

**New Milford Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2020
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

Present:	Mrs. Angela C. Chastain Mr. Joseph Failla Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Pete Helmus Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan Mrs. Cynthia Nabozny Mrs. Olga I. Rella
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NEW MILFORD, CT

Also Present:	Dr. Kerry Parker, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Operations and Fiscal Services Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Mr. Brandon Rush, Director of Technology Mr. Kevin Munrett, Director of Facilities Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Dr. Christopher Longo, Principal, Schaghticoke Middle School Mr. Craig Benvenuti, Student Representative Mr. Joshua Abel, Student Representative
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1.	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. by Mrs. Chastain. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance
2.	Recognition A. National Geographic Geography Bee: SMS student William Orlando Dr. Parker invited Dr. Longo up to assist with the recognition of student William Orlando, who won the SMS National Geographic Geography Bee.	Recognition A. National Geographic Geography Bee: SMS student William Orlando

B.	NMPS Stars of the Month: Marni Gross, Kathleen Lewis, Joseph Raps, Sasha Salem, Betsy Stewart, Christina Strell • Dr. Parker said all nominations are considered together in one pool for random selection, so that bigger schools with more nominees could be on par with the smaller schools. Dr. Parker read a comment about each Star from the person who nominated them. They each received a pin recognizing their nomination. • Star Kathleen Lewis was randomly selected to drive the Ingersoll Automotive Courtesy Car for the month. The meeting recessed at 7:38 p.m. for a short reception and reconvened at 7:46 p.m.	B. NMPS Stars of the Month: Marni Gross, Kathleen Lewis, Joseph Raps, Sasha Salem, Betsy Stewart, Christina Strell
3.	Public Comment • Debbie McGuire read a letter on behalf of a former student who had been helped by the Effective School Solutions (ESS) program while in school. The student said cutting the program was a mistake. • Megan Byrd said she was disappointed in what she viewed as a partisan decision to remove 2/3 of the ESS program. She said it is not the Board's role to put forward a budget the Town Council will approve. The Board should put forth a budget for what students need. She asked how the Board can put a price on students' mental health. She said cutting the program will affect all students, not just the ones currently in the program, since remaining resources will now be spread out. She asked the Town Council to bring the funding back. • Ria Militana said the ESS program has helped her family and is their safety net, and it is sad that students are collateral damage in the cut. She said outsourcing is not cost effective and that there is a need for more programs like this, not less. • Theo Makowicki is a senior at the high school and is advocating for the ESS program as the best asset the high school has. Cutting the	Public Comment

program is telling students they are not worth the cost.

- Mandi MacDonald said mental health issues are rising in general. The ESS program has been a game changer for her son, in keeping him in school. She said she vehemently disagrees with the characterization of the program as a want versus need. She said the district has a legal obligation to provide a safe place for all students.
- Karen Romandi said the ESS program has been a huge help to her son. By cutting it, the Board is telling students they don't matter.
- Susan Waldman said she is an art teacher at NES which has almost a hundred more students than HPS. She said this number affects the specials teachers at NES in prepping for and serving all students. She asked the Board to consider solutions such as redistricting and additional help.
- Rafe MacDonald led three minutes of silence in recognition of the CDC report that three students grades 9-12 attempt suicide every three minutes.
- Kris Stewart spoke in support of the high school music program. Twenty band/chorus students participated in the CMEA concert. Four have been chosen for All State. String Fest took place February 13, with 116 string players participating. Winter Guard and Percussion are in their competition season, and Winter Guard took first place at their home show on February 15. She said as a parent, she is disappointed that the SAT Prep course has been dropped for next school year. She said she works with special education students in another district and she finds the New Milford projected class sizes for first grade concerning. She hopes there will be an aide assigned to each class.
- Allison Sidel said she is a clinical psychiatrist in Brookfield and she thinks the ESS program is a huge need in every community. New Milford had the only program in the area and it was so helpful in transitioning students in need into a school setting. The financial discussion misses the big picture.

4.	PTO Report Mrs. MacDonald said the K-8 PTOs are getting ready to open up the Book Fairs throughout parent/teacher conferences. The K-5 schools will be hosting family fun events in conjunction with their book fairs. The K-5 schools are also running read-a-thons through the end of this month into the first of March to help foster a love of reading. HPS PTO hosted a Candy Land dance and the kiddos had a great time. NES PTO hosted author Jana Dillon who introduced the kids to Lucky O'Leprechaun and spoke to them about the process of writing books. SNIS PTO has been helping the third grade teachers with organizing phonics curriculum flashcards. SMS PTO held a flower gram sales fundraiser this month for Valentine's Day. And the ever popular Krispy Kreme donuts fundraiser is back and you can still order for three more days! The HS PTO helped the student council with refreshments for the first ever winter dance. The HS PTO also sold midterm de-stress bags for students to help get them through the midterm angst.	PTO Report
5.	Student Representative's Report - Craig and Josh said sports teams have been excelling, both as teams and with individuals. Gymnastics and Wrestling both won the SWC. - February 26 will be the first Wingman activity day. Students have been trained and will lead small group meetings throughout the high school. - February 27 is a chorus/jazz concert. - The first Winter Formal in fifteen years was very successful. - Spring Sports meeting is March 4. - All School Musical tickets for the Addams Family are now on sale.	Student Representative's Report
6. A.	Approval of Minutes Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:	Approval of Minutes A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:

	1. Budget Hearings and Adoption Minutes January 21, 22, 28, and 29, 2020 Mrs. Rella moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Budget Hearings and Adoption Minutes January 21, 22, 28, and 29, 2020, seconded by Mrs. Monaghan and passed unanimously. 2. Special Meeting Minutes February 4, 2020 Mr. McCauley moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes February 4, 2020, seconded by Mrs. McInerney and passed unanimously. 3. Special Meeting Minutes February 11, 2020 Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes February 11, 2020, seconded by Mr. McCauley and passed unanimously.	1. Budget Hearings and Adoption Minutes January 21, 22, 28, and 29, 2020 Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Budget Hearings and Adoption Minutes January 21, 22, 28, and 29, 2020. 2. Special Meeting Minutes February 4, 2020 Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes February 4, 2020. 3. Special Meeting Minutes February 11, 2020 Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes February 11, 2020.
7. A.	Superintendent's Report Agriscience Program • Mrs. Olson said the second of three "Parents as Partners" events is tomorrow. The presenter will be speaking on how to help students aged K-21 cope with anxiety. She said over 60 people have registered already. • Dr. Parker introduced Region 12 Superintendent Megan Bennett and Agriscience Academy student Julianna, a resident of New Milford. They described the program and thanked New Milford for participating in the partnership. Dr. Parker said the availability of this program helps support NMPS' mission of preparing each and every student to compete and excel where they want to be.	Superintendent's Report A. Agriscience Program

8.	Board Chairman's Report • Mrs. Chastain said she and Dr. Parker will be attending a national school foundation conference in March. • She said she is forming an Ad-Hoc Communications Committee and Board members should let her know if they are interested in serving. • She referenced the Board Communications folder that is available at each monthly meeting and said that emails to the Board that are non-time sensitive are placed there for review.	Board Chairman's Report
9.	Discussion and Possible Action A. Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated February 25, 2020 Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as of February 25, 2020, seconded by Mr. McCauley. • Mrs. McNerney asked about current openings. Ms. Baldelli said there is a recent opening for a first grade teacher at HPS that will be filled with a certified long term substitute for the rest of the year. An internal transfer has been requested and will start with the new school year. There are two math teacher openings, as well as the Department Chair position, at the high school. They are covering through a virtual class and additional staff help. Some applications have been received. There is a special education teacher opening at SNIS with applications being reviewed currently. There are a few paraeducator openings with some candidates in process. Ms. Baldelli said she, Ms. DiCorpo, Mrs. Olson and a few of the principals will be attending the UConn Job Fair in April. • Mrs. McNerney said she asked last month about the ELA teacher opening at SMS and was told they were looking at applicants. Ms. Baldelli said	Discussion and Possible Action A. Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated February 25, 2020 Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as of February 25, 2020.

	they are continuing with the long term substitute at this time because of the cut to the English position at the high school. The motion passed unanimously.	
B. Monthly Reports	1. Budget Position dated January 31, 2020 2. Purchase Resolution: D-731 3. Request for Budget Transfers Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve monthly reports: Budget Position dated January 31, 2020; Purchase Resolution D-731; and Request for Budget Transfers, seconded by Mr. McCauley. - Mrs. Faulenbach said the Operations minutes reflect the discussion. Follow up information was also sent to all Board members. - Mr. Failla asked about the engine replacement listed on the purchase order. Mr. Munrett said it was a crack in the engine block of a 2008 model. - Mrs. Faulenbach noted that a request for a new vehicle was part of capital but is on hold for now. The motion passed unanimously.	B. Monthly Reports 1. Budget Position dated January 31, 2020 2. Purchase Resolution: D-731 3. Request for Budget Transfers Motion made and passed unanimously to approve monthly reports: Budget Position dated January 31, 2020; Purchase Resolution: D-731; and Request for Budget Transfers.
C. Gifts & Donations	1. PTO – Exhibit B Mr. McCauley moved to accept Gifts and Donations: PTO – Exhibit B in the amount of \$10,400.00, seconded by Mrs. Monaghan. - The Board thanked the PTO for its continued support of district programs. The motion passed unanimously.	C. Gifts & Donations 1. PTO – Exhibit B Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Gifts & Donations: PTO – Exhibit B in the amount of \$10,400.00.
D. Grant Approval	1. Public, Educational and Governmental Programming and Educational Technology Investment Account (PEGPETIA) Grant	D. Grant Approval 1. Public, Educational and Governmental Programming and Educational Technology

	Investment Account (PEGPETIA) Grant Mrs. McInerney moved to approve the Public, Educational and Governmental Programming and Educational Technology Investment Account (PEGPETIA) Grant in the amount of \$149,611.22, seconded by Mr. McCauley. • There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.	Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the Public, Educational and Governmental Programming and Educational Technology Investment Account (PEGPETIA) Grant in the amount of \$149,611.22.
E.	Approval of New Program or Course 1. Computer Science SMS Mrs. McInerney moved to approve the new course Computer Science SMS, seconded by Mr. McCauley. • Mr. Failla said courses such as these are teaching advanced computer topics to students at a younger and younger age, which is a very good thing. The motion passed unanimously. 2. Coaching Boys into Men/Coaching Girls to Leaders Mrs. Nabozny moved to approve the new program Coaching Boys into Men/Coaching Girls to Leaders, seconded by Mrs. Rella. • Mr. Failla said this is a fascinating program involving our high school coaches working with their teams on topics of personal responsibility. It will be piloted with the baseball and softball teams. This incorporates his philosophy that athletics is part of the overall educational process. • Ms. DiCorpo said the Girls to Leaders has been adjusted to match the concept of the Boys into Men program and is ready to go. She thanked Jason O'Connor of the Youth Agency for their	E. Approval of New Program or Course 1. Computer Science SMS Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the new course Computer Science SMS. 2. Coaching Boys into Men/Coaching Girls to Leaders Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the new program Coaching Boys into Men/Coaching Girls to Leaders.

	partnership with this program. She said the programs are a nice extension of the district's social emotional learning. • Mrs. Faulenbach said she would like the Board to receive feedback on these programs, as well as the Wingman program, for their knowledge as well as information for the general community. The motion passed unanimously. F. New Milford Barn Quilt Trail Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve the New Milford Barn Quilt Trail project for the red barn on New Milford High School property, seconded by Mrs. Nabozny. • Mrs. McInerney said this is a lovely program that helps make New Milford a destination stop for visitors and she is delighted the school district will be a part. • Mrs. Chastain said the plan is to partner with our students to do work on the project. The motion passed unanimously.	
10.	Items For Information And Discussion A. Field Trip Report • There was no discussion. B. Textbook Preview • Mr. Failla asked what classes this book would be used in. Ms. DiCorpo said it will be used in the study of the graphic novel in Literature and Media, Advanced Creative Writing and as part of the graphic novel unit for English 1, 2, and 3. C. Town of New Milford Audit Report dated June 30, 2019 • Mrs. Faulenbach said it was a very good audit report for the BOE and Town. She said there	Items For Information And Discussion A. Field Trip Report B. Textbook Preview C. Town of New Milford Audit Report dated June 30, 2019

	were some concerns on some of the procedures, which she raised at the time, about how we were going to address some of the recommendations, and she believes that the Board will eventually go back to the Town Council and Board of Finance to close out the \$200,000 expenditure that was used from one year to the next. She wanted it respectfully noted that the amount is not a “supplemental appropriation”, in the sense that the Board was intentionally short in its budget, but it is more of a revenue transfer terminology. The actual motion at Town Council on June 24 referred to it as a revenue stream adjustment but, for accounting purposes, the procedure is considered a supplemental appropriation. • Mr. Giovannone agreed saying that is the term for accounting purposes, but it has nothing to do with the Board overspending or underspending.	
11.	Adjourn Mrs. Faulenbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m., seconded by Mr. McCauley and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Wendy Faulenbach
Secretary
New Milford Board of Education