

**New Milford Board of Education
 Special Meeting Minutes
 August 10, 2021
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

Present:	Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Pete Helmus Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mrs. Olga I. Rella
Absent:	Mr. Joseph Failla Mrs. Eileen Monaghan


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NEW MILFORD, CT

Also Present:	Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Operations and Fiscal Services Mrs. Catherine Gabianelli, Human Resources Director Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Mr. Nestor Aparicio, Assistant Director of Facilities Ms. Jamie Terry, Technology Director Mrs. Anne Bilko, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Principal Dr. Chris Longo, Schaghticoke Middle School Principal Mr. Eric Williams, Hill and Plain Elementary School Principal Attorney Dennis Durao, Karsten & Tallberg, LLC Attorney Michael McKeon, Pullman Comley LLC
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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 7:00 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 public comment is limited to items on the agenda usually but it is in the Board Chair's purview to open it up to other items. She will do so tonight and asks speakers to limit themselves to 5 minutes. ● Daniella Tompos called on the Board to reevaluate their COVID procedures for schools. She said she believes that the masks are causing 	Public Comment

	<p>more harm to children than the virus and that current actions are contrary to the district's mission statement.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Superintendent's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. DiCorpo said the Governor has stated that information on statewide school mask policies will be issued before the start of the upcoming school year. It is important to note that the Governor's Executive order is still in effect. Therefore masks are required in all school buildings until September 30th. If that guidance is to change prior to the start of the school year, Ms. DiCorpo will send an update. The mask exemption has not changed. ● Ms. DiCorpo said her return to school letter to parents will include the updated plan to reopen and will be released on or about August 18th. ● She provided clarification on student spacing: three feet spacing in classrooms. We still must contact trace. The quarantine period will be discussed with our Health Director, Ms. Morrissey, and Ms. DiCorpo is hopeful to release that guidance in her plan on the 18th. ● Remote Learning: Generally, there is no remote learning for 2021-22 Statewide. There will be a plan for students who must isolate or quarantine involving an asynchronous google classroom. ● For medically complex students, we will follow the Homebound Instruction process to determine the needs of individual students. ● Walkthroughs are scheduled for the week of August 16th with administrators as well as Ms. Morrissey and our Facilities Director so that we are positioned to start school safely. ● We will be surveying K-6 students and staff on screening testing on Wednesday in order to determine if we are interested as a district to report to the State. No decision has been made. ● A survey of parents will also be conducted regarding bus transportation, for planning 	<p>Superintendent's Report</p>

	<p>purposes. That will come in the back-to-school letter from the school principals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. DiCorpo will be meeting with the PTO President tomorrow to discuss collaboration on upcoming events in our schools. ● New Teacher Orientation began today and will run through Thursday. We have over 30 new staff in attendance. ● The Admin Retreat will be held next Monday and Tuesday. ● Convocation planning is taking place; we are reviewing COVID mitigation strategies regarding location. Convocation will be held on August 23 and all Board members are invited to attend. ● Freshman Orientation information will be coming out shortly from NMHS. This wonderful opportunity for all incoming freshmen is scheduled on Wednesday, August 18, starting at 10:00 a.m. in the theater. Masks will be worn by all attendees and social distancing will be maintained. While parents and guardians will not be attending, a video will be recorded and released addressing some FAQs regarding NMHS. ● Strategic planning will begin in September. ● The Feasibility Study is almost done and will be presented to the Board in September along with the Enrollment Study. ● School based health centers are coming along and will be discussed further tonight. ● The district will be partnering with the New Milford Department of Health to provide flu clinics on site for staff and students. 	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Board Chairman's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mrs. Faulenbach said she and Ms. DiCorpo touched base today to collaborate on items to be reported and most have already been covered in Ms. DiCorpo's report. ● She thanked the Board members for attending 	<p>Board Chairman's Report</p>

	<p>the special meeting to help move along many timely items. The regular monthly meeting is next Tuesday.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>A. Discussion of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pending litigation and related strategy pertaining to a claim filed with the CHRO by a former employee of the Board alleging discriminatory and retaliatory conduct; 2. A personnel issue pertaining to the terms of employment, including duties, performance and compensation, of a Central Office staff member; 3. A proposal from the Connecticut Institute for Communities and the Board legal counsel's written opinion and/or drafts of proposed contracts pertaining to same; and 4. Reports and statements of status and/or strategy pertaining to collective bargaining. <p>Executive session is anticipated. The Board may take action when it returns to public session.</p> <p>Mrs. McNerney moved that the Board enter into Executive Session for the following purposes: 1) discussing pending litigation and related strategy pertaining to a claim filed with the CHRO by a former employee of the Board alleging discriminatory and retaliatory conduct; 2) discussing a personnel issue pertaining to the terms of employment, including duties, performance and compensation, of a Central Office staff member; 3)</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>A. Discussion of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pending litigation and related strategy pertaining to a claim filed with the CHRO by a former employee of the Board alleging discriminatory and retaliatory conduct; 2. A personnel issue pertaining to the terms of employment, including duties, performance and compensation, of a Central Office staff member; 3. A proposal from the Connecticut Institute for Communities and the Board legal counsel's written opinion and/or drafts of proposed contracts pertaining to same; and 4. Reports and statements of status and/or strategy pertaining to collective bargaining. <p>Executive session is anticipated. The Board may take action when it returns to public session.</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously that the Board enter into Executive Session for the following purposes: 1) discussing pending litigation and related strategy pertaining to a claim filed with the CHRO by a former employee of the Board alleging discriminatory and retaliatory</p>

<p>discussing a proposal from the Connecticut Institute for Communities and the Board legal counsel's written opinion and/or drafts of proposed contracts pertaining to same; and 4) reports and statements of status and/or strategy pertaining to collective bargaining; and to further move that Attorney Dennis Durao and Human Resources Director Cathy Gabianelli be invited to join the Board in Executive Session for the discussion of pending litigation; Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Anthony Giovannone for the discussion of reports and statements of status and/or strategy pertaining to collective bargaining; and that Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo and Attorney Michael McKeon be invited to join the Board in Executive Session for all four matters, seconded by Mrs. Rella.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>The Board entered executive session at 7:16 p.m.</p> <p>Attorney Durao and Mrs. Gabianelli left executive session at 7:39 p.m.</p> <p>Mr. Giovannone entered executive session at 8:03 p.m. and left at 8:23 p.m.</p> <p>The Board returned to public session at 8:44 p.m.</p> <p>Mrs. Rella moved that the Board authorize the Board Chair, the Superintendent of Schools, and the Board's legal counsel to negotiate on behalf of the Board with the Connecticut Institute for Communities, Inc. and with the Town of New Milford regarding the proposed school health-site services and the contracts relating to same on the terms discussed in Executive Session, seconded by Mr. McCauley.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>conduct; 2) discussing a personnel issue pertaining to the terms of employment, including duties, performance and compensation, of a Central Office staff member; 3) discussing a proposal from the Connecticut Institute for Communities and the Board legal counsel's written opinion and/or drafts of proposed contracts pertaining to same; and 4) reports and statements of status and/or strategy pertaining to collective bargaining; and to further move that Attorney Dennis Durao and Human Resources Director Cathy Gabianelli be invited to join the Board in Executive Session for the discussion of pending litigation; Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Anthony Giovannone for the discussion of reports and statements of status and/or strategy pertaining to collective bargaining; and that Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo and Attorney Michael McKeon be invited to join the Board in Executive Session for all four matters.</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously that the Board authorize the Board Chair, the Superintendent of Schools, and the Board's legal counsel to negotiate on behalf of the Board with the Connecticut Institute for Communities, Inc. and with the Town of New Milford regarding the proposed school health-site services and the contracts relating to same on the terms discussed in Executive Session.</p>
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<p>B. Policy for Approval</p> <p>1. 1324 Fundraising by Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Rella said she has a concern with 1324(c) #3 which states that donated monies and items shall become the property of the New Milford Board of Education. She wanted it made clear that any monies raised are for the fundraising organization's use and remain theirs to use in the future.• Ms. DiCorpo said this revision and forms will allow better analysis of what is coming in as well as follow up. Monies will stay in the organization's activity account; there is no statute of limitations. Ms. DiCorpo said this is further clarified in #8 which states that the Director of Finance will ensure appropriate accounting procedures and that funds are held until such time as they are spent for their stated purpose. This allows the district to track any unused funds too, so they are taken into account before additional fundraisers are held.• Mrs. Rella said you can never predict the success of a fundraiser until it is all over. Sometimes they raise more than anticipated, sometimes less.• Mrs. McInerney said, on the other side, organizations should not fundraise just for the sake of fundraising. There should be a specific goal so that there are not lots of leftover funds.• Mrs. Rella thinks additional language should be added to spell out that monies stay in the original account regardless.• Ms. DiCorpo said every fundraiser has an ID which acts as a tracer so it is easy to follow.• Mrs. Faulenbach suggested legal be consulted to see how best to add language for clarity and to memorialize internal processes to the public. She said if not in this policy, then perhaps through an accompanying regulation. She is hopeful this can be done before the policy is presented at the next meeting on August 17.	<p>B. Policy for Approval</p> <p>1. 1324 Fundraising by Students</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mrs. Rella asked if #4 restricts the use of businesses to host fundraisers. ● Mrs. Faulenbach said it does not, just clarifies that it doesn't imply endorsement. ● Mrs. Rella said she is concerned about the forms too, since they are more complicated and sometimes students fill them out. ● Ms. DiCorpo said all forms need to be signed by the advisor to the activity, not students. ● Mr. Helmus asked what amount of money is sitting in accounts now. Mr. Giovannone said he did not have that information available for the meeting. ● Ms. DiCorpo said they looked prior to the meeting to see if they could identify any trends over the past few years but it was complicated by COVID. This revision will make it clearer to manage going forward. ● Mr. Helmus asked if it will affect existing funds. ● Mr. Giovannone said no, it won't affect existing balances in accounts but it will bring further clarity going forward, especially with crowdsourcing, which has not been approved previously. ● Mrs. Rella asked that the typos in the spelling of fundraiser be corrected for the final copy. 	
<p>C. Policies for Second Review</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1325 Advertising and Promotion 2. 3240 Tuition Fees 3. 3260 Sales & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mrs. Faulenbach said these policies will go back to the Policy subcommittee in September for final review and then to the September full Board for approval. 	<p>C. Policies for Second Review</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1325 Advertising and Promotion 2. 3240 Tuition Fees 3. 3260 Sales & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies
<p>D. Review and Approval of Curricula</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health Grade 6 2. Health Grade 7 3. Health Grade 8 	<p>D. Review and Approval of Curricula</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health Grade 6 2. Health Grade 7

- 4. Developmental Guidance Grade 3**
- 5. Developmental Guidance Grade 4**
- 6. Developmental Guidance Grade 5**
- 7. AP Computer Science**
- 8. Intro to Programming**
- 9. Personal Finance I**
- 10. Accounting II**
- 11. Plant Science I**
- 12. Plant Science II**
- 13. AP World History**
- 14. Forensic Psychology**
- 15. History Through Film**
- 16. Literature and Media Studies**
- 17. Algebra I CP**
- 18. Algebra I Honors**
- 19. Advanced Chorus**
- 20. Chorus 9-12**

- Mrs. Faulenbach said if the Board would like more time to review these curricula, they could be moved to the BOE regular meeting of August 17. The consensus was that the Board was ready for approval.

Mr. Helmus moved to approve the following curriculum:

- 1. Health Grade 6**
- 2. Health Grade 7**
- 3. Health Grade 8**
- 4. Developmental Guidance Grade 3**
- 5. Developmental Guidance Grade 4**
- 6. Developmental Guidance Grade 5**
- 7. AP Computer Science**
- 8. Intro to Programming**
- 9. Personal Finance I**
- 10. Accounting II**
- 11. Plant Science I**
- 12. Plant Science II**
- 13. AP World History**
- 14. Forensic Psychology**
- 15. History Through Film**
- 16. Literature and Media Studies**

- 3. Health Grade 8**
- 4. Developmental Guidance Grade 3**
- 5. Developmental Guidance Grade 4**
- 6. Developmental Guidance Grade 5**
- 7. AP Computer Science**
- 8. Intro to Programming**
- 9. Personal Finance I**
- 10. Accounting II**
- 11. Plant Science I**
- 12. Plant Science II**
- 13. AP World History**
- 14. Forensic Psychology**
- 15. History Through Film**
- 16. Literature and Media Studies**
- 17. Algebra I CP**
- 18. Algebra I Honors**
- 19. Advanced Chorus**
- 20. Chorus 9-12**

Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following curricula:

- 1. Health Grade 6**
- 2. Health Grade 7**
- 3. Health Grade 8**
- 4. Developmental Guidance Grade 3**
- 5. Developmental Guidance Grade 4**
- 6. Developmental Guidance Grade 5**
- 7. AP Computer Science**
- 8. Intro to Programming**
- 9. Personal Finance I**
- 10. Accounting II**
- 11. Plant Science I**
- 12. Plant Science II**

	<p>17. Algebra I CP 18. Algebra I Honors 19. Advanced Chorus 20. Chorus 9-12</p> <p>Seconded by Mr. McCauley.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>E. Communications Associate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Faulenbach said background for this request was provided in the Board packet. She said they will be reviewing this with the bargaining unit to make sure all ducks are in a row, so to speak, and will plan to bring it back to the Board in September. <p>F. SNIS Oil Tank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Aparicio said BL is working on a new design. There was a concern about prevailing wage and its effect on the application for state reimbursement, but it is not required for this project since it is below \$100,000. Right now, a November removal is planned subject to weather conditions. 	<p>13. AP World History 14. Forensic Psychology 15. History Through Film 16. Literature and Media Studies 17. Algebra I CP 18. Algebra I Honors 19. Advanced Chorus 20. Chorus 9-12</p> <p>E. Communications Associate</p> <p>F. SNIS Oil Tank</p>
<p>6.</p> <p>A.</p> <p>B.</p>	<p>Items for Information and Discussion</p> <p>Regulations for Review:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1325 Advertising and Promotion 4118.113/4218.113 Title IX Sexual Harassment 5145.7 Procedures for Reports and Complaints of Sexual Harassment of Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Faulenbach said the Board does not approve regulations. She asked for any questions or concerns. There were none. <p>Boys' Volleyball Proposal</p>	<p>Items for Information and Discussion</p> <p>Regulations for Review:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1325 Advertising and Promotion 4118.113/4218.113 Title IX Sexual Harassment 5145.7 Procedures for Reports and Complaints of Sexual Harassment of Students <p>Boys' Volleyball Proposal</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mrs. Faulenbach said there is information on this proposal in the Board packet. It is being presented now as it has budgetary impact if pursued. ● Ms. DiCorpo said that Mr. Lipinsky was approached by a few boys regarding the establishment of a Boys' Volleyball team. There is no policy on this procedure. She contacted legal who suggested a process and she and Mr. Lipinsky based the proposal on those guidelines. The plan is to survey students and, if there is sufficient interest, bring ● it to the Board for consideration in the budget for the 2022-23 school year. Cost estimates are included for transparency, with the first year estimated at \$9,000. ● In addition, Ms. DiCorpo said she is considering adding a capital section to the upcoming budget proposal to the Board for athletics and perhaps band. ● Mrs. Faulenbach says she loves the idea of a capital athletic line. She personally supports the volleyball initiative as long as it is clear that it may not make it through the full budget process. Presenting it now gives everyone time to explore it fully. ● Mr. Helmus asked if the availability of indoor facilities would become an issue in the spring in the event of inclement weather. Ms. DiCorpo said she would follow up with Mr. Lipinsky. ● Mrs. McInerney said she looks forward to seeing the survey results. ● Mr. McCauley and Mrs. Rella both said they support the proposal. <p>C. ESSER III Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. DiCorpo said the ESSER III grant application is due August 16. The cabinet has spent many hours determining needs through data review. Mr. Giovannone has provided a detailed chart for the Board. 	<p>C. ESSER III Grant</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Mrs. Rella asked if the referenced year one is 2022-23 and Ms. DiCorpo said that is correct.● Mrs. McInerney asked if the chart's first block represents filled positions. Ms. DiCorpo said yes, in most cases. There are a few openings but they are almost complete. The funding for these positions starts in ESSER II and moves forward into ESSER III, so they are three year positions total. After that, if their value has been asserted, they will need to be funded from the operating budget.● Ms. DiCorpo said new in ESSER III are a Career Readiness Coordinator for the district, a Nurse Supervisor, SPED Consultation and Child Find, and School Based Health Center (SBHC) medical phase-in costs.● Mrs. Rella asked if the Nurse Supervisor will replace other assistance. Ms. DiCorpo said no, the COVID Liaison person is returning this year. This new position will coordinate with our nurses and the New Milford Department of Health as well as provide other supports.● Mrs. Rella asked why Remote Learning Coordinators are still funded since remote learning is not allowed this year.● Ms. DiCorpo said they will still be needed for situations requiring isolation and quarantine.● Mrs. McInerney asked if the SBHC funding is specific to the medical piece. Ms. DiCorpo said that is correct, with the exception of the secretarial support which will cover all areas.● Mrs. Faulenbach asked what year these items may impact the operating budget.● Mr. Giovannone said the first year would be in 2024-25.● Mrs. Rella asked how the two schools were chosen for SBHCs.● Mr. Aparicio said they toured the schools with the SBHC Director and these two schools require the least amount of work to get up and running since they are able to use spaces previously set up as nurse offices.	
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<p>D.</p>	<p>ESG/NV5 Solar Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Aparicio referenced the memo included in the Board packet. He said additional ZRECs were awarded for solar at NMHS, NES and SMS. The Board is not committed to these projects but now they are at least an option. They would require an amendment to the current contract or a new contract. The earliest these would be considered would be in 2023. This is the very preliminary stage of discussion. ● Ms. DiCorpo asked Mr. Aparicio to provide an updated project schedule to the Board. ● Mrs. Faulenbach said that would be helpful to see before considering any new projects. ● Mr. Helmus asked if the discussion would go to the Facilities Subcommittee first. ● Mr. McCauley said he would add it to the agenda. 	<p>D. ESG/NV5 Solar Update</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Mrs. Rella moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 p.m., seconded by Mrs. McInerney.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McInerney
 Assistant Secretary
 New Milford Board of Education