

**New Milford Board of Education  
Special Meeting Minutes  
July 16, 2024 - 5:45 pm  
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
2024 JUL 18 P 3:12  
NEW MILFORD, CT

Present:	Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Chairperson Mrs. Leslie Sarich Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mr. Tom O'Brien ( <i>arrived at 5:47</i> ) Mr. Dean Barile Mr. Eric Hansell Mrs. Sarah Herring Mr. Brian McCauley Mayor Pete Bass, <i>ex-officio</i>
Absent:	
Also Present:	Dr. Janet Parlato, Superintendent Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent

1.	<b>Call to Order</b> The special meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Chairperson.	<b>Call to Order</b>
2.	<b>Public Comment</b> None	<b>Public Comment</b>
3.	<p><b>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</b></p> <p><b>A. Discussion and possible action regarding Board of Education goals for 2024-2025</b></p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated the purpose of the meeting was to consider the future of the school district. The evening included student performance information and samples of board goals from other towns. The intent of the meeting was to have a draft of 3-4 goals. Dr. Parlato distributed samples of board goals from other districts with DRG and Wealth Rank included. She stated New Milford's Wealth Rank is currently 89/169 towns.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato then opened the floor to the Board to give feedback.</p> <p>Mrs. Herring noted it was interesting to see wealth rank and the corresponding goals. Mr. Barile pointed out areas he found would be helpful to include, and</p>	<p><b>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</b></p> <p><b>A. Discussion and possible action regarding Board of Education goals for 2024-2025</b></p>

ones that he thought would not be. Mayor Bass thanked the Board for letting him attend. He asked Dr. Parlato why she picked the specific towns from her list of examples. Dr. Parlato stated she picked towns that had a well established superintendent and not a lot of turnover on their board. Mayor Bass stated, in his experience, when goal setting, it is better to be more general. Dr. Parlato agreed it should be broad. Mayor Bass spoke to a few examples of what other towns had listed for goals, and what he liked. Wilton in particular, with their health and safety school environment, recognizing gaps to be closed, and striving for high academic achievement.

Mrs. Sarich pointed out the different board goals that really stood out to her for each district in the samples provided. Mrs. Faulenbach stated there were portions of each lines she liked, and stated the ones she thought were strong points. Mr. O'Brien stated the themes he liked from each of the board goals in the samples provided. Mr. McCauley stated he liked certain points from different districts and preferred the succinctness. Mrs. McInerney noted she thinks inclusivity is important and went on to discuss what she thought were points that she liked, noting the importance of collaboration with the town.

Dr. Parlato then went through an updated student performance breakdown, using grades 3, 8, and 11 as examples. The data was broken out by all students, then broken out by Students with Disabilities (SWD), English Learning, and Economically Disadvantaged Students. All three grades were then broken out for ELA and Math. Dr. Parlato noted 11th grade is the percentage meeting college and career benchmarks.

Mrs. Faulenbach asked about SWD, commenting that there are only 6% meeting grade level in 23/24 for ELA, and asked how many students there are total. Dr. Parlato stated it is 3/33 students meeting grade level. Mr. McCauley pointed out that testing does not favor SWD.

Mr. Hansell asked if the students are duplicated in the count. Dr. Parlato stated that yes, some students can be included in more than one category.

Dr. Parlato then provided iReady data for spring 23/24, grades Kindergarten through 9th grade. Mrs. Faulenbach noted that as the grades progress, the scores go down. Ms. Hollander explained that the district is in their second year with iReady. iReady is a tool that drives instruction and intervention, giving info on how to best support students. Dr. Parlato explained as students get older, their motivation goes down because the test does not hold as much weight. Also, the curriculum gets harder as the students get older. Mr. Hansell asked if iReady offered the ability to analyze the data using Non-Gaussian statistics. Dr. Parlato stated iReady will follow the student to ensure discrepancies in the test taking.

Dr. Parlato asked if the board members had suggested categories. Mr. Hansell stated "Engaging the Families." Mr. Barile stated "Academic Achievement and Improvement." Mr. McCauley stated "Responsible Budget." Mrs. McInerney stated "Safe, Supportive and Inclusive Environment." Mrs. Sarich stated "Pathways and Career Readiness."

Mrs. McInerney asked to include a continuous restructuring of curriculum. Mr. Hansell noted there are essentially three things the board can control: cost, how well it's done, and how fast. The goals should tie into those three things. Mr. McCauley suggested the language read "K-12 students," and not "all students." Mr. Barile asked that teacher development be included.

Dr. Parlato asked about environment: safe, healthy, welcoming, positive...etc. Mrs. Faulenbach noted she thought "safe" was a good word to include. New Milford encourages a safe, positive, accepting culture in all schools, conducive to learning.

Dr. Parlato suggested another board goal to be "responsible budget development." Mrs. Herring suggested, since the district is already fiscally responsible, that it should be reiterated.

Dr. Parlato wrapped up the meeting stating the board had come up with 4 goals:

**New Milford Board of Education**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**July 16, 2024 - 5:45 pm**  
**Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Family Engagement</li> <li>● Improved Student Achievement</li> <li>● Responsible Budget Development</li> <li>● School Environment</li> <li>● Development of Workforce</li> </ul> <p>Dr. Parlato stated she would write up formal goals, and suggested presenting those goals in the August board meeting for formal adoption.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Adjourn</b>  <i>Mrs. Sarich moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m., seconded by Mr. McCauley.</i></p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b>  <i>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m.</i></p>

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McNerney  
 Secretary  
 New Milford Board of Education