

**New Milford Board of Education**

**Meeting Minutes**

**September 19, 2023**

**Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

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NEW MILFORD, CT

Present:	Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Chairperson Mr. Pete Helmus Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mr. Tom O'Brien Mrs. Sarah Herring Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Leslie Sarich Mr. Eric Hansell Mayor Pete Bass, <i>ex-officio</i>
Absent:	Mrs. Olga I. Rella

Also Present:	Dr. Janet Parlato, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Mr. Matthew Cunningham, Facilities Director Mr. Jeffrey Turner, Technology Director Mrs. Teresa Kavanagh, Director of Human Services Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Mr. Zachary Schurin, Attorney Ms. Naomi Post, Student Representative Mr. Antonio Caldereri, Student Representative
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1.	A.	<b>Call to Order</b> Pledge of Allegiance The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Chairperson. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	<b>Call to Order</b> Pledge of Allegiance
2.	A.	<b>Public Comment</b> None	<b>Public Comment</b>
3.		<b>RECOGNITION: 2023-24 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR</b> Dr. Parlato stated the district wanted to recognize the 2023-2024 teachers of the year. These teachers represent the very best of their profession. Through their diligence, care, creativity and collaboration with colleagues, they demonstrate love for their students and their passion for education. Dr. Parlato then called up each teacher to personally thank them and present an award. Teachers included Angela Tufts from Northville, Rebecca Regan from Hill and Plain, Shannon Arcano from Sarah Noble, Charles	<b>RECOGNITION: 2023-24 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR</b>

	<p>Lynch, who could not be present, from New Milford High School. Teacher of the year for the district overall, representing New Milford at the state level, Theresa McGuinness from Schaghticoke Middle School. Dr. Parlato thanked the administrators for coming to support the teachers.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO FILL VACANT OFFICER POSITIONS</b></p> <p><b>1. Vice-Chairperson</b></p> <p>Mr. Faulenbach asked for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the New Milford Board of Education.</p> <p><i>Mr. Helmus nominated Mrs. Sarich for Vice-Chairperson. Seconded by Mr. Hansell.</i></p> <p><i>All other members present passed.</i></p> <p><i>After a paper ballot vote, Mrs. Sarich was elected Vice-Chairperson by a unanimous vote.</i></p> <p><b>2. Secretary</b></p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked for nominations for the position of Secretary of the New Milford Board of Education.</p> <p><i>Mr. McCauley nominated Mrs. McInerney for Secretary. Mr. Hansell nominated Mrs. Rella.</i></p> <p><i>All other members present passed.</i></p> <p><i>After a paper ballot vote, Mrs. McInerney was elected to Secretary by a vote of 6-2.</i></p> <p><b>3. Assistant Secretary</b></p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked for nominations for the position of Assistant Secretary of the New Milford Board of Education.</p>	<p><b>ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO FILL VACANT OFFICER POSITIONS</b></p> <p><b>1. Vice-Chairperson</b></p> <p><b>Mrs. Sarich was elected Vice-Chairperson of the New Milford Board of Education. The vote was unanimous.</b></p> <p><b>2. Secretary</b></p> <p><b>Mrs. McInerney was elected Secretary of the New Milford Board of Education. The vote passed 6-2.</b></p> <p><b>3. Assistant Secretary</b></p>

		<p><i>Mr. Helmus nominated Mrs. Herring for Assistant Secretary. Seconded by Mr. Hansell.</i></p> <p><i>All other members present passed.</i></p> <p><i>After a paper ballot vote, Mrs. Herring was elected Assistant Secretary by a unanimous vote.</i></p>	<p><b>Mrs. Herring was elected Assistant Secretary of the New Milford Board of Education. The vote was unanimous.</b></p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>A.</b></p>	<p><b>PTO REPORT</b></p> <p>Mrs. Megan Byrd stated the past month has been busy for the schools PTO's, as well as the town wide PTO. The town wide PTO began selling the local discount card. There are 12 local merchants participating this year, and the cards are available through any of the PTO presidents for \$10 each. PTO is working on their annual membership drive and looking to find ways to reintroduce the PTO. The hope is to bring back membership numbers to pre-covid levels, as the numbers are very low. The membership dues, aside from costs such as insurance, goes to the senior scholarship fund.</p> <p>The Hill and Plain PTO has been sending home back to school information, hosting their first PTO meeting and providing information about the PTO at curriculum night. The fall festival and mum sale is happening this Friday from 5pm to 7pm. Some of the highlights will include a free pumpkin for the first 150 students, visiting goats, an inflatable obstacle course, face painting and more.</p> <p>Northville Elementary School has been busy staffing an information and merchandise table at curriculum night, and hosting their first PTO meeting. There will be a movie under the stars event for families on Friday. They also have a Monster Bash in the works for mid-October.</p> <p>Sarah Noble had their curriculum night, and their big back to school event. They shifted from an outside to inside event with very little notice and managed to still throw a great event.</p> <p>Schaghticoke Middle School had a welcome back Fall Festival this past Friday, which was well</p>	<p><b>PTO REPORT</b></p>

		<p>received. They are hard at work planning grade level dances and other events.</p> <p>The New Milford High School had their first PTO meeting of the year, with a table at open house in hopes of reminding parents that PTO does not stop at the younger schools. The PTO is grateful for the collaboration with Mr. Manka and the administration for allowing the PTO to speak to those parents and hope to keep spreading the word. The PTO plans to sell refreshments at the homecoming dance and are looking for other opportunities for fundraising as well.</p> <p>The PTO is very thankful for the community sponsors. The PTO is providing t-shirts for all pre-K through 8th grade students this year as part of a group fundraising effort with Boosterthon. There were several local businesses and organizations that stepped up with generous donations. With their help, the PTO is able to put more of their profits back into programming while still providing fun shirts for the districts. Theme of the shirts is "FUTURE WORLD CHANGERS!"</p>	
6.	A.	<p><b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b> Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: 1. August 15, 2023 Minutes</p> <p><i>Mr. O'Brien moved to approve the August 15, 2023 minutes. Seconded by Mr. Helmus. Mr. Hansell and Mrs. Sarich abstained. The motion passed 6-0-2.</i></p>	<p><b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b> A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: 1. August 15, 2023 Minutes</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the August 15, 2023 minutes. Motion passed with a vote of 6-0-2.</p>
7.	A.	<p><b>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</b></p> <p><b>Superintendent's Yearly Goals</b> Dr. Parlato welcomed the district's two student representatives Naomi Post and Antonio Caldareri.</p> <p>Ms. Post stated Sarah Noble had a successful Fall Festival, even with moving it indoors at the last minute. The school had curriculum night last week</p>	<p><b>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</b> A. Superintendent's Yearly Goals</p>



	<p>and this week The Sandy Hook Promise “Start with Hello” week began to help spread kindness.</p> <p>The middle school has been working to set expectations and relationship building. They brought back weekly spirit week, next week will be “Start with Hello” week and the theme for the year is kindness. Ms. Post was happy to report the high school is ranked 40 out of 206 CT high school’s and 900 out of over 25,000 nationwide. The marching band successfully performed their show “Haunted”. The NMHS Theatre performances this year will be Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night's Dream” and Disney’s, “The Little Mermaid”. The school is honoring National Hispanic Heritage Month with morning announcements brought by the DEI Club.</p> <p>Ms. Post welcomed Mr. Antonio Caldareri as her fellow student representative.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato addressed the board, stating the school year started smoothly. The district continues to work with the bus company due to not having enough drivers, and understands the delays and frustrations that are happening.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato then spoke regarding school lunch, stating, by board policy and by practice, every student is provided a lunch whether or not the student has funds in their account. The registers at the high school have been fixed so a student can charge beyond one lunch. Dr. Parlato stressed that the cafeteria staff works diligently and carefully to feed 3,600 students every day. They are truly among the hardest working employees in the district. They do not and have not turned children away at lunch. Second, the school district, through its general fund, covers any student’s lunch debt at the end of the school year. For example, in 2018 the school district covered \$9,300 of lunch debt at the end of the year. In 2019, the district covered \$5,100 in lunch debt at the end of the year. The way it works is all student accounts are reset to zero at the end of the school year and the Board of Education’s General Fund covers any lunch debt.</p>	
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	<p>Finally, Dr. Parlato stated she wanted to say a little bit about communication. The most reliable place to get information about the school or district and have questions answered is through the Office of the Principal or from the Superintendent’s Office. We, meaning the school and district administration, and the Superintendent, are the ones that can actually help solve a problem or clarify a question. Our district exists to serve the community and part of that service is answering questions and providing accurate information, if those questions are presented.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated she cannot emphasize enough that calling the school or calling her office will provide the information, answers, and resources that are accurate and helpful. In the upcoming days, a document with all the important contact information for each school will go out to the families of the district.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato then went on to give her goals for the year to the board. Dr. Parlato stated, as Superintendent, it is her responsibility to come up with areas of focus for the district. Her practice lies on the foundation of Relational Trust.</p> <p>The district’s ideas to live by are focus, collaboration &amp; creativity, and heart. The schools will adopt these and grow the district through them. This year’s district goals are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Have pre-K to 12 students meeting academic growth targets.</li><li>2. Build strong relationships with students, families and community.</li><li>3. Foster a safe, welcoming and respectful school climate to support teachers and students.</li></ol> <p>The vision of the district is to create goals and make decisions guided by a variety of data. This can be done through developing and maintaining robust community partnerships, and telling the story of the school district in different ways. Schools are so busy it is hard for them to communicate all the good they have done. Other ways are to practice careful and</p>	
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	<p>responsible stewardship of funds and facilities, as well as have HR focus on attracting and retaining high quality staff members.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated the vision of practices is to support deeper learning:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement powerful instructional practices guided by the science of student and adult learning. Utilizing knowledge of brain sciences, tailor how students learn.</li> <li>2. Design tasks and demonstrations of learning as a way to develop independence and voices.</li> <li>3. Purposely use this information to to get students to guide upcoming instruction and learning.</li> <li>4. Maintain a safe and welcoming and respectful environment.</li> <li>5. Act with a deep sense of care and service in building and sustaining relationships with all stakeholder groups. That is how we walk together every single day.</li> </ol> <p>With the Vision of the Graduate the students should be able to demonstrate communication, critical thinking, problem solving, growth mindset, personal relationships and social awareness. It looks different depending on grade levels.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated she wanted to share the goals in public session so the community at large can hear about the areas of focus. It is truly what the district stands for and what they are striving for. In February there will be a presentation on actual practices and programs that are aligned with the areas of focus.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato thanked the cabinet members for their support as well as building administrators.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach thanked Dr. Parlato.</p>	
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Policy</li> <li>B. Committee on Learning</li> <li>C. Facilities</li> <li>D. Operations</li> </ol>	<p><b>SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Policy</li> <li>B. Committee on Learning</li> <li>C. Facilities</li> <li>D. Operations</li> </ol>

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	<p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated there is a tremendous amount of work that happens with each subcommittee. She believed having a brief discussion of each subcommittee would be good and then went on to allow each subcommittee Chairperson to give an overview.</p> <p>Policy: Mrs. Faulenbach spoke about Policy since Mrs. Rella was not in attendance. Mrs. Faulenbach stated there are policies that are on the agenda for review , deletion and adoption, and there are two still that have been returned to the Policy Committee: Nepotism and Transportation. Dr. Parlato stated by the February meeting, hopefully all of the district policies will be finalized.</p> <p>Committee on Learning: Mrs. McInerney stated there are three curricula for discussion and approval. Lots of work goes into putting them together. The 5 Year Curriculum Plan is a road map of the work happening in the district. Curriculum is always reviewed at this time of the year. Science of Reading has been a thoughtful process. Kindergarten through 3rd grade are being brought up to grade level. Summer Learning Lab utilized the UFLI program with great success, increasing phonics by 50% in just 12 days. There have been world language issues at the middle school. The district hired one Spanish teacher and one French teacher. Those classes are no longer common core classes and are now unified arts. Each 7th and 8th grade student is still taking a world language. The three unfilled Spanish positions were supplemented by social studies and English teachers to teach humanities. Since world language is no longer a core class, the district will be able to offer other curriculum, for example engineering, to offer more variety to students who may want to go into a specific pathway earlier rather than later. This will provide better services to students who want skills in different areas.</p> <p>Facilities: Mr. McCauley stated the subcommittees are set up for robust discussion and actionable items, to allow them to do more at the board</p>	
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		<p>meetings. Wood shop, ceiling, gym and central office will all be discussed.</p> <p>Operations: Mrs. Faulenbach stated it is personnel, finances, bid awards, etc. There are action items and discussion items on the agenda including monthly reports, finance pieces, bid awards, fire reimbursement, NV5, etc.</p>	
9.	A.	<p><b>BOARD CHAIRMAN’S REPORT</b></p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated the officer elections are complete until December. There is a board workshop on October 19th at 6pm focused on finance and encourages others to attend. Mrs. Faulenbach mentioned she has continued a discussion with the Mayor about having committees work together on cost savings. There should be a meeting with the Board of Education, Finance, and Town Council and an opportunity where board members can serve on these committees.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated transportation should be looked into more closely. Mrs. Faulenbach asked Dr. Parlato to see where money can be saved with transportation and she also encouraged board members to come forward with budget ideas.</p>	<b>BOARD CHAIRMAN’S REPORT</b>
10.	A.	<p><b>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</b></p> <p>Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Budget Position dated August 31, 2023</li> <li>2. Purchase Resolution: D-774</li> <li>3. Request for Budget Transfers</li> </ol> <p>Mr. Giovannone reiterated that there is a workshop focused on finance on October 19 which will go through object codes, monthly reports, and the budget process.</p> <p>Mr. Helmus noted that there is a new state formula for excess cost calculation. Based on New Milford’s wealth status, the district would fall in the 88% range. Mr. Giovannone stated yes, the formula will</p>	<p><b>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</b></p> <p>A. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Budget Position dated August 31, 2023</li> <li>2. Purchase Resolution: D-774</li> <li>3. Request for Budget Transfers</li> </ol>



	<p>be revised by the state and will be something to consider for future year budgets.</p> <p><i>Mr. Hansell moved to approve monthly reports: Budget Position dated 8/31/23; Purchase Resolution: D-774; and Request for Budget Transfers. Seconded by Mr. McCauley.</i></p> <p><b>B. Policies for Approval:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 1105 Non-Discrimination</li> <li>2. 1111 School Security and Safety</li> <li>3. 1212 School Volunteers, Student Interns and Other Non-Employees</li> <li>4. 1250 Policy Regarding Visitors and Observations in Schools</li> <li>5. 1700 Policy Regarding Possession of Deadly Weapons or Firearms</li> <li>6. 5165 Graduation Requirements</li> </ol> <p><i>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve the Policies for Approval. Seconded by Mr. McCauley.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Hansell asked for a motion to remove Policy 1105 Non-Discrimination and have the board discuss before voting on that one particular policy.</i></p> <p><i>Mrs. Faulenbach asked the board if we could vote on the policies separately and they agreed.</i></p> <p><i>Mrs. McInerney pulled the main motion.              Mr. McCauley pulled the second motion.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. McCauley moved to approve the Policies for Approval with exception of Policy 1105 Non-Discrimination. Seconded by Mrs. McInerney.</i></p>	<p>Motion made to approve monthly reports: Budget Position dated 8/31/23; Purchase Resolution: D-774; and Request for Budget Transfers. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p><b>B. Policies for Approval:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 1105 Non-Discrimination</li> <li>2. 1111 School Security and Safety</li> <li>3. 1212 School Volunteers, Student Interns and Other Non-Employees</li> <li>4. 1250 Policy Regarding Visitors and Observations in Schools</li> <li>5. 1700 Policy Regarding Possession of Deadly Weapons or Firearms</li> <li>6. 5165 Graduation Requirements</li> </ol> <p>Motion made to approve Policies for Approval with exception of Policy 1105 Non-Discrimination. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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	<p>Mr. Hansell asked to discuss policy 1105 Non-Discrimination. He stated that the policy outlines protected classes and asked who are the non-protected classes. The same rigor that states who the protected classes are should be applied to those who are not considered protected.</p> <p>Attorney Schurin stated essentially everyone can be a member of a protected class, man, woman, etc. at a given time, depending on the circumstance. Attorney Schurin referenced the case of firefighters in New Haven as an example.</p> <p>Mr. Hansell noted that the policy gives a description of specific groups of people, and it should be made more clear that it may include those groups but not limited to them. Mr. Hansell points out that later in the policy, it states “protected class membership,” and asked who is in the “membership?” You do not want to set up a situation where it becomes a tyranny of the minority.</p> <p>Mrs. Herring asked if “protected class” is a legal term. Attorney Schurin stated yes. Mrs. Herring asked if the terminology should be removed and include “everyone.” Attorney Schurin stated the policy follows the state statutes, which lists out to the classes.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the policy was time sensitive. Dr. Parlato stated no. Mrs. Faulenbach noted the Policy Chair was not present, and stated the board can bring it back to Policy and have a legal review.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney stated she wanted to continue and vote on the policy. It is state statute.</p> <p>Mr. Hansell noted that if it is a state statute, and the board does not have a choice, why vote on them.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney stated the board votes on all of the policies.</p> <p>Mr. Hansell stated, if we do, then we must have a choice on how it reads.</p>	
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	<p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated the board's primary function is to adopt policy and digest it. State statute drives policy, but the board can tweak policies as well.</p> <p>Mr. Helmus stated he wanted to vote on the policy. Mrs. Sarich and Mrs. Herring stated they wanted to send it back to the Policy Committee.</p> <p>Mr. Hansell noted that Attorney Schurin stated the policy applies to everyone, so the language in the policy should say that.</p> <p>Mr. McCauley agreed it should go back to Policy.</p> <p>Mr. Helmus stated this is the 3rd time the board has discussed this policy.</p> <p>Mrs. Sarich stated she did not look into it as deeply as Mr. Hansell and if he wants to look at it again she would like to as well. Mrs. Herring agreed.</p> <p>Mr. Helmus stated it is unfair to the Policy Subcommittee that it is now being brought up when it has already been reviewed.</p> <p>Mr. Hansell pointed out that this exact verbiage was something he rejected when it came up for the student policy. It is not the first time he has objected to this. Mrs. Faulenbach asked how his rejection was received. Mr. Hansell stated it was ignored. He asked for it to go back to Policy, and it came back with the same exact language with no changes.</p> <p>Mrs. Sarich stated Mr. Hansell did not send it back to the subcommittee and to be fair it does need to be sent back.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney asked if policy 1105 is altered, does it affect the students policy that was already approved. Mrs. Faulenbach stated these are very serious topics that need to be discussed and policies stand on their own.</p> <p>Mr. Helmus stated that policy is policy. There is a lot of legal effort behind it as well as making sure it</p>	
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	<p>aligns with state statutes. Adjustments can be made if the need arises. He agreed that he does not like the language, and believes it to be “too woke,” but the purpose is to cover discriminated classes and it covers all people.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach reminded the board that there is still a request by Mr. Hansell of sending back policy 1105. Mr. Hansell stated he had a motion in accordance with Robert’s Rule of Order. Mrs. Faulenbach clarified the original motion was to adopt all the policies. Mr. Hansell requested a motion at that time but since a motion was already on the table and seconded Mr. Hansell would have had to ask to amend the original motion. Then there was an agreement to withdraw the main and second to parse out policy 1105 and vote on the other policies. Then bring up 1105 separately. If policy 1105 is not approved it will automatically go back to the Policy committee.</p> <p><i>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve policy 1105 as was forwarded by Policy. Seconded by Mr. Helmus.</i></p> <p><i>The motion tied 4-4 with Mr. Hansell. Mrs. Faulenbach, Mrs. Sarich and Mrs. Herring opposed. Mr. Helmus, Mr. O’Brien, Mr. McCauley, and Mrs. McInerney all in favor. Motion did not pass.</i></p> <p><b>C.</b></p> <p><b>Policies Recommended for Deletion upon Approval of Above Policies in Item 10.B.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 1212 School Volunteers</li> <li>2. 1250 Visits to the Schools</li> <li>3. 1700 Possession of Firearms on School Property Prohibited</li> </ol> <p><i>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve Policies Recommended for Deletion listed above. Seconded by Mrs. Sarich.</i></p>	<p>Motion made to approve Policy 1105 as was forwarded by Policy. Motion did not pass.</p> <p><b>C. Policies Recommended for Deletion upon Approval of Above Policies in Item 10. B.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 1212 School Volunteers</li> <li>2. 1250 Visits to the Schools</li> <li>3. 1700 Possession of Firearms on School Property Prohibited</li> </ol> <p>Motion made to approve Policies Recommended for Deletion upon Approval of Above Policies in Item 10. B., with the exception of Policy 1105. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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	<p><b>D.</b></p> <p><b>Tuition Rates for 2023-2024</b></p> <p><i>Mr. Hansell moved to approve the Tuition Rates for 2023-2024. Seconded by Mr. McCauley.</i></p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated these rates are not the Sherman tuition rates. Mrs. Sarich asked why tuition goes to the town and not to the district. Mr. Giovannone stated that it has historically gone to town. The fee is for families who pay for their child to attend New Milford Public Schools because they live out of district. Employees receive a 50% reduction. None of the families who are currently paying are staff members. Mayor Bass asked Mr. Giovannone what the tuition rate is for kids from Sherman. Mr. Giovannone stated he did not know the exact number but it is less than the standard tuition rate.</p> <p>Mayor Bass asked what measures are taken to verify that a student lives in town. Mrs. Hollander answered, stating the families have to show proof of residency through several means: utility bill, executed lease, and more. Mayor Bass asked if the district asks for a copy of the deposit check with the lease, and if it can be a family member lease. Mrs. Hollander stated they do not ask for a check, but lease with signature. The district does not allow the lease to be a family member lease. The district looks at home sales, information from students or family members, etc. If the family cannot provide proof, then the district will either not allow the student to enroll or will unenroll them if the family is no longer in New Milford. Mrs. Faulenbach stated the board will provide the Mayor with exact guidelines of what the district requires for proof of residency.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach turned the conversation back to the tuition rates. After being asked why the tuition goes to the town Mrs. Faulenbach stated it has been that way as long as she can remember. She asked the mayor if he had any history of this and if it was by charter or process. Mayor Bass stated he was not sure.</p>	<p><b>D. Tuition Rates for 2023-2024</b></p> <p>Motion made to approve Tuition Rates for 2023-2024. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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	<p>Mr. Helmus requested the board Chairperson make a formal request to the town so the board can know why revenue goes to the town and not the school system. Not just for the students paying tuition but also the students coming from Sherman.</p> <p>Mayor Bass reminded the board that the town pays the principal and interest of the debt on the school buildings, whether it's roofs or anything else. Mrs. Faulenbach stated she would follow up to find out if it is in the charter or a history that the town receives the tuition funds.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato asked Attorney Schurin to weigh in. Attorney Shurin stated it is highly unusual if the charter requires out-of -district tuition to be remitted to the town.</p> <p><b>E.</b></p> <p><b>Bid Award - Custodial Supplies</b></p> <p><i>Mr. O'Brien moved to approve the Bid Award - Custodial Supplies. Seconded by Mr. Hansell.</i></p> <p>Mrs. McInerney asked if they were the lowest, mid, or highest bid. Mr. Cunningham stated the decision was based on pricing, references, and an already existing relationship with this particular vendor.</p> <p><b>F.</b></p> <p><b>Curriculum</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ceramics</li> <li>2. AP Art &amp; Design</li> <li>3. Traditional Crafts</li> </ol> <p><i>Mr. Helmus moved to approve the following Curricula: Ceramics, AP Art &amp; Design and Traditional Crafts. Seconded by Mrs. Sarich.</i></p> <p><b>G.</b></p> <p><b>Five Year Curriculum Plan</b></p> <p><i>Mr. Helmus moved to approve the Five Year Curriculum Plan. Seconded by Mr. McCauley.</i></p>	<p><b>E. Bid Award - Custodial Supplies</b></p> <p>Motion made to approve Bid Award - Custodial Supplies. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p><b>F. Curriculum</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ceramics</li> <li>2. AP Art &amp; Design</li> <li>3. Traditional Crafts</li> </ol> <p>Motion made to approve the following Curriculum: Ceramics, AP Art &amp; Design and Traditional Crafts. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p><b>G. Five Year Curriculum Plan</b></p> <p>Motion made to approve the Five Year Curriculum Plan. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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	<p><b>H.</b></p> <p><b>Turf Field Roster Fees</b></p> <p><i>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve the amended Turf Field Roster Fees as presented, making it effective as of July 1, 2023 with modification of 91+ threshold presented to the Board of Education. Seconded by Mr. Hansell.</i></p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated the turf field roster fees were first brought forth to Facilities. The discussion was that the fees create a hardship if the roster size is larger. It was later discussed at Operations and the board asked Mr. Cunningham to look at the history and come up with a formula which they charge organizations to use the turf field based on size.</p> <p>Mr. Cunningham stated it is \$15 per person and larger groups felt they were paying a disproportionate amount. The charges are done out of sustainability and not designed to replace the field. Prorating the fee becomes difficult because larger teams start paying less. Mrs. Faulenbach noted that the argument that came before the board was that the larger teams used the field for the same amount of time but were being charged more. Mrs. Herring asked if the fee was per event. Mr. Cunningham stated it is a seasonal fee and there are separate fees per event.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the board approves the amendment would there be refunds. Mr. Cunningham stated yes, but not a large amount. Mr. Helmus asked if most teams use the field on a certain schedule. Mr. Cunningham confirmed yes. Mrs. McInerney noted that teams that are 91+ kids would cost higher than rosters with 90. Mr. Cunningham stated there are not really groups larger than 90, except for outside groups..</p> <p>Mr. McCauley stated the group who brought this up came in August and it would be good to act now and refund.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated the district doesn't make money from field use fees and this is why the board</p>	<p><b>H. Turf Field Roster Fees</b></p> <p>Motion made to approve the amended Turf Field Roster Fees as presented, making it effective as of July 1, 2023 with modification of 91+ threshold presented to the Board of Education. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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	<p>puts money into the turf field account each year. Mr. Cunningham suggested they propose a stop date going back to the beginning of the fiscal year.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated she believes it is the right thing to do and should be done in the fiscal year.</p> <p>Mrs. Herring noted that it builds good relationships between school and community, and makes the connection to Dr. Parlato's areas of focus.</p> <p><b>I.</b></p> <p><b>Fire Claim Reimbursement in the amount of 57,076.68</b></p> <p>Mr. Giovannone stated he is waiting to hear from CIRMA on when to expect the insurance check. On a previous phone call Mr. Jack Healy confirmed to CIRMA that the check for the board should go directly to the board.</p> <p>Mr. Helmus noted that on March 28th an email was sent to the board, and a letter sent to the Mayor's office indicating that Mr. Giovannone had sent a timeline request for reimbursement. At this point there have probably been a dozen letters sent asking for a time frame and explanation.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach noted that had this all been resolved before the closeout of the audit, the board could have assumed what that runoff would have been. Now those funds cannot be taken and applied to the past fiscal year. The question is now, the \$57,076.68 has to be paid, it has to come from somewhere.</p> <p>Mrs. Sarich asked if the town could cover the cost.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney stated that the district has taken on enough cost and if the board puts the motion forward to vote to take the funds from the school budget she will not vote on it. Mrs. Sarich agreed.</p> <p>Mayor Bass asked why did CIRMA not accept the full claim.</p>	<p><b>I. Fire Claim Reimbursement in the amount of 57,076.68</b></p>
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	<p>Mr. Giovannone stated there were goods and services that CIRMA would not cover. Dr. Parlato gave an example that if the district submitted they needed 30 stools for the science lab, CIRMA would only cover 25.</p> <p>Mayor Bass asked to see the documents from CIRMA. Mr. Giovannone stated he would provide them and added that CIRMA is stating there were certain items discarded before they could be inspected. On July 5th the gap was \$165,000. By submitting additional materials and invoices the gap is now \$57,000. With any insurance claim reimbursement, there is no expectation everything will be covered.</p> <p>Mayor Bass asked to confirm the amount of money put in for reimbursement, less the 57,000, has that all been fronted by the school district. Mr. Giovannone stated yes, the board fronted that money. With the town, it was satisfied on demand.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach added that the board had to pay up front because they had to open the school. The board needs to know from CIRMA when this will be paid. The other issue is the shortfall of \$57,000, which the board acted in good faith in repairs of the school, and didn't have a choice.</p> <p>Mr. O'Brien asked once the insurance check is received, Mr. Giovannone will distribute the money to those accounts to close them out.</p> <p>Mrs. Herring asked if it was it somewhere in the contract with CIRMA that they had a right to inspect things first, and if they are legitimately denying the claim. Mrs. Faulenbach stated that they are probably following guidelines</p> <p>Mayor Bass suggested finding out why it was denied and bring it forward to the board and town council. Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the shortfalls can be quantified.</p> <p>Mr. Giovannone stated CIRMA would need to speak to each individual item. It can no longer be filed into</p>	
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	<p><b>J.</b></p>	<p>this past year's budget, the deadline was September 1st to file it with the state. The opportunity is closed to post the \$57,000 shortfall. If it is from Capital Reserve it will fill that void, but it has to go through Town Council.</p> <p>Mayor Bass asked how the board ended the last year fiscal year end balance. Mr. Giovannone replied there was a 2.2 million surplus.</p> <p>Mayor Bass asked to confirm the \$57,000 is on a balance sheet. Mr. Giovannone stated yes. Mayor Bass stated that the \$57,000 is a receivable and that there is a larger conversation to decide on how it will be paid.</p> <p><b>Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Waiver</b></p> <p><i>Mr. McCauley moved to approve the Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Waiver. Seconded by Mr. Hansell.</i></p>	<p><b>J. Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Waiver</b></p> <p>Motion made to approve the Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Waiver. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>A.</b></p>	<p><b>ITEMS OF INFORMATION</b></p> <p><b>Regulations</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 1105 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination</li> <li>2. 1111 R Administrative Regulations Regarding School Security and Safety</li> <li>3. 1212 R Administrative Regulations Regarding School Volunteers, Student Interns and Other Non-Employees</li> <li>4. 1250 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Visitors and Observations in Schools</li> <li>5. 1255 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Sexual Offenders</li> <li>6. 5131.81 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Use of Private Technological Devices by Students</li> </ol>	<p><b>ITEMS OF INFORMATION</b></p> <p><b>A. Regulations</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 1105 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination</li> <li>2. 1111 R Administrative Regulations Regarding School Security and Safety</li> <li>3. 1212 R Administrative Regulations Regarding School Volunteers, Student Interns and Other Non-Employees</li> <li>4. 1250 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Visitors and Observations in Schools</li> <li>5. 1255 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Sexual Offenders</li> <li>6. 5131.81 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Use of</li> </ol>



	<p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated to reach out to subcommittees and chairs to discuss the regulations. Mr. O'Brien asked if all regulations are based on policies. Mrs. Faulenbach stated yes.</p> <p><b>B. Employment Report - August 2023</b>        Mrs. Kavanaugh stated Mr. Jawidzik's last day will be Friday. The district has recently hired one certified staff and one non-certified staff. Mrs. Herring asked if the Humanities teacher leaving September 29th was just hired this year. Mrs. Kavanaugh stated yes, New Milford was offering a one year and the teacher took a full time position elsewhere.</p> <p>Mrs. Herring noted that Mrs. Eileen Gillette is leaving after many years of service and asked if the board was planning anything. Dr. Parlato stated she would be recognized at the next board meeting.</p> <p>Mr. McCauley stated he was happy to see more para professionals hired.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney asked how many current vacant positions there are. Mrs. Kavanaugh replied two non-certified positions and one to two certified positions.</p> <p><b>C. Enrollment Report - August, 2023</b>        No discussion</p> <p><b>D. Central Office Update</b>        Mr. Cunningham stated his staff is working in house along with outside vendors and has a pathway for the doors at Sarah Noble. Through working with Silver Petrucelli he is getting a scope for the needs of a permanent Central Office and should have it in a few weeks. Mrs. Faulenbach stated there is commentary around town that the board has committed to move to a certain place. She noted there is no specific plan, and all the options are still on the table.</p>	<p>Private Technological Devices by Students</p> <p><b>B. Employment Report - August 2023</b></p> <p><b>C. Enrollment Report - August, 2023</b></p> <p><b>D. Central Office Update</b></p>
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	<p><b>E. NMHS Updates:</b></p> <p><b>1. NMHS Woodshop HVAC</b>        Mr. Cunningham stated there was a site visit last Friday and bids will open on the 29th.</p> <p><b>2. Roof Project</b>        Mr. Cunningham stated the leaks are being addressed, and once that is done it is the end of the project. The issue with the fasteners is on the bonding company to remedy the situation.</p> <p>Mr. Helmus asked for confirmation that Greenwood still has to fix leaks until the project is completed and Mr. Cunningham stated yes.</p> <p><b>F. Sarah Noble Oil Tank</b>        Mr. Cunningham stated because of the proximity of utility lines and cost, it is better to abandon in place rather than try and move it. Mrs. Faulenbach asked who is doing the RFP. Mr. Cunningham stated it was Mr. Jack Healy.</p> <p>Mr. Helmus asked what the cost of the project has been and if it has been documented by the MBC. Mr. Cunningham replied that he reached out to Mr. Healy. Mr. Healy will memorialize it by bringing it to MBC, giving the opinion that abandoning it in place is the best option.</p> <p>Mayor Bass stated the costs are borne by the town. Mr. Cunningham stated that was correct, the local funding source was the town back in 2018. Mrs. Faulenbach noted this item sat for a while because other things were going on, such as Covid, and it is now back on the conversation table.</p> <p><b>G. ESG/NV5 Update</b>        Mrs. Faulenbach stated there have been many calls regarding this project because budget is approaching. The board is asking NV5 to come back and present an update. The goal is to ensure the town and board can cover any bills. Mrs. McInerney asked how the calls were going. Mrs. Faulenbach stated some calls have been successful, and others needed more details.</p>	<p><b>E. NMHS Updates:</b></p> <p><b>1. NMHS Woodshop HVAC</b></p> <p><b>2. Roof Project</b></p> <p><b>F. Sarah Noble Oil Tank</b></p> <p><b>G. ESG/NV5 Update</b></p>
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	<p>Mayor Bass agreed they should come in and present an update. He believes if they come in it will help clarify the whole financial structure for board members.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated she is going to see if they can come in October.</p> <p><b>H. Schaghticoke Middle School World Language Program 2023-2024 Update</b></p> <p>Ms. Hollander stated at the Committee on Learning meeting Mrs. Scoralick shared the effort that went into trying to secure world language teachers, and then find an alternative. Ms. Hollander is working with the world language department chair to make sure students are still meeting standards. The new approach is to offer a Humanities class, and reassess the world language program overall.</p> <p>Mrs. Herring asked if the job openings for language teachers were still on the website. Mrs. Kavanaugh stated they had been taken down and will be put back up in February.</p> <p>Mrs. Sarich asked to confirm that 7th grade is only taking French. Dr. Parlato answered yes.</p> <p>Mr. Hansell asked how homeschooled kids learn a language and can the schools adopt a similar method. Dr. Parlato stated it is usually an online program using a non-human component.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach noted this is a challenge in school systems statewide.</p> <p><b>I. Tuition Students</b>  Ms. Hollander stated there are two students who currently pay to attend NMPS.</p> <p><b>J. Field Trip Report</b>  Ms. Hollander stated there are nine. Mr. McCauley asked if there would be more field trips. Ms. Hollander confirmed there would be.</p>	<p><b>H. Schaghticoke Middle School World Language Program 2023-2024 Update</b></p> <p><b>I. Tuition Students</b></p> <p><b>J. Field Trip Report</b></p>
<p><b>12.</b></p>	<p><b>Discussion and possible action regarding strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims</b></p>	<p><b>Discussion and possible action regarding strategy and</b></p>

	<p><b>involving the New Milford High School roof and 50 East Street Building. Executive session anticipated.</b></p> <p><i>Mrs. Sarich moved to enter into executive session for the purpose of strategy and negotiation discussions with respect to pending claims involving the New Milford High School roof and 50 East Street Building and further moved that the Board invite Superintendent of Schools Dr. Janet Parlato, Board of Education attorney Zachary Schurin, New Milford Mayor Pete Bass and Town attorney Randy DiBella into the executive session. Seconded by Mr. McCauley.</i></p> <p><i>The Board entered executive session at 9:29pm.</i></p> <p><i>The Board returned to public session at 10:45pm.</i></p>	<p><b>negotiations with respect to pending claims involving the New Milford High School roof and 50 East Street Building. Executive session anticipated.</b></p> <p>Motion made to enter into executive session for the purpose of strategy and negotiation discussions with respect to pending claims involving the New Milford High School roof and 50 East Street Building and further moved that the Board invite Superintendent of Schools Dr. Janet Parlato, Board of Education attorney Zachary Schurin, New Milford Mayor Pete Bass and Town attorney Randy DiBella into the executive session. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>ADJOURN</b>  <i>Mr. O'Brien moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 p.m. Seconded by Mr. McCauley.</i></p>	<p><b>ADJOURN</b>  Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McInerney  
Secretary  
New Milford Board of Education