

**New Milford Board of Education
 Meeting Motions and Minutes
 December 16, 2025
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

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 NEW MILFORD, CT

Present:	Mrs. Leslie Sarich, Chairperson Mr. Eric Hansell, Vice Chairperson Mrs. Sarah Herring, Secretary Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Assistant Secretary, <i>arrived 6:31pm</i> Mr. Dean Barile Mr. Joseph Failla Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Brian McCauley Mr. Tom O'Brien
Absent:	

Also Present:	Dr. Janet Parlato, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kimberly Culkin, Director of Student Services Mrs. Sandra Sullivan, Director of Food Services Ms. Penelope Morrissey, Student Representative Mr. Mark Porter, Student Representative
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1.	A.	Call to Order 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.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance
2.	A.	Public Comment There was none.	Public Comment
3.		IDEAL STUDENT RECOGNITION: NEW MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL Dr. Parlato stated these students were nominated based on their collaboration, heart, creativity and focus. Dr. Parlato recognized the following students: Antonella Galarza-Vargas, Zachary Pina, Iris Gaudenzi, Lindsay Haleks, Grace Isaacs, Victoria Garcia, Emma Coleman, Luke Williams, Lurinz Serrano-Santiago Sophie Vaughan and Marcos Pereira Euriques.	IDEAL STUDENT RECOGNITION: NEW MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL

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4.	<p>PTO REPORT Mrs. Lang, PTO President for Hill & Plain, stated all 3 of the elementary schools did their holiday stores and there is a plan to have a staff treat bar before the holiday break. Hill and Plain School (HPS) created a partnership with Kind Words to create a “Be Kind” mural at HPS. Students will help in the creation of the mural with an installation the last week of April. HPS also did a “Be Kind” challenge for the 67th day of school.</p>	<p>PTO REPORT</p>
5.	<p>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES’ REPORT Mr. Porter stated the Northville Elementary School’s (NES) marking period ended and progress reports went home Friday. They celebrated ugly sweater day. December 23rd is a school wide pajama day and students are encouraged to bring in a dollar to donate to the Children’s Medical Center. HPS had a fancy dress up day, a 50’s day, where the students dressed up on the 50th day of school and “Balloons over Broadway.” The high school and middle school visited to participate in a lab class and give feedback to the students about literacy. NMHS Children’s Literacy students visited to share recent books they had written.</p> <p>Ms. Morrissey stated at Sarah Noble Intermediate School (SNIS), progress reports went home. 5th grade classes collected money for families through Santa Fund. SNIS students performed in 4 concerts. Schaghticoke had their staff vs. student volleyball game and they are looking forward to more concerts this week. There was no report from the high school.</p>	<p>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES’ REPORT</p>
6.	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regular Meeting Minutes November 18, 2025 2. Special Meeting Minutes November 18, 2025 3. Special Meeting Minutes November 24, 2025 	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regular Meeting Minutes November 18, 2025 2. Special Meeting Minutes November 18, 2025

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	<p>Mr. O’Brien asked for an amendment to the November 18th meeting minutes. Mr. O’Brien requested that it be noted for the record, when he commented on the Employment Report, he was happy to see that there were no “certified staff resignations,” not “non-certified staff resignations.” Mr. O’Brien wanted to make a point that it was nice to see certified staff not leaving for other districts.</p> <p>Mr. Hansell noted he was not at the November 24th meeting, and questioned being able to approve the minutes. Mrs. Faulenbach clarified that Mr. Hansell, and any other board member, can vote on minutes if they have read them and feel confident with the content, even if they were not in attendance for the meeting.</p> <p><i>Mr. McCauley moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes, November 18, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes November 18, 2025 and Special Meeting Minutes November 24, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Barile. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p>3. Special Meeting Minutes November 24, 2025</p> <p>Motion made and passed to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes, November 18, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes November 18, 2025 and Special Meeting Minutes November 24, 2025. Motion passed.</p>
7.	<p>SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT Dr. Parlato stated there is a lot of excitement heading toward holiday break, which includes many gatherings. Dr. Parlato stated she wished the New Milford Public School community a great time off and a fantastic 2026. As we head into January she will share the 2026/27 budget.</p>	<p>SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT</p>
8.	<p>BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT Mrs. Sarich wished everyone a happy holidays and a wonderful 2026.</p>	<p>BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT</p>
9.	<p>SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT’S A. Policy <i>December 2nd meeting cancelled - no report.</i> B. Committee on Learning <i>December 2nd meeting cancelled - no report.</i> C. Facilities Mr. O’Brien stated RFPs have been issued for the ongoing projects. At the recent MBC meeting it was</p>	<p>SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT’S A. Policy B. Committee on Learning C. Facilities</p>

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	<p>decided to pursue the roof option that required a grant application. This decision was passed by Town Council, which included resolutions that the state requires the district to have in order to apply for the grant. MBC will oversee the hiring of the architect, issuing the RFP and soliciting bids. The hope is for the project to be completed over the summer but the timing will be tight.</p> <p>Mr. O'Brien stated Mr. Cunningham started an elevator due diligence survey. Mr. Cunningham has hired an independent firm to look into the mechanics or the elevators in each school, and a report should be coming soon. Dr. Parlato stated this company will help prioritize the fixes.</p> <p>Mr. Barile asked if there were deadlines for any grants. Dr. Parlato stated there are no deadlines but proper documentation is required. Only the Superintendent can submit the documents.</p> <p>D. Operations Mrs. Faulenbach stated the minutes capture everything. The Capital Reserve account is showing actual funds, which will change in February, pending final audit. There is a budget transfer that does not require a motion, but it's on the report for transparency. There will be an update on food services tonight.</p>	<p>D. Operations</p>
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<p>10.</p>	<p>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</p> <p>A. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget Position dated November 30, 2025 2. Purchase Resolution: D-801 3. Request for Budget Transfers <p>Mr. Failla asked about the transfer of \$25,000 from the CNA and EMT training to Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) training, noting we already do deescalation training. After the \$25,000 is transferred</p>	<p>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</p> <p>A. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget Position dated November 30, 2025 2. Purchase Resolution: D-801 3. Request for Budget Transfers
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	<p>there will be additional funds needed to cover the cost. Mr. Failla asked what the benefit was by utilizing the program and if it means there will not be a CNA and EMT training going forward.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated the transfer of \$25,000 from Professional Services for the CNA and EMT training is a one-time contribution. The CNA and EMT program will be offered next year, provided there is an instructor available. This year, in place of the CNA and EMT program, they are offering the CPI training.</p> <p>Mr. Failla asked how much will be needed in addition to the \$25,000 to cover the cost of the CPI training. Dr. Culkin stated it is roughly \$10,000-\$12,000. The district needs a more robust and in-depth training for staff. Students are demonstrating more complex profiles and staff needs to be more skilled. The student behavior is having an impact on the school day. There is a need to deepen our strategies so we are meeting the needs of staff, who are repeatedly engaging with these students, and ensuring school safety.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated staff are reporting more injuries and the training will help alleviate that. Mr. Failla asked if there has been an increase in workers comp claims. Dr. Parlato stated yes. Mr. Failla stated he understands the cost is being offset this year, but was concerned with the cost over time. Dr. Parlato stated they would share future costs, stating the training is better than what is currently offered.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated they cannot vote on the transfer since it is not going over major object codes, but it can be discussed and voted on at budget. This move was prompted because the district couldn't offer CNA or EMT training. Safety training is important given the escalation that is happening with the staff and students.</p>	
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	<p>Mr. McCauley stated he is familiar with CPI and this training will save the school money. Outplacement is very expensive.</p> <p>Mrs. Sarich asked if the same staff would be trained every year. Dr. Culkin stated the decision to offer the program was based upon the money available for the current year. Training needs can be evaluated each year going forward. Staff will be trained as “coaches,” and they would provide training to select staff in the buildings. This program would be available to all of the staff who work directly with students. It’s information for everyone but a deeper dive for staff working with students with complex needs and administrators. Mrs. Sarich asked if the same people need retraining each year. Dr. Culkin stated the district instructors would have to do the initial training and refresher training. The refresher training is not as costly. Ms. Hollander stated this would build an internal capacity, alleviating the need to go outside of the district.</p> <p>Mrs. Sarich asked if other schools in our District Reference Group (DRG) use this program. Dr. Culkin stated it is used in other districts and she would provide specific names.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked if this was a more robust training than the one offered in the audit report for special education. Dr. Parlato stated yes. At the end of the year, per state statute, she has to report how many times the district has had to clear a classroom, how many times bodily harm was caused and other instances. In the 5 schools so far this year, there have been roughly 90 instances of injuries, harm to self, or harm to others.</p> <p>Mr. Barile asked if it was unique instances or if it was a smaller group with repeating behavior. Dr. Parlato stated she would provide that.</p>	
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	<p>Mrs. Herring stated she is skeptical but also hopeful for the training. This is something that has always been an issue. Mrs. Herring stated she was wondering what new methods they have found to deescalate a situation. Kids feel they have the power. With the teacher trying to teach a lesson, a disruption makes it hard to defuse the situation and get back to work.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated it's important to reduce the number of seclusions and restraints.</p> <p>Mr. Barile asked to have more information on the training itself. Dr. Parlato stated they would provide sample training materials.</p> <p><i>Mr. Hansell moved to approve the Budget Position dated November 30, 2025; Purchase Resolution D-801; and Request for Budget Transfers. Seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach. Motion passed 8-0-1 with Mr. Failla not in favor.</i></p> <p>B. AB Note Music Trust</p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated the trust dates back more than 100 years, originating in Litchfield County, and focuses on music.</p> <p><i>Mr. McCauley moved to accept the Battell Stoeckel Music Trust - Grant Award in the amount of \$10,000. Seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p>C. Food Services - CEP Participation and Meal Prices</p> <p>Mrs. Sullivan stated the district-wide free meals will continue through February 2026. The program has been going on for two and a half years. By joining CEP, funds have been able to go further and allowed New Milford to meet the necessary requirements. Currently the district can offer free breakfast and</p>	<p>Moton made to approve the Budget Position dated November 30, 2025; Revised Purchase Resolution D-801; and Request for Budget Transfers. Motion passed 8-0-1.</p> <p>B. AB Note Music Trust</p> <p>Moton made to accept the Battell Stoeckel Music Trust - Grant Award in the amount of \$10,000. Motion passed.</p> <p>C. Food Services - CEP Participation and Meal Prices</p>
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	<p>lunch until the end of February and then there will be a transition back to paid breakfast and lunch. To generate a little income, the cost of meals will increase by .50 cents, which would currently affect students that purchase a second lunch or breakfast. Prices for lunch and breakfast have not been increased in over 10 years. The breakfast program was instituted in 2010 and those prices have never been increased. With the increase, New Milford is still well below other towns by \$1.00 - \$1.25 per meal.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato asked if there was a chance the program could be extended beyond February. Mrs. Sullivan replied that the last reimbursement just came through, and it will be reevaluated in January.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach thanked Mrs. Sullivan, noting food service employee wages come from the food service account. Having meals served to the community has been a tremendous asset. Once the increase hits we are still far below other districts.</p> <p>Mrs. Sarich stated the quality of food available to the students is amazing.</p> <p>Mrs. Sullivan stated, if a student took advantage of the free breakfast and lunch, since 2023 it saved families \$1,700 per child.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney noted that people can apply for free/reduced lunch if they have not already. Dr. Parlato stated the process has been streamlined and SNAP communicates directly with them. Mrs. Sullivan stated that while the district is under CEP people cannot apply, but once it ends we can accept applications for people not on SNAP. Once CEP ends, there is a 30 day school day carry over to submit an application.</p> <p>Mr. Failla stated it is a well run program, the more we inform our community the better. Mr. Barile</p>	
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		added that it should be pointed out that it's been 15 years since a price increase. All the board members should stop into the cafeteria to experience it.	
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11.	A. Facilities Projects <i>Discussed in the Subcommittee Report.</i> B. Employment Report - December 2025 Dr. Parlato stated it shows stability. Current openings reflect the shortage that is happening state-wide. C. Enrollment Report - December 2025 Dr. Parlato stated the projections are still accurate. D. November Fundraising Report No discussion. E. Field trip Report No discussion.	ITEMS OF INFORMATION A. Facilities Projects B. Employment Report - December 2025 C. Enrollment Report -December 2025 D. December Fundraising Report E. Field trip Report
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12.	ADJOURN <i>Mr. O'Brien moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Seconded by Mr. McCauley. Vote passed unanimously.</i>	ADJOURN Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.
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Respectfully Submitted,



Mrs. Sarah Herring
Secretary
New Milford Board of Education