

New Milford Board of Education
Meeting Motions & Minutes
September 15, 2026
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center

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Present:	Mrs. Leslie Sarich, Chairperson Mr. Eric Hansell, Vice Chairperson Mrs. Sarah Herring, Secretary Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Assistant Secretary Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Brian McCauley Mr. Joseph Failla Mr. Tom O'Brien Mayor Pete Bass, <i>ex-officio</i>
Absent:	Mr. Dean Barile

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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 6:30 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 Mrs. Bigalow-Kern of 76 Second Hill Rd., stated she is a parent of a New Milford High School student. She commended the district on their communications but added there was a lack of communication about ICE. Mrs. Bigalow-Kern urged the district to be cognizant of ICE.	Public Comment
3.		IDEAL EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: TEACHERS AND PARAEDUCATORS OF THE YEAR	IDEAL EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: TEACHERS AND PARAEDUCATORS OF THE YEAR

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		Dr. Parlato stated it is a pleasure to recognize the ParaEducators and Teachers of the Year honorees, and awardees for 2026 and 2027. Winners include: Paraeducators: • Melissa Buturla, Sarah Noble Elementary School • Danielle Evans, Northville Elementary School • Toni Bentley, Schaghticoke Middle School • Anthony Pelillo, Hill & Plain School and District ParaEducator of the Year Teachers: • Gretchen Rondini, Northville Elementary School • Susan Stoughton, Schaghticoke Middle School • Jessica Kelly, Hill and Plain School • Megan Lago, Sarah Noble Intermediate School • Nicole DuVerger, New Milford High School and District Teacher of the Year	
4.		PTO REPORT There was none.	PTO REPORT
5.		STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT <i>See Superintendent's Report</i>	STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT
6.		APPROVAL OF MINUTES Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: 1. Special Meeting Minutes August 18, 2026 2. Regular Meeting Minutes August 18, 2026 <i>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve the Special Meeting Minutes, August 18, 2026. Seconded by</i>	APPROVAL OF MINUTES A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: 1. Special Meeting Minutes August 18, 2026 2. Regular Meeting Minutes August 18, 2026 Motion made and passed to approve the Special Meeting

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		<i>Mrs. McInerney. Motion passed 6-0-2 with Mr. Hansell and Mr. McCauley abstained.</i> <i>Mr. O'Brien moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes, August 18, 2026. Seconded by Mrs. McInerney. Motion passed 6-0-2 with Mr. Hansell and Mr. McCauley abstained.</i>	Minutes August 18, 2026. Motion passed 6-0-2. Motion made and passed to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes August 18, 2026. Motion passed 6-0-2.
7.		SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Dr. Parlato stated the district has begun its 4th week of school. Mr. Porter could not be in attendance for the Student Representatives' Report and Dr. Parlato shared his notes: Hill and Plain had their Open House and a package of "Jitter Glitter" was given to each student to put under their pillow the night before school for luck. The school was featured on WFSB Channel 3 News as one of the first Connecticut schools to start the year. New Milford High School cheerleaders helped cheer on students as they arrived on the first day. They continue to focus on improving attendance and lowering chronic absenteeism. The PTO Color Run raised almost \$5,000 and families enjoyed the annual Fall Fest. Northville Elementary School had their Curriculum Night. The PTO hosted a Welcome Back event. Students enjoyed picking out pumpkins, petting goats, and food trucks. The school is currently participating in their Apex Fundraiser, with a Fun Run taking place this Friday. Both schools participated in the Roz's Great Camouflage Challenge, and a few lucky students won the next book in the Wild Robot series. Sarah Noble Intermediate School had a welcome back Foam Fest. Students are settling into their new classes and this past week students enjoyed the PTO fun run. There is a family evening event on the 23rd. Schaghticoke Middle School had their first 6th grade dance of the year. Initial assessments are being done for iReady Math and ELA. Students are	SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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		using planners for the first time in years. Clubs and activities are open to students. Picture Day is Friday. New Milford High School had their first responder recognition on September 10th. A blood drive on September 11th. Open house is September 15th, and this week is Spirit Week. Homecoming is September 18th and the dance is September 19th.	
8.		BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT Mrs. Sarich reminded board members that they should not contact the Board of Education's attorney directly.	BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT
9.		LEGISLATIVE UPDATE Dr. Parlato stated Representative Bill Buckbee will be in attendance at the October meeting to give an update on recent legislation.	LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
10.		SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS A. Policy No discussion. B. Committee on Learning No discussion. C. Facilities Mr. O'Brien stated the spring and summer projects will be reviewed by Mr. Cunningham. D. Operations Mrs. Faulenbach stated the tuition rates and tennis courts finances will be discussed.	SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS A. Policy B. Committee on Learning C. Facilities D. Operations

11.		<u>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</u> A. Monthly Reports Budget Position dated August 31, 2026 Purchase Resolution: D-809 Request for Budget Transfers Mrs. Faulenbach asked Mr. Giovannone for a detailed breakdown of transportation. Mr. Giovannone stated the turf field account was now updated.	DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION A. Monthly Reports Budget Position dated August 31, 2026 Purchase Resolution: D-809 Request for Budget Transfers
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		<i>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve the Budget Position dated August 31, 2026; Purchase Resolution D-809; and Request for Budget Transfers. Seconded by Mr. McCauley. Motion passed unanimously.</i>	Motion made to approve the Budget Position dated August 31, 2026; Revised Purchase Resolution D-809; and Request for Budget Transfers. Motion passed unanimously.
	B. 2026-27 Board of Education and District Goals No discussion. <i>Mrs. Sarich moved to approve the 2026-27 Board of Education and District Goals. Seconded by Mr. McCauley. Motion passed unanimously.</i>		B. 2026-27 Board of Education and District Goals Motion made to approve the 2026-27 Board of Education and District Goals. Motion passed unanimously.
	C. Policy for Discussion 1. 5000 Policy Regarding Non-Discrimination (Students) Mr. Failla stated the United States Supreme Court issued a decision barring transgender girls and women from competing in female sports, and that is not recognized as a Title IX violation.		C. Policy for Discussion 1. 5000 Policy Regarding Non-Discrimination (Students)
	D. RFP E-2627-001 NMHS Tennis Courts A&E Mayor Bass stated, after hearing the intentions of the tennis courts to include pickleball and other free play components, he will make the recommendation to the Town Council to utilize the Waste Management Fund to disperse \$500,000 towards the courts. It will help mitigate costs to the taxpayers. The contribution to the tennis courts from the waste management fund will then give the Board of Education \$500,000 in capital funds to use toward HVAC and security projects. Mr. McCauley stated he appreciated the conversation and possibility of the partnership. The district has been putting anywhere from \$50,000-\$80,000 every 5 years towards the courts for maintenance. Mrs.		D. RFP E-2627-001 NMHS Tennis Courts A&E

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	Faulenbach stated this is a wise use of the Waste Management funds since they are earmarked for recreation. <i>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve the RFP E-2627-001 New Milford High School Tennis Courts A&E to BSC Group, in the amount of \$77,500. Seconded by Mr. Hansell. Motion passed unanimously.</i>	Motion made to approve the RFP E-2627-001 New Milford High School Tennis Courts A&E to BSC Group, in the amount of \$77,500. Motion passed unanimously.
	E. NMHS Tennis Court Funding <i>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to request appropriation of \$500,000 from the Waste Management fund toward the BOE New Milford High School Tennis court project, and re-appropriate \$500,000 (of the original \$1,100,000) from the BOE New Milford High School Tennis court project as follows: \$250,000 towards future Board of Education HVAC replacement/improvements and \$250,000 towards Security updates, subject to the approval by Town Council, Board of Finance, and Town Meeting. Seconded by Mr. McCauley. Motion passed unanimously.</i>	E. NMHS Tennis Court Funding Motion made and passed to request appropriation of \$500,000 from the Waste Management fund toward the BOE New Milford High School Tennis court project, and re-appropriate \$500,000 (of the original \$1,100,000) from the BOE New Milford High School Tennis court project as follows: \$250,000 towards future Board of Education HVAC replacement/improvements and \$250,000 towards Security updates, subject to the approval by Town Council, Board of Finance, and Town Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
	F. 2026/2027 Tuition Rates Mr. Failla asked that the tuition amounts be put on the record to make it easier for the public to find. Mrs. Faulenbach stated the tuition rates will be raised to the following: New Milford High School - \$15,765 Schaghticoke Middle School - \$13,568 K-5 Schools - \$13,306	F. 2026/2027 Tuition Rates

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	Mr. Failla stated that the tuition rates themselves should be specified in the motion. <i>Mr. Hansell moved to approve the 2026/2027 Tuition Rates. Seconded by Mr. McCauley. Motion passed unanimously.</i>	Motion made and passed to approve the 2026/2027 Tuition Rates. Motion passed unanimously.
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12.	ITEMS OF INFORMATION A. 5000 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination (Students) No discussion. B. Board of Education Meeting Schedule No discussion. C. Employment Report - September 2026 Mrs. Demeyer stated the majority of vacancies are paraeducators. In response to Mrs. McNerney's question, Mrs. Demeyer stated they have 39.4 openings, 9.4 of those are certified. D. Enrollment Report - September 2026 Dr. Parlato stated kindergarten has an increase because of the new legislation for kindergarten start age. Class sizes are still reasonable. The October report will give the best snapshot. E. Review of Spring/Summer 2026 Facilities work in New Milford Public Schools Mr. Cunningham presented a slideshow of the spring/summer 2026 projects. Those projects included the cleaning of the chiller at the high school, sidewalk repair at the high school and Northville, the underground storage tank replacement at the middle school, the gymnasium being redone at the middle school, office space construction at Central Office, pipe work at Northville, other miscellaneous projects as well as the seasonal work needing to be completed.	ITEMS OF INFORMATION A. 5000 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination (Students) B. Board of Education Meeting Schedule C. Employment Report - September 2026 D. Enrollment Report - September 2026 E. Review of Spring/Summer 2026 Facilities work in New Milford Public Schools
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		Responding to Mrs. McInerney's inquiry, Mr. Cunningham stated the middle school bleachers will be replaced next year. Mr. O'Brien asked about the source of funding for the projects. Mr. Cunningham stated the projects were funded through the capital reserve and DRIP funds, the middle school gymnasium was through DRIP funds. Mrs. Faulenbach noted the cost savings that was had with conducting the majority of projects in-house. F. Field Trip Report Dr. Parlato stated many of the trips are for the marching band.	F. Field Trip Report
13.		ADJOURN <i>Mr. O'Brien. O'Brien moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Hansell. Vote passed unanimously.</i>	ADJOURN Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah E Herring

Mrs. Sarah Herring
Secretary
New Milford Board of Education