs.
- Budgeted items that are bid will be based on budget history and inflation projections.
- Consideration will be given to the current economic conditions.
- Funding for Educational Cost Sharing will remain constant for 2017-2018.



**PRIORITIES**  
**2017-2018 BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET**

- Support funding for appropriate class sizes at all levels of instruction.
- Update all instructional materials for teachers and students as required through the curriculum renewal cycle for the current year.
- Continue a level funding plan for expansion and sustainability of technology with access and equity for all students.
- Support funding for the prioritized joint Capital Plan (Board of Education/Town of Newtown).
- Continue to pursue opportunities to share services, where appropriate, between the Board of Education and all town departments.



## Newsroom

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2014

### **U.S. Population Projections: 2014-2060**

December 10, 2014

Release Number: CB14-TPS.86

Projections of the U.S. resident population by age, sex, race, Hispanic origin and nativity annually over this time period. These are the second series of projections to be published based on the 2010 Census (updating projections released in 2012). They include the first projections by nativity to be published in 14 years. Internet address:

<<http://www.census.gov/population/projections/data/national/2014.html>>.

No news release associated with this product. Tip sheet only.

### **Contact**

Public Information Office

301-763-3030

[pio@census.gov](mailto:pio@census.gov)



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You are here: Census.gov (/) > People and Households (/people) > Population Projections Main (/population/projections/) > Data (/population/projections/data/) > National Population Projections (/population/projections/data/national/) > 2014 National Population Projections

# Population Projections

## 2014 National Population Projections

The Population Projections Program produces projections of the United States resident population by age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, and nativity. The 2014 National Projections are based on the July 1, 2013 population estimates, which are based on the 2010 Census, and provide projections of the population for July 1, 2014 to July 1, 2060. The projections were produced using a cohort-component method and are based on assumptions about future births, deaths, and net international migration. The Census Bureau releases new national projections periodically.

### 2014 National Population Projections

- [Press Release \(http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2014/cb14-tps86.html\)](http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2014/cb14-tps86.html)
- [Methodology and Assumptions \(/population/projections/files/methodology/methodstatement14.pdf\)](/population/projections/files/methodology/methodstatement14.pdf) [PDF] This document presents the methodology and assumptions used to produce the 2014 National Population Projections..
- [Summary Tables \(/population/projections/data/national/2014/summarytables.html\)](/population/projections/data/national/2014/summarytables.html) These tables present the results of the population projections for the years 2015 to 2060 in summary form by various characteristics to facilitate access to the data. Files are available in both Excel (.xls) and comma-separated value (.csv) formats.
- [Downloadable Files \(/population/projections/data/national/2014/downloadablefiles.html\)](/population/projections/data/national/2014/downloadablefiles.html) These files provide results of the population projections for 2014 to 2060 and are designed for people interested in obtaining detailed data of the population projections for analytical purposes. The population projections and components of population change by single year of age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, and nativity are available in comma-separated value (.csv) formats.
- [Publication \(/population/projections/data/national/2014/publications.html\)](/population/projections/data/national/2014/publications.html) These reports present findings from the 2014 National Projections.

[PDF] or (/main/www/pdf.html) denotes a file in Adobe's Portable Document Format (/main/www/pdf.html). To view the file, you will need the Adobe® Reader® (http://www.adobe.com/products/reader/) available free from Adobe.

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- 2010 Census (/www.census.gov/programs-surveys/docennial-census/2010-census.html)
- American Community Survey (/www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/)
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Source: U.S. Census Bureau | Population Projections | Last Revised: 2015-03-04T10:07:08-05:00



From: "Mary Ann Jacob" <mjacob4404@charter.net>  
 To: "Lynn Edwards" <lebedwards@charter.net>, "June Sgobbo" <june.sgobbo@charter.net>  
 Cc:  
 Date: Thursday November 17 2016 8:11:17PM

## Re: Resident input regarding 11/16 meeting

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Thanks Lynn, by copy of this letter to our clerk I'll ask her to include it in our minutes for last night's meeting.

Mary Ann

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 17, 2016, at 12:10 PM, Lynn Edwards <lebedwards@charter.net> wrote:

To the members of the Legislative Council; and Boards of Finance, Selectmen and Education:

First I would like to thank each of you for your service to our town. I realize the Board of Education alone will make a decision about whether to close Newtown Middle School, but I was witness to the comments among all the boards surrounding this issue last night, and I hope that a communication to all of you will provide information not addressed and help you understand some of the reasons I along with so very many residents oppose the closing and reconfiguration to grades 5-7 and 8-12. After giving last night's discussions some more consideration, I have added some thoughts to those I presented during voter comment at the end of the meeting. I respectfully request that you take the time to read through my comments.

I observed that something very important was missing in the discussions last night around closing the middle school. Personally I don't have a fear of 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> graders attending middle school around high schoolers. I attended a 7-12 school with a separate middle school wing. 7-12 schools are common and can be successful when structured properly (n.b., having proper structure is a key point). Grade 6-8 middle schools are also quite common. But an 8-12 configuration is very different from either of those. I suggest it speaks for itself that Dr. Erardi pointed out last evening that there are very few models of 8-12. It is so uncommon across the nation that it could be considered experimental. Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders would not be attending middle school within a high school, they would be a single grade of middle schoolers in classrooms within a high school. Not just be removing the middle school building from our district, we would be removing the middle school community from our district -- separating grades 7 and 8 from each other and taking away much of the opportunity and provision for emotional and social growth and support which exists in middle schools to support this singular time in their lives when they transition into young adulthood. Middle schools exist across our nation for an important reason. Young adolescents are neither simply older elementary school students nor younger high school students. The actual physical and hormonal changes of puberty have a profound impact upon the cognitive, social, and emotional lives of adolescents, and research supports that the changes during that time benefit from a unique educational community. The fact that the affected students are in the peak of their adolescence during grades 7 and 8 absolutely must be considered when debating the proposed



configurationAs the adults in their communityur obligation to provide for them within our schools consists of much morethan making space in a classroom with a teacher

What would we be preventing or harming, if we separate grades 7 and 8 from each other and cut in half their community of peers who are in a similar life stage, and also cut in half the middle school staff that surround them and come to know them during middle school? Having the same group of teachers and staff monitoring and observing our children through these often difficult years of adolescence is very important in identifying students who are struggling or becoming isolated. That continuity of staff members getting to know them and monitoring for those at risk and signs of difficulty throughout both grades 7 and 8 will be lost if we separate them into different schools. Our current Newtown students, in particular had special care and monitoring because many of them have been personally affected by 12/14 and are at greater risk for depression and struggles than the average child, because of the tragedy they lived through here. The current Reed students of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders were in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade on 12/14, and among them are some of those most affected by 12/14, where there were both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms in the front hallway at Sandy Hook School. The current 6<sup>th</sup> graders would potentially be the first class to enter the high school high grade. We are considering putting our most vulnerable students in a very unconventional configuration which places them at greater risk for struggling during adolescence than that which we confront them with our current configuration, one which we know is age-appropriate and offers exceptional support. We have a unique obligation to provide this particular group of students with the most supportive environment possible as they move completely through their years of education in our district. We should not eliminate the important community of support during adolescence offered to them in a middle school.

I am also concerned about what is lost if 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, as a single grade of middle schoolers at the high school, no longer have the experiences of clubs, events, and sports that offer the opportunity for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to interact together. Extracurricular and developmental activities with each other are extremely important for their social and emotional growth during adolescence, in addition to their value in expanding academic and other interests. It is part of the civic obligation of all adults in our community to provide an enriching and nurturing school environment to guide and engage students during these years, one which cultivates in them not just their intellect but also the core attributes defined in Newtown's character tree of responsibility, caring, respect, trustworthiness, perseverance, and citizenship.

As far as costs to taxpayers, another significant cost to our community that I do believe was addressed last night would be regarding real estate. There can be little doubt that having no middle school, and housing 8 graders separate from 7<sup>th</sup> graders in the high school, will negatively affect the desires of new families to move into our community and also depress home values for current residents – and there are plenty of nearby surrounding towns with good school systems to choose instead of Newtown. There are also the unknown costs to taxpayers, potentially quite high, if the building is turned back over to the town and renovated for use in another capacity (at taxpayer cost), and in addition to that, the cost of adding space in the district as soon as 8 years after closing NMS (by 2026-27) as projected will be needed.

The possible closing of NMS is being debated because of enrollment decline and the question of whether there will be taxpayer savings and/or better use of space and resources if NMS is closed. We are already more than

halfway through the current enrollment decline which began 9 years ago, after a peak enrollment in 2006-7. The projected nadir when K-12 enrollment will be lowest, is 7 years from now 2023-24; K-4 populations are expected to begin to increase in 2021-22, just 5 years from now. Medium enrollment projections anticipate a need for increased space as soon as 2026-27 if NMS is closed, just 8 years from the possible earliest implementation date in 2018-19; and based on real enrollment data from this year, projections are currently trending toward the high not medium numbers. Many members last night wondered aloud several times where to find the district's facility and enrollment study information and presentations – they are here:

<http://newtown1.schooldesk.net/DistrictInformation/BoardofEducation/FacilityConsiderations/tabid/98634/Default.aspx>

Enrollment decline is the only pertinent fact in this discussion; it is one of many. Residents should be informed about the decline, and the numbers have been shared with the community and district parents (Byrd Di and the PTSA/PTAs, for example). The district is projected to need increased space again (reopening NMS, adding onto existing, or building new) only 8 years after closing a school; residents should be informed of that. An 8-12 model is extremely rare in schools across the nation, and research supports unique middle school environments as best for the education of adolescents; residents should be informed of that. There are other potential costs to the taxpayer that were not addressed or quantified in the Cost/Saving Analysis (depending on what happens to the closed building); residents should be informed of that. Most residents know what it means in real numbers to an individual tax bill for the BOE budget to save \$1 million, or \$8 million over 8 years (I didn't before this analysis). Closing the facility is projected to translate to an average savings of \$100 a year (\$50 first year); residents should be informed of that. Sharing that information does not minimize the savings; quite the opposite – it makes it coherent for the individual taxpayer. Some will interpret that annual personal savings as relatively small, some not. If residents believe that amount of savings cannot justify the negative impact and risks to our students' education with reconfiguring the district to 5-7/8-12, those opinions must be noted and should be respected by our elected officials.

The vast majority of those with whom I have discussed this issue and who oppose the closing would not be opposed if the reconfiguration could support K-5/6-8/9-12 in a sustainable way. We realize that is not feasible now given the current building capacities and projected enrollments, but it makes the point that what some don't want to close a school, is that we want an educational configuration we can be confident will work well for the majority of students if a school is closed. Given its rarity across the nation and lack of research in support of it, I don't believe anyone can reasonably be confident that the currently proposed configuration will be best for the majority of our middle school aged children. There are many reasons to believe it will actually harm the social and emotional development of many of our adolescents. We are not able to quantifiably measure much of what our students will lose by taking away our current model – a model which we know gives our adolescents their best opportunities to excel and thrive, not only intellectually but socially and emotionally as well.

I believe the educational success, health, and well-being of our students should be kept at the forefront of these discussions. Adult concerns about this issue are what should matter to our elected officials – we must be the advocates for their best possible education within our budget, because they can't advocate for themselves. We must weigh the costs and benefits of all decisions. First do no harm. In my opinion, by any measure, the projected savings to taxpayers does not outweigh all the very real and potential costs to both our children and the taxpayers of closing the middle school and reconfiguring grades from our current very successful model to a

5-7/8-12 model, which is relatively experimental in its structure and risks harm to our students' social and emotional development during adolescence.

Respectfully

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