

**New Milford Board of Education
Special Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2019
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

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2019 JUL -1 P 12:57

NEW MILFORD, CT

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

Also Present:	Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Operations and Fiscal Services Mr. Kevin Munrett, Facilities Director
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1. A.	Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance The special 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.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance
2.	Public Comment - Sharon Chamberlin said she has spoken to the BOE and Town Council and appreciates them listening. She hopes for all the best for all the programs. - Brian Woolley said understands financial relief is coming but not immediately and he suggested the Board consider cuts to programs and items that don't need to be funded immediately, like the band, and add others in as needed. - Erik Zimmitti suggested alternates to the proposed cuts including reinstating pay to play, non-salary based and district based reductions, and others, adding up to over \$446,000. He suggested cutting one school day down to the state requirement of 180.	Public Comment

	• Gina Romano said she is a Sherman resident with an incoming sophomore to New Milford High School. She asked why the Board is considering taking a disproportionate amount of money from the band, which is a very inclusive program. • Megan Byrd thanked the Board for their hard work and due diligence. • Jennifer Carroll said she is a Sherman resident. She spoke to the correlation between music and students' cognitive and emotional development. She said the band is part of the curriculum. It is also very inclusive and teaches leadership qualities and belonging. • Greg Mullin said the Town Council provided a possible solution to some of the cuts with the suggestion to use end of year surplus towards funding next year's cuts. He encouraged the Board to use the money to restore band, TAG and athletic travel program. • Michelle Stowasz thanked the Board for its effort and diligence in clarifying the funding suggested by the Town Council so that the public could understand. • Kris Stewart read a statement from a former student that talked about the importance of the band family in his development. • Chrissy Woolley said she found the Town Council meeting disheartening. She said they moved to New Milford High School because it stood out academically and musically. Cutting the curricular music program means it will take years to recover.	
3.	Discussion and Possible Action A. Adjustments to the 2019-20 Board of Education Adopted Budget Mr. Failla moved to amend the 2019-20 Board of Education Adopted Budget from \$64,642,589 to \$64,040,692, as proposed by the Superintendent of Schools in the "Recommended Adjustments to the 2019-20 Budget".	Discussion and Possible Action A. Adjustments to the 2019-20 Board of Education Adopted Budget Motion made and passed to amend the 2019-20 Board of Education Adopted Budget from \$64,642,589 to \$64,040,692, as proposed by the Superintendent of Schools in the

Motion seconded by Mr. Schemm. Motion passed 7-0. • Mr. Failla said he appreciates the public participation last week and this week. He said the Board needs more of it on a regular basis to inform their work. He said he was astounded at how the Town Council spoke to the BOE last night. He said the BOE is the only Board in CT that can be held personally liable for their actions if they do not manage their budget and funds appropriately. He said Board members take their ethical and legal obligations very seriously. Town Council did make an effort last night but all they did with the \$200,000 to be used tonight is lend the BOE its own money. As a result, this money will not be available for capital reserve going forward. There were other suggestions made that the Town Council did not wish to consider. The BOE unanimously approved a budget which the Town Council then cut, and the Board of Finance put some back. Town Council made line item recommendations last night but that is solely the BOE's purview. The Board looks at all areas including working within the voluminous policies governing their work. He said his goal is to put students, supplies and teachers before administration. Mrs. Faulenbach made a motion to amend the Superintendent's recommended adjustments to the 2019-20 Board of Education Adopted Budget in the amount of \$200,000 based on the Town Council action of June 24, 2019 with the Town Council motion noted at that said meeting and upon further collaboration with the Town of New Milford and the audit firm Mahoney and Sabol for the purpose of reducing the 2019-20 Board of Education Adopted budget. Motion seconded by Mr. Dahl.	"Recommended Adjustments to the 2019-20 Budget". Motion passed 7-0. Motion made to amend the Superintendent's recommended adjustments to the 2019-20 Board of Education Adopted Budget in the amount of \$200,000 based on the Town Council action on June 24, 2019 with the Town Council motion noted at that said meeting and upon further collaboration with the Town of New Milford and the audit firm Mahoney Sabol for the purpose of reducing the 2019-20 Board of Education Adopted budget.
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	• Mrs. Faulenbach said it was a process to get here this evening. The Board went before the Town Council to express concerns and it was recommended to utilize \$200,000 and find a way to do it and the Board has through a lot of hard work. It has been a collaboration with the auditors involved, since using a fiscal year end balance in a different budget cycle has never been done before. She thanked the accounting team for their follow up to confirm that this can be done. • Mr. Giovannone said he reviewed the Town Council motions from last night with the auditors and they confirmed that one of them authorizing a supplemental appropriation could be used by the BOE for its 2019-20 budget. The amount of \$200,000 will be used as an expenditure credit. The auditors confirmed it would not create any compliancy or legal issues. • Mrs. Faulenbach said if this amendment passes the new amount needed for reductions is \$401,000. The motion passed 7-0.	Motion passed 7-0.
	• Mr. Schemm passed out a handout that would inform an amendment he was about to propose that would made adjustments to the Superintendent's proposed budget cuts within tiers to incorporate the \$200,000. • Mrs. Faulenbach said she had a point of privilege regarding the handout. She asked if Mr. Schemm was going to speak to specific line items since she was not prepared to vote on his handout as a whole. She suggested the discussion at least be by tiers, if not line items. She said she would prefer line items for transparency to the public. • Mr. Schemm suggested a motion that included Tier 1, 2, and 3 adjustments, seconded by Mr. Lawson. • Mr. Lawson said this means that Music, TAG, the Substance Abuse counselor, Practical Arts teacher, and Business teacher would not be cut, as was proposed. He said it also includes adding	

	a 0.6 assistant principal back into SNIS following a 1.0 cut by the Board. Additional information leads him to think this is necessary to prevent possible issues with student safety and to assist educationally with duties. • Mrs. Faulenbach said she agreed with most, but not all. She suggested a different way of approaching the same areas. She said she cannot support one item suggested, which is the assistant principal. She said the Board as a whole made that cut when the budget was originally adopted, and before the Town Council made its cuts, and the public voted accordingly. • Mrs. Chastain said she appreciates the work Mr. Schemm has done but she does not support it due to the inclusion of the assistant principal position. She said the Board added another position already to provide support and the school is disproportionate with the assistant principal numbers. • Mr. Failla said he agreed with his colleagues regarding the assistant principal only. That was already approved by the Board and should stay out with the money used elsewhere. He is in favor of all other items proposed. • Mrs. McInerney disagreed and she said the assistant principal is sorely needed for safety. She approves the other recommendations. • Mrs. Faulenbach asked when the Practical Arts equipment would come back in to support the teacher and Mr. Schemm said he plans to propose that later. • Mrs. Faulenbach said this is an example of why she prefers to look at each line item individually. It is cleaner. She gave her own list of adjustments. • Mr. Dahl said he has only supported the original cut to the assistant principal very reluctantly. After further reading regarding the extensive problems with bullying in schools, he is in favor of the 0.6 restoration to help with this, and strongly supports it. He said he would also like to add \$10,000 for athletic field trips by reducing the suggested cut.	
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• After further discussion, Mr. Schemm adjusted his original amendment under discussion to incorporate the ones listed below. Mr. Schemm made a motion to amend the 2019-20 Board of Education Adopted Budget by adopting Tier 1 and Tier 2 line items, noted in the handout that Mr. Schemm distributed to the Board, in the amount of \$106,132 for the purpose of reducing those line items from the 2019-20 Board of Education Adopted budget. Motion seconded by Mr. Lawson. • Mrs. Faulenbach said she would be voting no due to the inclusion of the assistant principal. She said she thought it was going back on what the Board promised the public by reinstating it. • Mr. Failla said he would also vote no for the same reason but that he and his colleagues were thrilled to be able to keep the other positions and programs in the budget. Motion passed 4-3. Aye: Mr. Dahl, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. McInerney, Mr. Schemm No: Mrs. Chastain, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. Failla • Mrs. Faulenbach said she wanted it noted that though the motion was not unanimous, there were a lot of good things included in it and she was pleased to see them included. Mr. Schemm made a motion to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2019-20 budget adjustments in the amount \$295,765 by adopting Tier 3 and Tier 4, noted in the handout Mr. Schemm distributed to the Board, based on the listed line items, for the purpose of reducing the 2019-20 Board of Education Adopted budget. Motion seconded by Mrs. McInerney.	Motion made to amend the 2019-20 Board of Education Adopted Budget by adopting Tier 1 and Tier 2 line items, noted in the handout that Mr. Schemm distributed to the Board, in the amount of \$106,132 for the purpose of reducing those line items from the 2019-20 Board of Education Adopted budget. Motion passed 4-3. Motion made to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2019-20 budget adjustments in the amount \$295,765 by adopting Tier 3 and Tier 4, noted in the handout Mr. Schemm distributed to the Board, based on the listed line items, for the purpose of reducing the 2019-20 Board of Education Adopted budget.
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Mr. Dahl made a motion to amend the amendment for Tier 3 to restore funds to the athletic field trips line in the amount of \$10,000 and increasing Tier 4 item to further reduce DOI capital by \$10,000. Amendment seconded by: Mrs. McInerney • Mrs. Faulenbach said she would not support this amendment because she thinks they should be reviewing by each line item instead, to give every Board member a chance to bring his or her thoughts to the table. • Mr. Lawson said the intent with the Chromebooks and Practical Arts equipment is to fund them from capital reserve, with the plan to receive additional funds for the account from the Town in the fall. Motions passed 5-2. Aye: Mrs. Chastain, Mr. Dahl, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. McInerney, Mr. Schemm No: Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. Failla Total motions approved reduce the Board of Education 2019-20 Adopted budget by \$601,897 to a total of \$64,040,692. • Mr. Schemm talked about the importance of public involvement in the budget process and with the advisory questions, especially now that the Town and education budgets pass or fail separately. • Mrs. Faulenbach thanked the community for their participation and voice in helping to inform restorations. She thanked the district financial and administrative teams for their support. • Mr. Failla said it is important to vote because every vote does count, especially in New Milford where a budget often passes or fails by a few votes. • Mrs. McInerney said she was pleased with the work and the positions and programs the Board	Motion made to amend the amendment for Tier 3 to restore funds to the athletic field trips line in the amount of \$10,000 and increasing Tier 4 item to further reduce DOI capital by \$10,000. Motions passed 5-2. No vote or motion necessary.
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	was able to keep. She especially appreciated the parent and student input.	
4.	Adjourn Mr. Dahl moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m., seconded by Mr. Failla and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Angela C. Chastain
Secretary
New Milford Board of Education