

NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
New Milford Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, Connecticut 06776

BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

DATE: January 12, 2015
TIME: 7:30 P.M.
PLACE: Sarah Noble Intermediate School Cafeteria

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TOWN CLERK
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NEW MILFORD, CT

AGENDA

New Milford Public Schools Mission Statement

The mission of the New Milford Public Schools, a collaborative partnership of students, educators, family, and community, is to prepare each and every student to compete and excel in an ever-changing world, embrace challenges with vigor, respect and appreciate the worth of every human being, and contribute to society by providing effective instruction and dynamic curriculum, offering a wide range of valuable experiences, and inspiring students to pursue their dreams and aspirations.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
2. **SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE BOARD OF FINANCE**
 - A. Consultant's presentation of Feasibility Study findings conducted for the Ad Hoc Turf Committee
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
4. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION BY THE TOWN COUNCIL**
 - A. Discussion and possible action, by the Town Council, relating to the proposed turf field project going forward or not and authorizing the Mayor to take further action consistent therewith.
5. **RECESS AND RELOCATION TO FIRST FLOOR GYM**
6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

An individual may address the Board concerning any item on the agenda for the meeting subject to the following provisions:

 - A. A three-minute time limit may be allocated to each speaker with a maximum of twenty minutes being set aside per meeting. The Board may, by a majority vote, cancel or adjust these time limits.
 - B. If a member of the public comments about the performance of an employee or a Board member, whether positive, negative, or neutral, and whether named or not, the Board shall not respond to such comments unless the topic is an explicit item on the agenda and the employee or the Board member has been provided with the requisite notice and due process required by law. Similarly, in accordance with federal law pertaining to student confidentiality, the Board shall not respond to or otherwise discuss any comments that might be made pertaining to students.
7. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**
 - A. Authorization for the Town of New Milford to access school property as necessary for the installation of a turf field or fields and to further authorize the Board Chair to sign a memorandum of understanding regarding such.
 - B. Board of Education letter to legislators regarding the regional calendar
 - C. Sending Town Agreement for the Shepaug Regional Agriscience Program
8. **ADJOURN**

DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT

**MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING
CONCERNING ACCESS**

This Agreement is made this ___ day of January, 2015 by and between the Town of New Milford ("Town"), acting by Patricia Murphy, its Mayor and Chief Executive Officer, and the Town of New Milford Board of Education ("BOE") acting by Angela C. Chastain, its Chairperson.

WHEREAS, conditioned upon the results of a feasibility study undertaken by an ad hoc committee and subject to the Town's lawful appropriation of funds, the Town will be willing and able to fund and oversee the design and construction of synthetic turf athletic field or fields ("Project") at New Milford High School ("Premises"), and

WHEREAS the BOE desires that the Town fund, design and construct the Project at Town's cost and expense, and

WHEREAS the Premises on which the Project will be undertaken is owned by the Town and in the custody and under the control of the BOE, and

WHEREAS the Town will need access to the Premises so as to bid, undertake and complete the Project, and

WHEREAS both the Town and the BOE are insured by the same municipal insurer and have a shared interest in the Town's welfare,

NOW, THEREFORE, the foregoing considered, it is agreed and understood as follows:

1. That, on the condition that the Project is determined to be reasonably and prudently feasible and duly approved, authorized and accepted by the Town and the BOE and further provided that there is a lawful appropriation to fund and continually maintain it, the Town shall cause to be designed and constructed a synthetic athletic field or fields on the current grass field site(s) at New Milford High School at the Town's cost and expense on a turnkey basis.
2. In consideration and furtherance thereof, the BOE does by these presents agree that the Town, its lawful agents, authorized and insured consultants and authorized and insured contractors shall have access to the Premises for purposes of assessing and performing the Project provided that the Town shall insure that any such consultants and contractors shall carry out all of their activities in a manner that will not unreasonably interfere with the School's operations, including the conduct of its mission as an educational institution.

3. The accessway and paths to and about the premises and the site will, as required, be clearly marked as construction areas, and the Town shall keep the BOE reasonably informed of scheduling and progress through the BOE Facilities Office. The parties anticipate and shall make every reasonable effort to ensure that the field will be completed by _____, 2015.

a. The Town shall furnish the BOE with a copy of all warranty, construction and contract documents, along with any documents related to the upkeep and maintenance of the field.

Dated this _____ day of January, 2014

Town of New Milford

By _____

Patricia Murphy, Mayor and Chief Executive Officer

Town of New Milford Board of Education

By _____

Angela C. Chastain, Chairperson

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DRAFT

Board of Education
New Milford Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, Connecticut 06776
(860) 355-8406

DRAFT

January 12, 2015

TO: Senator Gayle Slossberg, Chair of Senate Education Committee
Representative Andrew Fleischmann, Chair House Education Committee
Patrice McCarthy, CABE Deputy Director and General Counsel

We are writing this letter to you in hopes that you will either repeal or significantly modify Public Act No. 14-38 dealing with the Uniform Regional School Calendar. In the past decade, much local control has been taken away from boards of education and we feel that this is an example of legislation that is not needed.

Our major objection to 14-38 is the requirement that all schools in each RESC start on the last Wednesday in August. We realize that there is a three day flexibility for that date which districts may use, but no one seems to know whether the three day flexible aspect includes weekend days or just school days. In either case, the proposed starting date will be detrimental to New Milford students.

For the last few years, the students in the New Milford Public Schools have started classes on the 4th Monday in August. This has proved to be a wise move, since even with eight or nine snow days each year (and several week-long flood days or days with no electricity), it has not been necessary for our students to lose any days from April vacation and still finish classes before the end of June. New Milford has many snow days because we are the largest town in area in state with a river running through the town surrounded by steep hills on either side. There have been quite a few days when it was raining in the river valley, and when it was snowing or icing on the hills – thereby making it necessary to close schools. Our buses travel over the 64 square miles of New Milford and cannot do so when the weather is questionable.

Perhaps the most important reason that we prefer to start classes on the 4th Monday in August, is that this gives us more time to prepare our students for Advanced Placement Exams, as well as for Smarter Balance Tests and SATs and ACTs. Many Advanced Placement Exams are given during the first week in May, meaning that the more days of instruction that our students can receive before that week, the better they will do. The College Board does not change their dates even when we have nine or ten snow days, which makes having classes in August necessary if the syllabus is to be covered.

The first year that the Regional Calendar is required is the 2016-2017 school year. Following the state rules from this legislation means that the first day of classes would be August 31st, putting New Milford students behind by seven days before they even begin the school year. To us, this seems like the state is hurting the education of our students.

We can live with the specified professional days and the movement from year to year of the April Vacation dates – but not happily. We are most upset with the mandatory start date and

would strongly urge you to at least repeal that aspect of the law. If you would like to talk with us individually or at one of your committee meetings, we would be happy to come.

Sincerely,

Angela C. Chastain, Chairperson

Dave Littlefield, Vice Chairperson

Wendy Faulenbach, Secretary

David A. Lawson, Assistant Secretary

Robert Coppola

David R. Shaffer

Daniele Shook

John W. Spatola

Theresa Volinski

Cc: Senator Clark Chapin, 30th District
Representative Cecilia Buck-Taylor, 67th District
Representative Richard Smith, 108th District
Danuta Thibodeau, Ph.D., Executive Director - Education Connection

Sending Town Agreement for the Shepaug Regional Agriscience Program

Name of Sending District: New Milford

The New Milford School District hereby agrees to send students who are interested in attending an agriscience program to the proposed Shepaug Agriscience STEM Academy beginning in the fall of 2018. This agreement is made with the expectation and understanding that the new Shepaug program will provide a comprehensive, state-of-the-art agriscience educational experience comparable to Woodbury's agriscience program.

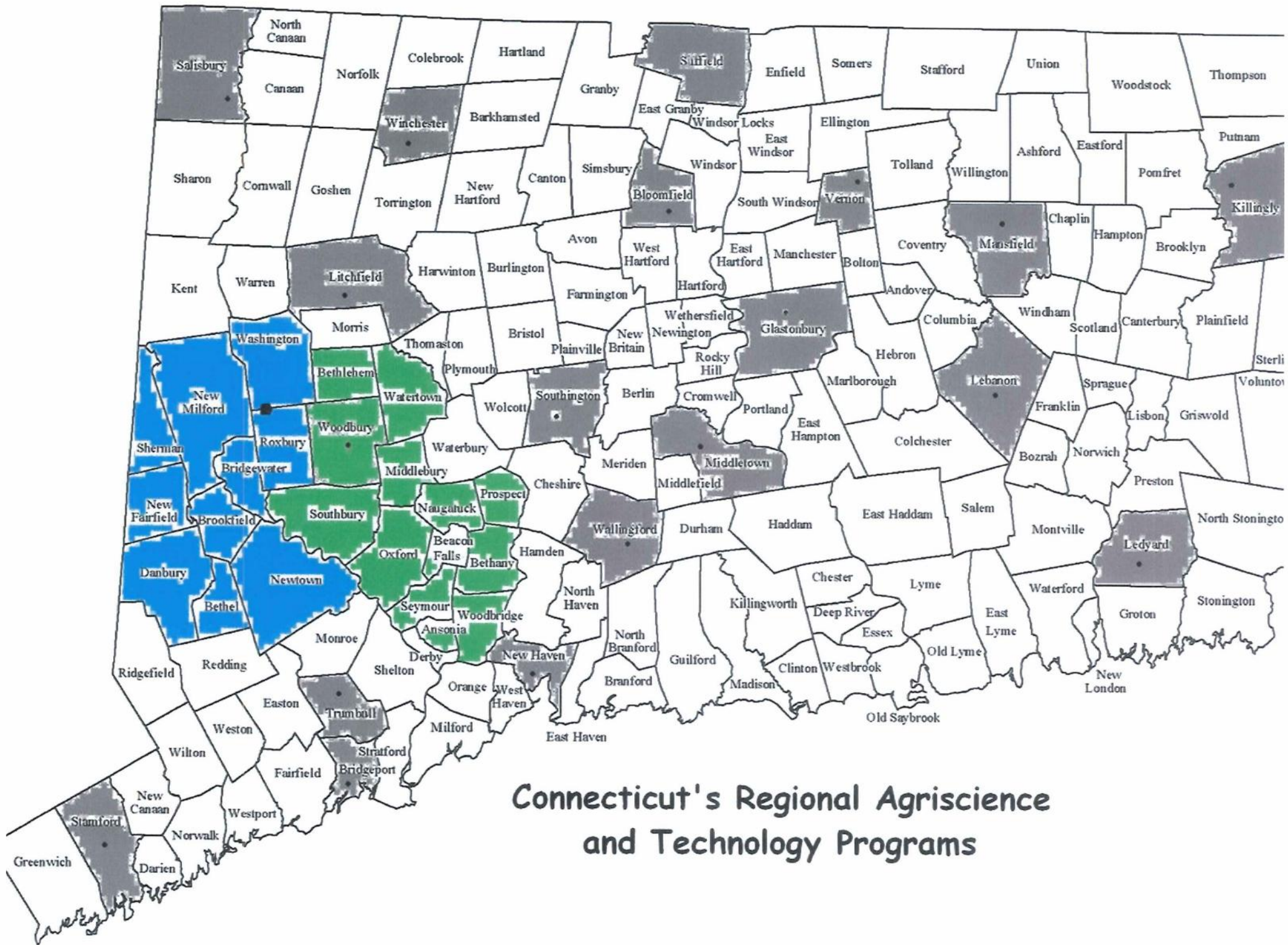
New Milford will continue to send its students to Woodbury's program through the 2017-2018 school year, until the Shepaug Agriscience STEM Academy program is open in the fall of 2018.

Signed,

_____, Superintendent of Schools

_____, School Board Chair

_____, Date



Connecticut's Regional Agriscience and Technology Programs

SHEPAUG VALLEY SCHOOL



Proposal to Establish the Shepaug Valley Regional Agriscience STEM Academy as Connecticut's 20th Regional Agriscience Program

Rationale:

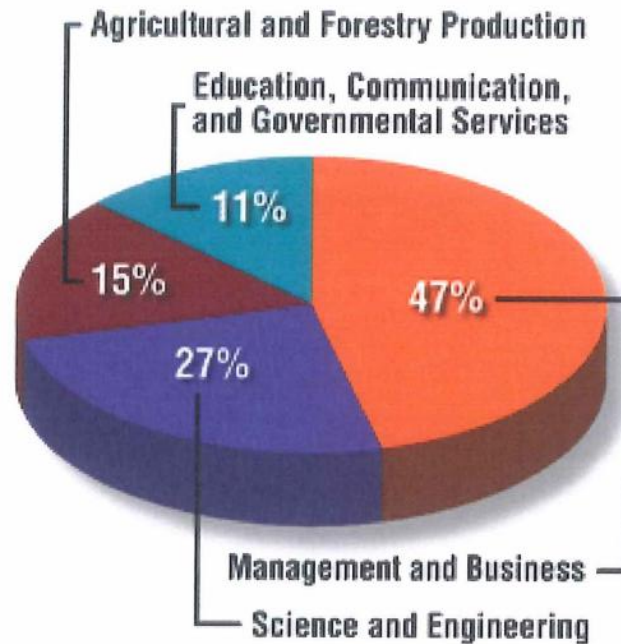
Region 14's Ellis Clark Regional Agriscience and Technology Program located at Nonnewaug High School in Woodbury turns away 50% of their qualified out-of-district 8th grade applicants of students each year due to a lack of available seats in the high school. With 23 sending districts that feed into Nonnewaug's regional program, the catchment area is simply too large for one regional agriscience program to accommodate. As a result, students with a demonstrated interest in agriscience and technology are often turned away.

With Shepaug's long term viability being questioned due to declining enrollment, the development of a Regional Agriscience STEM Academy will address the need for long-term stability in the Region while fulfilling a demonstrated need in the larger educational community.

Supporting Data:

- Ten to fifteen percent of Shepaug graduates who declare a major choose science or engineering.
- Future careers in biotechnology, alternative energy, and environmental science are strongly supported by an agriscience and technology program.
- Westernmost communities currently served by Region 14 include: Sherman, New Milford, Newtown, Brookfield, New Fairfield, Bethel, and Danbury. These are the communities that are proposed for Region 12, Nonnewaug would continue to serve the Eastern region of their catchment area: Ansonia, Naugatuck, Oxford, Region 5 (Bethany, Woodbridge), Region 15 (Southbury and Middlebury), Region 16 (Prospect, Beacon Falls), Seymour, and Watertown.
- The division of the Region 14 catchment area into an eastern and western division would not negatively impact their current program; as many as half of the annual applicants are turned away. The creation of a western division would allow more students to explore agriscience in their high school experience.
- Danbury implemented Westside Middle School Academy this year, focused on a STEM based model of education. These high-caliber students are a natural fit for the Shepaug Regional Agriscience STEM Academy in the future. Many of them are currently attending the Nonnewaug Open House, demonstrating their interest in agriscience for their high school careers: <http://bit.ly/1IsoloO>.

Employment Opportunities



Vision:

Agriculture is the nation's largest employer, with more than 23 million jobs (17 percent of the civilian workforce) involved in some facet of American agriculture (FFA, 2014). According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, agricultural and food scientists careers are projected to grow nine percent from 2012 - 2022. Out of the 22 million people who directly work within the agricultural industry only 2 million are actively involved in "farming" on a daily basis (Bureau of Labor Statistics). The vast majority work as either food/agricultural scientists or in business related careers, such as marketing and merchandising.

The addition of a Regional Agriscience STEM Academy would provide valuable resources to our district while attracting students who are interested in a rigorous, high-quality program of study. These students would be chosen through a selective process, and would be required to maintain academic and behavioral success in order to remain at Shepaug. The addition of a planned number of students to Shepaug will provide the region with a stable population for the future.

Shepaug Valley Regional Agriscience STEM Academy

The agricultural science and technology education program includes interrelated components such as classroom instruction, laboratory experience, leadership training and supervised work experience.

College & Career Pathways/Proposed Areas of Study

- Plant Science, Horticulture
- Natural Resources & Environment
- Biotechnology
- Animal Science, Veterinary Science
- Aquaculture & Marine Science
- Food Science
- Agricultural Mechanics & Engineering

Business, Research & Development in any of the areas above

These areas of study would also be enhanced by a concentration in Agriscience Education for students who are considering a career in Agricultural Education at the high school level. This program would be a first in the nation and a potential partner with UCONN's Neag School of Education.

Agriscience staff in the program would be CASE certified (<http://www.case4learning.org/>) to ensure alliance with national best practices in the agriscience industry.

The USDA website (<http://www3.ag.purdue.edu/USDA/employment/Pages/default.aspx>) contains valuable information about employment opportunities and future outlook on STEM-based agriscience careers.

Resources

International Student Guide to the United States of America; Agriscience Careers:
<http://www.internationalstudentguidetotheusa.com/articles/careersinagriculture.htm>

US Department of Agriculture, employment outlook:
<http://www3.ag.purdue.edu/USDA/employment/Pages/default.aspx>

Timeline

It is expected that Shepaug's agriscience program would be completed and ready for the fall of 2018.

**New Milford Board of Education
Special Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2015
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Cafeteria**

Present:	Mrs. Angela C. Chastain, Chairperson Mr. Robert Coppola Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. David A. Lawson Mr. Dave Littlefield (arrived at 8:20 p.m.) Mr. David R. Shaffer Mr. John W. Spatola Mrs. Theresa Volinski
Absent:	Mrs. Daniele Shook

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Also Present:	Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools Mr. Joshua Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources Mr. Jay Hubelbank, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Mr. John Calhoun, Facilities Manager Members of the New Milford Town Council and Board of Finance
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1.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance
2.	Special Joint Meeting of the Town Council, Board of Education and the Board of Finance A. Consultant's presentation of Feasibility Study findings conducted for the Ad Hoc Turf Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For details see Town of New Milford January 12, 2015 Minutes for Special Joint Meeting of the Town Council, Board of Education, and the Board of Finance. 	Special Joint Meeting of the Town Council, Board of Education and the Board of Finance A. Consultant's presentation of Feasibility Study findings conducted for the Ad Hoc Turf Committee
3.	Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Town of New Milford January 12, 2015 Minutes for Special Joint Meeting of the Town Council, Board of Education, and the Board of Finance. 	Public Comment

<p>4.</p> <p>A.</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action by the Town Council</p> <p>Discussion and possible action, by the Town Council, relating to the proposed turf field project going forward or not and authorizing the Mayor to take further action consistent therewith.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For details see Town of New Milford January 12, 2015 Minutes for Special Joint Meeting of the Town Council, Board of Education, and the Board of Finance. <p>Mr. Spatola left the meeting at 9:42 p.m. and returned at 9:47 p.m.</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action by the Town Council</p> <p>A. Discussion and possible action, by the Town Council, relating to the proposed turf field project going forward or not and authorizing the Mayor to take further action consistent therewith.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Recess and Relocation to First Floor Gym</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board of Education recessed at 10:03 p.m. to relocate to the First Floor Gym and reconvened at 10:10 p.m. 	<p>Recess and Relocation to First Floor Gym</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was none. 	<p>Public Comment</p>
<p>7.</p> <p>A.</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action by the Board of Education</p> <p>Authorization for the Town of New Milford to access school property as necessary for the installation of a turf field or fields and to further authorize the Board Chair to sign a memorandum of understanding regarding such, subject to any further necessary legal review.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to authorize the Town of New Milford to access school property as necessary for the installation of a turf field or fields and to further authorize the Board Chair to sign a memorandum of understanding regarding such, subject to any further necessary legal review,</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action by the Board of Education</p> <p>A. Authorization for the Town of New Milford to access school property as necessary for the installation of a turf field or fields and to further authorize the Board Chair to sign a memorandum of understanding regarding such, subject to any further necessary legal review.</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to authorize the Town of New Milford to access school property as necessary for the installation of a turf field or fields and to further authorize the Board</p>

seconded by Mr. Lawson.

- Mr. Lawson said he had already expressed his approval for this project and was ready to vote.
- Mr. Littlefield agreed.
- Mrs. Volinski asked about the timing of the project. Mrs. Faulenbach said it depended on the bid process but that the goal, if approved, was to finish most of the project for the Fall 2015 season.
- Mr. Spatola said he was in favor of the project but thought the vote might be premature as the project might not have been approved yet.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said the motion was only to authorize access and was not dependent on funding.
- Mr. Coppola said he was in favor of the vote so that we will be ready if and when the project does go through. He asked to hear the Athletic Director's thoughts on the project.
- Athletic Director Lipinsky said he was incredibly proud of the student athletes, coaches and community members who came out to support this issue which he fully supports. He says turf fields will be a tremendous improvement to the program and a valuable service to athletes.
- Mr. Coppola asked for clarification regarding community use. Mr. Lipinsky said the plan was to provide for community sports organization use in the evening after 6:30 p.m. and on the weekends where available.
- Mr. Spatola asked who would approve the specific community use. Mr. Calhoun said all requests would go through the usual building use process.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Faulenbach moved to authorize the Board Chair to execute the memorandum of understanding on behalf of the Board, subject to any further necessary legal review, seconded by Mr. Lawson.

Chair to sign a memorandum of understanding regarding such, subject to any further necessary legal review.

Motion made and passed unanimously to authorize the Board Chair to execute the memorandum of understanding on behalf of the Board, subject to any further necessary legal review.

<p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>B. Board of Education letter to legislators regarding the regional calendar</p> <p>Mr. Lawson moved to approve sending a letter from Board of Education members to legislators regarding the regional calendar, seconded by Mr. Shaffer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Chastain thanked Mr. Shaffer for taking the lead in preparing this letter.• Mr. Shaffer said he has been told that there is a lot of discussion at the legislative level to review the idea of the regional calendar.• Mr. Lawson said he would encourage the Board to send this in the form of a resolution as well for added weight. Mrs. Chastain asked for a volunteer to do that for the next meeting. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>C. Sending Town Agreement for the Shepaug Regional Agriscience Program</p> <p>Mr. Lawson moved to approve the Sending Town Agreement for the Shepaug Regional Agriscience Program and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools and Board Chair to sign a memorandum of agreement regarding such, seconded by Mrs. Volinski.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Coppola asked for the number of students enrolled in the current program. Mr. Smith said it was approximately 25.• Mr. Coppola said he liked the idea as Shepaug is closer for students in our area. He asked if there was additional information that could be shared.• Dr. Paddyfote said that tuition will be the same. Any student who starts at Nonnewaug can finish there. She said the proposed program is in the very initial stages of set up. This	<p>B. Board of Education letter to legislators regarding the regional calendar</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve sending a letter from Board of Education members to legislators regarding the regional calendar.</p> <p>C. Sending Town Agreement for the Shepaug Regional Agriscience Program</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the Sending Town Agreement for the Shepaug Regional Agriscience Program and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools and Board Chair to sign a memorandum of agreement regarding such.</p>
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	<p>agreement is just one of many pieces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Spatola said he was in favor of this type of STEM program but asked about the subjective nature of the selection process. Mr. Hubelbank said the process typically involves an essay, interview, and letters of recommendation as well as academic standing. • Mr. Coppola said he was in favor of this program as another option for our students that we do not provide in New Milford. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Mr. Spatola moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



Wendy Faulenbach
 Secretary
 New Milford Board of Education