

**New Milford Board of Education
 Meeting Motions and Minutes
 February 17, 2026
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

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NEW MILFORD, CT

Present:	Mr. Eric Hansell, Vice Chairperson Mrs. Sarah Herring, Secretary Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Assistant Secretary Mr. Dean Barile Mr. Joseph Failla Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Brian McCauley Mr. Tom O'Brien
Absent:	Mrs. Leslie Sarich, Chairperson

Also Present:	Dr. Janet Parlato, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kimberly Culkin, Director of Student Services Mr. Jeffrey Turner, Director of Technology Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Mr. Matthew Cunningham, Director of Facilities 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 Mr. Eric Hansell, Vice 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: LITCHFIELD HILLS TRANSITION CENTER Abbie Muckerman presented an overview of the Litchfield Hills Transition Center (LHTC) stating it is for young adults to learn about employment skills, secondary skills and independent living. LHTC helps students experience possible career paths. Recently they participated in the NexTrex challenge,	IDEAL STUDENT RECOGNITION: LITCHFIELD HILLS TRANSITION CENTER

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	<p>which is a plastic collection project. Every 1,000 pounds of plastic is recycled and made into a bench.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato recognized the following students based on their collaboration, heart, creativity and focus: Jack Allen Ben Demko Hallie Durr Lucca Fabrizio-Garcia Gina Galligan Sam Garcia Taylor Gulack Faith Isaacs Hope Isaacs Donny Mazzella Abbie Muckerman Gabe Pena Devin Scalzo Zachary Tarallo</p>	
4.	<p>PTO REPORT There was none.</p>	PTO REPORT
5.	<p>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT Mr. Porter stated that Northville Elementary School (NES), celebrated Half-Way Hawaiian Day and the 100th day of school, and Bingo for Book night. Staff had mid-year reflection meetings. They recently completed iReady and DIBELS. At Hill & Plain School (HPS) they are focusing on one word for the year: Display. Recently they had pajama day to raise money for charity and the Golden Triad Award. They also celebrated Half-Way Hawaiian Day and the 100th day of school. The PTO sponsored a movie and family paint night. The Kindness mural is coming this spring. Litchfield Hills Transition Center mailed "We Love our Military" care packages. Everyone had a great time at the Harlem Wizards game.</p> <p>Ms. Morrissey stated Sarah Noble Intermediate School had a visit from Abraham Lincoln, PE students are doing the Kids Heart Challenge and the whole school was excited to go back to outdoor</p>	STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

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		recess. There was no report from the middle school or high school.	
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 December 16, 2026 2. Annual Meeting Notice Minutes December 16, 2026 3. Budget Hearing Minutes January 13, 14, 20, and 21, 2026 <p><i>Mr. Barile moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes December 16, 2025. Seconded by Mr. McCauley. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p>Mrs. McInerney noted the vote count for the Annual Meeting Notice Minutes should be 8-0-0 for Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Assistant Secretary. The vote count should be 7-1-0 for Secretary.</p> <p><i>Mr. McCauley moved to approve the Annual Meeting Notice Minutes December 16, 2025. Seconded by Mr. O'Brien. Motion passed 7-0-1, Mrs. McInerney abstained.</i></p> <p><i>Mrs. Herring moved to approve the Budget Hearing Minutes January 13, 14, 20, and 21, 2026, seconded by Mr. McCauley. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>	<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 December 16, 2026 2. Annual Meeting Notice Minutes December 16, 2026 3. Budget Hearing Minutes January 13, 14, 20, and 21, 2026 <p>Motion made and passed to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes December 16, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Motion made and passed to approve the Annual Meeting Notice Minutes December 16, 2025. Motion passed 7-0-1.</p> <p>Motion made and passed to approve the Budget Hearing Minutes January 13, 14, 20, and 21, 2026. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
7.		<p>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Dr. Parlato stated that it is because of the hard work and effort from all the staff members that we have momentum in the district. It's important to know</p>	<p>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</p>

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		that incremental progress is sustainable progress. Dr. Parlato stated she is proud of the work the staff is completing every day. It should be acknowledged and we should remind ourselves of our efforts and the progress we are making.	
8.		BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT No report.	BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT
9.		<p>SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT’S</p> <p>A. Policy Mrs. McInerney stated there are five policies for first read and there are also policies for second read and approval. The regulations are for information only.</p> <p>B. Committee on Learning Mrs. Herring stated the Committee on Learning had an update on the new math program at the middle school. There was also an update on curriculum development and alignment.</p> <p>C. Facilities <i>February 10, 2026 Facilities Subcommittee was canceled: no report.</i></p> <p>D. Operations <i>February 10, 2026 Operations Subcommittee was canceled: no report.</i></p>	<p>SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT’S</p> <p>A. Policy</p> <p>B. Committee on Learning</p> <p>C. Facilities</p> <p>D. Operations</p>
10.	A.	<p>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</p> <p>Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget Position dated January 31, 2026 2. Purchase Resolution: D-803 3. Request for Budget Transfers <p>Budget Position: Mr. Giovannone stated the report represents everything encumbered or spent through January 31st. No money has been received for excess cost. Once it is received, Mr. Giovannone stated he would</p>	<p>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</p> <p>A. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget Position dated January 31, 2026 2. Purchase Resolution: D-803 3. Request for Budget Transfers

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	<p>provide a memo at the next board meeting. The audit report was completed, deemed satisfactory, and sent to the town. There will be an overview of the report next month.</p> <p>Mr. Failla mentioned he saw an article regarding excess cost in the newspaper. Mr. Giovannone stated the article was regarding cost sharing, funded by the state. This year it will remain flat in the Governor's budget even though tuition and transportation costs are increasing. Regardless, educational cost sharing is not a revenue for the district. The amount for this year's budget, \$11,645,304, will go to the town for 2026-27.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked how the funds are disbursed once they hit the town. Mr. Giovannone stated it is reflected in the audit in a separate revenue line that falls to the bottom line. None of the funds are tied to the school district.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated it is statute to use it for educational purposes. Mrs. Faulenbach stated she was wondering how the specifics could be seen and how it is broken out.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the transportation and maintenance line takes them to the end of the year. Mr. Giovannone stated yes. Mrs. McInerney asked if this included special transportation runs for sports. Mr. Giovannone stated no.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked how parking fees are charged. Mr. Giovannone stated it is prorated depending on when the student signs up for the pass. The report reflects the first 3 months of the school year.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the audit was complete. Mr. Giovannone stated yes, it was a satisfactory audit, with no weaknesses.</p>	
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	<p>Purchase Resolution: Mr. Giovannone stated the Purchase Resolution includes Phase 1 for the culinary program A&E. There is a transfer proposed to help with funding. The money was originally budgeted for the CNA program at the high school. Since they have not been able to source an instructor the funds are being transferred to pay for the architectural engineering study for the culinary program.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney asked if the PSAT was included in the budget. Mr. Giovannone stated it was.</p> <p>Mr. Barile asked if the funds that are used for educational purposes can be utilized for the culinary program. Dr. Parlato stated no, that money goes directly to the town and any capital reserve money has to be used towards capital reserve projects.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated it's important to see what could be possible for the culinary program. The more information allows for a better decision. Mrs. Faulenbach noted that it is not an additional cost to the district. The funds are coming from a line item we cannot use and utilizing it towards this endeavor.</p> <p><i>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve the Budget Position dated January 31, 2026; Purchase Resolution D-803; and Request for Budget Transfers. Seconded by Mr. McCauley. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p>B. Revised Policies for First Read:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 4118.25 Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Reports of 4218.25 Sexual Assaults of Students by School Employees 2. 4131 Social Media 4231 3. 4152.6 Family and Medical Leave Act 	<p>Motion made to approve the Budget Position dated January 31, 2026; Revised Purchase Resolution D-803; and Request for Budget Transfers. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>B. Revised Policies for First Read</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 4118.25 Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Reports of
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	<p style="text-align: center;">4252.6</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. 5131 Student Discipline 5. 5146 Child Sexual Abuse and Assault Response Policy and Reporting Procedure <p>Dr. Parlato stated these policies are for first read and will go back to the policy subcommittee before another review in March. Mrs. McInerney noted that many of the changes are mandated by the state. Dr. Parlato agreed, stating at this point, the policies coming forward are more because of legislative changes and state mandates.</p> <p>C. Policies for Second Read and Approval</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1105 Non-Discrimination (Community) 2. 4111.1 Non-Discrimination (Personnel) 4211.1 3. 4118.113 Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Personnel) 4218.113 4. 5000 Non-Discrimination (Students) 5. 5145.7 Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students) <p><i>Mr. McCauley moved to approve policies 1105, 4111.1, 4211.1, 4118.113, 4218.113, 5000 and 5145.7. Seconded by Mr. O'Brien.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. 4131 Social Media 4231 3. 4152.6 Family and Medical Leave Act 4252.6 4. 5131 Student Discipline 5. 5146 Child Sexual Abuse and Assault Response Policy and Reporting Procedure <p>C. Policies for Second Read and Approval</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1105 Non-Discrimination (Community) 2. 4111.1 Non-Discrimination (Personnel) 4211.1 3. 4118.113 Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Personnel) 4218.113 4. 5000 Non-Discrimination (Students) 5. 5145.7 Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students)
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	<p><i>Mr. McCauley withdrew his motion.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. O'Brien withdrew his second.</i></p> <p>Mr. Hansell stated he wanted to separate the vote for these policies because, although he recognizes its state law, there are policies for voting that allow boys to compete in girls sports. Mr. Hansell stated he does not agree with that.</p> <p>Mr. Failla stated it is a difficult situation as a BOE in CT. Allowing boys to play in women's sports and being able to access women's facilities degrades women. There has been a lot of progress for women in this society and it's tragic this is happening. That said, it's state law. If we don't approve this we will find ourselves in a legal situation. There is no easy answer, and it is a massive problem. The way we treat women in this state because of these laws is tragic. If the policies are not approved, it's unknown what the ramifications will be. From a legal perspective we are forced to adopt them.</p> <p>Mrs. Herring suggested consulting with the district attorney before voting on the policies. Mr. Hansell stated they have done that in the past and the lawyer stated we should approve it because it is the law.</p> <p>Mr. Barile stated it may be state law but if we allow boys, who are born males, to use female locker rooms, we can be sued for that too. We have to consider what our constituents would say. We have a role to the town and the school to look out for the safety and wellbeing of our students. Other districts have found themselves at the losing end because they did not protect the student. If we are worried about litigation, we have to worry about it either way.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney stated she understands both sides of the argument and encouraged board members to state their opinion for the record.</p>	
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	<p><i>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve policies 1105, 4111.1, 4211.1, 4118.113 and 4218.113. Seconded by Mr. McCauley. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p><i>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve policies 5000 and 5145.7. Seconded by Mr. McCauley. Motion passed 5-3-0 with Mr. Hansell, Mrs. Herring and Mr. Barile opposed.</i></p> <p>D. Bid Award - RFP E-2526-002 NMHS Culinary A&E</p> <p>Mr. Failla asked why there was such a discrepancy in the bids. Mr. Cunningham stated it is how things can go with bids. The \$13,500 is for field verification and an approximate cost of what will need to be encumbered.</p> <p>Mr. Failla asked where it will be located. Dr. Parlato stated it will be at the high school. Mr. Cunningham stated they are taking into account the schematics, programming, cost estimates and mechanics.</p> <p><i>Mr. Failla moved to approve Bid Award - RFP E-2526-002 NMHS Culinary A&E. Seconded by Mr. Barile. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p>E. Food Services CEP Participation and Meal Prices</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated the increase still keeps New Milford as one of the lowest in the state, and asked if it could be considered for the district to supplement the cost to families so that lunch and breakfast could remain free for the rest of the year. Mr. Giovannone stated he would provide that amount. Mrs. Sullivan stated they will start collecting applications for free and reduced lunch.</p>	<p>Motion made to approve policies 1105, 4111.1, 4211.1, 4118.113 and 4218.113. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Motion made to approve policies 5000 and 5145.7. Motion passed 5-3-0.</p> <p>D. Bid Award - RFP E-2526-002 NMHS Culinary A&E</p> <p>Motion made to approve Bid Award - RFP E-2526-002 NMHS Culinary A&E. Motion passed.</p> <p>E. Food Services CEP Participation and Meal Prices</p>
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	<p>Mrs. McInerney agreed they should look into covering the cost for the remainder of the year.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach also clarified that families will not begin paying for breakfast or lunch until May 1st. The cost will increase on March 1st.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated she will send out communication to families regarding the May 1st change. Dr. Parlato noted the district has offered free breakfast and lunch for the past 2.5 years and has not increased prices since 2011.</p> <p>Mr. O'Brien stated it is impressive it was able to be kept up this long.</p> <p>Mr. Failla asked what happens when a student cannot pay for lunch once free lunch is no longer available. Mrs. Sullivan replied that no one is turned away or denied a meal. If a student does not have funds in an account they will get their first meal for free. Their account will still go into the negative but they will not be turned away. If an account goes negative parents are notified. Also, the lunch is whatever is served that day, not something different. Mrs. McInerney asked if the district has to absorb the cost if a student has a negative lunch account. Mr. Giovannone stated that is correct but it cannot be absorbed by the food services account.</p> <p><i>Mr. McCauley moved to approve the proposed Food Services Meal Prices for all meals beginning March 1, 2026. Seconded by Mrs. Herring. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p>F. 25-26 CEN WiFi Grant Update Rounds #1 and #2</p> <p>Mr. Turner reviewed the parameters of the grant. The first year amount was \$145,000 and it was not matching.</p>	<p>Motion made to approve the proposed Food Services Meal Prices for all meals beginning March 1, 2026. Motion passed.</p> <p>F. 25-26 CEN WiFi Grant Update Rounds #1 and #2</p>
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	<p><i>Mr. Barile moved to approve the 25-26 CEN WiFi Grant Update Rounds #1 and #2. Seconded by Mrs. McInerney. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p>Motion made to approve the 25-26 CEN WiFi Grant Update Rounds #1 and #2. Motion passed.</p>
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<p>11.</p>	<p>A. ITEMS OF INFORMATION Items of Information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 4131 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Social Media 4231 R 2. 5131 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Student Discipline 3. 1105 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination (Community) 4. 4111.1 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination (Personnel) 4211.1 R 5. 4118.113 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual 4218.113 R Harassment (Personnel) 6. 5000 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination (Students) 7. 5145.7 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students) 	<p>A. ITEMS OF INFORMATION Items of Information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 4131 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Social Media 4231 R 2. 5131 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Student Discipline 3. 1105 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination (Community) 4. 4111.1 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination (Personnel) 4211.1 R 5. 4118.113 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual 4218.113 R Harassment (Personnel) 6. 5000 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination (Students) 7. 5145.7 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Sex
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	<p>B.</p>	<p>Facilities Items</p> <p>Mr. Cunningham stated, after bid review for the NMHS tennis courts, there were too many inconsistencies. It has been decided to cancel the solicitation at this time. The next step would be to reissue solicitation for reconstruction only and no longer design, specifying the ability to align with USTA standards.</p> <p>Mr. Hansell asked if there was concern over adding a pickleball court. Mr. Cunningham stated the companies they talked to could not help with adding pickleball lines, which was another reason not to move forward.</p> <p>Mr. McCauley asked if anything will still be done about the courts. Mr. Cunningham stated they will do a bandaid project and work with USTA on the next round. Mrs. Faulenbach noted \$1,100,000 was earmarked and all 3 bids fell below that number. Mr. Giovannone stated the project is part of the 5 Year Capital Plan and if the project is less than the \$1,100,000 it will go back to the Capital Reserve. Mrs. Faulenbach stated it should include a discussion with the town since it is used by students and residents.</p> <p>Mr. Cunningham stated the central office RFP was awarded to Silver Petrucelli which included a launch meeting. Phase one construction should begin this summer. Mr. McCauley stated this progress was good news.</p> <p>Mr. Cunningham stated they reposted the bid for the Northville hydrants because were no bidders</p>	<p>Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students)</p> <p>B. Facilities Items</p>
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	<p>Mrs. McInerney asked where the location for the culinary program would be. Dr. Parlato stated they are still deciding that.</p> <p>Mr. Cunningham stated they applied for the grant for the Northville Elementary School roof and are awaiting a response. The town should send out the A&E next week. Mr. O'Brien thanked Mr. Cunningham for his help in the RFP.</p> <p>Mr. Cunningham stated they applied for a security grant and it is a matching grant up to \$250,000. Mr. Hansell asked to clarify that the grant will match the amount already spent. Mr. Cunningham stated yes. Mrs. Faulenbach asked how this affects the budget. Mr. Giovannone stated it will go back into the capital account. It is money already spent and we are providing proof of payment to be reimbursed.</p> <p>C. Employment Report - February 2026 Dr. Parlato stated there is minimal movement, which shows stability. Mr. McCauley asked if the Career Pathways Coordinator will be posted. Dr. Parlato stated they have to see how the budget goes first. Currently it's being covered by teachers that have picked it up as a 6th class.</p> <p>D. Enrollment Report - February 2026 Dr. Parlato stated SNIS has 25 students over projection. The negative 42 has to do with kindergarten legislation. Overall it is very close.</p> <p>E. 2023 Supplemental School Security Competitive Grant Program Round #61 Mr. Giovannone stated this was discussed in the Facilities update. The district has already spent the money and will be reimbursed \$122,000.</p> <p>F. ESG NV5 - Year 1 Energy Performance Results Mr. Giovannone stated the ESG report states they have met their performance goals and exceeded</p>	<p>C. Employment Report - February 2026</p> <p>D. Enrollment Report - February 2026</p> <p>E. 2023 Supplemental School Security Competitive Grant Program Round #61</p> <p>F. ESG NV5 - Year 1 Energy Performance Results</p>
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	<p>them by roughly \$16,000. That number is the district and town combined. ESG is obligated to provide a summary report and this is 1 of 2. Mr. Barile asked if there was a projected savings. Mr. Giovannone stated no.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated it is good to see savings and asked what the direct pay grant meant. Mr. Giovannone stated the direct pay grant is provided to the town as tax incentives. Mrs. Faulenbach asked what unexpected expenditures have come up. Mr. Giovannone stated there is \$9,000 they will have to pay for solar preventative maintenance annually. That was added to the facilities and operating budget the board adopted last month. The CoGen preventative maintenance is \$26,000 a year and with the escalator will be \$39,000 in 19 years. Mrs. Faulenbach noted that the \$9,000 came as a surprise, as well as the \$26,000. Mr. Giovannone stated the solar maintenance is a cost being put on the district and they do not know the escalator going forward. That and the CoGen expenses are now part of the board budget that were not anticipated at the onset of this project. Mrs. Faulenbach suggested having a conversation with the town.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato noted that the \$4.16 million dollars in rebates did not go back to the district, but to the town. Mr. Giovannone stated that was correct, so far the district has received zero dollars, the town has received at least \$4.16 million. The question is, how much of that is baked into the cashflow of the bond. It would be 66 and $\frac{2}{3}$ at the onset of the project. One of the questions we have is which of these incentives are part of the cash flow and which ones are not.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated it can be very confusing and hard to follow. \$4.16 million is a lot of money and we should know how it works. With a 20 year contract, and unexpected expenditures, we should</p>	
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	<p>know how that money is dispersed because the expenditures add up.</p> <p>Mr. O'Brien asked if we were aware of all of these grants. Dr. Parlato replied that they knew there were grants but not the dollar amounts. Mrs. Faulenbach asked where it shows the town received these grants. Mr. Giovannone stated it is unclear what has been baked into the original cashflow of the 15 million dollar bond, and what are extra credits that were received by the town.</p> <p>Mr. O'Brien stated that it's hard to see the verified savings and where the \$4.16 million fits. The program is complicated and was hoping for less confusion with the report.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated it is important to know since the district is on the hook for $\frac{2}{3}$ of the bill, and suggested having ESG and NV5 present to the board.</p> <p>G. E-Rate Funding for 26-27 School Year Mr. Turner stated the E-Rate had 3 bids for 25 access points in 5 schools. It is essentially a 60% discount. Next month will have another memo on bids for wiring and back up devices.</p> <p>H. February Fundraising Report No discussion.</p> <p>I. Field trip Report No discussion.</p>	<p>G. E-Rate Funding for 26-27 School Year</p> <p>H. February Fundraising Report</p> <p>I. Field trip Report</p>
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12.	<p>ADJOURN <i>Mr. O'Brien moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Failla. Vote passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p>ADJOURN Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah E Herring

Mrs. Sarah Herring
Secretary
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