

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

Newington Town Hall  
Helen W. Nelson Meeting Room  
Wednesday, March 8, 2017  
7:00 p.m.

**INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

PRESENT: Chairperson Nancy Petronio, Sharon Braverman, Emily Guion, Joshua Shulman, Jane Ancona Siegel, Steven Silvia, Cindy Stamm, Robert Tofeldt, Paul Vessella

ADMINISTRATION: Dr. William Collins, Pamela Muraca,  
Lou Jachimowicz, Wendy Crouse, Stephen Foresi

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Lukas Houle, Jeremy Rippel

A. Call to Order

Chairperson Nancy Petronio called the Informational Meeting of the Newington Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

B. Presentation of Awards/Proclamations

1. Board Appreciation Month Recognition

C. Public Participation on Any Matter Related to Board Responsibilities

D. Standing Committee Information Items

1. Report – Finance Committee
2. Report – Facilities Committee
3. Report – Student Policy Committee
4. Report – Curriculum Committee
5. Report – Executive Committee
6. Report – Student Representatives

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### **E. Other Business Information Items**

1. Report – Enrollment Projections 2017-2018

Mr. Lou Jachimowicz left the meeting at 7:37 p.m. and returned at 7:41 p.m.

2. Report – Health Benefits Fund Performance Fiscal 2016-2017
3. Discussion – Feasibility Study

### **F. Public Participation on Any Matter Related to Board Responsibilities**

### **G. Remarks by Board Members**

### **H. Adjournment**

MOTION: Jane Ancona Siegel moved to adjourn. Joshua Shulman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Vessella, Secretary

Debra O. Craig, Board Clerk

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

David Milardo, Principal  
John Wallace Middle School

Along with Student Council Officers  
Danielle Kuwornu, Eli Roberts,  
James Thibeault, Liliana Amaral,  
and Menna Majdoub

Mr. Milardo thanked the Board on behalf of the John Wallace students. He supports all the work the Board has done that he has seen over the last 28 years and as a student himself before that. They have done what is right for the students. Their support makes a difference for his school.

The students spoke to how lucky they were to get the quality education they are receiving. They thanked the Board for the Chromebooks, the Aerospace Academy, their wonderful school, and for preparing them for a successful future. The Board deserves all the thanks they can get.

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Jason Smith, Principal  
Anna Reynolds Elementary School

Along with Student Council Officers  
Hassan Munawar, Katherine Simone,  
and Kaylee Wilson

On behalf of all the Anna Reynolds students, the students thanked the Board for everything they do for them. They know it is a challenging and difficult job. They also thanked Ms. Carlson, their art teacher, for helping them create the canvas with inspirational sayings as a gift of appreciation for the Board members.

Beverly Lawrence, Principal  
Ruth Chaffee Elementary School

Along with Student Council Officers  
Kamryn Gaydos, Madeline Michaud,  
Avery Bonet and Matthew Vuong

Mrs. Lawrence thanked the Board for volunteering their time and effort.

To show their appreciation for all their hard work and dedication, the students presented the Board members with a coffee mug hand painted with a heart. They also thanked Mrs. Gajda and Ms. Molter, their art teachers, for their creativity.

James Marciano, Principal  
Elizabeth Green Elementary School

Along with Third Graders  
Julien Baez, Zoe Hillman,  
Maiya Simpson, and Zahra Khan

Mr. Marciano thanked the Board on behalf of the Elizabeth Green students, staff, and families for their innovation and economic work. He knows it is hard to do. He also thanked Mrs. Gajda, their art teacher for their appreciation gift for the Board members. He hopes they enjoy the word picture frame.

The students thanked the Board for their service and for everything they have done.

Michael Gaydos, Principal  
John Paterson Elementary School

Along with Student Council Officers  
Olivia Grattage – President,  
Jillian Bouchard – Vice President,  
Tamaya Barnes – Secretary, and  
Ava dos Santos - Treasurer

Mr. Gaydos thanked the Board on behalf of the Paterson community. He knows it is a difficult job, and it is appreciated.

The students acknowledged to the Board that they know it is an important job they do, and it is nice to say thank you in person. The students also thanked their art teacher, Ms. Molter, for her help in creating their lady bug planter appreciation gifts.

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Denise Siano, Teacher and Student Council  
Advisor  
Martin Kellogg Middle School

Along with Student Council Officers  
Natalia Abdou, President and Christina Lu,  
Vice President

James Wenker, Principal  
Newington High School

Jeremy Rippel, Student

Representing the Martin Kellogg family, Mrs.  
Siano thanked the Board for their support.

The students thanked the Board for the  
Biomedical Academy and presented the Board  
members with a mug as a thank you.

Jeremy read a thank you letter on behalf of all  
students from Emily Carle, President of the  
Student Council, for how much the Board of  
Education does for all of them.