

New Milford Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2019
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center

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 NEW MILFORD, CT

Present:	Mr. David A. Lawson, Chairman Mrs. Angela C. Chastain Mr. Bill Dahl Mr. Joseph Failla Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Tammy McInerney
Absent:	Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan Mr. J.T. Schemm

Also Present:	Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Operations and Fiscal Services Mr. Kevin Munrett, Facilities Director Mr. Nestor Aparicio, Assistant Facilities Director Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School Mr. Keith Lipinsky, Athletic Director, New Milford High School Dr. Len Tomasello, Acting Principal, Northville Elementary School Ms. Elizabeth Meskill, Student Representative Mr. Craig Benvenuti, Student Representative
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1.	Call to Order	Call to Order
A.	Pledge of Allegiance The regular meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order. Mr. Lawson said Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, acting as Superintendent, would be filling in this evening in the absence of Interim Superintendent Tracy.	A. Pledge of Allegiance
2.	Recognition	Recognition
A.	CMEA Northern Region Middle School Music Festival: SMS chorus students Hannah Hallacker, Leah Lawson, Riley Mahon, Diya Sukumaran and	A. CMEA Northern Region Middle School Music Festival: SMS chorus students Hannah

Cassandra Williams; SMS instrumental students Irene Chen, Charles Greiner, Madison Jewell, Evan Klimowich, Gabriel Larsen, Stella Mahlke, Ashton Manaog, Yae Young Min, Maayan Rosenberg, Henry Runyan, Aidan Smith, Andrew Taborsak, Brandon Zhang and Ryan Zimmitti - Ms. DiCorpo invited SMS Music teachers Diana Beddows, Darryl Gregory, and Tim Polhemus to help with the recognition for these students who auditioned and were accepted into the Northern Region Middle School Music Festival which takes place this weekend. B. <i>The Piper</i> Student Magazine – NMHS - Ms. DiCorpo congratulated advisor Michelle Minto, NMHS English Department Chair Kathy DelMonico and <i>The Piper</i> staff members for their superior rating by the NCTE. C. NMPS Stars of the Month: Cynthia Bonnell, Maria Brito, Maureen Dunkerton, Katherine Fossi, Charlene Kirkwood, and Virginia Quinn-Mooney - Ms. DiCorpo invited Mrs. Tracey O'Connor from Ingersoll Automotive to assist with the recognition. Ms. DiCorpo read a comment about each Star from the person who nominated them. They each received a pin recognizing their nomination and Katherine Fossi was randomly selected to drive the Ingersoll Automotive Courtesy Car for the month. D. Board of Education Appreciation for Service - Ms. DiCorpo said March is Board Appreciation month. She thanked Board members for their time, dedication and service to the community. The meeting recessed at 7:48 p.m. for a brief reception and reconvened at 7:56 p.m.	Hallacker, Leah Lawson, Riley Mahon, Diya Sukumaran and Cassandra Williams; SMS instrumental students Irene Chen, Charles Greiner, Madison Jewell, Evan Klimowich, Gabriel Larsen, Stella Mahlke, Ashton Manaog, Yae Young Min, Maayan Rosenberg, Henry Runyan, Aidan Smith, Andrew Taborsak, Brandon Zhang and Ryan Zimmitti B. <i>The Piper</i> Student Magazine – NMHS C. NMPS Stars of the Month: Cynthia Bonnell, Maria Brito, Maureen Dunkerton, Katherine Fossi, Charlene Kirkwood, and Virginia Quinn-Mooney D. Board of Education Appreciation for Service
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3.	Public Comment There was none.	Public Comment
4.	PTO Report Mrs. Mandi MacDonald said K-8 school book fairs had wrapped up. SMS used student volunteers for the first time at the fairs, to great success. SNIS and SMS offered flower grams. HPS and NES PTOs provided teachers with dinner during parent conferences. K-5 Family Science Nights are happening this week. SMS held a sold out Captain Marvel movie fundraiser. NMHS will be hosting “Penny Wars” and “Flock a Teacher” events. The Summer Camp Expo was a big success and will help with scholarships and educational support.	PTO Report
5.	Student Representative’s Report Elizabeth and Craig reported. The Math Honor Society is hosting its annual “Pi Day” carnival in conjunction with the FBLA Kickball Tournament. “No Vaping Day” will be held next week, with HOSA support. Spring Spirit Week is also next week; Pep Rally is next Friday. The all school musical Footloose opens next Friday. The National Honor Society will be selling flowers before all shows. ADL’s “No Place for Hate” program for juniors is April 2.	Student Representative’s Report
6.	Discussion and Possible Action A. Discussion of written legal opinion pertaining to status and response to school-based parent complaints. Executive session is anticipated. The Board may take action when it returns to public session.	Discussion and Possible Action A. Discussion of written legal opinion pertaining to status and response to school-based parent complaints. Executive session is anticipated. The Board may take action when it returns to public session.

	Mrs. Faulenbach moved that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing a written legal opinion pertaining to status and response to school-based parent complaints, and to invite into the session Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Ms. Ellamae Baldelli and Attorney Michael McKeon, seconded by Mr. McCauley and passed unanimously. The Board entered Executive Session at 8:01 p.m. The Board returned to Public Session at 8:52 p.m.	Motion made and passed unanimously that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing a written legal opinion pertaining to status and response to school-based parent complaints, and to invite into the session Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Ms. Ellamae Baldelli and Attorney Michael McKeon.
7.	Approval of Minutes A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: 1. Regular Meeting Minutes February 26, 2019 Mr. Dahl moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes February 26, 2019, seconded by Mrs. McInerney and passed 6-0-1. Aye: Mrs. Chastain, Mr. Dahl, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McCauley, Mrs. McInerney Abstain: Mr. Failla	Approval of Minutes A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: 1. Regular Meeting Minutes February 26, 2019 Motion made and passed to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes February 26, 2019.
8.	Superintendent's Report Ms. DiCorpo said there was a good turnout for parent conferences, which were held March 13 and 14. She was happy to participate in Read Across America Day, along with many other community members. Committee work continues after school hours to further the educational work of the district.	Superintendent's Report
9.	Board Chairman's Report Mr. Lawson said the Board passed the 2019-20 budget after reducing it by more than \$400,000 from the Superintendent's proposal. The Mayor	Board Chairman's Report

	cut another \$248,000 and the Town Council cut over \$750,000. All told the budget has been cut over \$1.4 million from proposed. It has now been passed to the Board of Finance who will hold a public hearing on April 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the SNIS café. They will then deliberate and may add or subtract further. • The superintendent search is ongoing and interviews will start next month.	
10.	Committee And Liaison Reports A. Facilities Sub-Committee – Mr. McCauley • Mr. McCauley said they discussed the SNIS roof top unit, where consensus was for replacement versus repair, the Lillis oil tank and roofs. All topics are on the agenda this evening. B. Operations Sub-Committee – Mrs. Faulenbach • Mrs. Faulenbach said the agenda was amended to add the topics from Facilities, which all have a financial component, along with the usual monthly reports, donations etc. They are on for possible action this evening. C. Policy Sub-Committee – Mrs. McNerney • Mrs. McNerney said the committee spent the meeting discussing graduation requirements so all other agenda items were moved to a future meeting. The graduation requirements are time sensitive so affected policies are on for first review tonight to begin discussion. Changes are proposed to the number of credits, clustering of credits and for mastery based credit. She said the Policy and Committee on Learning minutes provide more detail. D. Committee on Learning – Mr. Schemm • There was no report.	Committee And Liaison Reports A. Facilities Sub-Committee B. Operations Sub-Committee C. Policy Sub-Committee D. Committee on Learning

	E. EdAdvance – Mrs. Monaghan • There was no report. F. Connecticut Boards of Education (CABE) – Mr. Lawson • Mr. Lawson said the legislative session is ongoing with several education related bills in consideration including an increase to the special education reimbursement rate, regionalization, and no cuts to ECS money during the year. G. Magnet School – Mrs. Monaghan • There was no report.	E. EdAdvance F. Connecticut Boards of Education (CABE) G. Magnet School
11. A. B.	Discussion and Possible Action Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated March 19, 2019 Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as of March 19, 2019, seconded by Mr. McCauley. • Mr. Failla asked for a rundown of all stipends for all categories across the board. Ms. Baldelli said she would provide it. • Mr. Failla said he would like to be kept up to date on the athletic programs, which are a part of the learning process. The motion passed unanimously. Monthly Reports 1. Budget Position 2. Purchase Resolution: D-720 3. Request for Budget Transfers	Discussion and Possible Action A. Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated March 19, 2019 Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as of March 19, 2019. B. Monthly Reports 1. Budget Position 2. Purchase Resolution: D-720 3. Request for Budget Transfers

Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve monthly reports: Budget Position dated February 28, 2019; Purchase Resolution D-720; and Request for Budget Transfers, seconded by Mr. McCauley.

- Mrs. Faulenbach said the Operations minutes reflect the conversation which took place and questions asked. She asked for follow up regarding the Technology Director salary. Mr. Giovannone said it is in the Technology line, not the certified salary line.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said the certified salary line will be impacted as much as \$60,000 by the sick day loyalty program. She said the current \$111,000 balance is much smaller than last year at this time. She cautioned that the favorable line items are traditionally very volatile and can change very quickly.
- Mr. Dahl asked how many staff members had taken the sick day loyalty program. Ms. Baldelli said four, maybe five, total. She said the \$60,000 was an original projection if all applied for the program and that the ending number would not be as high as that.
- Mr. Giovannone said that was the number as of the report's date.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Gifts & Donations

1. PTO – Exhibit B

Mr. McCauley moved to accept Gifts and Donations: PTO – Exhibit B in the amount of \$2,170.00, seconded by Mrs. McInerney.

- There was no discussion.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. New Milford Diamond Club

Mr. Dahl moved to accept Gifts and Donations: New

Motion made and passed unanimously to approve monthly reports: Budget Position dated February 28, 2019; Purchase Resolution: D-720; and Request for Budget Transfers.

C. Gifts & Donations

1. PTO – Exhibit B

Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Gifts & Donations: PTO – Exhibit B in the amount of \$2,170.00.

2. New Milford Diamond Club

Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Gifts &

	Milford Diamond Club in the amount of \$12,000.00, seconded by Mr. Lawson. - Mrs. Faulenbach said the Board was very grateful for the donation and she asked Mr. Munrett if he had been able to reach out to the Diamond Club to make sure they were all on the same page. Mr. Munrett said they were, and had had a very productive meeting earlier in the day. The motion passed unanimously. D. Approval of the Following Curricula Advanced Creative Writing World Literature and Culture Mr. McCauley moved to approve the following curricula: Advanced Creative Writing World Literature and Culture Seconded by Mrs. McInerney. - Mr. Lawson said he was glad to see that the district is on track with curriculum and that he hopes it can stay that way. The motion passed unanimously. E. Policy for Second Review 1323 Gifts to Students F. Policies for First Review 6146 Graduation Requirements 6141.4 Independent Study 6172.6 Virtual/Online Courses/College/University Courses - Mrs. Faulenbach said this is a very important topic and there is lots to review and digest with many more meetings to come. The changes represent a huge shift and will have a big effect.	Donations: New Milford Diamond Club in the amount of \$12,000.00. D. Approval of the Following Curricula Advanced Creative Writing World Literature and Culture Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following curricula: Advanced Creative Writing World Literature and Culture E. Policy for Second Review 1323 Gifts to Students F. Policies for First Review 6146 Graduation Requirements 6141.4 Independent Study 6172.6 Virtual/Online Courses/College/University Courses
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She encouraged all Board members to come to Policy meetings and send in questions.

- Mrs. Chastain asked if the legislation had passed. Ms. DiCorpo said it was still proposed but districts are preparing. Mrs. Chastain said she was aware of some heavy opposition lobbying.
- Mrs. Chastain said there has been a lot of discussion about the need to increase rigor, add AP classes etc. so she asked Ms. DiCorpo to help her understand why middle school credit is being allowed under the district's plan. Ms. DiCorpo said it brings additional choices for students and will only be granted for courses that directly align with high school.
- Mrs. Chastain asked if colleges had been consulted to see if it is allowed. Ms. DiCorpo said it will be acceptable as long as it counts as a Board approved credit on the high school transcript.
- Mrs. Chastain asked what percentage of students are not reaching 25 credits. Ms. DiCorpo said the majority of students are acquiring 26 credits now; the graduation rate is high.
- Ms. DiCorpo referenced the High Leverage Policy Analysis Handout and said this is what was used to guide the proposal which was developed for discussion. She said this is only one proposal, done as a mock up for discussion, and there are many options. She wants to engage the Board for discussion as to where to go forward. The legislative changes relate to pathways and mastery based credit but there are different ways to get there.
- Mrs. Chastain asked how the pathways could not be considered as tracking students. Ms. DiCorpo said because the path chosen is an individual decision by the student and family among options.
- Mrs. Chastain said this is a big swing and at first glance she has a lot of concerns. She is hesitant to make changes prior to the actual legislation passing.
- Mrs. Faulenbach agreed, saying she is not quite on board yet. She appreciates all the work put

	into this so far and said future discussion will need to involve all. • Mrs. Chastain said she also appreciates the work. She asked if there had been any student or parent input yet. Ms. DiCorpo said not yet. She wanted the Board input to the next steps. Parent and student input will be part of the larger work before NEASC reaccreditation through the “vision of a graduate” piece that is now required. • Mrs. Chastain said she’d like to involve recent graduates to survey them regarding how they were served by their high school experience and what else they would have wished for.	
G.	SNIS Roof Top Unit Replacement Mr. Dahl moved to approve the replacement of the SNIS roof top unit in the amount of \$37,020.98 through the U.S. Communities purchasing agreement, and to request that amount from capital reserve, seconded by Mr. McCauley. • Mrs. Faulenbach said this was discussed at both Facilities and Operations and consensus was to go for replacement over band-aid repair. She said this was cut from the 2019-20 budget. At that time, the Board said it would look at items individually for consideration, which was the way it was done in the past. The motion passed 6-1-0. Aye: Mrs. Chastain, Mr. Dahl, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McCauley, Mrs. McInerney No: Mr. Failla	G. SNIS Roof Top Unit Replacement Motion made and passed to approve the replacement of the SNIS roof top unit in the amount of \$37,020.98 through the U.S. Communities purchasing agreement, and to request that amount from capital reserve.
H.	Lillis Oil Tank Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve Change Order #1 and to send it to the Town Finance Director and Mayor for signature, seconded by Mr. McCauley.	H. Lillis Oil Tank Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Change Order #1 and to send it to the Town Finance Director and Mayor for signature.

• Mrs. Faulenbach clarified that the dollar amount was \$3,000. Mr. Giovannone said that is correct and the request had been revised since Operations to reflect accounts. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Lawson moved to approve Change Order #2 and to request that amount from capital reserve, seconded by Mrs. Chastain. Mrs. Faulenbach moved to amend the motion to request no more than \$100,000 from capital reserve to fund the Lillis oil tank project, seconded by Mr. Lawson. • Mrs. Faulenbach said the itemized charges are still being reviewed, but the tank project needs to be completed and paid for, and the request would be from capital reserve. The Town portion is complete and the overage is now on the Board. She is hoping the security grant reimbursement will come shortly and that money can be put into the capital reserve account to start replenishing. • Mr. Failla said he agreed, the problems and mistakes must be owned by the Board and they need to pay and move on. The motion as amended passed unanimously. I. Roofs • Mr. Lawson said there is no motion needed. The Board has forwarded all requested information for the SNIS and NMHS roofs to the Mayor's Office for the Town Council to look at to bond. • Mrs. Faulenbach said the repairs being done now are separate from the larger conversation about bonding. • Mrs. McInerney asked what the next steps are with the Town. Mr. Lawson said, to his knowledge, the Town plans to create a building committee.	Motion made to approve Change Order #2 and to request that amount from capital reserve. Motion made and passed unanimously as amended to request no more than \$100,000 from capital reserve to fund the Lillis oil tank project I. Roofs
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	• Mrs. Chastain said she had spoken with the Mayor and it was her understanding they were on track with bonding and that the roofs would not be part of the building committee. • Mr. Lawson said they need clarification. • Mrs. Faulenbach said time is running out and they need to keep conversation moving and visible. She said both roofs have been in the district's capital plan and that neither is a surprise to the Town. • Mrs. Chastain said it was important to stress student safety and have the work done in the summer.	
12.	Items For Information And Discussion A. Field Trip Report • Mrs. Chastain said she was pleased to call attention to a few field trips. Kudos to the play preview at SNIS; it is nice for the younger students to see role models. She loves the idea of the "Accounting is my major" field trip. She is pleased to see the schools take advantage to our proximity to NY with a trip to the Botanical Gardens. B. Excess Cost • Mr. Giovannone said the memo projects a shortfall at end of year against excess cost projections. C. Mastery Based Credit • Mr. Lawson suggested that Board members review the handout and send any questions to the Policy sub-committee. He asked that questions and answers be shared with all Board members to inform discussion going forward. D. BOE 2019-2020 Budget Update	Items For Information And Discussion A. Field Trip Report B. Excess Cost C. Mastery Based Credit

	• Mr. Lawson referenced his opening remarks about budget earlier this evening. He said the combined \$1.4 million cut means an increase of approximately \$600,000 over last year and does not even cover contractual obligations. • Mrs. Faulenbach said insurance alone is over \$300,000. The Board of Finance public hearing is Saturday, April 6 at 10:00 a.m. and she encouraged people to come and speak as part of the process. • Mr. Lawson said he commended the Board of Finance for offering the hearing on Saturday to try and get more public input. • Mr. Failla said that the cuts suggested are so significant this year that he spoke in opposition at the Town Council meeting. He said the ten year average was striking in that it is only a .5% increase. He gave credit to administrators and teachers but said they are struggling more and more every year. • Mr. Lawson said the Board scrutinized the budget very carefully and all gave up things near and dear to come up with a unanimous approval. • Mrs. Chastain said she is not a believer that increased spending necessarily leads to a better education but felt the Board was very fiscally responsible with this year's budget. She encouraged anyone saying that cuts should be made to come to our schools and then tell the Board where to cut because there aren't any cuts to be made. • Mrs. Faulenbach agreed, saying this is a shocking number and the money is just not there to cut. There will be ramifications. She said it would be great if the Board had \$800,000 in insurance forgiveness to offset its operational budget like the Town did, but they don't, and there are no rabbits to pull out of the hat. • Mr. Lawson said at this point there isn't even a hat.	D. BOE 2019-2020 Budget Update
13.	Adjourn	Adjourn

**New Milford Board of Education
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Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

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	Mr. Dahl moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m., seconded by Mr. McCauley and passed unanimously.	Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn at 9:45 p.m.
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Respectfully submitted:



Angela C. Chastain
Secretary
New Milford Board of Education