

**New Milford Board of Education**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 30, 2024**  
**Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

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2024 MAY -2 A 9:18

NEW MILFORD, CT

Present:	Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Chairperson Mrs. Leslie Sarich Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mr. Tom O'Brien Mr. Dean Barile Mr. Eric Hansell Mrs. Sarah Herring
Absent:	Mr. Brian McCauley

Also Present:	Dr. Janet Parlato, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Mr. Jeffrey Turner, Director of Technology Mrs. Teresa Kavanagh, Director of Human Services Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations
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<b>1.</b>	<b>A.</b>	<p><b>Call to Order</b>  Pledge of Allegiance  The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Chairperson. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.</p>	<p><b>Call to Order</b>  Pledge of Allegiance</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>A.</b>	<p><b>Public Comment</b>  Carolyn Hyde of 31 Brookview Lane stated she wanted to discuss the recent curriculum change to World Language at Schaghticoke. She stated her twin daughters were excited for the opportunity to take Spanish. The communications class taking the place of the world language class seems a lot like another ELA class. Mrs. Hyde stated most area schools begin a second language in the classroom as early as 1st grade. She stated she understands there are teacher shortages but feels New Milford gave up on the students. She asked the Board to consider other electives and suggested they ask the students what classes they would like to take. Mrs. Hyde concluded with positive comments for Principal Scoralick.</p>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>

3.		<p><b>IDEAL STUDENTS RECOGNITION</b>  Dr. Parlato stated tonight there will be a presentation from the students of Litchfield Hills Transition Center (LHTC). The Sarah Noble Intermediate School presentation will be next month.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato introduced the students from the LHTC. The presenters were Joshua, Samuel, and Abigail. Abigail stated the LHTC students learned about the different recyclable items and how to recycle them. Samuel stated stretchy plastic can be recycled into a composite bench. Joshua stated they need 1,000 lbs of stretchy plastic to build the bench and need it within 12 months. He explained they went around to area schools, the Youth Agency, Camella's Cupboard, Vision Designs, the PTOs, and other organizations. To date they have collected 361.86 lbs.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato then presented the students with certificates recognizing them for Focus and Collaboration.</p>	<p><b>IDEAL STUDENTS RECOGNITION</b></p>
4.		<p><b>PTO REPORT</b>  Mrs. Byrd stated all the schools are working to help with their Field Days. The 2nd and 5th grade send offs are being planned. Bus driver appreciation for all schools is coming up as well as a few year-end assemblies.</p>	<p><b>PTO REPORT</b></p>
5.		<p><b>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT</b>  There was none.</p>	<p><b>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT</b></p>
6.	A.	<p><b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>  Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:  1. Regular Meeting Minutes March 19, 2024</p> <p><i>Mr. O'Brien moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes March 19, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Hansell. Vote passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p><b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>  A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:  1. Regular Meeting Minutes March 19, 2024</p> <p>Motion made and passed to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes March 19, 2024.</p>

7.		<p><b>SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT</b></p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated it is a busy time of year. Students have been visiting their next grade level, and there have been school dances and celebrations. Dr. Parlato stated she continues to see hard work from students and staff as the school year comes to a close. One of her focuses has been to look at the types of tasks students complete during class time to see how students demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways. She stated she believes this is an important area to focus on to ensure students receive different options of learning. Currently she is doing instructional rounds with a focus on students’ tasks, which will be completed at all five schools in the fall.</p>	<p><b>SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT</b></p>
8.	<p><b>A.</b></p> <p><b>B.</b></p>	<p><b>SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS</b></p> <p><b>Policy</b></p> <p>Mrs. Sarich stated the Items of Information gives an idea of where Policy stands. The 3000, 4000, and 5000 series have been completed. She stated Board members should look at the 9000 series carefully in case there are changes they want to suggest later.</p> <p><b>Committee on Learning</b></p> <p>Mrs. McNerney explained the proposed alternate pilot program at the high school. Some high school students are not meeting expectations, and this program provides an alternative pathway to graduation. It is planned to launch in the fall with room for up to 25 students from grades 10-12. The Social Studies curriculum is being rewritten and modernized. Naviance will be introduced in middle school starting in 6th grade with a focus on self discovery and segue into high school, where students eventually can use Naviance to apply for college, search available scholarships, schedule college rep visits, etc. The high school is working with the IT department to provide parental access to Naviance and is working to ensure special education students are also engaging with the program. The formal process for proposing new courses has been documented.</p>	<p><b>SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS</b></p> <p><b>A. Policy</b></p> <p><b>B. Committee on Learning</b></p>

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	<p><b>C. Facilities</b> Mr. O'Brien stated there is no new information regarding the high school roof project, and there are still leaks happening. There is no decision yet regarding the missing fasteners and clips. They are waiting on the dust collector for the high school woodshop and it should be up and running in the fall. Belfor Restorations is complete. The high school gym floor is on schedule to be refinished and repainted. The SNIS oil tank will be resolved this summer. It will either be removed or permanently closed. There is no new info regarding Central Office.</p> <p><b>D. Operations</b> Mr. Hansell thanked Mrs. Faulenbach for covering the recent meeting. There are transfer requests that will be discussed later in the meeting.</p>	<p><b>C. Facilities</b></p> <p><b>D. Operations</b></p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><b>BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b> Mrs. Faulenbach stated the negotiations committee has begun their work, and that there are three bargaining units in negotiations. Once an agreement has been made with each unit, it will come to the Board. She is considering a Board workshop before the end of the year. Busing has been frustrating and The Board recognizes this. The district works with the bus company daily and when there is a late bus issue, the district gets the information out as soon as it is received. There is a new collective bargaining agreement with the bus company and drivers, and she hopes it will lead to more competitive wages. In the meantime, they are working to come up with other solutions. Mrs. Faulenbach thanked the bus drivers who serve the students every day. On May 7th there is a town meeting scheduled regarding the Board of Education and Town budgets. The Board of Finance will set a referendum date, which should be towards the end of May. She encourages the community to come out to vote and support the budgets.</p>	<p><b>BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b></p>
<p>10.</p>	<p><b>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</b></p> <p><b>A. Monthly Reports</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Budget Position dated March 31, 2024</li> <li>2. Purchase Resolution: D-781</li> <li>3. Request for Budget Transfers</li> </ol>	<p><b>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</b></p> <p><b>A. Monthly Reports</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Budget Position dated March 31, 2024</li> </ol>

	<p><b>Budget Position dated March 31, 2024:</b>          No discussion.</p> <p><b>Purchase Resolution: D-781:</b>          No discussion.</p> <p><b>Request for Budget Transfers:</b>          Mr. Giovannone asked the Board to accept the 2nd transfer labeled District-2, but not District-1 for legal services. Mr. Giovannone explained when looking at the retainer, the previous month's report showed an encumbrance that did not match the retainer on file with Pullman &amp; Comley. The Munis report showed we were artificially overdrawn on the line. There is still money for legal services. That encumbrance is usually reconciled on a quarterly basis, however, as of the report dated March 31, it was not reconciled. This led to the legal services line showing as overdrawn even though it was not. He asked to rescind the transfer labeled District-1.</p> <p><i>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve monthly reports: Budget Position dated 03/31/24; Purchase Resolution: D-781; and Request for Budget Transfers. Seconded by Mrs. Sarich. Vote passed unanimously.</i></p> <p><b>B. Policies Recommended for Initial Review</b></p> <p><b>1. 6200 Adult Education</b>          No discussion.</p> <p><b>C. Discussion and possible action regarding non-renewal of non-tenured teacher contracts.</b>          Dr. Parlato stated this is a reduction in force of non-tenured teachers. With the loss of ESSER funds and reductions of funds, there were 9.5 positions that had to be reduced. With retirements and resignations, the reduction number now affects four people. Retirements or resignations between now and August could lead to further openings. Legally, the staff members must be notified by May 1st. Mr. Barile asked if the staff being reduced had to be properly certified in any openings that may come between now and August. Dr. Parlato stated yes.</p>	<p><b>2. Purchase Resolution: D-781</b></p> <p><b>3. Request for Budget Transfers</b></p> <p>Motion made to approve monthly reports: Budget Position dated 03/31/24; Purchase Resolution: D-781; and Request for Budget Transfers. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p><b>B. Policies Recommended for Initial Review</b></p> <p><b>1. 6200 Adult Education</b></p> <p><b>C. Discussion and possible action regarding non-renewal of non-tenured teacher contracts.</b></p>
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	<p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated for above items A-D, regulation is the structure that stands behind the policy and how it is governed. This shows all of the work that has been done with revising the policies.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney asked if Board members have questions about, or suggested amendments to, the 9000 series, should they reach out to Mrs. Faulenbach and Mrs. Sarich. Mrs. Faulenbach answered yes.</p> <p><b>E. Employment Report April 2024</b> Mrs. Kavanaugh stated they are hiring 3 custodians, 2 secretaries and 2 paraprofessionals. Retirees will be recognized in May.</p> <p><b>F. Enrollment Report - April 1, 2024</b> Dr. Parlato stated it is stable.</p> <p><b>G. NMHS Update</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Roof</li> <li>2. Gym Floor</li> </ol>                     No discussion.</p> <p><b>H. Central Office Update:</b> No discussion.</p> <p><b>I. Field Trip Report</b> Dr. Parlato stated the high school chorus will sing the National Anthem at Yankee Stadium this Friday.</p> <p><b>J. Gifts and Donations</b> Dr. Parlato stated there were none.</p> <p><b>K. April Fundraising Report</b> Dr. Parlato stated the PTOs and clubs are working hard to raise money.</p> <p><b>L. Excess Cost</b> Mr. Giovannone stated excess cost reimbursement is from the State Department of Education for when the district spends over 4.5x the per pupil expenditure. He received the first of two payments,</p>	<p><b>3. Ongoing Legislative Updates from Shipman &amp; Goodwin</b></p> <p><b>4. Regulation Development for Some Deleted Policies</b></p> <p><b>E. Employment Report</b></p> <p><b>F. Enrollment Report</b></p> <p><b>G. NMHS Update</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Roof</li> <li>2. Gym Floor</li> </ol></p> <p><b>H. Central Office Update</b></p> <p><b>I. Field Trip Report</b></p> <p><b>J. Gifts and Donations</b></p> <p><b>K. April Fundraising Report</b></p> <p><b>L. Excess Cost</b></p>
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	<p>which is approximately 75% of the entire year. There are expenses for out of district placement that they have not fully expended. In order to meet that revenue expectation, the district would have had to expend all the money, and currently it has not. The district cannot get money back on reimbursements that have not been paid out. The second payment will be received in the next two weeks. Once it has been received, he will have more information and will update the Board.</p>	
<p><b>12.</b></p>	<p><b>A.</b></p> <p><b>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</b>  <b>Sherman high school student tuition agreement. Executive session anticipated.</b></p> <p><i>Mrs. McInerney moved to enter into Executive Session for discussion of the Sherman High School student tuition agreement, and invited into the session the Board, Superintendent Dr. Janet Parlato, and Director of Finance Mr. Anthony Giovannone. Seconded by Mr. Hansell. Vote passed unanimously.</i></p> <p><i>The Board entered Executive Session at 7:37 pm.</i></p> <p><i>The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:47 pm.</i></p> <p><i>Mrs. Sarich moved to approve the Sherman High School tuition agreement, effective July 1, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Barile. Vote passed unanimously.</i></p> <p><b>B.</b></p> <p><b>Discussion and possible action regarding a candidate for the position of Assistant Principal for Schaghticoke Middle School. Executive session anticipated.</b></p> <p><i>Mr. O'Brien moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion and possible action</i></p>	<p><b>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</b></p> <p><b>A. Sherman high school student tuition agreement. Executive session anticipated.</b></p> <p>Motion made to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussion of the Sherman High School student tuition agreement, and invited into the session the Board, Superintendent Dr. Janet Parlato and Director of Finance Mr. Anthony Giovannone. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Motion made to approve the Sherman High School tuition agreement, effective July 1, 2024. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p><b>B. Discussion and possible action regarding a candidate for the position of Assistant Principal for Schaghticoke Middle School. Executive session anticipated.</b></p> <p>Motion made to enter into Executive Session for the purpose</p>



	<p><i>regarding a candidate for the position of Assistant Principal for Schaghticoke Middle School, and invited into the session the Board, Superintendent Dr. Janet Parlato, Mrs. Teresa Kavanaugh, and the candidate. Seconded by Mrs. Sarich. Vote passed unanimously.</i></p> <p><i>The Board entered Executive Session at 7:48pm.</i></p> <p><i>Candidate entered Executive Session at 8:12 pm.</i></p> <p><i>Candidate exited Executive Session at 8:34 pm.</i></p> <p><i>The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:37pm.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. O'Brien moved to approve the candidate for Assistant Principal for Schaghticoke Middle School, with a start date of July 1, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Hansell. Vote passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p>of discussion and possible action regarding a candidate for the position of Assistant Principal for Schaghticoke Middle School, and invited into the session the Board, Superintendent Dr. Janet Parlato, Mrs. Teresa Kavanaugh, and the candidate. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Motion made to approve the Assistant Principal for Schaghticoke Middle School, with a start date of July 1, 2024. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p><b>13.</b></p>	<p><b>ADJOURN</b>  <i>Mrs. McInerney moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Barile. Vote passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p><b>ADJOURN</b>          Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McInerney  
 Secretary  
 New Milford Board of Education