

**NEW MILFORD
BOARD OF EDUCATION**



ANNUAL REPORT
2019 – 2020

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
50 East Street
New Milford, Connecticut 06776

NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Angela C. Chastain, Chairperson

Mr. Joseph Failla, Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Secretary

Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan, Assistant Secretary

Mr. Pete Helmus

Mr. Brian McCauley

Mrs. Tammy McInerney

Mrs. Cynthia Nabozny

Mrs. Olga I. Rella

Board of Education Annual Report 2019 – 2020

The New Milford Public Schools served 3,925 students in PreK through grade 12 during the 2019-20 academic year with a staff of 361 teachers, 17.6 building administrators, and 259 support staff (non-certified staff). The operating budget for the New Milford Public Schools for 2019-20 totaled \$64,040,692.

July 2019

- At its regular meeting on July 16, 2019, the Board approved a request that the Town Council and Board of Finance approve \$96,511 from the capital reserve account to fund capital items cut from the 2019-20 Board of Education Adopted Budget.
- The Board approved four administrative appointments:
 - Mr. Kevin Best was named Assistant Principal for New Milford High School
 - Mrs. Catherine Calabrese was named Assistant Principal for Northville Elementary School and Schaghticoke Middle School
 - Mrs. Deborah Clark was named Special Education Supervisor PK-5
 - Mr. Brandon Rush was named Technology Director

August 2019

- At a regular meeting on August 20, the Board approved the following policies:
 - 1325 Advertising and Promotion
 - 1330 Use of School Facilities
 - 1331 Smoking
 - 1411 Relations with Police Authorities
 - 1412 Fire Department
 - 1430 State and Federal Aid
 - 1620 Relations with Private Schools, Colleges and Universities
- Mrs. Sasha Salem was named Assistant Principal for Schaghticoke Middle School.
- The Board authorized the Business Office to issue payments to individual teachers who worked on the days of concern in 2015-16 as awarded by the arbitrator.
- Teachers returned August 22 with staff meetings and open houses held on August 26. The All Staff Convocation took place on August 26 followed by professional development.
- Students returned August 27.

September 2019

- **Mr. Stephen Donahue** was recognized as New Milford's Teacher of the Year for 2020.
- The Board amended the agenda to include a discussion of vaping and protocol.
 - The Board approved revisions to the following policies:
 - 1331 Smoking
 - 4112.5 Criminal History Inquiries
 - 4118.232 Smoking
 - 5114 Removal/Suspension/Expulsion

- 5118 Nonresident Students
- 5118.1 Homeless Students
- 5141.21 Administration of Medication
- 6111 School Calendar
- The following curricula were approved by the Board:
 - Creative Writing
 - Diverse Voices
 - US History CP
 - US History Honors
- Tuition rates were established and approved for the 2019-2020 school year.
- The New Milford High School graduation date for 2020 was approved by the Board for Saturday, June 20, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.
- The Board designated Celtic Energy as the owner representative for the New Milford Public Schools' Board of Education to negotiate with energy service companies (ESCOs), on its behalf, and to develop energy savings performance contracts (ESPCs) that can fund future capital improvement projects; and authorized the Board Chair to sign the service agreement with Celtic Energy on its behalf.
- The Board approved a request that the Town Council and Board of Finance approve \$352,500 from the capital reserve account to fund capital items that were removed from the 2019-20 Superintendent's Proposed Budget on 1/31/19 when the Board approved the 2019-20 Board of Education Adopted Budget.
- The Board approved an amended request that \$50,000 of the Year End Balance for 2018-19, subject to final audit, go to MUNIS account 43020000-49510-00006 for turf field replacement, with the remaining balance to capital reserve.
- The Board approved one additional morning EXCEL classroom for Hill and Plain School.

October 2019

- The Board held a workshop on October 15, 2019 to review and discuss district assessments and survey results.
- At its regular meeting, the Board recognized:
 - NMHS 2020 National Merit Program Commended Students: **April Li** and **Ryan Murphy**
 - NMHS 2020 National Merit Program Semifinalists: **Louis Chiarito** and **Jason Zhang**
 - NMPS Stars of the Month: **Fran Babbino**, **Terri Cooper**, **Melissa Nihan**, **Gabrielle Passarelli**, **Jennifer Saraiva**, and **Kelly Tait**
- The Board welcomed new student representative **Joshua Abel**, a New Milford High School junior.
- The Board accepted the following donation:
 - New Milford PTO in the amount of \$7,132.07
- The Board approved the Authorized Signatures Change Form for ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs
- The Board approved the following policies:
 - 4118.112/4218.112 Sexual and Other Unlawful Harassment
 - 4155/4255 Military Leave

- The Board approved the following curricula:
 - Grade 3 Health
 - Grade 4 Health
 - Grade 5 Health
 - Health II
 - AP Spanish Language and Culture
 - AP French Language and Culture
- The Board moved that the Chair send a recommendation to the Town that a representative or representatives of the Board of Education be appointed to the Municipal Building Committee.
- The Board approved the following textbook – Grade 11: *United States History and Geography*
- The Annual Report of the Board for 2018-19 was distributed.
- The Board met in executive session and then returned to public session where they moved to approve the successor collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and the New Milford School Administrators Association as discussed in executive session and further moved that the Board delegate to the Chairperson of the Board the authority to execute said agreement on behalf of the Board

November 2019

- At its regular meeting, Superintendent Kerry Parker thanked outgoing Board members for their service and dedication: Bill Dahl, David Lawson, J.T. Schemm
- The Board recognized NMPS Stars of the Month: **Randi Gray, Susan Harris, Michelle Klee, Amy Marsan, Antoinette Montague and Diane Taylor**
- The Board gave approval for the implementation of the Western CT Coalition Mini Grant Survey.
- The Board approved sixteen curricula:
 - K-2 Library Media
 - 3-5 Library Media
 - 6-8 Library Media
 - 9-12 Library Media
 - Science Fiction CP
 - Theater Workshop and Performance
 - Experiencing Poetry
 - Physics CP
 - Physics Honors
 - AP Microeconomics
 - Introduction to Business
 - Grade 6 Art
 - Grade 7 Art
 - Grade 8 Art
 - Early Childhood
 - Statistics CP
- The Board approved revisions to the Use of Facilities Fee Schedule.
- The Board approved the successor collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and Teamsters Local 677 Food and Nutrition Services

Employees as discussed in executive session and further moved that the Board delegate to the Chairperson of the Board the authority to execute said agreement on behalf of the Board.

- The Board approved the successor collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and Teamsters Local 677 Custodians and Maintainers as discussed in executive session and further moved that the Board delegate to the Chairperson of the Board the authority to execute said agreement on behalf of the Board.
- The Board approved the successor collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and the NMBOE Nurses Local 1303-154 of Council 4 as discussed in executive session and further moved that the Board delegate to the Chairperson of the Board the authority to execute said agreement on behalf of the Board.

December 2019

- On December 3, 2019, the Board held a special meeting at which Lisa Hammersley, Deputy Executive Director of the CT School Finance Project, presented information on how Connecticut's school funding system impacts New Milford Public Schools and the community.
- The Board held its Annual meeting and elected the following officers:
 - Chairperson – **Mrs. Angela C. Chastain**
 - Vice Chairperson – **Mr. Joseph Failla**
 - Secretary – **Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach**
 - Assistant Secretary – **Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan**
- At its regular meeting, the Board recognized: VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest winner SMS student **Brandon Zhang**.
- The Board recognized NMPS Stars of the Month: **Kristan Giroux, Sarah Herring, Chuck Lynch, Carolin Preusse, Tracy Robidoux and Kristen Stolle**
- The Board accepted the following donation:
 - New Milford PTO in the amount of \$6,725.00
- The Board approved the Perkins V grant in the amount of \$36,884.00
- The Board approved Policy 1700 Possession of Firearms on School Property Prohibited and Policy and Regulation 1800 Animals on School Property.

January 2020

- The Board held a meeting on January 7, 2020 for a mid-year review of Board goals and Superintendent performance goals where they had informal discussion and feedback regarding Superintendent performance and adjustment of goals as needed.
- On January 14, 2020, the Board held a special meeting where Attorney Michael McKeon of Pullman and Comley, LLC presented on Board members' roles and responsibilities and related legal issues.
- The Board of Education conducted three evenings of hearings and adopted a budget on the fourth night for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of \$65,464,776.
- At the meeting on January 28, 2020, the Board met in executive session to discuss security strategy, as well as the deployment of security personnel, and/or devices affecting security, as well as emergency plans in the New Milford Public Schools.

- At the meeting on January 29, 2020, the Board recognized: NMPS Stars of the Month: **Daniella Brooks, Darryl Gregory, Linda Hurley, Eileen McDougal, Christine Santorella, and Susan Sullivan**

February 2020

- The Board held special meetings on February 4 and 11, 2020 to discuss strategy and negotiations regarding pending claims and litigation involving the NMEA.
- At its regular meeting on February 25, the Board recognized the following students and staff:
 - National Geographic Geography Bee: SMS student **William Orlando**
 - NMPS Stars of the Month: **Marni Gross, Kathleen Lewis, Joseph Raps, Sasha Salem, Betsy Stewart, and Christina Strell**
- The Board of Education accepted the following Gift:
 - New Milford PTO in the amount of \$10,400.00
- The Board approved the following grant:
 - Public, Educational and Governmental Programming and Educational Technology Investment Account (PEGPETIA) Grant in the amount of \$149,611.22
- The Board approved the new course Computer Science SMS and the new program Coaching Boys into Men/Coaching Girls to Leaders.
- The Board approved the New Milford Barn Quilt Trail project for the red barn on New Milford High School property.

March 2020

- On March 19, 2020 the Board held a Zoom virtual meeting.
- The Board of Education accepted the following Gifts and Donations:
 - New Milford PTO in the amount of \$17,848.97
- The Board approved the SMS stipend position of *Skills21* advisor.
- The Board voted to continue its participation in the National School Lunch Program and adopted certifications for food items, school fundraisers, and beverages.
- The Board approved twelve curricula:
 - Accounting I
 - AP Psychology
 - Child Development
 - Children's Lit CP
 - Children's Lit Honors
 - Design Foundations I
 - Design Foundations II
 - German III CP
 - German III Honors
 - Intellectual History
 - Personal Finance II
 - SAT Reading & Writing
- Mandated work on the SNIS elevator and replacement of an SNIS roof top air conditioning unit for the cafeteria were approved by the Board, with funds requested from capital reserve.

- The Board approved the textbook Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art for grade 12 and as a reference for grades 9-12.

April 2020

- Superintendent Kerry Parker gave an update on Distance Learning.
- Mrs. Laura Olson gave an update on Special Education.
- The Board approved the Adult Education ED 244 grant in the amount of \$150,000.
- The Board moved to make a request that the Town Council and Board of Finance close out the Audit Adjustment to the 19-20 Budget from the 18-19 Fiscal Year End Balance
- The Board received updates on the 2019-20 and 2020-21 budgets.
- The Board approved an MOU with CEA New Milford and discussed bus contract vendor payments and payment of student care workers.

May 2020

- The Board held a Special Meeting on May 7, 2020 where they moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign the MOU between the New Milford Board of Education and CEA New Milford, as discussed in executive session; to adopt the settlement with All Star Transportation as recommended by the business manager, to authorize Attorney William Connon to draft the agreement, and to authorize the Board Chair to sign it on the Board's behalf; and to authorize the Board Chair to execute the required documents between the New Milford Board of Education and the Town of New Milford regarding the 2019-20 end of year budget surplus.
- At the Regular Meeting of May 19, 2020, Technology Director Brandon Rush gave an update, as did Facilities Director Kevin Munrett.
- The Board approved the IDEA Section 611 grant in the amount of \$893,595 and the IDEA Section 619 grant in the amount of \$33,519.
- The Board approved the revision to policy 5118.1 Homeless Students.
- The Board discussed copier services, the repurposing and renovation of the East Street greenhouse, the NMPS Distance Learning Grading Plan, plans for the NMHS Graduation of the Class of 2020 and received budget updates.

JUNE 2020

- At its Regular Meeting on June 16, 2020, the Board recognized NMPS Food and Nutrition Services Director Sandra Sullivan who was named CT Food Services Director of the Year by the state organization.
- The Board awarded the following bids:
 - Milk: to Wade's Dairy Inc. for a period of one year
 - Frozen Dessert: to New England Ice Cream Corporation for a period of one year
 - Boiler Cleaning: to Penn Marr Boiler Cleaning for a period of one year
 - Septic Cleaning: to New Milford Septic for a period of one year
 - School Based Student Care Workers: to EdAdvance for a period of three years
 - Substitute Recruitment and Retention Services: to Effective School Solutions for a period of three years
- The Board approved the Adult Education PEP grant in the amount of \$78,000.00.
- The Board approved the revision to policy 5117 School Attendance Areas.
- The Board approved seventeen curricula:

- AP Art History
 - AP Literature and Composition
 - Civics
 - Developmental Guidance Grade K
 - Developmental Guidance Grade 1
 - Developmental Guidance Grade 2
 - German IV CP
 - German IV Honors
 - Global Studies CP
 - Global Studies Honors
 - Integrated Science CP
 - Integrated Science Honors
 - Introductory Algebra I
 - Introduction to Psychology
 - Introduction to Woodworking
 - Spanish IV CP
 - Spanish IV Honors
- The Board approved the appointment of the Assistant Superintendent, and in his/her absence, the Director of Human Resources, as the Designee for the Superintendent of Schools from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.
 - The Board approved authorization for the Superintendent to accept resignations and make appointments, excluding administrative appointments, from June 17, 2020 through September 15, 2020.
 - The Board approved authorization for the Superintendent to purchase budgeted instructional materials and other supplies, equipment and services from June 17, 2020 through September 15, 2020.
 - The Board requested that the \$200,000 fiscal year closeout from 2018-2019 and the 2019-2020 fiscal year closeout be placed in the account established by the Town Council on June 8, 2020 as a separate operational account to fund COVID-19 related expenses and to be withdrawn upon as needed by the Board of Education.
 - The Board approved the AASA Resolution in Support of a Safe, Healthy, and District-Specific Reopening Process and to authorize the Board Chair and Superintendent to sign it on the Board's behalf.
 - The Board approved the employment and salary of the Director of Technology, Substance Abuse Counselor, Assistant Superintendent, Director of Human Resources, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations, Director of Food Services, Systems Analyst, Account Data Specialist, Network Administrator, Accounting Manager, Facilities Director, Assistant Facilities Director, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Adult Education Facilitator, Board Certified Behavior Analyst, District Courier and Lab Assistant.
 - The Board amended the 2020-21 Board of Education Adopted Budget from \$65,464,776 to \$64,464,776.
 - The Board received the following annual reports:
 - Annual Emergency Preparedness Report
 - Annual Wellness Report
 - Annual Report of the John J. McCarthy Observatory