

Newfound Area School District

Budget Committee Meeting

Susan Colby, Bristol, spoke in favor of full-day kindergarten. She supports the idea of full-day kindergarten at all schools to ensure they are all learning the same and have the same advantages going into 1st grade.

Fred Robinson, Danbury, posed a question on the wording of the article. What does “as a minimum” mean? Mr. Barnett stated that this is a petitioned article and this is how it was submitted.

Vincent Paul Migliore, Bridgewater, he stated that after the school board discussion, he was approached by a member of the public in support of this issue. He stated that there was a question about adding a half-day program as an option for parents, but the verbiage “at a minimum” seems to mean he would like to see both options. Regarding the cost of daycare, it is not an issue for tax payers to concern themselves with. He does not feel that is a reason for supporting full-day kindergarten. The sole reason for support of this program should be to improve student outcomes. He discussed the steps the board has taken in the past years to improve outcomes and that he feels full-day kindergarten is the next logical step. He also feels it will reduce special education expenditures over the long term. He has a number of questions regarding the implementation of the program including limitations and funding issues. He requests the public be informed of the process. He feels that the “will of the people” will overcome any tax cap issues.

Simon Barnett closed the hearing at 6:52. The school board and budget committees will be meeting this evening.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly Bliss
Budget Committee Clerk