

**New Milford Board of Education**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 22, 2025**  
**Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

RECEIVED *THP*  
TOWN CLERK  
2025 APR 24 P. 3:55<sup>1</sup>

Present:	Mrs. Leslie Sarich, Chairperson Mr. Eric Hansell Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mrs. Sarah Herring Mr. Dean Barile Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Brian McCauley Mr. Tom O'Brien Mr. Randall Scofield <i>arrived 6:31pm</i>
Absent:	

Also Present:	Dr. Janet Parlato, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Mr. Jeffrey Turner, Director of Technology Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Mrs. Teresa Kavanaugh, Director of Human Services Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Mr. Matthew Cunningham, Facilities Director
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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 6:30 p.m. by Mrs. Leslie Sarich, Chairperson. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	<b>Call to Order</b> A. Pledge of Allegiance
2.	A.	<b>Public Comment</b> Megan Byrd, 2 Carlson Rd., stated she is dismayed and is in support of the budget originally approved by the BOE. She will vote no, it's too low and hopes to restore the funds, so we do not lose programming. Ms. Byrd urged everyone to publicly support that it is too low. The Board of Finance (BOF) should explain their decision because it doesn't make sense. They need to speak the truth.  Roseann Petruso, 10 Cortland Dr., thanked the BOE for the budget they put together. Ms. Petruso stated	<b>Public Comment</b>

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	<p>she is disappointed that the BOF decided to cut \$1.6 million and stated this cannot happen. As an educator in a nearby town, the last two years in that town, the citizens voted no, too low for the budget and it resulted in restored funding. It is important we work as a community and coordinate to get the word out, and vote no, too low.</p> <p>Elizabeth Holton, 96 Lanesville Rd., stated she is a resident with two children and is also a kindergarten teacher at Hill &amp; Plain School (HPS). Ms. Holton appreciated the thoughtful budget presented by the BOE. The cuts proposed jeopardize the quality of education. Larger class sizes and less improvements in the buildings directly affect our kids and staff in our town. Students may be fewer, but the needs are more complex with more special education services required. Slashing this budget will hurt them. Students, regardless of background and needs, should have the chance to reach their full potential.</p> <p>Lisa Terlizzi, 11 Erickson Rd., stated it feels as though the district is fighting for the same things as they were 30 years ago. Ms. Terlizzi stated she is worried the district will have to go back to “pay to play,” or that programs such as TAG will be cut. Ms. Terlizzi did not understand how the BOF could believe the district to be top-heavy. Cuts of this magnitude will devastate our home prices. She has never seen a cut of this magnitude and the schools may never recover. As a taxpayer, she intends to vote no to the school budget unless money is put back in it.</p> <p>Heather Sullivan, 8 Tory Ln., stated she loves New Milford and has lived here her whole life. Ms. Sullivan thanked Dr. Parlato, stating the original presentation was already bare bones. The fact the BOF had such a big reduction will hurt our students. Ms. Sullivan stated she has children in the district, one requiring special services, including speech therapy, assisted technology to access curriculum,</p>	
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	<p>and a paraprofessional. The per pupil cost is not equal for each child as they all need different things. Kids are going to school with increased social and emotional needs. Some staff may not be forward facing students all day, but they are still student facing. There may be fewer students in the district, but there is a higher population of multilingual learning students. One third of all students in the district are on free or reduced lunch. Emergency services are called a few times a month for student mental health needs, as well as the Department of Family Services. Such significant cuts will have lasting effects. Class sizes will increase, programs will be cut, and there will be fewer choices for classes. Academic coaches are working to implement new curriculum and teachers are seeing great progress. We claim to be the greatest of all towns but this cut will not help.</p> <p>Gretchen Ewers, a teacher at Schaghticoke Middle school (SMS), stated she was raised in New Milford. After reading through the proposed budget she noted all the activity stipends, intramural costs, and athletic costs, including supplies, is \$1,329,197. At SMS the teachers supply all the students with their supplies. Ms. Ewers stated she does not want to cut athletics or ask parents to start paying for supplies. The point of the education budget is to educate. Once that is covered, what does it leave. The education pieces must be paid first, before any extracurricular activities. Does it mean there will be pay to play, and clubs will be eliminated? There will be no opportunity for our kids to be great. Fewer students does not mean fewer buses or less building expenses. If the cuts go through, there will be fewer teachers, class sizes will be bigger, education will not be as good. Cutting the budget for education is not the way to keep New Milford the greatest town in the U.S. Without good schools, we do not have a future.</p>	
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	<p>Doranne Koval, a kindergarten teacher at HPS, stated she cares deeply about the community. The cut will be devastating to the education of the kids here and kids of the future. The BOF said this would shake things up, but this is like an earthquake. Dr. Parlato did an excellent job with the proposed budget. One of the comments made at the BOF meeting stated one measure of a child's success was the parents presence in the home and alluded that cutting taxes would allow parents to be at home more with their children. Ms. Koval stated she doubted the minimum reductions on the taxes would allow for a family to give up a two income household. These cuts will change the classroom community. Without the necessary support from essential staff to help students cope, the ability for the teacher to teach will halt because they have no help to ensure students' safety. The cut will be felt far and wide and will be long lasting. It will deter people from purchasing a home in the town. The district will not be able to keep up with building repairs and it will impact the town's economic future as a whole.</p> <p>Mr. Dean Barile, 6 White Swan Dr., stated it is a privilege to serve on the BOE. It has been a humbling learning experience. Mr. Barile stated he is in awe of the time, dedication, and work to help the wellbeing of our children and community as a whole. When he first came to the BOE, he was prepared to be fiscally responsible. Slashing line items is a foolish way to make cuts. The BOE has three Republican members, all who have been on the Board a little over a year, doing their due diligence. The fact that no one was consulted is irresponsible and a slight. Since being on the Board, Mr. Barile stated he has learned it is better to be tempered in the approach when deciding the best road forward. These cuts do not achieve this. After listening to the BOF, he was disappointed. They failed to look at the impact on teachers and personnel as a whole. You are only as good as the</p>	
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		<p>team around you, and we need to provide ourselves with the best we can. Teachers are free agents and can go wherever they want. The lack of foresight in keeping them in a comfortable place, will cost us more money in the long run. This is not a smart way to handle this and to keep a competitive edge against these districts. We need to restore the budget originally passed.</p> <p>Allison Sidel of Skyview Dr., thanked the BOE for their dedication and tireless work. The budget presented was lean and should have been accepted. With the cuts that have been proposed, she will vote no to the budget. Voting no is not a reflection on the hard work that was put into creating the budget. These are kids, and it's not just about the dollars. Ms. Sidel stated she is a clinical psychologist in the community and understands the complexities for students in special education and who have mental health needs. For anyone who believes we have too many administrators, come and shadow them for a day. The class sizes should be kept reasonable. In 2010, her daughter was in kindergarten and the class sizes were great. She supports trying to restore as much as possible to the budget.</p> <p>Mrs. Sarich stated the BOF is meeting tomorrow night and people can still go and speak in public. She also mentioned that, per the town charter, the current budget set by the BOF (with the reductions) is going to move forward to referendum.</p>	
3.		<p><b>PRESENTATION: NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGE DISTRICT ACCREDITATION INFORMATION</b></p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated the district was looking to move forward with the New England Association of Schools and College (NEASC) District Accreditation.</p> <p>Fran Kennedy, Associate Director, began his presentation by displaying the process of district</p>	<p><b>PRESENTATION: NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGE DISTRICT ACCREDITATION INFORMATION</b></p>

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	<p>accreditation. They are the oldest regional accreditors in the U.S. They work with a commission of volunteers that give their expertise and advice. The vision of the accreditation process emphasizes accountability for growth over time, while acknowledging growth throughout the growth continuum. The Commission on Public Schools (CPS), partners in that growth and improvement. Districts get to identify their own priority areas for growth. It is authentic, real and valuable, and serves as a navigational chart.</p> <p>There are five standards: student learning, learning culture, professional practices, learning support, and learning resources. Those are broken into 32 principles of effective practice and eight foundational elements. Themes that come with the standards are the Vision of the Graduate, culture of student learning, developing a growth mindset, and student health and well-being.</p> <p>The Vision of Learning Protocol is on a 10 year cycle, beginning with self reflection, a decennial accreditation visit in 2028, and then at the 10 year mark, a new cycle begins.</p> <p>New England Association of Schools and College District Accreditation is there every step of the way. There is an accreditation seminar that is virtual and complimentary. There is a decennial seminar, and there are follow ups that happen. There are also multiple conferences and learning opportunities.</p> <p>It's a process tailored to the district's needs and culture that overlaps with existing and anticipated initiatives.</p> <p>The initial visit is a single visit with a focus on the self-reflection report, current conditions, foundational elements, review of CTE programs, and priority areas for growth. During the visit, eight to 10 colleagues attend for school tours and</p>	
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		<p>meetings with stakeholders. The decennial accreditation visit is a few years later. Some people ask, why district accreditation? The answer is, it is a neutral third party that has reviewed common goals across individual schools and central offices. It ensures a collaborative community approach to accreditation, encourages K-12 district cohesiveness, supports direct initiatives, and assures families are also involved. The whole arrangement saves time and expenses. The process is district-wide, and once done, each school is accredited.</p>	
4.		<p><b>PTO REPORT</b>  Megan Byrd stated how much the PTOs do to work in conjunction with the efforts that already exist in the district. The fun is so important, and that is, of course, part of the budget. It's what inspires our students. The PTO tries to help enhance that, but cannot do it on their own. NES had past events for Flanders Nature Center. The first grade had a trip to the Warner Theater, where they saw The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Second grade had a field trip to the Ridgefield Playhouse to see the Peking Acrobats. There is an upcoming second grade visit to the New Milford Public Library. The first grade is going to The Pratt Center. The PTO is working with the school to coordinate events. They will be doing a "bike night" to promote bike safety the same night as the art show. All these things are done to make sure they align with curriculum that reinforce and inspire what is being taught in class. HPS had three author visits from the authors of the Bad Kitty books, Click Clack Moo, and Diary of a Fly. They hosted a family fun night, and had Bash-the-Trash come and perform. Each of the classrooms got to visit Barkley's Backyard Garden, and each grade level has a different activity that supports their curriculum. The second graders also went to Ridgefield Playhouse to see Charlotte's Web. Coming up, kindergarten will be going to Ridgefield Playhouse to see Pete the Cat. They are working on an art show with an ice cream social.</p>	<p><b>PTO REPORT</b></p>

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		<p>SNIS has a student art show this week. PTO is sponsoring ice cream for the first 200 kids through an ice cream truck. Norwalk Aquarium is coming into SNIS.</p> <p>In May all the schools will be doing teacher appreciation week.</p> <p>SMS had Color Wars, a health fair, Spring Fest at the end of this week, teacher appreciation lunch, and their eighth grade send off. They hosted a staff vs. student basketball game. There was an eighth grade glow party and a seventh grade dance party both held at The MAXX.</p> <p>New Milford High School (NMHS) had hot chocolate for seniors and a signing for the senior banner. They had planned Stage of Dreams, but it had to be cancelled due to lack of volunteers for the lighting and sound system. They are also hosting the staff appreciation lunch and working on senior activities.</p> <p>Mrs. Byrd stated she wanted to mention these things because PTO provides some funding but not all of the funding. If funding is removed from the activities, PTO would not be able to keep all the activities in the schools. It's so important to keep the fun in school. There is a PTO meeting coming up and Ms. Byrd encouraged anyone to attend.</p>	
5.		<p><b>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT</b></p> <p>There was none.</p>	<p><b>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT</b></p>



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6.	A.	<p><b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>  <b>Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</b>  <b>1. Regular Meeting Minutes March 18, 2025</b></p> <p><i>Mr. Scofield moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes, March 18, 2025. Seconded by Mr. McCauley. Motion passed 8-0-1. Mrs. Sarich abstained.</i></p>	<p><b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>  <b>A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</b>  <b>1. Regular Meeting Minutes March 18, 2025</b></p> <p>Motion made and passed to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes, March 18, 2025. Vote passed 8-0-1.</p>
7.		<p><b>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</b>  Dr. Parlato stated she wanted to emphasize the information regarding the 2025-26 budget. For 2025-26, the district needs \$2,481,672 (a 3.38% increase) to cover fixed, required costs, including contractual salaries, contractual benefits, transportation, and liability insurance. The district asked for \$406,406 (a 0.55% increase) on top of the fixed required costs for people and programs to assist with student growth and continue our district's progress. The reduction of \$1,975,140 leaves us with an increase of 1.24%. This 1.24% increase only covers 36% of what we need for required fixed costs. The current gap to cover required fixed costs is \$1,568,734. Just about every school district in the state is seeing a lower student population, especially over the past five years, yet most towns are not using the minimum budget requirement formula to make reductions of such a significant amount. Just because we legally can make a significant reduction to the BOE budget based on fewer students does not mean that we should. If such a large reduction was even possible, it would have been proposed in the Superintendent's budget.</p> <p>Although we have fewer students overall in the district, we also have twice as many students learning English over the past five years, three out of every 10 students receives free or reduced lunch, and we have an increase in the percentage of students with disabilities overall with more complex</p>	<p><b>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</b></p>

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	<p>needs requiring a higher level of care than ever before. Each school calls emergency mobile crisis services and 911 for student mental health needs several times per month, each school makes multiple calls to the Department of Children and Families per month, and students in those families are coming to school with definite, immediate needs. There has been an unprecedented number of outside psychiatric and neuropsychiatric evaluations this year and last, indicating that the impacts of trauma and resulting anxiety in our children and families are increasing significantly. A lower student population does not mean that we can heat the buildings any less, run the lights less, or maintain security and fire protection systems any less. If there are 80 students fewer across the district, that averages to six students fewer per grade level. The loss of students is spread out across all grade levels. A reduction to the Board of Education budget that is this significant will mean: loss of staff members, increased class sizes in K-12 with more student needs present, fewer course choices for students at the high school related to their interests, fewer programming choices in all schools, and less immediately available facilities repairs.</p> <p>Between the 2024-25 and the 2025-26 Board adopted budgets, 21.5 staff positions have already been reduced through the Superintendent's proposals.</p> <p>Connecticut is a binding arbitration state for contracts, meaning that the Board of Education cannot simply decide to negotiate a 1% salary increase per year for any employee group because the average decisions in arbitration in favor of bargaining units are over 3% per year. At the same time, it will be demonstrated in arbitration that the community has the ability to pay for these contractual increases.</p>	
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	<p>The reputation of the school system is important in two essential ways: 1) maintaining homeowners' property values; and 2) during these years when SAT scores are optional for college applications, the perceived reputation of the school district makes a difference in the competitive university acceptance process. It is essential to provide our students with a competitive advantage.</p> <p>In the past five years, there have been no fewer than 20 unfunded mandates handed down to local school districts from the federal and state governments. For example, the required reading program for grades K-3 costs over \$300,000 that the district has to fund itself.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated she has been fortunate throughout her career with training on educational improvement. "Shocking the system" will not improve the school budget. Using test scores as a reason is unfair. The district never asks for more than what we need. We know this budget is how we improve the school district.</p>	
8.	<p><b>BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b></p> <p>Mrs. Sarich stated she is frustrated that the Board of Finance members made this decision. Not one member showed up during the budget hearings in January or picked up the phone or emailed any members of the BOE.</p> <p><i>Mr. Scofield moved that the Board of Education open for discussion the 2025-26 budget for comments and discussion only, and is to immediately follow the Board Chairperson's Report. Seconded by Mr. Barile.</i></p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated there is a meeting tomorrow night that is not about budget but it is still an opportunity for the town to be heard. There is also the May 6 town meeting where public comment will be possible. Mrs. Faulenbach stated this is her 24th year with the Board and this is a big number. The</p>	<p><b>BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b></p> <p>Motion made and passed that the Board of Education open for discussion the 2025-26 budget for comments and discussion only and is to immediately follow the Board Chairperson's Report. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

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	<p>BOE works closely with the other boards, and through the audit reports, we are commended for all the hard work. We look at our budget year round, and post it on our website. There have been comments about a “surplus” that can offset next year's budget. That money is turned over to the town and the taxpayer. It is done through five public meetings to be put into Capital Reserve, and the same process happens to take it out. It cannot be used to supplant the budget. It is frustrating when a formula is used to decide on slashing a certain amount of money based on a certain number of students. The Board looked to see where cuts could be made, and this is a tough number that will affect us for years to come.</p> <p>Mr. Scofield asked if the Capital Reserve is based on town charter. Mrs. Faulenbach stated yes, it was set up by the town smartly, so that there are no additional bills to the taxpayers. The district has done quite a bit in cost avoidance, including a \$10,000,000 savings by switching insurance carriers. Cost avoidance does not show up on the bottom line. There was not enough conversation at the BOF meeting to warrant this number.</p> <p>Mr. O'Brien stated, as chairman of the Facilities subcommittee, he goes to every MBC meeting and speaks to how we maintain our buildings. The majority of Capital Reserve goes towards maintaining the buildings we occupy that are town-owned buildings. We are the stewards of the buildings.</p> <p>Mr. McCauley stated there was a big cut in 2020 of \$1 million dollars and that was an excruciating task. Things that get cut always affect the students. It meant bringing back pay to play, student parking was expensive, they had to cut band uniforms, sports uniforms, SAT programs, the ESS program, and every time it hurt. As a board, we work very hard to present it to the town. It's fuzzy math and</p>	
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	<p>logic that was not explained and no real reason was given.</p> <p>Mrs. McNerney stated that while only the BOE has the authority to make line item cuts, no suggestions were given as to where they see the fat in the budget. Mrs. McNerney stated she is shocked at the percentage that was cut from the budget, speculating it might be the largest in the state. There is no way to chip away at \$1.9 million dollars. This will mean drastic cuts, felt by our students, and our schools, immeasurably. Mrs. McNerney stated she has spent time trying to have conversations with people and everyone needs to be out there doing that. There is a need to talk about the truth and what actually happens in our schools. The nine people at this table, all with very different ideologies, voted unanimously on the budget that was presented. To have someone take a number and a formula, slash it, and hand it back is offensive. Mrs. McNerney stated she will not vote for this budget. Funds need to be restored. We cannot do that to our kids.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach noted that everyone needs to mark the advisory question accordingly when voting.</p> <p>Mr. Hansell stated he appreciated the budget Dr. Parlato put together. It made it easy to vote yes to it.</p> <p>Mrs. Herring stated she was shocked that the BOF could make such an irresponsible decision, and come out with this number. Mrs. Herring equated it to her walking into a hospital with no knowledge of the operations and making cuts. What is most worrisome is, in the past, she believes money has never been put back. Mrs. Faulenbach stated, it has not been put back based on the advisory question, but the number has fluctuated. Last year, money was added back (prior to the BOF setting the budget). Where was the formula then?</p>	
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	<p>Mrs. Herring continued by stating she was encouraged by the public outcry. Any cuts hurt the kids. It is insulting, irresponsible, and not good for the town. You can't stop funding your school system and still progress.</p> <p>Mr. Barile stated he believes this will be a blight on the Republican party as a whole. There's a difference between being fiscally conservative and irresponsible. They showed this is how you don't do budget cuts. Input wasn't sought and you need to understand what you're cutting. It's embarrassing and disappointing. Mr. Barile thanked Dr. Parlato for all her hard work.</p> <p>Mr. Scofield stated he is very disappointed and wanted to thank the PTO, Dr. Parlato, Mrs. Sarich and all the work she has been doing, and Mrs. Faulenbach and all her work on Operations. Mr. Scofield stated that this was a shock. It's disgusting that the BOF did not come to one meeting and did not have any questions. Mr. Scofield stated he feels for the teachers and staff. There is a lot of tension not knowing what's going to happen. The town charter needs to be updated. The BOF has way too much power. They should not be able to pull \$1.6 million when Town Council had already pulled \$295,000. One committee should not have that much power.</p> <p>Mr. McCauley stated he retired from running a camp in the neighboring town. The enrollment went from five to 21. Mr. McCauley stated he asked the families about moving to New Milford and the response was that they did not like what they heard about the schools.</p> <p>Mr. O'Brien stated that this massively hurts everyone in the town. They are here for the next generation, and everyone needs to support the schools. Mr. O'Brien stated he does not understand</p>	
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		why there is so much hostility directed towards the schools.	
9.	<p><b>A. Policy</b> Mrs. McInerney stated the policy items under review for discussion and possible action are on the agenda.</p> <p><b>B. Committee on Learning</b> Mrs. Herring stated there was a comprehensive presentation for a math program at SMS.</p> <p><b>C. Facilities</b> Mr. O'Brien stated Facilities will come up two times tonight. One is to award contracts on bids and the second is the update on projects.</p> <p><b>D. Operations</b> Mrs. Faulenbach stated we have our financial breakdowns and a memo regarding excess cost. There will also be a discussion about what we do with end-of-year balances, one being the turf field account. Some years, money allocated has been \$50,000 and other years it has been \$100,000, with a town match. The turf field account was created so that the taxpayers do not get that bill when it is time to replace the turf.</p>	<p><b>SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS</b></p> <p><b>A. Policy</b></p> <p><b>B. Committee on Learning</b></p> <p><b>C. Facilities</b></p> <p><b>D. Operations</b></p>	<p><b>SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS</b></p> <p><b>A. Policy</b></p> <p><b>B. Committee on Learning</b></p> <p><b>C. Facilities</b></p> <p><b>D. Operations</b></p>
10.	<p><b>A. Monthly Reports</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Budget Position dated March 31, 2025</b></li> <li><b>Purchase Resolution: D-793</b></li> <li><b>Request for Budget Transfers</b></li> </ol> <p>Mr. Giovannone stated details are included in the budget position. The district is within .5% when compared to last year at this time. The Capital Reserve account has been updated. The turf field has been updated and the town has also matched the \$100,000. There are several purchases on the Purchase Resolution, and no transfers requested. Mr. Scofield asked how much it will cost for a new turf.</p>	<p><b>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</b></p> <p><b>A. Monthly Reports</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Budget Position dated March 31, 2025</b></li> <li><b>Purchase Resolution: D-793</b></li> <li><b>Request for Budget Transfers</b></li> </ol>	<p><b>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</b></p> <p><b>A. Monthly Reports</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Budget Position dated March 31, 2025</b></li> <li><b>Purchase Resolution: D-793</b></li> <li><b>Request for Budget Transfers</b></li> </ol>

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		<p>Mr. Giovannone stated, at the time when the agreement was made, the cost was approximately \$1,000,000. It has lasted longer than expected through maintenance. There are more vendors that do this work now and, with competitive pricing, it may have come down a bit.</p> <p><i>Mr. Hansell moved to approve the Budget Position dated March 31, 2025; Purchase Resolution D-793; and Request for Budget Transfers. Seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p><b>B. Policy Revisions Recommended for Second Read and Approval</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 4118.112 Policy Regarding Employees and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990</li> <li>2. 4112.5 Employment and Student Teacher Background Checks</li> </ol> <p>4212.5</p> <p><i>Mr. O'Brien moved to approve policies 4118.112, 4218.112, 4112.5 and 4212.5. Seconded by Mr. Scofield. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p><b>C. Policy Revisions for First Read:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 1111 School Security and Safety and Comparison Document</li> <li>2. 1250 Visitors and Observations in Schools and Comparison Document</li> </ol>	<p>Motion made to approve the Budget Position dated March 31, 2025; Purchase Resolution D-793; and Request for Budget Transfers. Motion passed.</p> <p><b>B. Policy Revisions Recommended for Second Read and Approval:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 4118.112 Policy Regarding Employees and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990</li> <li>2. 4112.5 Employment and Student Teacher Background Checks</li> </ol> <p>4212.5</p> <p>Motion made to approve policies 4118.112, 4218.112, 4112.5 and 4212.5. Motion passed.</p> <p><b>C. Policies for Revisions for First Read:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 1111 School Security and Safety and Comparison Document</li> <li>2. 1250 Visitors and Observations in Schools</li> </ol>
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		<p>Mrs. McInerney stated the Board has an opportunity to read through these again and ask questions at the next Policy and Board meetings.</p> <p><b>D. New Policy for First Read</b>  <b>1. 1340 Naming or Renaming School Buildings, Components of School Buildings and/or School Grounds</b></p> <p><b>E. Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement for School Year 2025-26</b></p> <p>Mrs. McInerney stated that abiding by this gets the district money. Mr. Scofield asked if there is funding for everyone to have free lunch next year. Dr. Parlato stated they are working on it.</p> <p><i>Mrs. McInerney moved pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the the New Milford Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. Seconded by Mr. Scofield. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p><b>and Comparison Document</b></p> <p><b>D. New Policy for First Read</b>  <b>1. 1340 Naming or Renaming School Buildings, Components of School Buildings and/or School Grounds</b></p> <p><b>E. Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement for School Year 2025-26</b></p> <p>Motion passed to approve pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the the New Milford Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias,</p>
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		<p>culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.</p> <p>Motion passed to approve The New Milford Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food sales. Seconded by Mr. McCauley. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Mr. Barile moved the New Milford Board of Education will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale</p>	<p>Motion passed to approve The New Milford Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food sales.</p> <p>Motion passed to approve the New Milford Board of Education will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut</p>
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	<p><i>is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. The "school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the beverage sales. Seconded by Mr. Scofield. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p>General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. The "school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the beverage sales.</p>
	<p><b>F. Bid Award RFP E-2425-005 - Special Ed Transportation</b></p> <p>Mrs. Olson stated that every three years, they go out to bid on transportation, carefully looking at each vendor and cost. Distance is always a consideration and they get projected rates that include an aide and no aide. Mrs. McInerney stated it is necessary to get the students to their outplaced schools. Even though these are numbers for the next three years, some students may age out and/or new students get added on. Mrs. Olson stated it is excess cost eligible but it is still expensive.</p> <p>Mr. McCauley asked if we ride share with other districts. Mrs. Olson stated we try as much as we can. Mrs. Faulenbach noted the line item can be affected by things, such as not being able to ride share, or if certain students cannot be together.</p>	<p><b>F. Bid Award RFP E-2425-005 - Special Ed Transportation</b></p>

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	<p><i>Mr. McCauley moved to approve Bid Award RFP E-2425-005 - Special Ed Transportation. Seconded by Mr. Scofield. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p>Motion made to approve the Bid Award RFP E-2425-005 - Special Ed Transportation. Motion passed.</p>
<b>G.</b>	<p><b>Bid Award RFP E-2425-004 - NMHS Gutter Repairs</b></p> <p>Mrs. McInerney noted there is a large discrepancy with the two bids and wondered if the scope of work was understood. Mr. Cunningham stated New England Masonry has done work in the district and could not speak with certainty why the discrepancy. Mr. Barile suggested getting a third bid. Mr. Cunningham said they would have to put it back out and it costs money to do so.</p> <p><i>Mrs. Herring moved to approve Bid Award RFP E-2425-004 - NMHS Gutter Repairs. Seconded by Mr. Hansell. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p><b>G. Bid Award RFP E-2425-004 - NMHS Gutter Repairs</b></p> <p>Motion made to approve the Bid Award RFP E-2425-004 - NMHS Gutter Repairs. Motion passed.</p>
<b>H.</b>	<p><b>Bid Award RFP E-2425-008 - HPS Canopy Roof</b></p> <p><i>Mr. Hansell moved to approve Bid Award RFP E-2425-008 - HPS Canopy Roof. Seconded by Mr. Scofield. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p><b>H. Bid Award RFP E-2425-008 - HPS Canopy Roof</b></p> <p>Motion made to approve the Bid Award RFP E-2425-008 - HPS Canopy Roof. Motion passed.</p>
<b>I.</b>	<p><b>Bid Award RFP E-2425-009 - SNIS Multi Purpose Room</b></p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked when the project could be done. Mr. Turner stated the hope is to be in the next three to six months. It is a two-day project.</p> <p><i>Mr. Barile moved to approve Bid Award RFP E-2425-009 - SNIS Multi Purpose Room. Seconded by Mr. O'Brien. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p><b>I. Bid Award RFP E-2425-009 - SNIS Multi Purpose Room</b></p> <p>Motion made to approve the Bid Award RFP E-2425-009 - SNIS Multi Purpose Room. Motion passed.</p>
<b>J.</b>	<p><b>Leave of Absence Request: Ms. Megan Moore, Schaghticoke Middle School, for the purposes of childrearing for the 2025-26 school year.</b></p>	<p><b>J. Leave of Absence Request: Ms. Megan Moore,</b></p>

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		<p><i>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve the Leave of Absence Request for Ms. Megan Moore, for the purposes of childrearing for the 2025-26 school year. Seconded by Mr. Barile. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p><b>Schaghticoke Middle School, for the purposes of childrearing for the 2025-26 school year.</b></p> <p>Motion made to approve the Leave of Absence Request for Ms. Megan Moore, for the purposes of childrearing for the 2025-26 school year.</p>
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<b>11.</b>	<p><b>A. Items of Information</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. 4118.112 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Section 504 of the 4218.112 R Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990</b></li> <li><b>2. 1111 R Administrative Regulations Regarding School Security and Safety</b></li> <li><b>3. 1250 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Visitors and Observations in Schools</b></li> <li><b>4. 7000 Concepts and Roles in Planning for Educational Facilities</b></li> </ol> <p>Mrs. McInerney stated the board votes on policy but does not vote on regulation.</p> <p><b>B. K-12 Mathematics District Vision Statement</b> Dr. Parlato stated this is to become a district foundational document.</p> <p><b>C. Employment Report - April 2025</b></p>	<p><b>ITEMS OF INFORMATION</b></p> <p><b>A. Items of Information</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. 4118.112 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Section 504 of the 4218.112 R Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990</b></li> <li><b>2. 1111 R Administrative Regulations Regarding School Security and Safety</b></li> <li><b>3. 1250 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Visitors and Observations in Schools</b></li> <li><b>4. 7000 Concepts and Roles in Planning for Educational Facilities</b></li> </ol> <p><b>B. K-12 Mathematics District Vision Statement</b></p> <p><b>C. Employment Report - April 2025</b></p>
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	<p>Mrs. Kavanagh stated they have a person retiring after 49 years. One person is not returning after personal leave. There is one new hire for Facilities and one transfer into the Office of the Assistant Superintendent.</p> <p><b>D. Enrollment Report - April 1, 2025</b> Dr. Parlato stated it is close to projected.</p> <p><b>E. Excess Cost</b> Mr. Giovannone stated the memo outlines the excess cost reimbursement for the state. One is for tuition and one for transportation. The district usually receives two payments each year. This year, there is a projected shortfall of \$181,887. Mrs. Faulenbach asked if we have to tweak the revenue line. Mr. Giovannone stated the revenue line reflects the first payment and he will provide a projection on the additional payments. Mrs. Fauenlbach stated it's still a shortfall and needs to be noted as we progress through the operations budget. Mr. Giovannone added it is a deficit but we thought we were going to be made whole, so there is no line item where we can expect transfer from.</p> <p>Mr. Barile asked if there is revenue from out-of-district students who tuition in. Mr. Giovannone stated yes, there are two who are aging out and there are zero incoming students for next year.</p> <p><b>F. Ongoing Facilities Projects</b> Mr. Cunningham stated RFP's were awarded for the high school gutters and the Hill &amp; Plain canopy. An RFP will go out regarding the oil storage tank at the middle school and the Farmhouse roof. There was a meeting with the town regarding the Northville Elementary School roof and that will be a joint venture with the BOE and town. Mrs. Sarich asked if Weston &amp; Sampson would do the work. Mr. Cunningham stated they develop the scope of work</p>	<p><b>D. Enrollment Report - April 1, 2025</b></p> <p><b>E. Excess Cost</b></p> <p><b>F. Ongoing Facilities Projects</b></p>
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	<p>and environmental impact/elements. Then a different company will do the replacing.</p> <p><b>G.</b></p> <p><b>Field Trip Report</b></p> <p>No discussion</p> <p><b>H.</b></p> <p><b>Fundraising Report</b></p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated the high school is working hard on seeking funds.</p>	<p><b>G. Field Trip Report</b></p> <p><b>H. Fundraising Report</b></p>
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12.	<p><b>A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</b></p> <p><b>Discussion and possible action concerning the interview of a candidate for the Director of Student Services position. Executive Session anticipated. The Board may take action when it returns from Executive Session.</b></p> <p><i>Mrs. Sarich moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose to interview a candidate for the Director of Student Services position. Invited into the executive session are Dr. Janet Parlato, Superintendent of New Milford Public Schools and the candidate. Seconded by Mr. O'Brien. Vote passed unanimously.</i></p> <p><i>The Board entered Executive Session at 8:49 pm. The candidate entered Executive Session at 9:08 pm. The candidate returned from Executive Session at 9:34 pm. The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:36 pm.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. McCauley moved to appoint Dr. Kimberly Culkin to the position of Director of Student Services,</i></p>	<p><b>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</b></p> <p><b>Discussion and possible action concerning the interview of a candidate for the Director of Student Services position. Executive Session anticipated. The Board may take action when it returns from Executive Session.</b></p> <p>Motion made to enter into executive session for the purpose to interview a candidate for the Director of Student Services position. Invited into the executive session are Dr. Janet Parlato, Superintendent of New Milford Public Schools and the candidate. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Motion made to appoint Dr. Kimberly Culkin to the position</p>
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		<i>effective July 1, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Scofield. Vote passed unanimously.</i>	of Director of Student Services, effective July 1, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.
13.		<b>ADJOURN</b> <i>Mr. O'Brien moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Barile. Vote passed unanimously.</i>	<b>ADJOURN</b> Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mrs. Tammy McInerney  
Secretary  
New Milford Board of Education