

# **NEWINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**September 13, 2017 – Informational Meeting**

## **Presentations of Awards/Proclamations**

There were no awards or proclamations.

## **Other Business Information Items**

Dr. Collins highlighted the activities taking place during the summer months, convocation and opening day activities throughout the district. Dr. Collins presented enrollment information. Dr. Collins also presented the mission, vision, direction for the district.

Ms. Kristen Freeman, Director of Secondary Education, provided a brief overview of Mastery-Based Learning. Newington Public School's Strategic Plan provides the directional compass that guides virtually every aspect of our district. The strategic plan, referred to as NPS 2025, is organized around five core focus areas that represent the dimensions of Newington Public Schools. Focus Area 1: Student Performance and Growth includes Goal 1.1, which states, "*All students will receive a high quality personalized education which is rigorous, relevant, and engaging.*" Newington Public Schools have been examining practices to support Mastery-Based Learning (MBL), a method of instruction where the focus is on the role of feedback in learning. MBL places emphasis on college and career learning expectations, ensuring quality instruction and curriculum that are aligned to graduation requirements and state standards.

Dr. Collins presented an overview of future agenda items for the 2017-2018 year by month highlighting the necessary work of the full Board. All suggestions for possible discussion items have been included in listing future agenda items or committee tasks.

Dr. Collins presented the schedule for Board of Education members to attend PTA/PTO/PAC meetings for the 2017-2018 school year.

Dr. Collins presented a listing of the gifts under \$500 donated during the 2016-2017 school year. The Board members had previously received notification of gifts over \$500 as they were accepted during the school year.

Dr. Collins presented the 2018-2019 budget guidelines including the various recommendations from Board members over the past six months. The Superintendent highlighted staff recruitment/retention, class sizes, curriculum needs, technology, facilities, and support for learning students need in order to be competitive in future years. Additionally, Special Education outplacements will need to be budgeted as a gross amount due to uncertainty of State funding and estimated breakage should no longer be included for any anticipated vacancies due to the uncertain nature of teacher and administrative shortages.

The guidelines highlight 23 specific areas as well as the mission of the school district, major objectives and budgeting parameters. Board members will submit recommended changes for consideration prior to action at the next meeting.

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Dr. Collins discussed capital projects. Each year, the Facilities Committee recommends capital projects to the full Board. Over the last two years, there has been much discussion regarding items that qualify as capital projects. According to the Newington Town Charter, a Capital Improvement Project is a single project with a cost of \$25,000 or more and a life expectancy of at least seven years. Projects that do not meet the criteria must be included in the operating budget. Guidance was requested from the Board regarding the budgeting of vehicles and other items that do not meet the criteria, as well as other items that meet the technical criteria but have not traditionally been funded through CIP.

The Board of Education discussed an adjustment to this year's calendar due to the recent decision to close Town Hall on Veteran's Day. Because our non-instructional services (maintenance, custodians, secretaries, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, etc.) are shared with the Town of Newington, we must follow what is decided by Town Government as we can't operate without these services. The Board of Education will vote at their next meeting to close on Veteran's Day (Friday, November 10, 2017) and add the day to the end of the year in June.