

**New Milford Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2017
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

Present:	Mr. David A. Lawson, Chairman Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Dave Littlefield Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mr. J.T. Schemm
Absent:	Mrs. Angela C. Chastain Mr. Robert Coppola Mr. Bill Dahl

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK

2017 FEB 21 A 8:48

NEW MILFORD, CT

Also Present:	Mr. Joshua Smith, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources Ms. Roberta Pratt, Director of Technology Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Mr. Kevin Munrett, Facilities Manager Dr. Christopher Longo, Schaghticoke Middle School Principal Mrs. Anne Bilko, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Principal Ms. Kendall Stewart, Student Representative Mr. Gregory Winkelstern, Student Representative
---------------	--

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.	A. Pledge of Allegiance
2.	Recognition	Recognition
A.	VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest: SMS student Kerith Bradshaw Ms. Keli Solomon said Kerith won on the local and regional level writing an essay for the chosen theme of "The America I Believe In".	A. VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest: SMS student Kerith Bradshaw

B.	National Geographic Geography Bee: SMS student Sophia Conklin • Dr. Longo said Sophia went through several rounds of the Geography Bee to win the school wide event. C. <i>The Piper</i> Student Magazine – NMHS • Mr. Smith said The Piper has received an award of “excellence” from the National Council of Teachers of English for three years previously: in 2011, 2012 and 2014. This year they were one of four student magazines to receive a higher “superior” rating. D. NMPS Retiree: Mr. Joseph Dragone • Mr. Smith said Mr. Dragone had worked for NMPS as a guidance counselor for 29 years total, including 16 years at JPS and most recently at Sarah Noble. E. NMPS Stars of the Month: Lorraine English, Lauren Iverson, Stephen Kern, Kimberlee Lavallee, Deborah Stephens, Dana Wheeler • Mr. Smith read a comment about each Star from the person who nominated them. They each received a pin recognizing their nomination and Mrs. Wheeler was randomly selected to drive the Ingersoll Automotive courtesy car for the month. The meeting recessed at 7:40 p.m. and reconvened at 7:46 p.m.	B. National Geographic Geography Bee: SMS student Sophia Conklin C. <i>The Piper</i> Student Magazine – NMHS D. NMPS Retiree: Mr. Joseph Dragone E. NMPS Stars of the Month: Lorraine English, Lauren Iverson, Stephen Kern, Kimberlee Lavallee, Deborah Stephens, Dana Wheeler
3.	Public Comment • Michael Barnes, a New Milford resident, said East Street is not the only building in town that is not ADA compliant. He said Pettibone is also not ADA compliant. He said Peter Mullen was threatening to sue over the ADA but he never	Public Comment

	looked to update the buildings when he was on the Town Council. He said a few years ago, a report stated to refurbish one wing of Pettibone would cost \$1 million and now Mayor Gronbach says he can do it for \$250,000. • Greg Mullen, a New Milford resident, said when the democrats agreed to the MOU, the Mayor said the BOE would not have to pay for the move and now he is saying the Board should use their capital reserve for the Pettibone project. He said if the Board members sign this new agreement then they should not be on this Board. • Stephen Looney, a New Milford resident, said he did not like the comingling of funds. The BOE oversees the education of children. He said the Board should not give up its capital reserve in case work needed to be done in the schools down the road. Mr. Lawson appointed Mrs. Faulenbach as temporary parliamentarian to which position she agreed.	
4.	PTO Report • Kathleen Lewis reported on behalf of the PTO that the first half of the year has been relatively quiet. This past month they had some grants approved and the students will soon benefit from the funds that have been raised so far. • The PTOs at the K-5 schools will be funding author visits to help celebrate their literature enrichment programs along with encouraging the students to keep track of their reading for the Read-a-Thon programs. SMS will kick off its Battle of the Books. Book fairs will be held in the K-8 schools to follow these programs. • Some other fun events scheduled at the schools are Science Carts for kindergarten and first grade at HPS, the Snow Ball dance at Northville, and a movie day at Bank Street Theater for SNIS. • The PTO will be sponsoring a Summer Camp & Activities Expo and Vendor Fair on Saturday, Feb. 25, from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the SNIS	PTO Report

	cafeteria. All money raised will go to the scholarship fund. • The PTO is also working with Susan Brofford to host two science fairs. The Sarah Noble event will be for grades 3 -5 and will be held on Thursday, March 9, and the NES and HPS fair will take place on Wednesday, March 15, for K-2. Both events will be held in the SNIS gym. • The Grad Party Committee has scheduled some fun events to raise funds needed to support this great event. There will be a Wine Tasting on Friday, Feb. 24, at St. John's Parish Hall; Three Brothers Restaurant will sponsor a Grad Party Night on Sunday, Feb. 26, by donating 10% of their sales from that evening; on Saturday, April 1, there will be a Watercolors and Wine event and last but not least the famous Junk in the Trunk on Sunday, April 30, at the HS. • The spirit day for March will take place on Friday, March 3. The theme is Inside Out Day.	
5.	Student Representatives' Report • The students wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day. • The gymnastics and wrestling teams won the SWC titles. For gymnastics, it was their fourth consecutive win. • Girls' indoor track placed second in the SWCs. • The all-school musical, Mary Poppins, is upcoming and tickets are \$10. This is Mr. Bob Keck's final show as director. • Incoming Freshman Night was held at the high school in January for the class of 2021 and their families. • On Thursday, Feb. 23, there will be an Instrumental, Chorus, Jazz Band and Advanced Chorus performance. • On Thursday, Feb. 16, the annual Stringfest will be held at the HS. • On Friday, Feb. 24, the Mr. Green Wave Beauty Pageant fundraiser will be held.	Student Representatives' Report

	- Thursday, March 16, is the St. Baldrick's Fundraiser to raise funds for childhood cancer research. Participants agree to shave their heads for donations. - Monday, March 6, the Band and Orchestra will be performing at Boston Symphony Hall.	
6.	Approval of Minutes A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: 1. Annual Meeting Minutes December 13, 2016 2. Regular Meeting Minutes December 13, 2016 3. Budget Hearing/Adoption Minutes January 17, 18, 25 and 26, 2017 Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: 1. Annual Meeting Minutes December 13, 2016 2. Regular Meeting Minutes December 13, 2016 3. Budget Hearing/Adoption Minutes January 17, 18, 25 and 26, 2017 Seconded by Mr. Littlefield and passed unanimously.	Approval of Minutes A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: 1. Annual Meeting Minutes December 13, 2016 2. Regular Meeting Minutes December 13, 2016 3. Budget Hearing/Adoption Minutes January 17, 18, 25 and 26, 2017 Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: 1. Annual Meeting Minutes December 13, 2016 2. Regular Meeting Minutes December 13, 2016 3. Budget Hearing/Adoption Minutes January 17, 18, 25 and 26, 2017
7.	Superintendent's Report - Mr. Smith handed out green wristbands symbolizing an initiative in which all schools are participating called "Start with Hello" which is an effort to increase connections between students, staff, etc. The Sandy Hook Promise group sponsors it. - There have been two snow days so far.	Superintendent's Report

	• Next week, on Wednesday, Feb. 22, the Board of Education budget will be presented to the Town Council and Board of Finance. • Mr. Smith said the district is watching the cuts that are being proposed by Hartford closely as they could mean catastrophic changes. New Milford is one out of the ten worst hit districts in the State with a proposed \$6.5 million cut which would be an almost 7% impact.	
8.	Board Chairman's Report • Mr. Lawson said the Governor's proposed budget still had to go before the General Assembly and he hoped that group would adjust it. He is drafting a resolution to be sent to the state representatives encouraging them not to punish New Milford since it has been financially responsible.	Board Chairman's Report
9.	Committee and Liaison Reports A. Facilities Sub-Committee – Mr. McCauley • Mr. McCauley said they discussed the solar initiative on town buildings and there was a lot of public comment about the future funding of the replacement of the turf fields. B. Operations Sub-Committee – Mrs. Faulenbach • Mrs. Faulenbach said they discussed the usual monthly reports. They talked about the paraeducators substitute rate and they will hear a presentation at the next meeting about substitute coverage vendors. • They also discussed the Pettibone-East Street issue and made no recommendation to the Board. • Mr. Lawson said he, as Board Chair, put this item on the agenda tonight.	Committee and Liaison Reports A. Facilities Sub-Committee B. Operations Sub-Committee

C.	Policy Sub-Committee – Mr. Schemm - Mr. Schemm said the next Policy meeting will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 28, and they will discuss their plan for this year at that meeting. D. Committee on Learning – Mrs. McInerney - Mrs. McInerney said they will have their next meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 28, and will discuss curriculum including Chorale Music, Choral Performance, Instrumental Music, Middle East Studies, Principals of Marketing, Marketing Work Program, and Sports and Entertainment Marketing. E. EdAdvance – Mr. McCauley - Mr. McCauley said he has not been to a meeting yet. F. Connecticut Boards of Education (CABE) – Mr. Coppola - Mr. Smith said CABE will present their next Board workshop in April. The group is actively looking at the proposed state budget and its impact. G. Negotiations Committee – Mrs. Faulenbach - Mrs. Faulenbach said they will begin to negotiate the teachers' new contract at the end of spring. H. Magnet School – Mr. Schemm - Mr. Schemm said 60% of the magnet school students are from Danbury. Seventeen New Milford students are enrolled. There will be a small tuition increase to \$1,900 total and to put that into perspective, the CREC schools charge \$5,500.	C. Policy Sub-Committee D. Committee on Learning E. EdAdvance F. Connecticut Boards of Education (CABE) G. Negotiations Committee H. Magnet School
------------------	---	--

I.	Ad-Hoc Committee – Mr. Coppola Mr. Smith said the scheduled meeting was cancelled due to weather.	I. Ad-Hoc Committee
10.	Discussion and Possible Action A. Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated February 14, 2017 Mr. McCauley moved to approve Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as of February 14, 2017, seconded by Mr. Littlefield. The motion passed unanimously. B. Monthly Reports - Budget Position dated 1/31/17 - Purchase Resolutions: D-695 - Request for Budget Transfers Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve monthly reports: Budget Position dated January 31, 2017; Purchase Resolution D-695; and Request for Budget Transfers, seconded by Mr. Littlefield. The motion passed unanimously. C. Gifts & Donations - PTO-Exhibit B Mr. Lawson moved to accept Gifts and Donations: PTO - Exhibit B in the amount of \$17,960.00, seconded by Mr. McCauley. The motion passed unanimously.	Discussion and Possible Action A. Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated February 14, 2017 Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as of February 14, 2017. B. Monthly Reports - Budget Position dated 1/31/17 - Purchase Resolutions: D-695 - Request for Budget Transfers Motion made and passed unanimously to approve monthly reports: Budget Position dated January 31, 2017; Purchase Resolution D-695; and Request for Budget Transfers. C. Gifts & Donations - PTO-Exhibit B Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Gifts & Donations: PTO-Exhibit B in the amount of \$17,960.00.

D.	Textbook Approval Mrs. McInerney moved to approve the following textbook: 1. <u>Human Geography: Landscapes of Human Activities</u> – Grades 9-12 Seconded by Mr. Littlefield. The motion passed unanimously. E. Turf Field Replacement Plan Mrs. Faulenbach moved that the Chair draft a memo to the Town requesting set up of an account for turf field replacement and that remaining funds from the project be put in the account as seed money, seconded by Mr. McCauley. • Mrs. Faulenbach said she was glad to see this on the Facilities agenda as the Board needs to be proactive to set up this account and fund it. The motion passed unanimously. F. Mayor's Request: JPS and East Street • Mrs. Faulenbach said she wished to clarify that the MOU of December 13, 2016, is null and void. Mrs. Faulenbach moved that the Board of Education officially makes null and void the Memorandum of Understanding dated December 13, 2016, seconded by Mr. Lawson. The motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Faulenbach moved that the Board of Education reject the Memorandum of Understanding dated February 7, 2017, as presented to the Operations Sub-Committee in relation to the move to John Pettibone School, seconded by Mr. Littlefield.	D. Textbook Approval Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following textbook: 1. <u>Human Geography: Landscapes of Human Activities</u> – Grades 9-12 E. Turf Field Replacement Plan Motion made and passed unanimously that the Chair draft a memo to the Town requesting set up of an account for turf field replacement and that remaining funds from the project be put in the account as seed money. F. Mayor's Request: JPS and East Street Motion made and passed unanimously that the Board of Education officially makes null and void the Memorandum of Understanding dated December 13, 2016. Motion made and passed that the Board of Education reject the Memorandum of Understanding dated February 7, 2017 as presented to the Operations Sub-Committee in
------------------	--	---

	• Mrs. Faulenbach clarified that a vote for this motion meant no MOU would be accepted. • She said she was uncomfortable with this new MOU that was looking to use the Board of Education's capital reserve to fund the costs to renovate the JPS building space. She noted the 1995 resolution establishing the capital reserve required two other agencies, the Town Council and Board of Finance, to approve use by the Board of Education. She said the reserves have come from previous end of year balances created by efficiencies. • Mr. Littlefield said his criteria when making decisions on items before the Board include: does it benefit the students, how will it impact teachers, and how will it impact the taxpayers. He said he saw no benefit to any of these groups in this proposal. He said he went to the ADA website, and there is no reason to move out of East Street because of ADA non-compliance. He said the ADA statutes say that reasonable accommodations must be made which have been made through use of an office on the first floor. He said spending the Board's money on this would be a terrible deal for the Board. • Mr. Schemm said he is risk averse. He felt the original December 13, 2016, MOU was low risk. He said this new MOU does not look like the one the Board originally agreed to. He noted the Board is in the business of education and lately they have been dragged into the business of buildings. • Mrs. McInerney said this is a new MOU on the table and the money promised is no longer available. She said the Mayor is asking the Board to take \$250,000, or one quarter of the capital reserve, to move to a building that the Board does not own. She said she is not comfortable with the dwindling resources and she was not confident that any money from the potential sale of East Street would be placed back into the capital reserve. She is in favor of JPS being transformed into a community center, but cannot	relation to the move to John Pettibone School.
--	---	---

	vote to commit funds from the capital reserve to fund renovations. She feels the Board needs to continue discussing the ADA compliance issue. • Mr. Lawson said he is all for a community center but he feels the Board needs to reevaluate its position on this proposal. • Mrs. Faulenbach said this new MOU was a surprise and is very different from the first, including costs and how it would affect the Board's reserves. She did appreciate the collaboration that had been proposed. The motion passed 5-0-1. Aye: Mrs. McInerney, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Schemm, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. Littlefield Abstain: Mr. McCauley	
11.	Items of Information A. Field Trip Report • Mrs. Faulenbach asked about the trip to Peru and Ms. DiCorpo said they will be doing fundraising. Mr. Smith said this trip is not until April of 2018. The cost per student is approximately \$2,145 and includes transportation, stipends for the host families, activities in Peru, and other lodging. B. Textbook Preview C. Important Dates New Milford Public Schools 2017-2018 D. Board of Education Adopted 2017-2018 Budget	Items of Information A. Field Trip Report B. Textbook Preview C. Important Dates New Milford Public Schools 2017-2018 D. Board of Education Adopted 2017-2018 Budget

12.	Adjourn Mrs. Faulenbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m., seconded by Mr. McCauley and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.
------------	--	---

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McNerney
Secretary
New Milford Board of Education