

**New Milford Board of Education  
Meeting Minutes  
May 20, 2025  
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
2025 MAY 22 PM 3:10  
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NEW MILFORD, CT

Present:	Mrs. Leslie Sarich, Chairperson Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mr. Dean Barile <i>arrived 6:47pm</i> Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Brian McCauley Mr. Tom O'Brien Mr. Randall Scofield
Absent:	Mr. Eric Hansell Mrs. Sarah Herring

Also Present:	Dr. Janet Parlato, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Mr. Jeffrey Turner, Director of Technology Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Mrs. Teresa Kavanagh, Director of Human Services Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Mr. Matthew Cunningham, Facilities Director Mr. Antonio Caldereri, Student Representative Ms. Penelope Morrissey, Student Representative
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1.	A.	<b>Call to Order</b> Pledge of Allegiance The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mrs. Leslie Sarich, Chairperson. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	<b>Call to Order</b> A. Pledge of Allegiance
2.	A.	<b>Public Comment</b> There was none.	<b>Public Comment</b>
3.		<b>IDEAL STUDENT RECOGNITION: SARAH NOBLE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL</b> Dr. Parlato stated it is a special treat to have the members of the Sarah Noble Intermediate School Jazz Band. They are students who represent our ideals of focus, heart, collaboration, and creativity. Dr. Parlato stated the music program is a gem for the district and thanked the students and Mrs.	<b>IDEAL STUDENT RECOGNITION: SARAH NOBLE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL</b>

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		<p>Anderson for their performance.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato recognized Isaac Van Vranken, Harper Allen, Adelle Rowe, Ania Lazzaro, Ian Ewers, Andrew Fodor, Owen Kennedy, Quinn Lewis, Henry Bates, Penelope Pietrantonio, Henry Vermillion, Matej Vaclavik, Doug Muckerman, Matthew Hernandez, Freya Jones, Annabelle Krasselt, and Ava Genualdi.</p>	
4.		<p><b>RETIREE RECOGNITION</b></p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated she wanted to recognize this year's retirees who represent over 350 years of service to the field of education. Retirees included Ann Marie Barrett from Schaghticoke Middle School (SMS) with 25 years of service, Debbie Clark from Central Office (CO) with 38 years of service, Elvira Gillotti from New Milford High School (NMHS) with 21 years of service, Barbara Hayes from Sarah Noble Intermediate School (SNIS) with 25 years of service, Deborah Knipple from NMHS with 22 years of service, Roxanne Kraft from Litchfield Hills Transition Center (LHTC) with 37 years of service, Heather Morin from SMS with 26 years of service, Tracy Nevins from SMS with 29 years of service, Laura Olson from CO with 30 years of service, Linda Robinson from Hill &amp; Plain School (HPS) with 23 years of service, Utina Ruggio from SNIS with 16 years of service, and Annetta Volinski from SMS with 49 years of service.</p> <p><i>Board paused at 6:59pm</i> <i>Board resumed at 7:14pm</i></p>	<b>RETIREE RECOGNITION</b>
5.		<p><b>PTO REPORT</b></p> <p>Megan Byrd stated the PTO celebrated the teachers for teacher appreciation week. They are assisting with field days at all the schools and looking forward to send-off celebrations. The clothing drive is coming to an end on May 31st. The drop off area is at the front of the John Pettibone Community Center. May 28th is Scholarship Night for the seniors. Mrs. Byrd stated the PTO worked quickly with the district to put together an "I Voted" sticker</p>	<b>PTO REPORT</b>

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		contest, with designs being created by K-8 students. She is hoping it is a tradition that will continue.	
6.		<p><b>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT</b></p> <p>The board noted this was Mr. Caldareri's last board meeting as a student representative and thanked him for his service. Mr. Caldareri stated at SNIS, each class had an in-house field trip through the Maritime Aquarium; they also had a Mariachi band come and perform. The 5th grade is in full swing with its walking project. They have had several authors come in to speak and meet the students. At HPS, the classes are doing their ABC countdown. Mrs. Grey was voted one of the teachers of the year. The 2nd graders harvested lettuce and radishes from Barkely's backyard garden and enjoyed them at lunch.</p> <p>Ms. Morrissey stated SMS had a full slew of spring concerts. They had their first ever evening Health and Community Fair. PTO held a Scholastic Book Fair. Field trips included the 6th grade chorus going to NES and the 7th grade chorus going to Chestnut Grove. The band, chorus, and orchestra traveled to participate in the Great East Music Festival. They also toured and performed for students at NES, HPS, and SNIS.</p>	<p><b>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT</b></p>
7.	A.	<p><b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</b></p> <p><b>1. Regular Meeting Minutes April 22, 2025</b></p> <p><i>Mr. Barile moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes, April 22, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Scofield. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p><b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</b></p> <p><b>1. Regular Meeting Minutes April 22, 2025</b></p> <p>Motion made and passed to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes, April 22, 2025.</p>
8.		<p><b>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</b></p> <p>Dr. Parlato reiterated her gratitude to the retirees and thanked them again. Dr. Parlato then stated she wanted to thank those who reached out to her directly regarding the schools, in general, and the</p>	<p><b>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</b></p>

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		budget. Dr. Parlato stated she appreciated that residents contacted her with questions rather than relying on social media. It was refreshing to be able to provide facts.	
9.		<b>BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b> Mrs. Sarich stated the focus has been on the budget and no matter the outcome there will be work ahead.	<b>BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b>
10.	<p><b>A. Policy</b> Mrs. McNerney stated the Policy meeting was cancelled due to the Annual Town Budget Meeting being the same night. There are no policies for review or action on the agenda this evening.</p> <p><b>B. Committee on Learning</b> Mrs. Sarich stated the Committee on Learning meeting was cancelled due to the Annual Town Budget Meeting being the same night.</p> <p><b>C. Facilities</b> Mr. O'Brien stated the facilities items on the agenda are all positive things. Earlier in the evening, the board had a chance to preview the new and improved planetarium. Mr. O'Brien thanked Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Turner for all their hard work and looks forward to the use of the planetarium.</p> <p><b>D. Operations</b> Mrs. Faulenbach stated the monthly reports will be reviewed as we prepare for the end of year rollout.</p>	<p><b>SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS</b></p> <p><b>A. Policy</b></p> <p><b>B. Committee on Learning</b></p> <p><b>C. Facilities</b></p> <p><b>D. Operations</b></p>	<p><b>SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS</b></p> <p><b>A. Policy</b></p> <p><b>B. Committee on Learning</b></p> <p><b>C. Facilities</b></p> <p><b>D. Operations</b></p>
11.	<p><b>A. Monthly Reports</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Budget Position dated April 22, 2025</b></li> <li><b>Purchase Resolution: D-794</b></li> <li><b>Request for Budget Transfers</b></li> </ol> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated that the Capital Reserve still has items going against it and there will be action</p>	<p><b>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</b></p> <p><b>A. Monthly Reports</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Budget Position dated April 22, 2025</b></li> <li><b>Purchase Resolution: D-794</b></li> <li><b>Request for Budget Transfers</b></li> </ol>	<p><b>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</b></p> <p><b>A. Monthly Reports</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Budget Position dated April 22, 2025</b></li> <li><b>Purchase Resolution: D-794</b></li> <li><b>Request for Budget Transfers</b></li> </ol>

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	<p>towards that dollar amount. The current amount is not reflective of the future transitions and the actual number is significantly less.</p> <p>Mr. Giovannone confirmed that at least \$1,800,000 is still to be drawn upon the Capital Reserve, including the ESG payment. Mrs. Faulenbach noted that these types of reports are a snapshot in time that are not reflective of future actions. It will not be reflected until the action occurs.</p> <p>Mr. Giovannone stated the budget position reflects everything that has been posted in the MUNIS account system. It does not include the 5 year capital plan or obligations to ESG for energy conservation matters.</p> <p>Mr. Scofield asked if there was enough budgeted in the Legal Services line considering there are three bargaining units negotiating this year. Mr. Giovannone stated there should be enough budgeted.</p> <p><i>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve the Budget Position dated April 30, 2025; Purchase Resolution D-794; and Request for Budget Transfers. Seconded by Mr. McCauley. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>	
<b>B.</b>	<p><b>2025-26 Educator Evaluation Plan</b></p> <p>Ms. Hollander stated this is a new endeavor and focuses on teacher/educator professional learning. It's an educator's way of addressing their own personal growth. This model provides additional opportunities with a growth mindset. It has been approved by the State and by the Professional Learning Evaluation Committee.</p> <p><i>Mr. O'Brien moved to approve the 2025-26 Educator Evaluation Plan. Seconded by Mr. McCauley. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p>Motion made to approve the Budget Position dated April 30, 2025; Purchase Resolution D-794; and Request for Budget Transfers. Motion passed.</p> <p><b>B. 2025-26 Educator Evaluation Plan</b></p> <p>Motion made to approve the 2025-26 Educator Evaluation Plan. Motion passed.</p>

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12.	<p><b>ITEMS OF INFORMATION</b></p> <p><b>A. Employment Report - May 2025</b> Mrs. Kavanagh stated there were many years of experience within the retirements. There are a few staff appointments to replace those who are leaving.</p> <p><b>B. Enrollment Report - May 1, 2025</b> Dr. Parlato stated it shows stability, and K-8 is in line with projection.</p> <p><b>C. E-Rate Funding Notification</b> Mr. Turner stated the district was awarded the E-Rate Funding. It essentially covers 60% of the costs towards capital improvements.</p> <p><b>D. IDEA Grant Fiscal Year 2026</b> Mrs. Olson stated this is a non-competitive grant. The funds are split into two categories: preschool and educational school age students. It is for students with disabilities. The funds are used towards enhancing parent participation, transition for students, and money for instruction. There is also support at the non-public schools in town: Faith Academy and Canterbury. Over 90% of the grant is used towards staffing, which includes five full-time staff and seven paraeducators. Mrs. Olson thanked Mr. Giovannone for all his hard work in maintaining the district's fiscal responsibility.</p> <p>Mr. Barile asked if the district receives the grant every year. Mrs. Olson stated that New Milford does receive it every year and they have two years to spend the funds, so it overlaps slightly.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the grant was frontloaded. Mrs. Olson stated 80% is used in the first year and the remaining 20% is used in the second year.</p> <p><b>E. Ongoing Facilities Projects</b> Mr. Cunningham stated last month the Board awarded bids for the NMHS gutters and the HPS canopy. Those projects will start once the school</p>	<p><b>ITEMS OF INFORMATION</b></p> <p><b>A. Employment Report - May 2025</b></p> <p><b>B. Enrollment Report - May 1, 2025</b></p> <p><b>C. E-Rate Funding Notification</b></p> <p><b>D. IDEA Grant Fiscal Year 2026</b></p> <p><b>E. Ongoing Facilities Projects</b></p>
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		<p>year is complete. The replacement plan for the underground storage tank at SMS is being developed by Weston &amp; Sampson. That bid will go out this week. There were concerns regarding dampness in classrooms at SNIS. Mr. Cunningham stated he met with O&amp;G this past fall (who did original work in the building) and came to the conclusion that the dampness was being caused by the dielectric unions used to stop the galvanic reactions. Over the years, the rubber gaskets have begun to leak. Through thoughtful planning, the facilities team planned out where the unions were and replaced 66 of them over spring break.</p> <p>Mr. Barile asked if it was just heating. Mr. Cunningham stated yes, there are 70 unit ventilators.</p> <p>Mr. O'Brien noted that this was believed to be a condensation issue and the projected cost to fix it would have been tens of thousands of dollars. Mr. O'Brien stated it was great that the work was kept in-house and the team was able to make the repairs. Mr. Cunningham stated the work done should provide a better atmosphere.</p> <p>Mr. Barile asked if all the rooms had returns. Mr. Cunningham stated there are exhaust fans. In the summer months there is not much that can be done but to bring in some air.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated this issue has been an ongoing discussion. It's great work to have it done in- house and within budget.</p> <p>Mr. Cunningham stated that based on the trades involved, the scope of work, and having to shut down wings of the school, it would have been tens of thousands of dollars.</p> <p>Mr. Cunningham stated that with the facilities team doing projects like this in-house, the group will feel more confident on future projects.</p>	
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		<p>Mrs. Sarich stated the district is lucky for the facilities team.</p> <p>Mr. Cunningham continued to speak of the ongoing facilities projects, stating they are looking into a culinary program for NMHS. They recently toured Newtown High School to see an example. The project is in its very beginning stages.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated one of the best parts of her job is to be able to dream things up. The culinary program is one of those dreams. It is a wonderful opportunity for anyone interested in the culinary arts or hospitality.</p> <p><b>F. Field Trip Report</b>  Mrs. Faulenbach stated it is important to get kids out to experience things.</p> <p><b>G. Fundraising Report</b>  Dr. Parlato stated that high school sports and PTO are raising money.</p>	<p><b>F. Field Trip Report</b></p> <p><b>G. Fundraising Report</b></p>
13.		<p><b>ADJOURN</b>  <i>Mrs. O'Brien moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:46p.m. Seconded by Mr. McCauley. Vote passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p><b>ADJOURN</b>  Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

Respectfully Submitted,



Mrs. Tammy McInerney  
Secretary  
New Milford Board of Education