

**New Milford Board of Education
Special Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2022
Schaghticoke Middle School Library Media Center**

Present:	Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Pete Helmus Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mrs. Olga I. Rella Mrs. Leslie Sarich Mr. Keith A. Swanhall Jr.
Absent:	Mr. Eric Hansell Mr. Tom O'Brien

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Also Present:	Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Rebecca Adams, Human Resources Director Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Mr. Matthew Cunningham, Facilities Director Mr. Jeffrey Turner, Technology Director Mayor Pete Bass, Ex Officio Attorney Zachary Schurin, Pullman & Comley (remotely)
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1. A.	Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance The special meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mrs. Faulenbach. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance
2.	Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Faulenbach said she had a few opening comments. She thanked the first responders and all persons who had hands on deck at the high school on July 5 for their response and dedication. She said this is an enormous set back and asked for patience as data is gathered. There will be many meetings to come as we work through the process. She said there has been some talk about remote learning and that is a last resort only. Everyone wants students in school. 	Public Comment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Faulenbach said public comment is limited to 3 minutes per speaker and she asked audience members to be respectful of all points of view. She thanked everyone for coming and opened public comment. There was none. 	
3.	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>A. Update on NMHS roof damage and strategies moving forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Faulenbach asked for a brief update on summer programming. • Ms. Hollander said it was a team effort on the part of all - colleagues, teachers, support staff and families - to successfully move the programs to other schools and communicate that to all involved. She said it was truly a collaborative effort and the programs are running successfully. • Mrs. Olson said flexibility on the part of all was key and she thanked the special education staff by name. • Mr. Cunningham presented a series of slides that illustrated some of the damage due to the fire, as well as clean up efforts underway. The slides are attached to these minutes. He said Belfor Restoration has been on site since the first evening. The scope of work remains to be seen and the fire marshal is still conducting his investigation. • Mr. Jack Healy, Public Works Director, said he has regular status meetings with Belfor. He is working with the Town insurance carrier, CIRMA, to ensure that everything is properly covered for reimbursement. Fuss and O'Neill, professional hygienists, are preparing a work plan for clearance which includes air sampling. A group will visit a supplier of modular classrooms tomorrow and a site plan is already laid out if they are needed. Michael Horton is completing a structural analysis of the steel. Emergency panels, sprinklers, building circuitry are all being evaluated for safety. Unaffected areas will be identified and released when possible. IT review starts Thursday. Mr. 	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>A. Update on NMHS roof damage and strategies moving forward</p>

Healy said he is also working closely with the Fire Marshal and architect from Silver Petrucelli.

- Mr. Helmus asked if the investigation into the fire is slowing things down at all. Mr. Healy said it is not.
- Mr. Helmus asked where we were with air sampling. Mr. Healy said they are not ready to sample quite yet so the building remains closed to all.
- Mrs. Faulenbach asked who makes the decision on the time frame for assessment since the data will be needed to make plans regarding the opening of school. Mr. Healy said it is a collaborative effort of all parties. A number of tests need to be run. Air sampling will be the definitive part.
- Mrs. McInerney asked how many classrooms are affected and how many are estimated to be usable by the start of school. Mr. Healy said he estimates as many as 50 classrooms are affected. He hopes to have a scope of work established by Friday with Belfor for remediation so that more detailed planning can begin.
- Mayor Bass said he met with the Superintendent, Board Chair, Facilities Chair and Director of Facilities on Monday afternoon and they will continue to meet going forward. He approved a Local Disaster State of Emergency on Monday which will provide an official way to cut through any red tape as needed. He said all parties want students back in school and are working together to make that happen. He added his thanks to the first responders and all those working on the project.
- Ms. DiCorpo said she has been clear that remote learning is a last resort and she had requested approval from the Commissioner to see if it was an option only if all other options fail. She said the group will look at modular classrooms tomorrow to start thinking about what they will look like for teachers and students. The modular classrooms will probably be for Science classes so Assistant Superintendent Hollander will be reaching out

	<p>to the Department Chair to begin planning how instruction will take place in that setting. Technology will be assessing the spaces as well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. DiCorpo said they are mindful of the importance of the overall student experience, including activities and athletics, and will be working together collaboratively as a team to minimize the impact of this disruption to students and staff as best they can. • The Mayor will host a joint Facebook Live event every two weeks in conjunction with administrators and Board members to provide a central hub of information to the public. • Mr. Helmus asked if there is a standard “report card” for this type of remediation that measures the various items. • Mr. Healy said measurements are already taking place. • Mrs. Faulenbach noted that there is still a roof project to work through on top of the remediation. • Mr. Healy said the damaged area will need to be rebuilt and certified. • Mrs. Faulenbach said this will be a long process and she thanked everyone for their efforts so far. She said many community members and the PTO are looking to help. • Mayor Bass said there may be opportunities down the road. • Tim Clark, a member of the Municipal Building Committee, said they all agree that the most important goal is to get kids back into the classrooms. It is still very early days yet since the fire. The best thing to be done right now is to let Belfor do their work. • Mr. Helmus said these are very unusual circumstances. He asked for a standing ovation for district staff for all they are doing. 	
B.	Superintendent resignation and next steps. Executive Session anticipated. The Board may take action when it returns to public session.	B. Superintendent resignation and next steps. Executive Session anticipated. The Board may take action when it returns to public session.

	<p>Mr. McCauley moved that the Board enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion regarding the employment of the Superintendent and further move that the Board invite Attorney Zachary Schurin into the Executive Session, who shall be attending remotely, seconded by Mrs. Rella and passed unanimously.</p> <p>The Board entered executive session at 7:41 p.m.</p> <p>The Board returned to public session at 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Mrs. Rella moved that the Board accept the resignation of Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo submitted to the Board on July 6, 2022, seconded by Mr. Helmus and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion made and passed unanimously that the Board enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion regarding the employment of the Superintendent and further move that the Board invite Attorney Zachary Schurin into the Executive Session, who shall be attending remotely.</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously that the Board accept the resignation of Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo submitted to the Board on July 6, 2022.</p>
4.	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Mrs. Rella moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m., seconded by Mr. McCauley and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



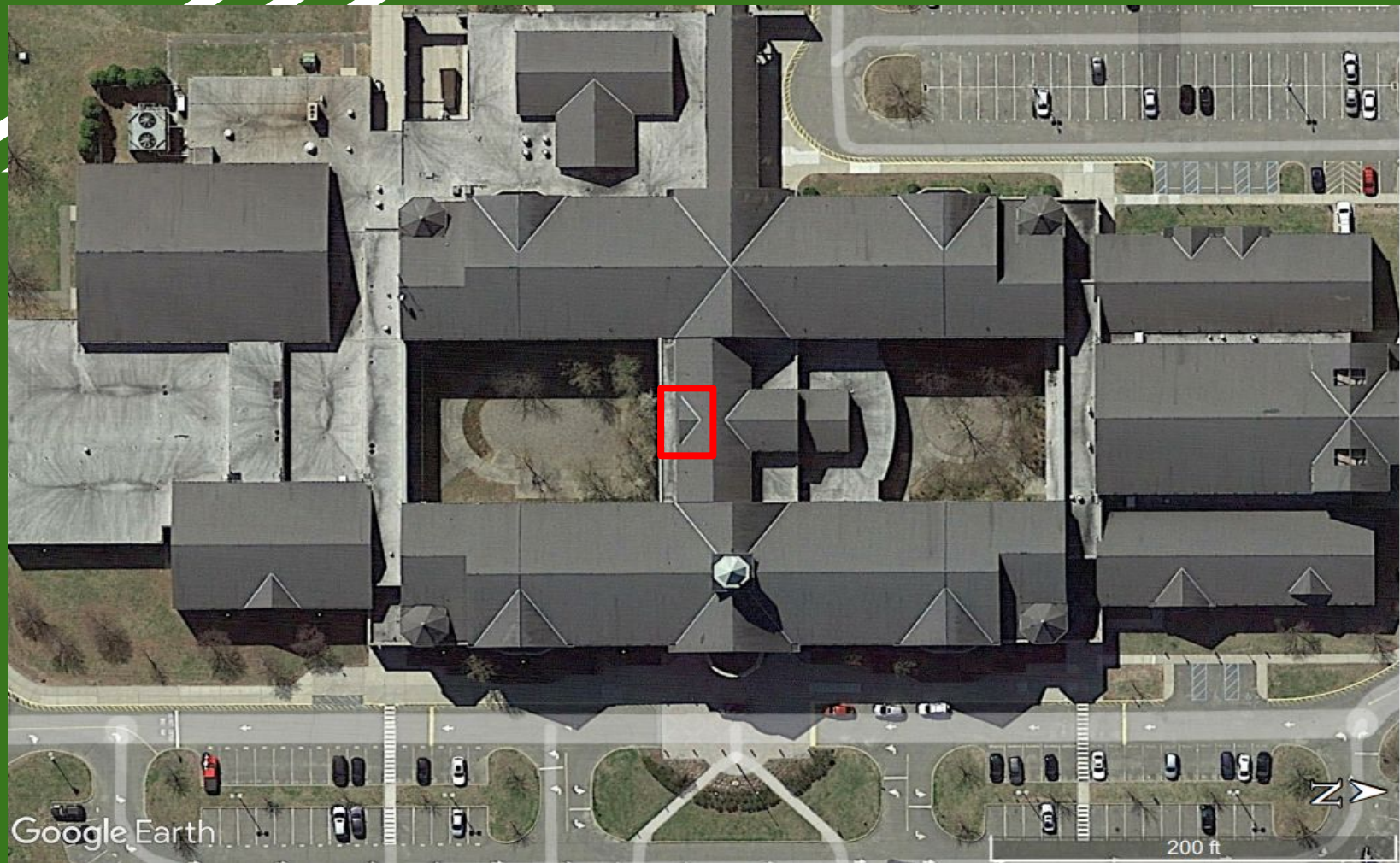
Olga I. Rella
Secretary
New Milford Board of Education



New Milford High School

Fire
July 5, 2022





NEW MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL
3RD FLOOR PLAN

