

**New Milford Board of Education
Meeting Motions and Minutes
March 17, 2026
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 Mr. Dean Barile Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Brian McCauley Mr. Tom O'Brien
Absent:	Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Assistant Secretary Mr. Joseph Failla

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 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, 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: Hill & Plain and Northville Elementary Schools Dr. Parlato stated the principals of Hill & Plain and Northville Elementary School wanted to provide a glimpse of the elementary literacy program. They invited first grade students to attend and display their literacy skills. The demonstration showed students' ability to understand and comprehend word parts and shared reading skills.	IDEAL STUDENT RECOGNITION: Hill & Plain and Northville Elementary Schools

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	<p>Dr. Parlato then presented each student with a certificate.</p> <p>From Northville Elementary School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Roman Lyon ● Claire Lyman ● Henry McDermott ● Brooke Hartling ● Ethan Russell ● Talia Scott ● Sofia Martino <p>From Hill & Plain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Khalani Velasquez ● Maddie Mosca ● Jack Haber ● Cooper Malkin ● Charlotte Clark ● Isaiah Lopez ● Landon Weber 	
4.	<p>PTO REPORT There was none.</p>	<p>PTO REPORT</p>
5.	<p>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT Mr. Porter stated the Northville Elementary School PTO held two assemblies. The Excel preschool students learned about dental hygiene. The 2nd grade raised over \$2,000 for their Jump Rope for Heart event. The students also participated in hearing testing. Kindergarten registration is open and any student who will be five by September 1st is welcome to register. Hill & Plain School held a Marine care package drive. They had a visit from the Harlem wizards. The students celebrated Dr. Seuss Day. They have also done vision screenings and learned about dental hygiene.</p> <p>Ms. Morrissey stated Lauren Tarshis, the author of the "I Survived" book series, came to Sarah Noble Intermediate School for a talk and book signing.</p>	<p>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT</p>

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		The string players went on a field trip to the high school and later in the evening had an all-school concert. SNIS also hosted a bag piper parade, and Irish dancers performed. 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 February 17, 2026 2. Special Meeting Minutes March 5, 2026 <p><i>Mr. Hansell moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes February 17, 2026. Seconded by Mr. McCauley. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Mrs. Sarich abstaining.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. McCauley moved to approve the Special Meeting Minutes March 5, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Hansell. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Mr. Barile abstaining.</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 February 17, 2026 2. Special Meeting Minutes March 5, 2026 <p>Motion made and passed to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes February 17, 2026. Motion passed 6-0-1.</p> <p>Motion made and passed to approve the Special Meeting Minutes March 5, 2026. Motion passed 6-0-1.</p>
7.		<p>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Dr. Parlato stated it was a pleasure to see the 1st grade students show their literacy skills. March is Board of Education appreciation month. The district is fortunate to have hard working volunteers that spend hours in meetings, negotiations, student hearings, and more. It is their hard work that helps keep the momentum going for the district. Dr. Parlato thanked them all for their hard work.</p>	<p>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</p>
8.		<p>BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT Mrs. Sarich thanked Mr. O'Brien for attending the MBC meeting earlier in the evening, and Mrs. Sarich thanked the board members for their service.</p>	<p>BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT</p>
9.		<p>SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT'S A. Policy</p>	<p>SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT'S</p>

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	<p><i>No report, Mrs. McInerney was not present, and the 3/3/26 meeting was cancelled.</i></p> <p>B. Committee on Learning <i>No report, the 3/3/26 meeting was cancelled.</i></p> <p>C. Facilities Mr. O'Brien stated the Facilities items will be discussed in the Items of Information portion of the agenda.</p> <p>D. Operations Mrs. Faulenbach stated the monthly reports are the Operations items to be discussed.</p>	<p>A. Policy</p> <p>B. Committee on Learning</p> <p>C. Facilities</p> <p>D. Operations</p>
10.	<p>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</p> <p>A. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget Position dated February 28, 2026 2. Purchase Resolution: D-804 3. Request for Budget Transfers <p>No discussion.</p> <p><i>Mr. O'Brien moved to approve the Budget Position dated February 28, 2026; Purchase Resolution D-804; and Request for Budget Transfers. Seconded by Mr. McCauley. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</p> <p>A. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget Position dated February 28, 2026 2. Purchase Resolution: D-804 3. Request for Budget Transfers <p>Motion made to approve the Budget Position dated February 28, 2026; Revised Purchase Resolution D-804; and Request for Budget Transfers. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
11.	<p>ITEMS OF INFORMATION</p> <p>A. Fiscal Year 24/25 Audit Report</p> <p>Mr. Giovannone stated the external auditors presented the report on January 28th. For the Board of Education there were zero deficiencies. Mr. Giovannone thanked the staff, stating, there is a lot of work that goes into this with governmental agencies. Mr. Giovannone thanked the support of the Finance Department, and the other departments at Central Office.</p>	<p>ITEMS OF INFORMATION</p> <p>A. Fiscal Year 24/25 Audit Report</p>

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	<p>Mr. Giovannone stated the 2% Educational Cost sharing grant that the board participated in will be returned to the town. There will also be a deposit of \$100,000 for the turf field. After the payment for ESG, the BOE capital reserve ending balance will be \$1,318,617.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated it is great to have an audit with no material weaknesses. It drives our bond rating and our buying power. If the town does match the turf field payment, then it would put us over our goal. Mr. Giovannone stated he does not have a record of the payment yet but will update the board once it is reflected in MUNIS. Mrs. Faulenbach stated it would be prudent to ask for the motion in June, so once the audit is done, the June motion carries the automatic payment for the funds to go into Capital Reserve. It causes issues down the line if we do not.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked about the ESG payment and breakout for the town. Mr. Giovannone stated, for 2026, the district's payment is \$502,000 and for the town it is \$251,000. If the budget is adopted.</p> <p>B. ESG/NV5 Solar Project Dr. Parlato stated there was a preliminary report with the first measurements released. Mr. Giovannone stated the report came out last month, and he is following up with the town on savings. This includes which buckets they are allocated to and any other credits received. Mrs. Faulenbach asked if it was approximately \$4,000,000 in credits. Mr. Giovannone stated that was correct. Mrs. Faulenbach stated it would be good to have a breakdown of the credits. There have been unexpected charges and those numbers should also be included.</p> <p>Mrs. Sarich asked if this was the first time they had seen credits. Mr. Giovannone stated it is the first</p>	<p>B. ESG/NV5 Solar Project</p>
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	<p>time they have been captured in a report. Mrs. Sarich asked if there were any credits not previously known. Mr. Giovannone stated ESG and NV5 have identified credits associated with the project and there could be additional ones. Mrs. Faulenbach stated this has been a complicated project. There is a budget for it, with payments. It's important to capture all the numbers.</p> <p>C. E-Rate Bids Mr. Turner stated there were 3 companies that placed bids and the project was split between 2 different companies. With the grant money, the projects are at a 60% discount.</p> <p>D. Facilities Items Mr. Cunningham stated the high school tennis courts will have maintenance done this season and they will work to find a company that is familiar with navigating the USTA grant for work on the courts next summer.</p> <p>Mr. Cunningham stated they met with engineers to plan the first phase of the Central Office project. Work will begin this summer.</p> <p>Mr. Cunningham stated they are looking to get cost estimates and drawings for a culinary program at the high school.</p> <p>Mr. O'Brien stated he went to the MBC special meeting earlier in the night. With Mr. Cunningham's RFP they had 3 bids and the A&E project was awarded to Silver Petrucelli. Mr. Cunningham also provided 3 options on how they could hire 3rd party supervision. That will be discussed once plans and specs are submitted.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked if MBC is still thinking about trying to complete the project this summer. Mr. O'Brien stated it is a thought, hence tonight's</p>	<p>C. E-Rate Bids</p> <p>D. Facilities Items</p>
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	<p>meeting, but at the meeting, it was pointed out the number of items that would need to happen for it to be completed this summer. Mr. Cunningham stated the project would need to include the lead time for wall panels.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated it is important to stay in front of the message so people realize the timing. Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the type of roof had been decided. Mr. O'Brien stated he believes MBC will ask for 2 bids, based on the original study Silver Petrucelli provided.</p> <p>Mr. Barile asked if they could hire a dedicated Project Manager. Mr. Cunningham stated MBC can look into hiring a Clerk of the Works as well as a Project Manager.</p> <p>E. Employment Report - March 2026 Dr. Parlato stated the report reflects the retirements, and is otherwise stable.</p> <p>F. Enrollment Report - March 2026 Dr. Parlato stated it is stable.</p> <p>G. March Fundraising Report No discussion.</p> <p>H. Field Trip Report No discussion.</p>	<p>E. Employment Report - March 2026</p> <p>F. Enrollment Report - March 2026</p> <p>G. March Fundraising Report</p> <p>H. Field Trip Report</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</p> <p>A. Discussion and possible action regarding a pending 2021 litigation matter before the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. Executive session anticipated.</p>	<p>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</p> <p>A. Discussion and possible action regarding a pending 2021 litigation matter before the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. Executive session anticipated.</p>

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		<p><i>Mrs. Faulenbach moved that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of discussion regarding a pending 2021 litigation matter before the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities and Mrs. Faulenbach further moved that the Board invite Superintendent Janet Parlato into the executive session. Seconded by Mr. Hansell. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p><i>The Board entered Executive Session at 7:26pm.</i></p> <p><i>The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:38pm.</i></p> <p><i>Mrs. Sarich moved that the Board approve the proposed \$10,000 settlement of the 2021 pending litigation matter before the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities and appropriate \$10,000 for such purpose and Mrs. Sarich further moved that Board Chairperson Leslie Sarich sign such proposed settlement agreement on behalf of the Board pending any necessary legal review. Seconded by Mr. Barile. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p>Motion made for the Board to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussion regarding a pending 2021 litigation matter before the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. Further invited into executive session was Superintendent Janet Parlato. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Motion made for the Board to approve the proposed \$10,000 settlement of the 2021 pending litigation matter before the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities and appropriate \$10,000 for such purpose and it was further moved that Board Chairperson Leslie Sarich sign such proposed settlement agreement on behalf of the Board pending any necessary legal review. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
13.		<p>ADJOURN <i>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. Seconded by Mr. O'Brien. Vote passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p>ADJOURN Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

Respectfully Submitted,

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Sarah E Herring

Mrs. Sarah Herring
Secretary
New Milford Board of Education