

New Milford Board of Education
Operations Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2026 7:15 pm
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
2026 SEP 10 P 3:34
NEW MILFORD, CT

Present:	Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Chairperson Mr. Brian McCauley Mr. Tom O'Brien
----------	---

Absent:	Mr. Eric Hansell
---------	------------------

Also Present:	Dr. Janet Parlato, Superintendent of Schools Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Finance Mr. Jeffrey Turner, Director of Technology Mr. Matthew Cunningham, Director of Facilities Mrs. Linda Demeyer, Director of Human Resources
---------------	--

1.		Call to Order The New Milford Board of Education Operations Subcommittee was called to order at 7:15pm by Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Chairperson.	Call to Order
2.		Public Comment There was none.	Public Comment
3.	A.	Discussion and Possible Action Monthly Reports 1. Budget Position dated August 31, 2026 2. Purchase Resolution D-809 3. Request for Budget Transfers Mr. Giovannone presented the financial report through August 31st, noting that it does not yet reflect payroll encumbrances, which will appear on the October report once teacher paychecks are processed. Regarding revenues, there was no activity reported other than Medicaid reimbursement. Additionally, the turf field replacement currently reflects a \$50,000 contribution from the town, while the Board's matching \$50,000 contribution will be reflected in the budget pending the final audit in January. During the discussion on the purchase resolution, Mr. Giovannone explained that encumbrances cover goods and services to be expended throughout the year. In response to an inquiry from Mr. O'Brien regarding special education purchases and recurring funding, Dr. Parlato clarified that the	Discussion and Possible Action A. Monthly Reports 1. Budget Position dated August 31, 2026 2. Purchase Resolution D-809 3. Request for Budget Transfers

	IDEA grant is an annual recurring grant awarded every two years. Mrs. Faulenbach asked about the dollar amounts allocated for special education transportation expenses. Mr. Giovannone confirmed that \$1,388,630 is budgeted for out-of-district placements. Dr. Parlato added that securing transportation services remains challenging due to difficulty finding drivers. Mr. O'Brien asked how line item amounts for propane and natural gas are determined given projected savings from the ESG program. Mr. Giovannone stated that the district piggybacks on the town's existing contracts for natural gas, propane, oil, and gasoline. For electricity, guidance from the town and NV5/ESG establishes projections that preserve cost savings, with unused funds allocated toward lease payments. He clarified that ESG does not set total budget lines, and the town provides guidance on projected commodity price increases. Mrs. Faulenbach requested a breakout of the unexpected expenses related to the project. <i>Mr. O'Brien moved to bring the Operations Subcommittee monthly reports to the Board of Education for discussion and possible action, seconded by Mr. McCauley. The motion passed unanimously.</i>	
B. RFP E-2627-001 NMHS Tennis Courts A&E	Mr. Giovannone reported that BSC Group was awarded the bid to serve as the landscape architectural firm, confirming they had not participated in the initial bidding round. Mr. Cunningham further elaborated that the preliminary bidding phase focused on contractors to source design-builders, whereas the current bid targeted landscape architectural expertise. Addressing financial considerations, Mrs. Faulenbach inquired if the project funding was drawn from the capital request. Mr. Giovannone confirmed this, noting that the total capital allocation stands at approximately \$1.1 million,	Motion passed to bring the Operations Subcommittee monthly reports to the Board of Education for discussion and possible action. Motion passed unanimously. B. RFP E-2627-001 NMHS Tennis Courts A&E

	encompassing both the design and construction phases. Mr. McCauley questioned whether a rubberized coating could be applied to the surface. Mr. Cunningham indicated that the design currently calls for post-tension concrete, though alternative playing surfaces may be evaluated provided they comply with CIAC standards. Mr. O'Brien requested an update on the status of the USTA grant application. Mr. Cunningham stated that there is hesitation to move forward with the grant due to use restrictions that would limit multi-sport flexibility on the courts. Mr. Giovannone informed the Board that motions regarding collaborative funding efforts with the town for the tennis court costs may be presented at the upcoming Board meeting. <i>Mr. McCauley moved to bring the RFP E-2627-001 NMHS Tennis Courts A&E to the Board of Education for discussion and possible action, seconded by Mr. O'Brien. The motion passed unanimously.</i>	
C.	2026 / 2027 Tuition Rates Mr. Giovannone stated there was a standard increase of 4.38% for the 2026/2027 tuition rates. The 5 year average, which does not include Sherman students, is \$25,549 and the revenue goes directly to the town. The Sherman contract is up for renewal this year. Those funds as well as ECS also goes directly to the town. Mrs. Faulenbach noted it is important to document that there are other nuances of revenue going to the town that are not just property taxes. <i>Mr. O'Brien moved to bring the 2026 / 2027 Tuition Rates to the Board of Education for discussion and possible action, seconded by Mr. McCauley. The motion passed unanimously.</i>	Motion passed to bring the RFP E-2627-001 NMHS Tennis Courts A&E to the Board of Education for discussion and possible action. Motion passed unanimously. C. 2026 / 2027 Tuition Rates
D.	Transportation Stops	D. Transportation Stops

	Mr. Giovannone stated that the matter regarding transportation policies will be brought to the policy committee before proceeding to the full Board of Education. Mr. O'Brien inquired which extracurricular activities are impacted, Dr. Parlato gave examples such as dance, gymnastics and more. Mr. Giovannone reported that certain requests had been initiated directly with All-Star Transportation by parents or at specific schools. Mrs. Faulenbach emphasized that while parents benefit from these arrangements, individual families cannot independently arrange stop modifications with the bus company due to significant liability implications. Under current board policy, the district assumes responsibility for students from the point of pickup until drop-off. Mrs. Faulenbach noted such arrangements could be perceived as promoting specific businesses. Mr. Giovannone clarified that the process was paused to evaluate specific requests; however, to avoid unfairly impacting families on short notice, alternate stops with existing precedent have been granted an extension through December 31st. Dr. Parlato added that when bus passes were managed strictly at the building level, the district lacked visibility into the total volume being issued. Dr. Parlato shared that legal counsel advised current policy does not formally support transportation to daycare facilities or extracurricular activities, emphasizing that bus services are not intended for personalized transport. Mrs. Faulenbach noted that while transportation is currently provided to licensed daycares, it appears legal counsel recommends re-evaluating the practice altogether. Mr. O'Brien emphasized the necessity of balancing liability concerns with community needs, a sentiment echoed by Mrs. Faulenbach. Addressing daycare operations, Mr. Giovannone explained that licensed providers have staff present to receive students, providing mutual operational benefits. Discontinuing daycare drops could lead to a higher volume of individual home pickups	
--	---	--

**New Milford Board of Education
Operations Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2026 7:15pm
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

Page 5

		instead of consolidated stops. Dr. Parlato confirmed that licensed daycare facilities, including the Youth Agency, maintain background checks and state licensure. In response to Mr. O'Brien's question regarding regional practices, Dr. Parlato indicated that offering this level of alternative transportation service is unusual compared to other districts. Mrs. Faulenbach inquired about the financial impact if the board limited transportation strictly to home-to-school routes and requested data on student counts per daycare facility. Additionally, Mrs. Faulenbach requested that legal counsel provide revised policy language for the board so the board may prepare for all options appropriately before making any changes.	
4.	A. Employment Report - September 2026 Mrs. Demeyer stated they have made progress on hiring certified staff. Paraeducators remain the majority of the open positions. B. Enrollment Report - September 2026 Dr. Parlato stated they have switched over to 26/27 projection. The district is 55 over projected, which is within range, and down 34 in the year over year comparison.	Items of Information A. Employment Report - September 2026 B. Enrollment Report - September 2026	
5.	Public Comment There was none.	Public Comment	
6.	Adjourn <i>Mr. O'Brien moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:01pm, seconded by Mr. McCauley, and passed unanimously.</i>	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 pm.	

Respectfully submitted:



Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach
Chairman, Operations Subcommittee