

**New Milford Board of Education  
Special Meeting Minutes  
May 16, 2023  
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

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TOWN CLERK

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2023 MAY 18 P 4: 23

NEW MILFORD, CT

Present:	Mr. Pete Helmus, Chairperson Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Eric Hansell Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mr. Tom O'Brien Mrs. Leslie Sarich Mrs. Sarah Herring Mr. Brian McCauley
Absent:	Mrs. Olga I. Rella

Also Present:	Dr. Janet Parlato, 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 Ms. Naomi Post, Student Representative Mr. Nicholas Carroccio, Student Representative Mrs. Teresa Kavanagh, Director of Human Services Mayor Pete Bass, Town of New Milford
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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 7:00pm by Mr. Pete Helmus, Chairperson. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	<b>Call to Order</b> Pledge of Allegiance
2.	A.	<b>Public Comment</b> No public comment.	<b>Public Comment</b>
3.		<b>PTO REPORT</b> Ms. Byrd stated Hill and Plain had coffee with the principal on May 16th. Field day is scheduled for June 9th. Second grade send off is June 13th as well as the second grade chorus concert, which will include an ice cream truck. Yearbook sales have ended. Boosterthon has	<b>PTO REPORT</b>

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		<p>begun Hill and Plain is having a dance-a-thon to kick it off on May 23rd. Northville will be doing Touch-a-Truck on June 2nd. June 8th will be the second grade send off. June 14th is field day.</p> <p>At Sarah Noble Intermediate School yearbook deadline was May 15th and they sold over 275 books. June 1st there will be an art show and ice cream social. June 14th is the third grade and 4th grade field day. Fifth grade send off is June 15th.</p> <p>Schaghticoke Middle School had their Boosterthon and raised over \$6,500 profit. The Spring Festival is this Friday, and the book fair will be open. Incoming sixth graders are invited. Book fair has kicked off and will run through next Thursday. There is a new student leadership club doing a week of spirit days. May 17th was Gray Day that was run in conjunction with a charity softball event, with the goal to bring awareness for brain tumors with proceeds going to the Brain Tumor Alliance. The eighth grade committee of parents is planning end-of-year events. June 13th will be the eighth grade send off. June 15th will be the eighth grade social. Eighth Grade Promotion is June 20th, and Field Day will be June 21st. There was no report from the high school.</p> <p>A clothing drive is going until the end of the month. May 18th is a half day of school. Tasty Waves is giving a portion of sales that day to the PTO Scholarship fund.</p>	
4.		<p><b>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT</b></p> <p>Mr. Carroccio stated at Northville the PTO held a "Spring Fling" last month, which included a book fair and big bubble machine. Field trips are happening. First grade went to Westconn to see Charlotte's Web, second grade went to the Ridgefield Playhouse to see The Ugly Duckling, the kindergarten students will be going to Bank Street Theater to see Stuart Little. Teacher Appreciation was last week and the teachers would like to thank the PTO for lunch. The cafeteria staff was celebrated on May 5th. Kindergarten registration is still open. Kindergarten Experience is being held Wednesdays in May. Teachers continue to get PD in science and reading though iReady.</p> <p>Ms. Post stated the first grade received a visit from critter garden. It gave the students an opportunity to</p>	<p><b>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT</b></p>

		<p>pet and handle the animals. Hill and Plain wants to thank the PTO for the annual read-a-thon. A recent PTO spirit day was “decades day” and the students had fun dressing up. Hill and Plain would like to thank the faculty for their hard work over spring break, giving the playground a refresh with new mulch. Registration day was held for incoming 2023/2024 kindergarten students. Students met faculty, and parents were able to file paperwork for registration. Future kindergarteners and families can participate in the “Mini-Kindergarten Experience” by getting a tour of the school and a short bus ride.</p> <p>Mr. Carroccio stated Sarah Noble Intermediate School’s concert season is in full swing. Students traveled to Schaghticoke Middle School and New Milford High School to perform in the orchestra and the jazz fest. The fifth grade chorus, intermediate band and advanced band also performed. The 18th year of the Walking Project kicked off this past Wednesday.</p> <p>Mr. Carroccio stated there was no report from Schaghticoke Middle School.</p> <p>Ms. Post stated New Milford High School's last activity day is May 22nd which will incorporate a chorus concert with Schaghticoke Middle School. There is no school on May 29th. May 31st is scholarship night for seniors. June 7th is field day. May 24th is the senior banquet. May 25th is the senior picnic at Harrybrooke Park. May 26th is the senior trip.</p>	
5.	A.	<p><b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b></p> <p>Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</p> <p>1. April 25, 2023 Minutes</p> <p><i>Mr. Hansell moved to approve the Minutes of April 25, 2023, seconded by Mr. McCauley.</i></p>	<p><b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b></p> <p>Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</p> <p>1. April 25, 2023 Minutes</p> <p><i>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of April 25, 2023.</i></p>
6.	A.	<p><b>SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT</b></p> <p>Presentation - New Milford High School Career Pathways</p>	<p><b>SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT</b></p> <p>Presentation - New Milford High School Career Pathways</p>

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	<p>Dr. Parlato stated that for the Superintendent's Report there is a presentation from New Milford High School. The presentation was given by members of New Milford High School's administration, teachers and students discussing the Career Pathways.</p> <p>Ms. Hollander stated that a lot of hard work is going on in the high school for the Career Pathways initiative. Some of this had already been discussed in the Committee on Learning meetings. Ms. Hollander introduced Kristie O'Neill, Dr. Meg Dwyer, Brooke Demauge, a freshman at New Milford High School, and Mr. Manka. Dr. Dwyer gave an overview of the presentation of Career Pathways and Freshman Academy, stating this had already been presented to the Committee on Learning back in December with great feedback. The goal is to look at what career connected learning is for all the students with a focus on reviewing career pathway initiatives, and setting up an action plan. This will allow to have attainable goals for now and in the future. Dr. Dwyer stated they have been fortunate to work with outside facilitators such as You Science Coaching, which has allowed staff to attend workshops. Freshman Academy is almost done with its first year. The focus moving forward is to provide communication of all stakeholders, and create goals that career path learning can have on all students. Over the summer, work will be put towards adding job shadowing and internship opportunities, thus taking life learning and folding it into school curriculums. There has also been a focus on leading this into what a vision of a graduate is, and making sure all seniors who leave New Milford High School have a vision of what they want to pursue in college and career. Dr. Dwyer showed statistics of the current job market and how students can learn earlier what they may want to pursue after graduation. This program aids students who are leaning towards a specific degree to receive real life exposure. With this program the goal is to provide future experiences and create a relevant career-connected learning for all. By looking at Powerschool, profiles of graduates, current courses and success rates, and other</p>	
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	<p>qualitative data, a connection can be made to a post-secondary planning phase. Great progress has been made with professional learning by establishing Freshman Academy and a vision for the future. Involvement and awareness has increased by using coaching models, attending leadership courses, working with Ready CT, connecting with local businesses/Chambers of Commerce, as well as seeing what other schools are doing. Freshman Academy has had a successful first year pilot. This past year had 71 students enrolled and next year there are 102 students enrolled. The staff has written curriculum and have been spearheading driving middle school awareness as to how freshman year decisions impact junior and senior year. Freshman Academy dives deep into what students like and comes up with a path for the future. By gathering feedback from current students, staff can recommend and anticipate paths for incoming students. In the presentation students were asked what they thought of Freshman Academy. The response was it helped them figure out what they want to do as they go on after high school.</p> <p>Brooke Demauge, a freshman student who has completed Freshman Academy gave a live testimonial of her experience. Ms. Demauge stated her parents run an HVAC company. Freshman Academy helped lay out a further career plan. Ms. Demauge stated this program is helpful for those who may not have role models to help them see what the working world is like. This program helps with dressing professionally and creating a resume. After completing Freshman Academy Ms. Demauge decided to talk to several businesses about what her career goals are. In doing so, it has opened doors, and increased her involvement in the community. Ms. Demauge's main takeaway is that all people in high school should have this opportunity.</p> <p>Visitors from the CSDE attended a freshman seminar where students created an app and demonstrated it. In the seminar the students were given immediate feedback on their presentation and how they presented.</p>	
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		<p>Dr. Dwyer stated, going forward, the plan is to continue to establish a more concrete pathway system. The immediate focus is on medical pathways, marketing, etc., then folding these pathways into existing classes so they are more tailored for students.</p> <p>Future considerations require expanded programing, increased community partnerships, involvement with Ready CT, and increased financial planning.</p> <p>Ms. Hollander stated amazing work is going on and this demonstrates the competitiveness of New Milford High School and how New Milford is becoming a model at the state level.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato added that this is a perfect example of exemplary work in our school district. The district is future focused, and needs to be future focused, to prepare the students for the world. Dr. Parlato thanked everyone for their hard work.</p>	
7.		<b>BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b> No report given.	<b>BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b>
8.	<b>A.</b>	<b>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</b> <b>Monthly Reports</b> 1. Budget Position dated 4/30/23 2. Purchase Resolution: D-770  Mr. Giovannone stated the bottom half of Purchase Resolution: D-770 outlines end-of-year projects and is tied to the Request for Budget Transfers.  3. Request for Budget Transfers  Mr. Helmus stated Mr. Giovannone discussed this already when discussing the Purchase Resolution: D-770 line item.  <i>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve monthly reports: Budget Position dated 4/30/23; Purchase Resolution: D-770; and Request for Budget Transfers, seconded by Mrs. McInerney.</i>	<b>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</b> <b>Monthly Reports</b> 1. Budget Position dated 4/30/23 2. Purchase Resolution: D-770 3. Request for Budget Transfers  <i>Motion made to approve monthly reports: Budget Position dated 4/30/23; Purchase Resolution: D-770; and Request for Budget</i>

		<p><i>Transfers. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p><b>B. Food and Nutrition Services</b></p> <p>1. Healthy Food Certification Statement (HFC) Statement for School Year 2023-24</p> <p>Mr. Helmus stated I need a motion that, pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, 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, 2023, through June 30, 2024. 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.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked if this had been done already. Dr. Parlato stated it was voted last meeting but only one motion was done and there were three separate sections and motions needed.</p> <p><i>Mr. McCauley moved to approve the Healthy Food Certification Statement (HFC) Statement for School Year 2023-24, seconded by Mr. O'Brien.</i></p> <p>2. Food Certification Exemptions for School Fundraisers</p> <p>Mr. Helmus stated I need a motion that 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; 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An</p>	<p><i>Motion made to approve the Healthy Food Certification Statement (HFC) Statement for School Year 2023-24. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p><b>B. Food and Nutrition Services</b></p> <p>1. Healthy Food Certification Statement (HFC) Statement for School Year 2023-24</p> <p>2. Food Certification Exemptions for School Fundraisers</p>
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	<p>“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 places as the food sales.</p> <p><i>Mr. Hansell moved to approve the Food Certification Exemptions for School Fundraisers, seconded by Mr. O’Brien.</i></p> <p>3. Beverage Certification Exemptions</p> <p>Mr. Helmus stated I need a motion that 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 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 places as the beverage sales.</p> <p><i>Mr. O’Brien moved to approve the Beverage Certification Exemptions, seconded by Mr. McCauley</i></p>	<p><i>Motion made to approve the Food Certification Exemptions for School Fundraisers. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p>3. Beverage Certification Exemptions</p> <p><i>Motion made to approve the Beverage Certification Exemptions. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>
<b>C.</b>	<b>Policies for Second Review:</b>	<b>C. Policies for Second Review:</b>



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. 5116 Pledge of Allegiance</li><li>2. 5131.81 Use of Private Technology by Students</li><li>3. 5141.23 Management Plan for Food Allergies and/or Glycogen Storage Disease</li><li>4. 5141.5 Suicide Prevention and Intervention</li><li>5. 5143 Policy Concerning Sunscreen Application in School</li><li>6. 5157 Physical Restraint and Seclusion and Exclusionary Time Out</li><li>7. 5159 Education Stability Procedures</li><li>8. 2110 Uniform Treatment of Recruiters</li><li>9. 4119 Prohibition on Recommendations for Psychotropic Drugs</li></ol>	
<b>D.</b>	<b>Policies Recommended for Deletion Upon Approval of the Above Policies in Item C.</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. 5131.81 Electronic Devices</li><li>2. 5133 Behavior of Participants in Athletic Events</li><li>3. 5141 Student Health Services</li><li>4. 5141.22 Students with Chronic Infectious Diseases</li><li>5. 5141.23 Students with Special Health Care Needs</li><li>6. 5141.231 Psychotropic Drug Use</li><li>7. 5141.25 Students with Special Health Care Needs, Accommodating Students with Special Dietary Needs</li><li>8. 5141.3 Health Assessments and Immunizations</li><li>9. 5144 Discipline</li><li>10. 5144.3 Discipline of Students with Disabilities</li><li>11. 5145.14 Students—On Campus Recruitment</li></ol>	<b>D. Policies Recommended for Deletion Upon Approval of the Above Policies in Item C.</b>

		<p>12. 5145.6 Student Grievance Procedures</p> <p>13. 5157 Use of Physical Force and Seclusion</p> <p>14. 6000 Concept &amp; Roles in Instruction</p> <p>15. 6010 Goals &amp; Objectives</p> <p>16. 6113 Released Time</p> <p>17. 6114.1 Fire and Crisis Response Drills</p> <p>18. 6114.3 Emergencies &amp; Disaster Preparedness: Bomb Threats</p> <p>19. 6115 School Ceremonies &amp; Observations</p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated this process is part of an ongoing project to update the language of policies and aligning it with state statutes and this is why some policies are being deleted. They are not incorrect, but the language is being updated to align with state statutes. Mrs. Faulenbach agreed and stated the work is prudent and policies are being vetted to ensure they are not embedded in several other policies. Going through this process makes it more concise, easy to find and efficient for the community.</p> <p>Mr. Helmus stated he appreciated the clarification. Mrs. McInerney stated the goal is to make existing policies to the point and keep them in line with regulationS. RegulationS do not have to be passed by the Board, that is how the district is going to carry out the policy. Doing this allows regulation changes without policy change, and it is necessary to differentiate the two. Mrs. McInerney thanked Dr. Paddyfote for her help with this policy project.</p> <p><b>Discussion and possible action concerning proposed collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and Teamsters Local 443 –</b></p>	
	E.		E. Discussion and possible action concerning proposed

	<p><b>Custodians/Maintainers covering the period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2026.</b></p> <p><i>Mrs. McInerney moved to enter into executive session to discuss the proposed collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and Teamsters Local 667 – Food and Nutrition Services Employees covering the period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2026 and the proposed collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and Teamsters Local 443 – Custodians/Maintainers covering the period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2026. Invited into the executive session were Superintendent Janet Parlato, Director of Human Resources Teresa Kavanagh and Director of Fiscal Services Anthony Giovannone. Seconded by Mr. McCauley.</i></p> <p><i>The Board entered executive session at 7:40pm.</i></p> <p><i>The Board returned to public session at 8:00pm.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. McCauley moved the Board ratify the proposed collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and Teamsters Local 443 – Custodians/Maintainers as discussed by the Board in Executive Session. Seconded by Mr. Hansell.</i></p>	<p><b>collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and Teamsters Local 443 – Custodians/Maintainers covering the period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2026.</b></p> <p><i>Motion made to enter into executive session to discuss the proposed collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and Teamsters Local 667 – Food and Nutrition Services Employees covering the period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2026 and the proposed collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and Teamsters Local 443 – Custodians/Maintainers covering the period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2026. Invited into the executive session are Superintendent Janet Parlato, Director of Human Resources Teresa Kavanagh and Director of Fiscal Services Anthony Giovannone. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p><i>Motion made to approve the proposed collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and Teamsters Local 443 – Custodians/Maintainers as discussed by the Board in</i></p>
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		<p><i>Mr. McCauley moved the Board to authorize the Chairperson of the Board to sign the successor collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and Teamsters Local 443 – Custodians/Maintainers subject to any necessary further legal review as discussed by the Board in Executive Session. Seconded by Mr. O'Brien.</i></p> <p><b>Discussion and possible action concerning proposed collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and Teamsters Local 667 – Food and Nutrition Services Employees covering the period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2026. Executive session anticipated.</b></p> <p><i>Mr. McCauley moved that the Board ratify the proposed collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and Teamsters Local 667 – Food and Nutrition Services Employees as discussed by the Board in Executive Session. Seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach.</i></p>	<p><i>Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p><i>Motion made to approve the Board to authorize the Chairperson of the Board to sign the successor collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and Teamsters Local 443 – Custodians/Maintainers subject to any necessary further legal review as discussed by the Board in Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p><b>F. Discussion and possible action concerning proposed collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and Teamsters Local 667 – Food and Nutrition Services Employees covering the period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2026. Executive session anticipated.</b></p> <p><i>Motion made to approve the Board ratify the proposed collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and Teamsters Local 667 – Food and Nutrition Services Employees as discussed by the Board in Executive</i></p>
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	<p><b>G.</b></p> <p><b>Potential transfer of 50 East Street building to Town of New Milford</b></p> <p><i>Mrs. Faulenbach moved the Board of Education relinquish all statutory rights to the 50 East Street Building and property effective June 30, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Hansell.</i></p> <p>Mr. Helmus stated this situation has been discussed at length. The topic has been brought up by the town as to when the Board would relinquish the building. At this point the building is essentially empty, and Camella's Cupboard will vacate the building by June 30, 2023. Mrs. Faulenbach stated it is procedure for legal vetting during this process, as has been done in the past with the closing of a school and relinquishing of a building. Mrs. Faulenbach asked if proper legal procedures and vetting had been done, as well as the appropriate motions, constituted with state statute. Mr. Helmus stated yes. Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the release would be effective June 30th. Mr. Helmus stated yes. The release falls at the end of the fiscal year and there were no funds allocated for next year to maintain the building. Mrs. Faulenbach asked if it was the Board's pleasure to tie this into the discussion of central office. Mr. Helmus stated the topic would be brought up at the next meeting. Mrs. Faulenbach pointed out it was on the agenda under Items of Information. Mr. Helmus stated that it would be discussed when the Board started discussion on Items of Information.</p> <p><b><u>ITEMS OF INFORMATION</u></b></p> <p>A. Employment Report - May 2023  B. Enrollment Report - May 1, 2023</p> <p><b>9.</b></p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated it was stable and as expected.</p> <p>C. Administrative Regulations in support of Policies in 8C</p>	<p><i>Session. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p><b>G. Potential transfer of 50 East Street building to Town of New Milford</b></p> <p><i>Motion made to approve the Board of Education relinquish all statutory rights to the 50 East Street Building and property effective June 30, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p><b><u>9. ITEMS OF INFORMATION</u></b></p> <p>A. Employment Report - May 2023  B. Enrollment Report - May 1, 2023</p>
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		<p>1. 5141.3 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Health Assessments, Screenings and Oral Health Assessments</p> <p>2. 5141.221 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Immunizations</p> <p>3. 5141.5 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Suicide Prevention and Intervention</p> <p>4. 5143 R Administrative Regulations Concerning Sunscreen Application in School</p> <p>5. 5157 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Physical Restraint and Seclusion and Exclusionary Time Out</p> <p>D. IDEA Grant 2023-2025</p> <p>Dr. Parlato asked Mrs. Olson to give an update on the IDEA Grant. Mrs. Olson stated the IDEA grant is a 2-year, non-competitive federal grant. The grant outlines very detailed goals with action plans. The majority of the grant is salary, which is spread out as much as possible. The grant provides OT and PT services through grant 611, and grant 619 is allotted for preschool. Mrs. Olson stated the school system has always gotten approved for the grant and expects that again.</p> <p>E. Field Trip Report - May 2023</p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated she is glad the students are going out and seeing the world.</p> <p>F. Fundraising - May 2023</p> <p>G. Retirements/Resignations</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney asked why this list is on twice. Dr. Parlato agreed to collapse items 9.A and item 9.G.</p> <p>H. Central Office Update</p> <p>Dr. Parlato asked Mr. Cunningham to speak regarding this matter. Mr. Cunningham stated an RFP went out to bid for construction. There is a site visit scheduled for May 20th. Bids will be open Thursday, May 25th and RFPs will be known at that time.</p>	<p>C. Administrative Regulations in support of Policies in 8C</p> <p>D. IDEA Grant 2023-2025</p> <p>E. Field Trip Report - May 2023</p> <p>F. Fundraising - May 2023</p> <p>G. Retirements/Resignations</p> <p>H. Central Office Update</p> <p>I. NMHS Roof Update</p>
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	<p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated that at the last board meeting the Board made a motion that the funds come from capital reserves, and that request has been sent to the Mayor's office. It is the intent that that request go before the Town Council and the Board of Finance to draw on the capital reserve funds, not out of the current operational budget or end of year balance. This is what the board voted on. Mr. Helmus stated yes. Mrs. Faulenbach stated the preliminary request on November 28, 2022 went before town council and \$100,000 was approved to be used towards the move and temporarily be used for the project. That was granted and passed unanimously by both Town Council and the Board, then again voted unanimously by the Board of Finance. Mrs. Faulenbach stated that these steps were taken a while ago and now there seems to be some surprise as to this move happening. The preliminary request came in as early as November 2022. It has gone through three separate governing bodies. It has been on the full board agenda every single month since November 2022, including sub committee agendas for Facilities and Operations. This topic has been discussed in approximately twelve meetings. The funds from capital reserves are taxpayer dollars that were entrusted to the town for capital improvements of this nature. Mrs. Faulenbach stated that in her personal opinion she was a bit surprised that people were surprised. The initial cost was projected to be \$4,000,000 and it was reduced. Mrs. Faulenbach stated she herself met with the Mayor in February and March to get the numbers down. It was also put in concert with the SLR study (enrollment study) that was submitted in 2021. The Board has done their due diligence, and has worked with several people in town. There has been a lot of effort from the Board and the town. This did not come out of nowhere, and it is not money spent on furniture. Mrs. Faulenbach asked if in the last proposal if there was any furniture. Mr. Cunningham stated no furniture is in the proposal. Mrs. Faulenbach stated regardless of where the Board and administrative offices go, she hopes it is done on a collaborative basis. Mr. Helmus stated the move has been discussed as far back as 2010 and has been a topic of discussion for 13-14 years. Back</p>	
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	<p>in 2017, the previous Mayor requested the Board vacate East Street and go to Pettibone. This Board has acted with reasonable care. Staff had to move out of East Street because of conditions and something needed to be done. The plan went from \$4,500,000 to \$1,500,000 to \$750,000. It is a reasonable and fiscally responsible plan.</p> <p>Mrs. Sarich asked it be put into public record as to why the Board is not going to Pettibone.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach noted Mayor Pete Bass was present and stated that herself and the Mayor have been to many of these meetings. In that time no one has stated that central office needs to be in one particular place. Studies that were done regarding Pettibone and East Street being more permanent places would cost a tremendous amount of money to bring to code. It is costly to take buildings from the 1920's and bring them up to compliance. Mrs. Faulenbach recalled when the move to Pettibone was proposed, at that particular time, it was closed. A previous administration wanted central office to move to Pettibone and the projected cost was over \$1,500,000. That cost was just for the move, not including building maintenance and upgrades, which included sidewalks, sprinklers, etc. The Board turned it down. Mr. McCauley stated Pettibone was decommissioned as a school and to move central office there, it would have meant bringing it up to standards as a school needs today. There was a lot involved and too much to do. Mrs. Faulenbach stated the administration changed and everything was put on hold. Mrs. Faulenbach also noted there have been two tragedies: Covid and the fires. Mr. Helmus stated there was the microburst as well. Mrs. Faulenbach stated a better job needs to be done explaining to the public why central office is at Sarah Noble Intermediate School. Mrs. Faulenbach stated she went through every single document sent to her today and was willing to share those documents. Mr. Helmus stated, to Mrs. Sarich's point, after reading the minutes from when Mayor Gronbach was in office, there was no agreement on whose budget manages the building since it was a town owned building. There were questions about</p>	
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	<p>the finances and after the Mayoral change, the subject was dropped. Mrs. Faulenbach stated at that time, the Board had \$1,500,000 in the capital reserve and the MOU was over \$1,000,000, with the possibility the Board would be reimbursed in its capital reserve if they ever sold one of their buildings. There were a lot of “what if’s” for a large dollar amount. Mrs. Faulenbach stated in agreement \$750,000 is a lot of money. Mr. Helmus stated it has been five years, and this is a reasonable plan. Mrs. McInerney stated there are no bells and whistles. Everything is being repurposed. The lockers are staying, walls are being put up to create privacy and a functioning central office. Mr. O’Brien stated he wanted to recognize Mr. Matt Cunningham for whittling down the price tag from \$4,000,000 to \$750,000. Some central office staff administrators have been at Sarah Noble for three years, working out of classrooms and they deserve suitable office space. Mr. O’Brien thanked Mr. Cunningham for making the project possible.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated she would be remiss if she did not advocate for a functional and professional work space for central office. Privacy is of the utmost importance. Dr. Parlato agreed \$750,000 is a lot of money but would hate people to be resentful of the fact central office needs a professional workspace. Dr. Parlato stated she needs to advocate for the central office staff and administrators that work there.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated there are issues in the district, and other districts, that have to do with air conditioning and air quality. This is a coming issue, legislation is looking into it right now and one of the issues in the state is the age of the buildings. A lot of remediation has to take place not only for air conditioning but air quality, and it is costly. Every district will be looking at it, and the direction taken is important and can not go unnoticed.</p> <p>I. NMHS Roof Update Mr. Cunningham stated the standing seam metal roof will be complete this month. Spheres have returned back to the turrets. Currently, work is being</p>	
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Special Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2023

Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center

		done on the drains, flaps for the low sloped roof that is about 58,000 square feet. The whole project should be completed this summer. Mr. Helmus stated it has been 5 years since the microburst. Mr. Faulenbach stated it is a lot to be proud of.	
10.		<b>ADJOURN</b> <i>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 pm, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and passed unanimously.</i>	<b>ADJOURN</b> <i>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:24pm</i>

Respectfully submitted:



Leslie Sarich

Secretary

New Milford Board of Education