

**New Milford Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2023
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

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2023 FEB 24 P 1:32
NEW MILFORD, CT

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| Present: | Mr. Pete Helmus, Chair Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Brian McCauley Mr. Tom O'Brien Mrs. Olga Rella Mr. Eric Hansell Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mrs. Leslie Sarich Mrs. Sarah Herring |
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| Also Present: | Dr. Janet Parlato, Superintendent of Schools Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Interim Superintendent of Schools Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Mr. Matthew Cunningham, Facilities Director Mr. Jeffrey Turner, Technology Director Mr. Nicholas Carroccio, Student Representative |
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| 1. A. | Call to Order The regular meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Helmus, Chairperson. Mrs. Faulenbach welcomed the new Board member, Mrs. Herring, and asked if she had been sworn in to which Mrs. Herring responded she had been. | Call to Order |
| 2. | Public Comment Holly Newman, a New Milford resident, said her 8th grade son has been repeatedly bullied and told to kill himself. She said a boy pushed him down the stairs and was only suspended for a few days and came back to try and hurt her son again. The school did nothing other than suggest he have an adult escort him to his classes. He told a friend he was going to kill himself and fortunately that friend told her. They called 211 and the 211 counselor said his issue all revolved around school and suggested he leave Schaghticoke. The school | Public Comment |

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| | <p>keeps recommending restorative conversation which does not solve the problem. Her son now attends a different school at the parents expense as the school fails its students.</p> <p>Tracey Ruscil, a New Milford resident, said she has three children in New Milford schools, two of whom are autistic and unable to verbalize what is happening to them. Someone took a picture of her son with his pants down and it was not reported to her until 6 months later. Some students are “air dropping” comments such as: "you're more autistic and ugly” and other nasty comments. She said she did not know if her son was sexually assaulted and she feels her sons are not being protected by the school. The boys were separated to be bused by a van but the bully has not been impacted.</p> <p>Beth Basher, a New Milford resident, asked when is enough enough. She asked if students were learning or is going to school all about survival. She said her child is afraid of being killed or jumped in the hallway. She said respect is not practiced and all she can do is hold her daughter and wipe away her tears. She said consequences need to be implemented and asked again when is enough enough.</p> <p>Camryn Basher, a New Milford resident, said everyday kids have thoughts about suicide from being bullied. She said she has been called names but can't fight back because she gets in trouble. She said there are days when she doesn't want to get out of bed because she doesn't feel safe.</p> <p>Erin Haynes, a New Milford resident, parent of a 4th grader and music teacher at Hill & Plain School was here to speak in support of parents speaking about bullying. She said her son has minimal verbal communication and would not be able to report bullying. She said students use airdrops, social media, and texts to bully. She asked when these students are taught about acceptance and inclusion. She said the district</p> | |
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| | <p>needs to find options to create safe learning environments for students.</p> <p>Megan Byrd, a New Milford resident, PTO president at Schaghticoke for two years, said she was the person dealing with situations at dances. She said a student came to a dance and a physical altercation ensued. She said bullying doesn't just impact the bullied students. Her son was in 7th grade and was disgusted and tried to do something. They were invited to a school climate meeting but they have not addressed bullying. The problem of bullying is severe.</p> <p>McKenzie Basher, a New Milford resident, said the bullying seems to always be in one classroom and one time they put hand sanitizer all over her clothes and arms. She decided that she could not stay in that classroom.</p> <p>Olivia Vanak, a New Milford resident, said no one deserves to be treated by the bullies in this way.</p> <p>Sara DeLucia, a New Milford resident, said she graduated in 2014 and was so bullied she got the police involved. As a result she suffered from an extreme eating disorder. She was battling with the school because she decided to stay out of school and the principal yelled at her. She said this issue is huge and she is heartbroken listening to it now.</p> <p>Laura Grassler Lockwood Flake, a New Milford resident, said her son is a white knight at Schaghticoke as he tries to step in to help those being bullied. She has four other older children who went to New Fairfield and Sherman schools and they did not experience these bullying issues. She said she would like to see procedures and protocols in place to report bullying. She was recently made aware of an anonymous form that one can use to report it. She suggested a letter be sent to parents advising them of what they can and should do if they are aware of bullying.</p> <p>Russell Newman, a New Milford resident, said he has heard about these horrific actions at</p> | |
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| | | Schaghticoke but was never informed about the anonymous form that could be filled out. He said there should be some electronic monitoring to flag and catch the inappropriate behavior. Children who are causing the bullying should be separated not the other way around. | |
| 3. | | <p>PTO REPORT</p> <p>Mrs. Byrd, PTO President, said Northville held a bingo night and the 2nd grade will hold a Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser.</p> <p>Hill & Plain hosted a Sweetheart Dance with 350 attendees and they will hold a read-a-thon soon.</p> <p>The PTO is aware of the issue of bullying and is bringing a program to Hill & Plain about respect.</p> <p>Sarah Noble will be holding its monthly book fair and on the 22nd they will hold a booster-thon glow run fundraiser through March 3rd.</p> <p>Schaghticoke will have a 7th Grade Dance and they sold friend grams for Valentine's Day. March 6th will be the end of year celebrations and they will host a Booster-thon Dance from March 8 through the 17th.</p> <p>New Milford High now has water bottle fillers at water stations and the PTO offered hot chocolate for seniors.</p> <p>Townwide the PTO will be hosting a Summer Camp Expo on March 4 at Sarah Noble and is running a Yankee game fundraiser.</p> | PTO REPORT |
| 4. | | <p>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT</p> <p>Mr. Carroccio said Northville held a town wide pajama day and bingo which was hosted by the PTO. The school thanked Mayor Pete Bass, the Fire Chief and the Police for calling out the numbers for bingo. February is Crazy Hair Day to celebrate 90 days of school; 2nd graders celebrated Halfway Hawaiian Day; and 1st graders celebrated 101st Day with 101 Dalmations.</p> | STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT |

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| | | <p>Hill & Plain students raised \$14,000 for Kids for Heart Challenge. PTO hosted a Sweetheart Dance and they celebrated the 100th day of school focusing on perseverance.</p> <p>Sarah Noble 5th graders celebrated their 1000th day since Kindergarten. They wrote letters to their future selves to read in high school.</p> <p>Schaghticoke held concerts for orchestra, chorus and jazz bands. They held their quarterly all team meetings building community and capacity.</p> <p>New Milford High girls basketball play the 21st at 6 pm. February 8th was wingman day; February 18th was the band home show; and February 23rd will be a jazz, orchestra and advanced band concert.</p> | |
| 5. | A. | <p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: 1. Budget Hearings and Adoption Meeting Minutes of January 17, 18, 24, 26, 2023</p> <p><i>Mr. Hansell moved to approve the Budget Hearings and Adoption Meeting Minutes of January 17, 18, 24, 26, 2023, seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach and passed 8-0-1.</i></p> <p><i>Aye: McCauley, O'Brien, McInerney, Helmus, Faulenbach, Sarich, Rella, Hansell</i> <i>Abstain: Herring</i></p> <p>2. Special Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2023</p> <p><i>Mr. McCauley moved to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2023, seconded by Mrs. Rella and passed 8-0-1.</i> <i>Aye: McCauley, O'Brien, McInerney, Helmus, Faulenbach, Sarich, Rella, Hansell</i> <i>Abstain: Herring</i></p> | <p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: 1. Budget Hearings and Adoption Meeting Minutes of January 17, 18, 24, 26, 2023</p> <p>Motion made and passed to approve the Budget Hearings and Adoption Meeting Minutes of January 17, 18, 24, 26, 2023.</p> <p>2. Special Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2023</p> <p><i>Motion made and passed to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2023</i></p> |

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| 6. | | <p>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</p> <p>Dr. Parlato said she had a wonderful first day visiting the high school, Sarah Noble and Hill & Plain. She will visit Schaghticoke and Northville tomorrow.</p> <p>She attended the Winter Percussion and Guard show.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato thanked Dr. Paddyfote for her assistance and guidance as she has been acclimating herself to the District.</p> | <p>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</p> |
| 7. | | <p>BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</p> <p>Mr. Helmus welcomed Dr. Parlato as Superintendent and Mrs. Herring joined the Board tonight and will serve on the Policy and Committee on Learning subcommittees.</p> <p>He asked for volunteers for an ad hoc committee to create the Superintendent's rubric performance document.</p> <p>He thanked Dr. Paddyfote for her work as Interim Superintendent and said it was a privilege to work with her.</p> <p>Dr. Paddyfote said she was pleased to come back and wished Dr. Parlato and the Board the best.</p> | <p>BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</p> |
| 8. | A. | <p>Monthly Reports</p> <p>1. Budget Position dated 1/31/23</p> <p>2. Purchase Resolution: D-767</p> <p>3. Request for Budget Transfers</p> <p><i>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve monthly reports: Budget Position dated 1/31/23; Purchase Resolution: D-767; and Request for Budget Transfers, seconded by Mr. McCauley.</i></p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach said the Board received the minutes from the sub-committee and at the next Operations Committee meeting they will discuss where they are in the fiscal year as it comes to close.</p> | <p>Monthly Reports</p> <p>1. Budget Position dated 1/31/23</p> <p>2. Purchase Resolution: D-767</p> <p>3. Request for Budget Transfers</p> <p><i>Motion made and passed to approve monthly reports: Budget Position dated 1/31/23; Purchase Resolution: D-767; and Request for Budget Transfers.</i></p> |

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| | <p>Mr. Giovannone said they discussed the transportation costs and the excess costs reimbursements.</p> <p><i>The motion passed 8-0-1.</i> <i>Aye: McCauley, O'Brien, McInerney, Helmus, Faulenbach, Sarich, Rella, Hansell</i> <i>Abstain: Herring</i></p> <p>B. Policies for Deletion in accordance with Policy 9311: 1. 5010 Concepts and Roles in Student Policies 2. 5112.4 Student Enrollment Data 3. 5113.1 Work Permits 4. 5113.14 Senior Privileges 5. 5114.12 Student Due Process 6. 5116 School Census 7. 5117 School Attendance Areas 8. 5118 Nonresident Students 9. 5121 Examination/Grading/Rating 10. 5121.2 Eligibility for Honor Rolls 11. 5122 Student Placement</p> <p><i>Mrs. McInerney moved to delete the following policies in accordance with Policy 9311, seconded by Mrs. Rella.</i> <i>1. 5010 Concepts and Roles in Student Policies</i> <i>2. 5112.4 Student Enrollment Data</i> <i>3. 5113.1 Work Permits</i> <i>4. 5113.14 Senior Privileges</i> <i>5. 5114.12 Student Due Process</i> <i>6. 5116 School Census</i> <i>7. 5117 School Attendance Areas</i> <i>8. 5118 Nonresident Students</i> <i>9. 5121 Examination/Grading/Rating</i> <i>10. 5121.2 Eligibility for Honor Rolls</i> <i>11. 5122 Student Placement</i></p> <p><i>The motion passed 8-0-1.</i> <i>Aye: McCauley, O'Brien, McInerney, Helmus, Faulenbach, Sarich, Rella, Hansell</i></p> | <p>Policies for Deletion in accordance with Policy 9311: 1. 5010 Concepts and Roles in Student Policies 2. 5112.4 Student Enrollment Data 3. 5113.1 Work Permits 4. 5113.14 Senior Privileges 5. 5114.12 Student Due Process 6. 5116 School Census 7. 5117 School Attendance Areas 8. 5118 Nonresident Students 9. 5121 Examination/Grading/Rating 10. 5121.2 Eligibility for Honor Rolls 11. 5122 Student Placement</p> <p><i>Motion made and passed to delete the following policies in accordance with Policy 9311:</i> <i>1. 5010 Concepts and Roles in Student Policies</i> <i>2. 5112.4 Student Enrollment Data</i> <i>3. 5113.1 Work Permits</i> <i>4. 5113.14 Senior Privileges</i> <i>5. 5114.12 Student Due Process</i> <i>6. 5116 School Census</i> <i>7. 5117 School Attendance Areas</i> <i>8. 5118 Nonresident Students</i> <i>9. 5121 Examination/Grading/Rating</i> <i>10. 5121.2 Eligibility for Honor Rolls</i> <i>11. 5122 Student Placement</i></p> |
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| | <p><i>Abstain: Herring</i></p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach thanked the committee for the work on the assessment of policies over the last two years. She said the Board should take the opportunity to clean up the policies when they can.</p> <p>Mrs. Rella said these policies have either been rewritten or appear somewhere else in another policy.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney said some of the policies are really regulations.</p> | |
| C. | <p>Policy for Approval in accordance with Policy 9311:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revision of Policy 5118.1 Homeless Students <p><i>Mrs. Rella moved to approve the Revision of Policy 5118.1 Homeless Students in accordance with Policy 9311, seconded by Mrs. Sarich.</i></p> <p>Mrs. Rella said this has been updated to reflect what the state is now mandating.</p> <p><i>The motion passed 8-0-1.</i></p> <p><i>Aye: McCauley, O'Brien, McInerney, Helmus, Faulenbach, Sarich, Rella, Hansell</i></p> <p><i>Abstain: Herring</i></p> | <p>Policy for Approval in accordance with Policy 9311:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revision of Policy 5118.1 Homeless Students <p><i>Motion made and passed to approve the Revision of Policy 5118.1 Homeless Students in accordance with Policy 9311</i></p> |
| D. | <p>Bid Award for Student Care Workers</p> <p><i>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve the Bid Award for student care workers, seconded by Mrs. McInerney.</i></p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach said this was brought to Operations and was recommended by Mrs. Olson due to a long standing positive relationship with the vendor.</p> <p><i>The motion passed 8-0-1.</i></p> <p><i>Aye: McCauley, O'Brien, McInerney, Helmus, Faulenbach, Sarich, Rella, Hansell</i></p> | <p>Bid Award for Student Care Workers</p> <p><i>Motion made and passed to approve the Bid Award for student care workers</i></p> |

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| | | <i>Abstain: Herring</i> | |
| 9. | <p>A. Employment Report Mrs. McInerney said she was sorry the District is losing another Spanish teacher and wished Math Teacher Joy Taubert a Happy Retirement.</p> <p>B. Enrollment Report 2/1/23</p> <p>C. Field Trip Report - February 2023 Mr. Helmus said these are all zero cost thanks to the PTO. Mrs. McInerney said the schools also help pick up the costs.</p> <p>D. 2023-2024 Calendar Mrs. Hollander said this has been seen by all bargaining units and the parent conferences have been broken up so they are not consecutive nights.</p> <p>E. 5118.1 R - Administrative Regulation Regarding Homeless Children and Youth</p> <p>F. 5113.14 R - Administrative Regulation — Junior/Senior Privileges</p> <p>G. 5121.2 R - Administrative Regulation - Eligibility for Honor Rolls</p> <p>H. E-rate Funding</p> <p>I. PURA Pegpetia Technology Grant Mrs. Faulenbach asked when the District will receive word and Mr. Turner said possibly in one month. This is a non matching grant and the District applied in 2020 as well.</p> <p>J. Town of New Milford Audit Report dated June 30, 2022</p> | <p>ITEMS OF INFORMATION Employment Report Mrs. McInerney said she was sorry the District is losing another Spanish teacher and wished Math Teacher Joy Taubert a Happy Retirement.</p> <p>Enrollment Report 2/1/23</p> <p>Field Trip Report - February 2023 Mr. Helmus said these are all zero cost thanks to the PTO. Mrs. McInerney said the schools also help pick up the costs.</p> <p>2023-2024 Calendar Mrs. Hollander said this has been seen by all bargaining units and the parent conferences have been broken up so they are not consecutive nights.</p> <p>5118.1 R - Administrative Regulation Regarding Homeless Children and Youth</p> <p>5113.14 R - Administrative Regulation — Junior/Senior Privileges</p> <p>5121.2 R - Administrative Regulation - Eligibility for Honor Rolls</p> <p>E-rate Funding</p> <p>PURA Pegpetia Technology Grant Mrs. Faulenbach asked when the District will receive word and Mr. Turner said possibly in one month. This is a non matching grant and the District applied in 2020 as well.</p> <p>Town of New Milford Audit Report dated June 30, 2022</p> | <p>ITEMS OF INFORMATION Employment Report</p> <p>Enrollment Report 2/1/23</p> <p>Field Trip Report - February 2023</p> <p>2023-2024 Calendar</p> <p>5118.1 R - Administrative Regulation Regarding Homeless Children and Youth</p> <p>5113.14 R - Administrative Regulation — Junior/Senior Privileges</p> <p>5121.2 R - Administrative Regulation - Eligibility for Honor Rolls</p> <p>E-rate Funding</p> <p>PURA Pegpetia Technology Grant</p> <p>Town of New Milford Audit Report dated June 30, 2022</p> |

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Page 10

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| | <p>Mr. Giovannone said the auditors found no deficiencies and he thanked his staff for their help on the audit. The balance of the surplus will go into Capital Reserve per the motion made in June of 2022.</p> <p>K. Fundraising - January 2023 Mrs. McNerney said she was grateful to the PTO for all of their help at the schools.</p> | <p>Fundraising - January 2023</p> |
| <p>10.</p> | <p>Adjourn</p> <p><i>Mr. O'Brien moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm, seconded by Mr. McCauley and passed unanimously.</i></p> | <p>Adjourn</p> <p><i>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.</i></p> |

Respectfully submitted:



Mrs. Leslie Sarich
Secretary