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Newtown Board Of Education Ad Hoc Facilities Planning
Committee
July 23, 2026

Council Chambers
3 Primrose St.
Newtown, CT 06470
5:30 PM

As stewards of Newtown Public Schools, we commit to conducting ourselves with honesty, integrity, and respect. Guided by Newtown's Core Values and the Portrait of a Graduate, we will strive to prepare every student to think critically and innovate with curiosity; adapt, persevere, and pursue goals with strategic focus; act with compassion, collaborate across differences, and communicate with clarity. We hold ourselves to the same attributes we seek to instill in our students, embodying them in our work together.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
4. Continued review and discussion of enrollment projections, potential grade configurations, school capacity, and anticipated facility needs. Possible action regarding next steps, including the potential engagement of a consultant to support further analysis and decision-making.
5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
6. ADJOURNMENT

***During the first Public Participation, the Board welcomes commentary regarding items on the agenda. After being recognized, please state your name and address for the record. Per Board Policy 9325, we request that speakers be respectful and limit comments to not more than three minutes, and we note that public complaints about employees are not permitted during meetings. All such concerns should instead be submitted to the Superintendent. During the second Public Participation, commentary may address the agenda or may introduce issues for the Board to consider in the future. The Board does not engage in dialogue during either public comment period. If you desire more information or answers to specific questions, please email the Board: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us*



Board of Education

Newtown, Connecticut

Minutes of the Board of Education Ad Hoc Facilities Planning Committee Meeting

Date: July 6, 2026 **Location:** Council Chambers, 3 Primrose St., Newtown, CT 06470

Committee Members Present: Anne Uberti (Superintendent), Frank Purcaro (Assistant Superintendent), Steven Goodridge (BOF), Bruce Walczak (First Selectman), Alison Plante (BOE Chair), Shannon Tomai (BOE Member - Virtual), John Vouros (BOE Member), Ben Rubin (LC), Jess Fonovic (Math Specialist, Reed), Jim Ross (Principal, NMS), Deb Mailloux-Petersen (Director Special Education), Jessica Ibbitson (Community/Parent Representative).

Committee Members Not Present: John Barlow (Director of Facilities), Kiley Galterio (Community/Parent Representative).

Item 1: Call to Order

Superintendent Uberti called the meeting to order at **4:00 p.m.**

Item 2: Consultant-Facilitated Discussion on Committee Priorities and Decision-Making Criteria *Full presentation* [HERE](#)

The committee engaged in a facilitated session focused on evaluating school configuration options by filtering them through three specific "buckets" of criteria to move toward a district master plan.

Decision-Making Framework:

- **Educational:** Focused on mission alignment, student transitions, and staffing/certification impacts.
- **Fiscal:** Analyzed total cost of ownership, ROI (energy efficiency), and state reimbursement potential.
- **Political:** Considered community perception and minimizing disruption, specifically regarding redistricting impacts.

Options & Discussion Highlights:

- **Options 1 & 2:** Members viewed these as limited solutions that address middle school facility needs but fail to resolve elementary capacity issues. Additionally, these options do not address the educational and transitional challenges of operating two separate, two year schools. Members also emphasized negative academic impacts and the vital need for stable, multi-year relationships during a child's most challenging developmental years.
- **Option 3 (New 6-8 Middle School):** Generally identified as the most viable "master plan" approach. While it carries a higher upfront cost, it provides high flexibility for repurposing existing facilities like Reed for elementary use.
- **Key Risks/Concerns:** The committee noted significant concerns regarding the political and emotional impact of moving students (e.g., from Middlegate to Reed), as well as the current lack of hard data on enrollment projections and cost estimates.

Item 3: Next Steps

The committee identified the following action items to be completed before the next meeting:

- **Waterfall Scenarios:** Develop specific "3A, 3B, and 3C" pathways detailing the 6-8 middle school transition and its effects on elementary configurations.
- **Data Gathering:** Obtain updated enrollment projections, capacity studies, and preliminary cost ballparks.
- **Independent Review:** Members will independently apply the established criteria to the new scenarios prior to the next reconvening.
- **Next Meeting:** July 23, 2026 at 5:30pm Council Chambers 3 Primrose Street

Item 4: Public Participation

No public comment was recorded during the call-in session.

Item 5: Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Mandi Poseno

Mandi Poseno, Recording Secretary