

**New Milford Board of Education
Special Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2019
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

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NEW MILFORD, CT

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

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 Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Dr. Christopher Longo, Principal, Schaghticoke Middle School Mr. Craig Benvenuti, Student Representative
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1.	Call to Order	Call to Order
A.	Pledge of Allegiance The special 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.	A. Pledge of Allegiance
2.	Recognition	Recognition
A.	VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest: SMS student Brandon Zhang Dr. Parker recognized SMS student Brandon Zhang for winning the VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest. This year's topic was "What Makes America Great".	A. VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest: SMS student Brandon Zhang

B.	NMPS Stars of the Month: Kristan Giroux, Sarah Herring, Chuck Lynch, Carolin Preusse, Tracy Robidoux, Kristen Stolle • Dr. Parker said this month all nominations were 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 Tracy Robidoux 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 7:45 p.m.	B. NMPS Stars of the Month: Kristan Giroux, Sarah Herring, Chuck Lynch, Carolin Preusse, Tracy Robidoux, Kristen Stolle
3.	Public Comment • Kris Stewart spoke on behalf of the NMHS music program. She said that every member of the band had a chance to play to a packed house at the winter concert last week. Eighth grade band students will be invited to join the high school band for a combined concert next month. String Fest for all ages will be held in February. The winter home percussion and guard show is February 15. Northern Region students will perform in January. Tryouts for All State band are coming. She thanked the Board for its support of the music program.	Public Comment
4.	PTO Report • Mrs. Chastain said the PTO representative was unavailable, but had submitted a written report for the minutes. • The town-wide PTO hosted the 2nd annual Sip n Shop the Friday before Thanksgiving. The event was a success and brought in more funds to help boost the scholarship fund. The K-5 PTOs have held holiday shops where students had an opportunity to shop for loved ones including furry four-legged family too! This program is a huge success in which the students learn the	PTO Report

	valuable lesson of giving. All the PTOs were busy this week providing sweets and treats for the teachers and staff at each school to spread a little holiday cheer. HPS PTO held an assembly with Jester Jim, which students really enjoyed. NES PTO hosted an assembly called <i>Make a Wave</i>, teaching students how to spread kindness like a wave. SNIS PTO will host a movie event over the break at Bank Street Theater with a showing of <i>The Spy in Disguise</i>. SMS PTO hosted a showing of the new Star Wars movie at Bank Street Theater. The High School PTO will be selling 'swag bags' for midterms' week in January. Parents can provide a care package for their students to help alleviate the stress of tests. The NMPTO wishes everyone a very happy holiday season.	
5.	Student Representative's Report • Craig said students are looking forward to the holiday break. He said Incoming Freshman Night is January 16, with a snow date of February 6. There will be a combined concert with the 8th grade band students on January 23.	Student Representative's Report
6.	Approval of Minutes A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: 1. Regular Meeting Minutes November 19, 2019 Mr. McCauley moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes November 19, 2019, seconded by Mrs. Monaghan and passed 6-0-1. Aye: Mrs. Chastain, Mr. Failla, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. McCauley, Mrs. McInerney, Mrs. Monaghan Abstain: Mr. Helmus 2. Special Meeting Minutes December 3, 2019	Approval of Minutes A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: 1. Regular Meeting Minutes November 19, 2019 Motion made and passed to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes November 19, 2019. 2. Special Meeting Minutes December 3, 2019

	Mrs. Monaghan moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes December 3, 2019, seconded by Mr. Failla and passed 6-0-1. Aye: Mrs. Chastain, Mr. Failla, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. Helmus, Mr. McCauley, Mrs. Monaghan, Abstain: Mrs. McInerney	Motion made and passed to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes December 3, 2019.
7.	Superintendent's Report • Dr. Parker said she would like to focus her comments this month on the district newsletter which comes out at the end of each month. The December issue will be distributed electronically tomorrow. It highlights many wonderful activities. The cover story is on the John J. McCarthy Observatory and the wonderful resource it is for students, staff and the community. Another article celebrates our students' community service and their generosity in giving as well as outreach. There is an article on NMHS Math teacher Linda Cervone, who recently won a statewide award. The Athletic Department is recognized for winning a sportsmanship award. Dr. Parker encouraged everyone to take a few moments and read about all the wonderful things going on in the district.	Superintendent's Report
8.	Board Chairman's Report • Mrs. Chastain said she would like to start with appointing Mrs. Faulenbach as parliamentarian. She distributed a request for subcommittee assignments and asked Board members to return it to her before the end of the year.	Board Chairman's Report
9.	Discussion and Possible Action A. Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated December 19, 2019	Discussion and Possible Action A. Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated December 19, 2019

Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as of December 19, 2019, seconded by Mr. McCauley. • Mr. McCauley asked about the Math resignation at the high school. Dr. Parker said they are posting for the position, but there is an AP Statistics component that will be covered through a virtual program. • Mr. Failla noted the resignation of a guidance counselor at the high school and how that may affect seniors. Dr. Parker said they are posting for this position as well. • Ms. Baldelli said Mr. Shugrue was handling the specifics of the current opening. Mr. Failla asked for details. • Mrs. McInerney said she was happy to see the winter band and guard positions filled to support that program. The motion passed unanimously. B. Monthly Reports 1. Budget Position - Revised 2. Purchase Resolution: D-729 3. Request for Budget Transfers Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve monthly reports: Revised Budget Position dated November 30, 2019; Purchase Resolution D-729; and Request for Budget Transfers, seconded by Mr. McCauley. • Mrs. Faulenbach noted as a point of clarification that monthly reports were brought to Operations. At that time, there was discussion about a legal item, which will be captured with approval of the reports tonight. The motion passed 6-0-1. Aye: Mrs. Chastain, Mr. Failla, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. McCauley, Mrs. McInerney, Mrs. Monaghan Abstain: Mr. Helmus	Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as of December 19, 2019. B. Monthly Reports 1. Budget Position - Revised 2. Purchase Resolution: D-729 3. Request for Budget Transfers Motion made and passed to approve monthly reports: Revised Budget Position dated November 30, 2019; Purchase Resolution: D-729; and Request for Budget Transfers.
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C. Gifts & Donations 1. PTO – Exhibit B Mrs. Monaghan moved to accept Gifts and Donations: PTO – Exhibit B in the amount of \$6,725.00, seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach. • The Board thanked the PTO for its continued support of district programs. The motion passed unanimously. D. Celtic Energy • Dr. Parker said she is happy to report that a draft MOU has been received and vetted by Attorney Connon. She will bring it forward at the next Facilities and Operations subcommittee meetings. E. Grant Approval 1. Perkins V Mrs. McInerney moved to approve the Perkins V Grant in the amount of \$36,884.00, seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach. • Mrs. Monaghan said the grant was very detailed, and congratulated the administration for securing this large amount of money. The motion passed unanimously. F. Policies for Approval 1. 1700 Possession of Firearms on School Property Prohibited 2. 1800 Animals on School Property Mrs. Monaghan moved to approve policies: 1. 1700 Possession of Firearms on School Property Prohibited 2. 1800 Animals on School Property Seconded by Mr. McCauley.	C. Gifts & Donations 1. PTO – Exhibit B Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Gifts & Donations: PTO – Exhibit B in the amount of \$6,725.00. D. Celtic Energy E. Grant Approval 1. Perkins V Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the Perkins V Grant in the amount of \$36,884.00. F. Policies for Approval 1. 1700 Possession of Firearms on School Property Prohibited 2. 1800 Animals on School Property Motion made and passed to approve policies: 1. 1700 Possession of Firearms on School Property Prohibited 2. 1800 Animals on School Property
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	- Mr. Failla said he continues to have issues with policy 1700 because of the way the CT statute is written. The motion passed 5-1-1. Aye: Mrs. Chastain, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. McCauley, Mrs. McInerney, Mrs. Monaghan No: Mr. Failla Abstain: Mr. Helmus G. Policy for Second Review 1. 6146 Graduation Requirements - Mrs. Monaghan asked for clarification on the mastery based credit. Ms. DiCorpo said the State requires one mastery based credit that may be defined by the high school team. This was discussed at Committee on Learning prior to the revised policy being adopted by the Board. This is in lieu of a capstone project, and may be accomplished through testing out of state assessments, meeting an intervention goal or through an internship or community service, at any time during the student's high school years. - Mr. Failla asked for information on the internship program in New Milford. Ms. DiCorpo said she had met with the head of Economic Development and discussed how the Perkins grant might relate. The district is continuing to cultivate the relationship with the Workforce Investment Board. They are also having discussions with the State for other program supports. - Mrs. Monaghan suggested the Chamber of Commerce as a valuable resource. Ms. DiCorpo said Mr. Shugrue is in contact with them. - Mrs. Faulenbach said outreach has been discussed for a while. She suggested the topic be added as a separate agenda item for a future Committee on Learning meeting. She said this is a part of our curriculum, and it is important to provide the resources to make it happen.	G. Policy for Second Review 1. 6146 Graduation Requirements
10.	Items For Information And Discussion	Items For Information And Discussion

A. Field Trip Report • Mrs. McNerney said she was happy to see these enriching opportunities for students. She questioned the cost for the Lake Compounce trip for SMS and the amount of PTO funding. • Dr. Longo said this was a typo and the amounts should be reversed. • Ms. DiCorpo said the total cost to students is \$33, with PTO funding \$10 per student. B. Relocation of Administrative Offices • Dr. Parker said this conversation started at subcommittees. She has had discussions with Principal Bilko. The Board toured the proposed space this evening. She noted that the Board has asked for enrollment projections. She said it is important to look at options. The Lillis building had another leak today, which will require that the heat be shut off to fix it. The building has many underlying concerns. • Mrs. Faulenbach noted this topic was on for discussion only and that it was important to look at the potential safety concerns at Lillis and also any budget implications, as well as collaboration with the Town on a larger plan. She said it is past time to have the conversation and start to add in dollar amounts. • Dr. Parker said they are planning for continued Lillis costs in budgeting, since there is no timeframe yet for a move. However if a location change moves forward, that would free up Lillis funds to be used for the relocation. • Mrs. McNerney said she found the tour helpful, and appreciates the consideration of options. She said it is a good start but more is needed. She said it is important to be clear, accurate and transparent when quoting cost savings and cost avoidance numbers as they can be taken out of context by the public. • Mr. Helmus agreed saying that the JPS savings that were promised never came to fruition. He said any capital savings goes to the Town and that undermines BOE support. He said he thinks collaboration with the Town is imperative.	A. Field Trip Report B. Relocation of Administrative Offices
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	• Dr. Parker said she thought it was important to have the conversation with the Board first before going forward with any conversation with the Town. C. Budget Drivers • Mrs. Faulenbach said she appreciates all the feedback and information leading into actually receiving the proposed budget book. She said it is a daunting task, and that not all items will make the cut, but the documents have provided insight and opportunity for Board members to comment.	C. Budget Drivers
11.	Adjourn Mrs. Monaghan moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m., seconded by Mr. McCauley and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Wendy Faulenbach
Secretary
New Milford Board of Education