


New Milford Board of Education
Meeting Motions and Minutes
April 28, 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 Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Assistant Secretary Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Brian McCauley Mr. Tom O'Brien Mr. Dean Barile Mr. Joseph Failla
Absent:	

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
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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 Ms. Angela Herdter, 207 Long Mountain Rd., New Milford, stated she is a retired teacher in the district. Ms. Herder stated that she created a classroom that was safe and wholesome, for students to learn. She is concerned about the proposal to explore a Turning Point USA chapter for the high school. Our schools are not platforms for outside organizations to bring in agendas that risk dividing students. It should be a place where students feel respected and safe, regardless of background. Turning Point is a partisan organization with controversy. There is concern on the tone in school climate. It brings		Public Comment

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	<p>conflict, not constructive dialogue. Schools are struggling with teacher recruitment. The focus will go towards managing political conflict. It will affect the budget with teachers leaving and passing the budget becomes more difficult. There are already appropriate ways to have civic discussions.</p> <p>Ms. Irene Skrybailo, 205 Pumpkin Hill Rd., New Milford, stated Turning Point USA requires 3 students and 1 teacher. Turning Point maintains a professor watch list and a board of education watch list. To think the RTC is supporting this is damaging to the town. It goes against LGBTQ, black and brown students. People have to speak out.</p> <p>Ms. Carolyn Hyde, 31 Brookview Ln., New Milford, stated she is a parent of 3 students in the school system. With Turning Point USA, the kids will be asked to sign a constitution, with a purpose to uphold limited government, on campus through grass-roots activism. It encourages kids to become recruitment warriors. We will become a divided community. High school is the targeted demographic for Turning Point USA and we are now being solicited to start a chapter. This club will bring division to the high school community Turning Point USA says it brings the community together, but the Wingman already does that. If this vote happens by May 31st, it will begin in the fall.</p> <p>Ms. Jackie Eaton, Redview Ln., New Milford, stated she is a resident and tax payer of New Milford for the past 24 years. Ms. Eaton stated she fights for the school budget when there is pushback. A good school system raises property values. The opposite is a school system that embraces a hate group such as Turning Point USA. It would tell the world that re-writing history is ok with our town and that discrimination and intolerance are our values. It is despicable that RTC would recruit students for a religious based hate group that pushes white christian nationalism and attempts to groom future</p>	
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	generations in an America First ideology. Intent on erasing people of color and non-christians from our history. The America First curriculum aims to erase slavery and the systemic institutionalized racism that exists in this country. We need teachers who teach factual civics and do not buy into a white-washed version of what our founding fathers intended.	
3.	PTO REPORT There was none.	PTO REPORT
4.	STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT There was none.	STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT
5.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Regular Meeting Minutes March 17, 2026 <p><i>Mr. Hansell moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes March 17, 2026. Seconded by Mr. McCauley. Motion passed 8-0-1 with Mrs. McInerney abstaining.</i></p>	APPROVAL OF MINUTES A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Regular Meeting Minutes March 17, 2026 <p>Motion made and passed to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes March 17, 2026. Motion passed 8-0-1.</p>
6.	SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Dr. Parlato stated it is an event-filled time of year. June 19th is the official last day of school for students. Paid breakfast and lunch will begin Friday, May 1, 2026. Dr. Parlato stated she is proud to have been able to offer free breakfast and lunch for the past 3 years and thanked food services for their excellent budgeting. Families can set up an account for their children through My School Bucks.	SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
7.	BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT Mrs. Sarich thanked Mrs. Sullivan for her hard work. New Milford is one of the few towns in CT to help supplement families for the last 3 years with free breakfast and lunch.	BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

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		There is a plan to have the Policy and Committee on Learning subcommittee meetings every other month.	
8.		<p>SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT'S</p> <p>A. Policy Mrs. McInerney stated there are 4 policies for first read on the agenda and 5 for second read and approval.</p> <p>B. Committee on Learning Mrs. Herring stated the Committee on Learning had a presentation about their Cultural Connections program, which is an option for 8th graders not taking a language. There was also an overview of the new Navigator series.</p> <p>C. Facilities Mr. O'Brien stated the Facilities items are in the informational portion of the agenda and Mr. Cunningham will give an overview. At the most recent Facilities meeting, it was noted that Mr. Cunningham presents the large projects but that Facilities is doing multiple projects daily of various levels.</p> <p>D. Operations Mrs. Faulenbach stated it was an intense meeting and urged BOE members to look at all the information when discussing audits. These are very serious items that tie to the budget and memos are included.</p>	<p>SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT'S</p> <p>A. Policy</p> <p>B. Committee on Learning</p> <p>C. Facilities</p> <p>D. Operations</p>

9.		<p>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</p> <p>A. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget Position dated March 30, 2026 2. Purchase Resolution: D-805 3. Request for Budget Transfers <p>Mr. Giovannone stated this year's budget is within one half of one percent vs. last year. The first payment for excess cost has been received. The</p>	<p>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</p> <p>A. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget Position dated March 30, 2026 2. Purchase Resolution: D-805 3. Request for Budget Transfers
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	<p>Capital Reserve balance is \$2,263,806. The Purchase Resolution and Transfer Report are tied together and reflect items that did not make it into next year's budget.</p> <p>Mr. Failla stated he is impressed with the Board of Education and Town Council on funding the turf field replacement. There is also a lot of care put into it that has helped extend its life.</p> <p>Mr. Cunningham stated they recently had a fill depth measurement performed and the turf has a few years of life left.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach noted that the Capital Reserve amount is post audit and now the district is digging into the Capital Plan. Mr. Giovannone stated a revised Capital Plan will be provided next month.</p> <p><i>Mr. O'Brien moved to approve the Budget Position dated March 30, 2026; Purchase Resolution D-805; and Request for Budget Transfers. Seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p>B. Revised Policies for First Read:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 3160 Budget Procedures and Line Item Transfers 2. 5125 Confidentiality and Access to Education Records 3. 6147 Parental Access to Instructional Material 4. 6142.1 Curricular Exemptions <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked for clarification regarding the non-lapsing account. Dr. Parlato stated the revised language establishes a reporting mechanism to the state department of education if the district ever establishes a non-lapsing account. district The Board of Education would have the ability to decide on having the non-lapsing account.</p>	<p>Motion made to approve the Budget Position dated March 30, 2026; Revised Purchase Resolution D-805; and Request for Budget Transfers. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>B. Revised Policies for First Read:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 3160 Budget Procedures and Line Item Transfers 2. 5125 Confidentiality and Access to Education Records 3. 6147 Parental Access to Instructional Material 4. 6142.1 Curricular Exemptions
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	<p>Dr. Parlato stated the revised policies for first and second read are part of the July 1, 2025 legislative updates.</p> <p>Mr. Barile asked about policy 6142.1, Curricular Exemptions. Dr. Parlato stated it now allows a parent to exempt their child if the curriculum places a burden on their religious upbringing.</p> <p>C. Revised Policies for Second Read and Approval:</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 4252.6 4. 5131 Student Discipline 5. 5146 Child Sexual Abuse and Assault Response Policy and Reporting Procedure <p><i>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve the following policies 4118.25, 4218.25 4131, 4231, 4152.6, 4252.6, 5131 and 5146. Seconded by Mr. McCauley. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p>D. Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement for School Year 2026-27</p>	<p>C. Revised Policies for Second Read and Approval:</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 4252.6 4. 5131 Student Discipline 5. 5146 Child Sexual Abuse and Assault Response Policy and Reporting Procedure <p>Motion made to approve the following policies 4118.25, 4218.25 4131, 4231, 4152.6, 4252.6, 5131 and 5146. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>D. Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement for School Year 2026-27</p>
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	<p><i>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve the following motion: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the New Milford Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. Seconded by Mr. McCauley. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p><i>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve the following motion: The New Milford Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For</i></p>	<p>Motion made pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the New Milford Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Motion made that The New Milford Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the</p>
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	<p><i>example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales. Seconded by Mr. O’Brien. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p>weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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<p>10.</p>	<p>ITEMS OF INFORMATION</p> <p>A. Items of Information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 4131 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Social Media 4231 R 2. 5125 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Confidentiality and Access to Education Records 3. 5131 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Student Discipline <p>No discussion.</p> <p>B. Fiscal Year 24/25 Audit Report Mr. Giovannone stated the March 3rd memo had a typo and the actual amount transferred to the BOE</p>	<p>ITEMS OF INFORMATION</p> <p>A. Items of Information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 4131 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Social Media 4231 R 2. 5125 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Confidentiality and Access to Education Records 3. 5131 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Student Discipline <p>B. Fiscal Year 24/25 Audit Report</p>
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	<p>Capital Reserve Account was \$1,218,617, not \$1,318,617.</p> <p>The 2% Educational Cost Sharing, ECS, carve out was not acted upon in the June 25, 2025 Board of Finance meeting. Mrs. Faulenbach noted that the BOE identified the 2% reimbursement to the town. Mr. Giovannone stated that was correct, but the dollar amount was not known at the June 25th Board of Finance meeting, and why it was not part of the motions.</p> <p>Mr. Barile asked if the 2% ECS number will change annually. Mr. Giovannone stated it would, and since the number is unknown, the recommendation from the Town Finance Director is, if the board is planning to participate and reimburse the town, that the language read as a “do not exceed” dollar amount. Mrs. Sarich reminded the BOE that it is not required to pay back the 2% ECS.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated participating in the 2% set aside worked well for the board last year. It is funds that are outside of the operational budget, and it gives flexibility to pay for non-budgeted items. Dr. Parlato stated it covered the unexpected cost of required literacy materials last year. Mrs. Faulenbach stated that without these approved dollars, there would have to be special appropriations.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney asked if the BOE votes on paying back the 2% ECS carve out to the town. Dr. Parlato replied that a vote was taken in the first year that we applied for the 2% carve out but not since then.</p> <p>Mr. Barile asked if there are restrictions on how the funds are spent. Dr. Parlato stated they must be used towards educational purposes.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated that last year's motion was to participate in the 2% ECS with the intention of</p>	
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	<p>paying the town back. Mrs. McInerney asked if it had to be voted upon every year. Mrs. Faulenbach stated that they have that option.</p> <p>C. ESG Payment Schedule and Credits Mr. Giovannone stated there was a measurement and verification report from ESG showing a savings of approximately \$16,000. The majority of the credits were built into the cash flow with the exception of the ITC grant in the amount of \$1,040,000. The town has received the ITC grant and recorded it as revenue.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney asked if the savings goes directly to the town and they disperse it. Mr. Giovannone replied the district is responsible for 66 and $\frac{2}{3}$ percent of the lease payments for the project. The \$1,040,000 was outside that cash flow and the town credited it as revenue in their budget.</p> <p>Mr. O'Brien stated, if the district is liable for $\frac{2}{3}$ of the expenses, then $\frac{2}{3}$ of the revenue that comes in should be allocated to the district.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated there was a meeting with the Mayor, who was invited to the meeting tonight. A big concern is to make sure there are funds set aside every year for this project. There have been surprise expenditures that can hurt financially, and it is incumbent on the board to set aside funds to cover those unexpected expenditures. The district was not aware of the \$1,040,000 ITC grant.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney asked what came of the conversation with the Mayor. Mrs. Faulenbach replied that the Mayor stated the \$1,040,000 was revenue that was not part of the project. There were some financial obligations on the town side, and they are retaining the \$1,040,000 for those obligations.</p>	<p>C. ESG Payment Schedule and Credits</p>
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	<p>Mr. Barile asked if there is a plan to recognize the credits. Mr. Giovannone stated of the credits listed in his memo, they are all reconciled on the town side. The only credits the BOE has received directly are the demand response credits. In 2024/25 the board received almost \$6,000 and in 2025/26 the board received just over \$7,200. The other 6 credits that total \$4,100,000 in the memo are not reconciled on the board side, it is the town that receives them. Dr. Parlato stated the district has received approximately \$13,000, which we are using toward preventative maintenance. Mr. Giovannone stated that was correct, and those are demand response to curtail energy during the high peak times. Some of that would have taken place anyway, without this project.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated they did ask how the town utilized the \$4,100,000, since it has not been dispersed to the BOE. Even omitting the \$1,040,000, the remaining credits should be put back into the program to offset the overall payments. Mr. Giovannone stated that was correct. Some credits were needed to pay for year 1, when the project was delayed. The LREC/ZREC credits are being used to pay the ESG consultant. The other credits should be used to offset the overall payments.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney asked if the Board of Education has seen savings with the program. Currently it feels as though the district is paying what it needs to pay and the town is retaining the savings. Mr. Giovannone stated the project was designed to generate savings and in the first measurement and verification report it has generated \$16,000 in savings, had we not moved forward with the project. The \$1,040,000 in ITC credits is separate from the cash flow. Because the town and board participated in this program they qualified for additional credits. Dr. Parlato stated the savings gained in the electricity line falls to the bottom line at the end of the year. It is then used to help pay the lease payment from the end of year balance. Mr. Giovannone stated that was correct.</p>	
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	<p>Mr. Failla asked if the town notified the district regarding the \$1,040,000, or if the district discovered it on their own. Mr. Giovannone stated the BOE was not informed by the town. It was through the measurement and verification report that it was discovered. Mr. Failla stated he agreed $\frac{2}{3}$ should be provided to the district. New Milford educates students from Sherman. Sherman pays tuition for those students and it goes directly to the town. We are often criticized for the budget, which is 70% of the town's budget. Those funds could be used to offset that. Mrs. Sarich added that the district does not get any of the Educational Cost Share, which is \$12,000,000.</p> <p>Mr. Hansell asked if the town is keeping the \$1,040,000 because they paid for the first year. Mr. Giovannone stated other credits were used to pay for the first year lease payment.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated there was a lot of confusion with the first year's payment. The district paid year 2 and 3 in one lump sum. The first year there was a lag time and it was understood the town paid it out of the general fund, but there is nothing in the town minutes recording that payment. Mrs. Faulenbach stated that we are partners with the town and wished there was more discussion on the disbursement of the credits.</p> <p>D. Excess Cost Grant Mr. Giovannone stated the first of two payments were received. It is short of expected because there have been fewer expenditures and we cannot be reimbursed for funds that were not expended. The second payment will also be short of expected, for the same reason. However, we still have funds in both the tuition and transportation lines to cover any shortfall.</p> <p>E. Facilities Items</p>	<p>D. Excess Cost Grant</p> <p>E. Facilities Items</p>
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	<p>Mr. Cunningham stated New Milford High School is contracted to have 70 -5’x5’ sidewalk panels replaced. That number may be higher because of the harsh winter. The project will begin once school is out for the summer.</p> <p>Mr. Cunningham stated they have received drawings back from Silver Petrucelli for the Central Office project. Mr. O’Brien stated the work will mostly be done in house, leading to savings. Mr. Cunningham stated that is the goal. Some items are more cost efficient to hire a company, such as flooring. The plan is to do the work over the summer break.</p> <p>Mr. Cunningham stated the NMHS culinary project will be receiving drawings and there will be cost estimates presented in the next Facilities meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Cunningham stated the town contracted Silver Petrucelli for the A&E for the Northville Elementary School roof. Next steps are a pre-bid performance review. Given the timing this will likely be a summer 2027 project. Mrs. Faulenbach asked who sends out the bids. Mr. Cunningham stated that it would be MBC.</p> <p>Mr. Cunningham stated they will be meeting this week with Weston & Sampson regarding the middle school underground storage tank. The project should be completed over the summer.</p> <p>F. Employment Report - April 2026 Mrs. McInerney asked about the woodshop teacher. Dr. Parlato stated the teacher was hired some months ago but was a substitute until he recently received his official certification. There are no certified staff resignations and one retirement. The May 2026 meeting will recognize the retirees.</p> <p>G. Enrollment Report - April 2026 Dr. Parlato stated the actual is very close to</p>	<p>F. Employment Report - April 2026</p> <p>G. Enrollment Report - April 2026</p>
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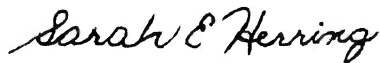
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		<p>projected. There will be discussion regarding a new enrollment study next month.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the town will cover any of the cost. Dr. Parlato stated the town will cover half of the cost. Mr. Hansell stated it will be interesting to compare the new enrollment study with the existing one. Mrs. McInerney asked what the cost could be. Dr. Parlato stated it can range anywhere from \$19,000-\$75,000.</p> <p>H. April Fundraising Report No discussion.</p> <p>I. Field Trip Report No discussion.</p>	<p>H. April Fundraising Report</p> <p>I. Field Trip Report</p>
<p>11.</p>		<p>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</p> <p>A. Discussion and possible action concerning the interview of a candidate for the Director of Human Resources position. Executive Session anticipated. The Board may take action when it returns from Executive Session.</p> <p><i>Mrs. Sarich moved that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose to interview a candidate for the Director of Human Resources position. Invited into executive session were Dr. Janet Parlato, Superintendent of New Milford Public Schools and the candidate. Seconded by Mr. McCauley. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p><i>The Board entered Executive Session at 7:39pm.</i></p>	<p>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</p> <p>A. Discussion and possible action concerning the interview of a candidate for the Director of Human Resources position. Executive Session anticipated. The Board may take action when it returns from Executive Session.</p> <p>Motion made for the Board to enter into executive session for the purpose to interview a candidate for the Director of Human Resources position. Invited into executive session were Dr. Janet Parlato, Superintendent of New Milford Public Schools and the candidate. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

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	<p><i>The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:32pm.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Failla moved to appoint Mrs. Linda Demeyer to the position of Director of Human Resources, effective July 1, 2026. Seconded by Mr. McCauley. Motion passed 8-0-1 with Mrs. Herring abstaining.</i></p>	<p>Motion made to appoint Mrs. Linda Demeyer to the position of Director of Human Resources, effective July 1, 2026. Motion passed 8-0-1.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>ADJOURN <i>Mr. O'Brien moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Barile. Vote passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p>ADJOURN Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

Respectfully Submitted,



Mrs. Sarah Herring
Secretary
New Milford Board of Education