

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NEWINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
NEWINGTON, CT 06111**

Newington Town Hall  
Helen W. Nelson Meeting Room  
Wednesday, May 13, 2020 (Virtual)  
7:00 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Paul Vessella, Michael Branda, Dr. Bruce Fletcher, Emily Guion, Beth Manke Hutvagner, Steven Silvia, Cindy Stamm, Robert Tofeldt, Jessica Weaver

**ADMINISTRATION:** Dr. Maureen Brummett, Lou Jachimowicz, Wendy Crouse, Stephen Foresi, Kristen Freeman

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:** Logan Dumas, Lindsay Forauer

A. Call to Order

Chairperson Paul Vessella called the Regular Meeting of the Newington Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Michael Branda: Here  
Dr. Bruce Fletcher: Here  
Emily Guion: Here  
Beth Manke Hutvagner: Here  
Steven Silvia: Here  
Cindy Stamm: Here  
Robert Tofeldt: Here  
Paul Vessella: Here  
Jessica Weaver: Here

B. Presentation of Awards/Proclamations

1. Recognition – Board Student Representatives
2. Recognition of Mentors/Mentees

C. Public Participation on Any Matter Related to Board Responsibilities

D. Standing Committee Information Items

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1. Report – Finance Committee
2. Report – Facilities Committee
3. Report – Student Policy Committee
4. Report – Curriculum Committee (April 22, 2020)
5. Report – Executive Committee
6. Report – Student Representatives

**E. Other Business Information Items**

1. Report - On-Line Learning Survey Results
2. Discussion - Instructional Guidelines Regulations Update
3. Discussion/Possible Action – Use of School Building Fee

MOTION: Emily Guion moved the Board of Education not increase building use fees for the 2020-2021 school year. Jessica Weaver seconded.

Michael Branda voted yes  
Dr. Bruce Fletcher voted yes  
Emily Guion voted yes  
Beth Manke Hutvagner voted yes  
Steven Silvia did not vote  
Cindy Stamm voted yes  
Robert Tofeldt voted yes  
Paul Vessella voted yes  
Jessica Weaver voted yes

The motion passed 8-0.

4. Discussion/Possible Action – Meeting Dates 2020-2021

MOTION: Dr. Bruce Fletcher moved the Board of Education approve the following meeting dates for the 2020-2021 school year.

September 16, 2020  
September 30, 2020  
October 14, 2020  
October 28, 2020  
November 11, 2020  
December 16, 2020  
January 13, 2021  
January 27, 2021  
February 10, 2021  
February 24, 2021  
March 10, 2021  
March 24, 2021  
April 7, 2021  
April 21, 2021

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May 12, 2021

May 26, 2021

June 2, 2021

Michael Branda seconded.

Michael Branda voted yes  
Dr. Bruce Fletcher voted yes  
Emily Guion voted yes  
Beth Manke Hutvagner voted yes  
Steven Silvia did not vote  
Cindy Stamm voted yes  
Robert Tofeldt voted yes  
Paul Vessella voted yes  
Jessica Weaver voted yes

The motion passed 8-0.

5. Discussion/Possible Action – Revisions to School Calendar 2020-2021

MOTION: Emily Guion moved the Board of Education amend the 2020-2021 school calendar and all calendars going forward by eliminating the “Orange” Hours for Professional Learning/Early Release and replacing the hours with the “Yellow” Hours. Michael Branda seconded.

Michael Branda voted yes  
Dr. Bruce Fletcher voted yes  
Emily Guion voted yes  
Beth Manke Hutvagner voted yes  
Steven Silvia voted yes  
Cindy Stamm voted yes  
Robert Tofeldt did not vote  
Paul Vessella voted yes  
Jessica Weaver voted yes

The motion passed 8-0.

6. Discussion/Possible Action – School Calendar 2021-2022

MOTION: Dr. Bruce Fletcher moved the Board of Education adopt the 2021-2022 school calendar as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. Michael Branda seconded.

Michael Branda voted yes  
Dr. Bruce Fletcher voted yes  
Emily Guion voted yes  
Beth Manke Hutvagner voted yes  
Steven Silvia voted no

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Cindy Stamm voted yes  
Robert Tofeldt voted yes  
Paul Vessella voted yes  
Jessica Weaver voted yes

The motion passed 8-1.

7. Discussion - Naming of Entrance "Road" to Newington High School
8. Discussion - Textbooks
9. Discussion - Graduation Update and Awards Ceremonies

F. Public Participation on Any Matter Related to Board Responsibilities

G. Remarks by Board Members

H. Adjournment

MOTION: Michael Branda moved to adjourn. Emily Guion seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Silvia, Secretary

Debra O. Craig, Board Clerk

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Jennifer Freese  
109 Goodale Drive

Ms. Freese feels as a parent and teacher in Newington that distance learning is an incredible experience.

She is disheartened by the social media comments regarding this year's graduation. She feels Dr. Brummett, Terra Tigno and the administration have done an amazing job putting together this experience during these times.

Jennifer Woods  
340 Robbins Avenue

Ms. Woods is a parent of a graduating senior. She is disheartened with this year's graduation decision. Would like to see plans reconsidered if the situation changes.

Her son was left off email list containing

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information and survey.

Forrest Helvie  
282 Lamplighter Lane

Mr. Helvie gave a shout-out to his childrens' teachers. They have been awesome!

He is disappointed for the graduating seniors, but applauds the staff for the program they have put together. It is much more than other schools, colleges and universities are doing.

Hannah Siegel  
57 Meadowview Court

Ms. Siegel is very thankful for everything Newington is doing during this time.

She would like to see the results of the graduation survey released.

Jane Siegel  
57 Meadowview Court

Ms. Siegel would like the Board to reconsider their decision regarding Veterans' Day. She would like to see it go back to being a school holiday.

Dana Havens  
113 Stoddard Avenue

Ms. Havens would like coordination between teachers put in place for Google Meet. One of her children has experienced an issue when multiple teachers have wanted to meet at the same time.

She likes the graduation plans. She did suggest administration checkout the latest information from the Governor regarding outdoor graduation ceremonies.