

New Milford Board of Education
Meeting Motions & Minutes
August 18, 2026
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center

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Present:	Mrs. Leslie Sarich, Chairperson Mrs. Sarah Herring, Secretary Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Assistant Secretary Mr. Dean Barile Mr. Joseph Failla Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Tom O'Brien	
Absent:	Mr. Eric Hansell, Vice Chairperson Mr. Brian McCauley	

Also Present:	Dr. Janet Parlato, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Mr. Matthew Cunningham, Director of Facilities Mrs. Linda Demeyer, Director of Human Resources Mr. Jeffrey Turner, Director of Technology Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Dr. Kimberly Culkin, Director of Student Services
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1.	A.	Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Mrs. Leslie Sarich, Chairperson. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance
2.	A.	Public Comment There was none.	Public Comment
3.		PTO REPORT There was none.	PTO REPORT
4.		APPROVAL OF MINUTES Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: 1. Special Meeting Minutes June 16, 2026 2. Regular Meeting Minutes June 16, 2026 3. Special Meeting Minutes June 23, 2026	APPROVAL OF MINUTES A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: 1. Special Meeting Minutes June 16, 2026

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		<i>Mrs. Herring moved to approve the Special Meeting Minutes June 16, 2026. Seconded by Mrs. McInerney. Motion passed unanimously.</i> <i>Mr. O'Brien moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes June 16, 2026. Seconded by Mrs. McInerney. Motion passed unanimously.</i> <i>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve the Special Meeting Minutes June 23, 2026. Seconded by Mrs. Sarich. Motion passed 5-0-2 with Mrs. Faulenbach and Mr. Barile abstained.</i>	2. Regular Meeting Minutes June 16, 2026 3. Special Meeting Minutes June 23, 2026 Motion made and passed to approve the Special Meeting Minutes June 16, 2026. Motion passed unanimously. Motion made and passed to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes June 16, 2026. Motion passed unanimously. Motion made and passed to approve the Special Meeting Minutes June 23, 2026. Motion passed 5-0-2.
5.		SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Dr. Parlato stated it was a busy summer. Tomorrow is the first day for teachers and August 24th the first day for students.	SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
6.		BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT Mrs. Sarich stated the panel for new teacher hires went well. There was a ribbon cutting to celebrate the new middle school gymnasium floor.	BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT
7.	A. Monthly Reports 1. Budget Position dated July 31, 2026 2. Purchase Resolution: D-808 3. Request for Budget Transfers	<u>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</u>	DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION A. Monthly Reports 1. Budget Position dated July 31, 2026 2. Purchase Resolution: D-808 3. Request for Budget Transfers

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	<i>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve the Budget Position dated July 31, 2026; Purchase Resolution D-808; and Request for Budget Transfers. Seconded by Mrs. McInerney. Motion passed unanimously.</i> B. Policy for Discussion 1. 5000 Policy Regarding Non-Discrimination (Students) Item moved to the September 15, 2026 Board meeting. C. Policies for Second Read 1. 5142 Administration of Student Medications in the Schools 2. 6156 Policy Regarding Library Collection Development and Maintenance, Library Displays and Programs, and Library Material Review and Reconsideration <i>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve policies 5142 Administration of Student Medications in the Schools, and 6156 Policy Regarding Library Collection Development and Maintenance, Library Displays and Programs, and Library Material Review and Reconsideration. Seconded by Mr. O'Brien. Motion passed unanimously.</i> D. Policy for Third Read 1. 6142.1 Curricular Exemptions	Motion made to approve the Budget Position dated July 31, 2026; Revised Purchase Resolution D-808; and Request for Budget Transfers. Motion passed unanimously. B. Policy for Discussion 1. 5000 Policy Regarding Non-Discrimination (Students) C. Policies for Second Read 1. 5142 Administration of Student Medications in the Schools 2. 6156 Policy Regarding Library Collection Development and Maintenance, Library Displays and Programs, and Library Material Review and Reconsideration Motion made to approve policies 5142 Administration of Student Medications in the Schools, and 6156 Policy Regarding Library Collection Development and Maintenance, Library Displays and Programs, and Library Material Review and Reconsideration. Motion passed unanimously. D. Policy for Third Read
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		<i>Mrs. Sarich moved to approve the policy 6142.1 Curricular Exemptions. Seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach.</i> The Board discussed a proposed parental opt-in policy for certain curricular topics. Mrs. Sarich opened the discussion by acknowledging Mr. Barile's perspective but cited a legal opinion suggesting that an opt-in requirement could inadvertently jeopardize graduation for students who fail to proactively opt-in to necessary topics. Mrs. McInerney supported the existing policy, noting that the current policy already provides an opt-out mechanism for students wishing to avoid specific content. In response to an inquiry from Mrs. Faulenbach regarding timing, Dr. Parlato confirmed there is no immediate time constraint for adopting or revising the policy. Mr. Barile stated that an opt-in system would not be prohibitive, asserting that existing district safeguards are sufficient to ensure students meet graduation requirements. Mrs. McInerney expressed concern that removing a student from a class based on specific topics could negatively impact their academic grades. Mr. Barile suggested that the district could implement alternatives similar to those provided for students opting out of animal dissection. He maintained that local boards of education possess the authority to adopt more protective parental-consent policies as long as statutory educational obligations and student opportunities for required instruction are maintained. When asked by Mrs. McInerney about current participation rates, Dr. Parlato indicated that the percentage of students utilizing the opt-out option is currently very low. Mr. Barile further illustrated his point by comparing the proposed policy to field trip consent forms, stating that the default could be opt-in without violating statutory requirements.	1. 6142.1 Curricular Exemptions
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	Mr. Failla suggested that the legal counsel's cautionary stance might be overly influenced by a fear of litigation rather than practical necessity. <i>Mrs. Sarich pulled the main motion.</i> <i>Mrs. Faulenbach pulled the second motion.</i> E. Hiring Committee Membership Mrs. Sarich opened a discussion regarding the Board's role within the hiring committee process. She suggested that the Board may wish to reconsider its level of involvement, specifically regarding participation in candidate interview panels. Mrs. Faulenbach noted, pursuant to existing Board policy, all administrative appointments must be formally approved by the Board of Education. F. Consideration of a one-year leave of absence for Samantha Madigan, paraprofessional at Sarah Noble Intermediate School. <i>Mr. Barile moved to approve a one-year leave of absence for Samantha Madigan, paraprofessional at Sarah Noble Intermediate School. Seconded by Mr. O'Brien. Motion passed unanimously.</i>	E. Hiring Committee Membership F. Consideration of a one-year leave of absence for Samantha Madigan, paraprofessional at Sarah Noble Intermediate School. Motion made to approve a one-year leave of absence for Samantha Madigan, paraprofessional at Sarah Noble Intermediate School. Motion passed unanimously.
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8.	A. 5000 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination (Students) No discussion. B. 26/27 Capital Reserve Withdrawal	ITEMS OF INFORMATION A. 5000 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination (Students) B. 26/27 Capital Reserve Withdrawal
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	Mr. Giovannone reported the Capital Reserve is currently just below \$300,000. The district is scheduled to receive a deposit of \$1.2 million in January 2027, along with additional anticipated credits. Mr. Failla expressed concern regarding the low balance of the account. Mrs. Faulenbach observed \$1.9 million had been specifically earmarked for capital projects. Mr. Giovannone further clarified the projects received Board approval in May 2026, followed by authorizations from the Town Council and the Board of Finance in July. He reminded the Board any expenditures exceeding the current authorizations would necessitate further municipal approval. Mr. Failla reiterated his concern about the current balance of the capital reserve, emphasizing the necessity of maintaining a higher balance in case of a significant, emergent facilities need. Mrs. Faulenbach noted there will be a \$1.2 million deposit back to the district in January 2027.	
	C. Update on Propane Gas Tax Credits Mr. Giovannone stated there are two parts to the credits. One is complete and the second is caught up in IRS litigation. The credits are approximately \$172,000 and \$200,000. Mr. Giovannone stated the auditors provided guidance on how to allocate these funds. They can flow to the Capital Reserve account or a non-lapsing account. There is a 20% fee that the district pays to the company handling the credits.	C. Update on Propane Gas Tax Credits
	D. NMHS Roof Reimbursement Mr. Giovannone stated the reimbursement that came through to the town was more than anticipated. The town treated the overage by sharing extra money on the same proportional basis by which the district contributed. This will result in approximately \$106,000 going back to the Capital Reserve account.	D. NMHS Roof Reimbursement
	E. Employment Report - August 2026	E. Employment Report - August 2026

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	Mrs. Demeyer stated they currently have 44 open positions. There is a shortage of paraeducators. Answering Mrs. McInerney's question, Mrs. Demeyer stated the starting salary for a paraeducator is \$19.65/hour. Mr. O'Brien noted Mrs. Sanger is retiring after 46 years. F. Enrollment Report - July and August 2026 Dr. Parlato stated the district is down 60 students compared to last year. October's report will be a good indicator of enrollment. G. Review of Facilities Projects in New Milford Public Schools Mr. Cunningham reported that a full district update will be presented to the Board in September. The middle school underground storage tank project is complete, with clean soil samples, and Central Office renovations are finished. Sarah Noble Intermediate School has had some classroom retiling and the multipurpose room elevator has been repaired. Nine companies bid on the tennis court project. Mrs. Faulenbach confirmed that negotiations with the town regarding the tennis courts remain ongoing. H. Field Trip Report No discussion.	F. Enrollment Report - July and August 2026 G. Review of Facilities Projects in New Milford Public Schools H. Field Trip Report
9.	<u>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</u> A. Discussion and possible action concerning the interview of a candidate for the Schaghticoke Middle School Assistant Principal position. Executive Session anticipated. The Board may take action when it returns from Executive Session.	<u>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</u> A. Discussion and possible action concerning the interview of a candidate for the Schaghticoke Middle School Assistant Principal position. Executive Session anticipated. The Board may take action when it returns from Executive Session.

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		<i>Mr. O'Brien moved for the Board to enter into executive session for the purpose to interview a candidate for the Schaghticoke Middle School Assistant Principal position. Invited into executive session were Dr. Janet Parlato, Superintendent of New Milford Public Schools and the candidate. Seconded by Mrs. McInerney. Motion passed unanimously.</i> <i>The Board of Education entered executive session at 7:40pm.</i> <i>The candidate entered executive session at 7:52pm.</i> <i>The candidate exited executive session at 8:03pm.</i> <i>The Board of Education returned from executive session at 8:04pm.</i> <i>Mrs. Herring moved to appoint Mr. Daniel Delia to the position of Schaghticoke Middle School Assistant Principal, effective August 19, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Barile. Motion passed unanimously.</i>	Motion made for the Board to enter into executive session for the purpose to interview a candidate for the Schaghticoke Middle School Assistant Principal position. Invited into executive session were Dr. Janet Parlato, Superintendent of New Milford Public Schools and the candidate. Motion passed unanimously. Motion made for the Board to appoint Mr. Daniel Delia to the position of Schaghticoke Middle School Assistant Principal, effective August 19, 2026. Motion passed unanimously.
10.		ADJOURN <i>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Seconded by Mrs. Sarich. Vote passed unanimously.</i>	ADJOURN Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah C Herring

Mrs. Sarah Herring
Secretary
New Milford Board of Education