

New Milford Board of Education

Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2025

Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center

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NEW MILFORD, CT

Present:	Mrs. Leslie Sarich, Chairperson Mr. Eric Hansell Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mrs. Sarah Herring Mr. Dean Barile Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Tom O'Brien Mr. Randall Scofield <i>arrived 7:05pm</i>
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 Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Mr. Matthew Cunningham, Facilities Director Mrs. Teresa Kavanagh, Director of Human Services Mr. Antonio Caldareri, Student Representative Ms. Penelope Morrissey, Student Representative
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1.	A.	Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mrs. Leslie Sarich, Chairperson. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance
2.	A.	Public Comment There was none.	Public Comment
3.		STUDENT RECOGNITION: LITCHFIELD HILLS TRANSITION CENTER AND NEW MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL Ashley Albanese, the Coordinator for Litchfield Hills Transition Center (LHTC), stated the students took on the NexTrex recycling challenge. NexTrex is a program where the students collect stretchable plastic. Once they have collected 1,000 lbs, they send it to NexTrex who makes it into a park bench.	STUDENT RECOGNITION: LITCHFIELD HILLS TRANSITION CENTER AND NEW MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL

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	<p>Last year, LHTC had a bench made and now they are helping the three elementary schools collect plastic to make benches.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato distributed certificates to LHTC students Lucca Fabrizio-Garcia, Gina Galligan, Sammy Garcia, Tyler Hottes, and Donny Mazzella recognizing each of them for being an Ideal Student.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato continued the presentation by recognizing students who were awarded National Letters of Accommodation for their performance on the PSAT in grade 11. Isla Rocca, Phebe Seppa, Connor Wandeloski, and Adam Zimmitti scored in the top 2% nationwide.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated she wanted to recognize a group of heroic students who, on the night of the Super Bowl, noticed a chimney fire at a neighbor's house. The students alerted the homeowners of the fire and helped evacuate everyone to safety. Dr. Parlato stated Brayden Cerra, Jackson Olmstead, and Christopher Setear showed true heroism.</p>	
4.	<p>PTO REPORT Debra VanVranken stated the high school PTO sold “Good Luck on Midterms” treat bags and hosted hot chocolate for seniors on SAT day. There will be a schoolwide spirit week at the end of the week.</p> <p>The Schaghticoke Middle School PTO focused on events that promote atmosphere and climate. They hosted a color run and sold Friend Grams for Valentine’s Day. They are planning to reschedule the dance due to a lack of available volunteers.</p> <p>At Sarah Noble Intermediate School, 5th graders had Abraham Lincoln come and speak to them and the 4th grade enjoyed performances by Pilobolus. For Valentine’s Day, the PTO sold Valentine Grams. They also host the monthly school store where volunteers help students count change and learn to budget.</p>	<p>PTO REPORT</p>

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<p>5.</p>	<p>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT Mr. Caldareri stated, at Sarah Noble Intermediate School, all three grades learned coding and STEM in classes. New Milford High School students came to teach 5th graders at the World Language Expo. They also hosted President Abraham Lincoln. Northville did vision screening. The EXCEL preschool students had a visit from Dental Associates and a tutorial on proper teeth brushing. February CARES assembly focused on citizenship.</p> <p>Ms. Morrissey stated Mrs. Calabrese attended an Elementary Celebration of the Arts at the Aqua Turf. The Hill & Plain leadership team participated in its first in-house learning walk. There was also a lesson on bus behavior.</p> <p>Schaghticoke Middle School had no updates. New Milford High School is having their String Fest and Chorus “Fly Up” next week.</p>	<p>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regular Meeting Minutes December 17, 2024 2. Annual Meeting Notice Minutes December 17, 2024 3. Special Meeting Minutes November 19, 2024 <p><i>Mr. O’Brien moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes, December 17, 2024, Annual Meeting Notice Minutes December 17, 2024 and Special Meeting Minutes November 19, 2024 . Seconded by Mr. Hansell. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regular Meeting Minutes December 17, 2024 2. Annual Meeting Notice Minutes December 17, 2024 3. Special Meeting Minutes November 19, 2024 <p>Motion made and passed to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes December 17, 2024, Annual Meeting Notice Minutes December 17, 2024 and Special Meeting Minutes November 19, 2024.</p>

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7.	<p>SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT</p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated we are more than halfway through the school year and wanted to remind everyone of the goals we are working on regarding student achievement, transparent budgeting, and high quality work. Dr. Parlato stated she will continue to share the many projects being worked on to make those goals a reality.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato continued by stating, over the past few days, the salaries of our district employees were published online and in print. While salaries of public school educators are public information, and should be as they are compensated mostly through dollars from the local taxpayer, she believes publishing these salaries just for the sake of publishing them, always around budget time, has an intent that is simply not helpful, as if our staff members don’t deserve what they make. She stated that stirring the pot and insinuating that the work we do isn’t quite worth it generates website hits and sells papers. She believes the missing sentence in the article should have read, “These are the public school salaries, for which the employees, regardless of title, earned every dime, in support of the community’s children and for the hours of care, thought, and preparation provided each day.”</p> <p>The Board will present the adopted budget to the Town Council and Board of Finance on February 27th at 7:00 pm.</p>	<p>SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT</p>
8.	<p>BOARD CHAIRMAN’S REPORT</p> <p>Mrs. Sarich thanked everyone for their hard work on the budget. Mrs. Sarich stated she supports every administrator and teacher who works in the school system.</p>	<p>BOARD CHAIRMAN’S REPORT</p>
9.	<p>A. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS</p> <p>Policy</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney stated all Board policies have been updated. Tonight on the agenda there are policies for first review, second review and Board approval, and administrative regulations as items of information.</p>	<p>SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS</p> <p>A. Policy</p>

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	<p>B. Committee on Learning Mrs. Herring stated the committee reviewed course proposals for ECE classes at the high school as well as a Cultural Connection pilot class at Schaghticoke.</p> <p>C. Facilities Mr. O'Brien stated Mr. Cunningham will give an update on the various projects.</p> <p>D. Operations Mrs. Faulenbach stated the monthly reports will be reviewed. There is a bid award to consider. The audit report was favorable, which is extremely important. Also, part of the budget to be remembered is the ESG payment.</p>	<p>B. Committee on Learning</p> <p>C. Facilities</p> <p>D. Operations</p>
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<p>10.</p>	<p>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</p> <p>A. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget Position dated January 31, 2025 2. Purchase Resolution: D-791 3. Request for Budget Transfers <p>Mr. Giovannone stated we are within 1% of where we were last year. There will be two transfers later in the year for outplacement for nursing services and the payment for the CoGen at the high school. The first excess cost payment will be in late February or early March.</p> <p><i>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve the Budget Position dated January 31, 2025; Purchase Resolution D-791; and Request for Budget Transfers. Seconded by Mr. Hansell. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p>B. Bid Award - Theatre Audio Video Upgrades E-2425-003</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach stated she appreciated the follow up to the questions she had at Operations and asked if this company had done work in Connecticut. Mr. Turner confirmed they have. Mr. Giovannone added</p>	<p>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</p> <p>A. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget Position dated January 31, 2025 2. Purchase Resolution: D-791 3. Request for Budget Transfers <p>Motion made to approve the Budget Position dated January 31, 2025; Purchase Resolution D-791; and Request for Budget Transfers. Motion passed.</p> <p>B. Bid Award - Theatre Audio Video Upgrades E-2425-003</p>
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	<p>that the company is providing a one-year warranty on their work.</p> <p><i>Mr. Barile moved to approve the Bid Award - Theatre Audio Video Upgrades E-2425-003. Seconded by Mr. Hansell. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p>C. Policy Revisions for First Read</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2500 Retention and Disposition of Records and Information 2. 4131 Social Media 4231 3. 5125 Confidentiality and Access to Education Records 4. 5131.9 Student Use of the District's Computer Systems and Internet Safety 5. 5112 Policy and Administrative Regulations Regarding Admission to the Public Schools at or Before Age Five <p>No discussion.</p> <p>D. Policy for Second Review and Approval</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 5000 Non-Discrimination (Students) 2. 5111 Student Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism 3. 5131 Student Discipline 4. 5142 Administration of Student Medications in Schools 5. 5145.45 Students and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 	<p>Motion made to approve the Bid Award - Theatre Audio Video Upgrades E-2425-003. Motion passed.</p> <p>C. Policy Revisions for First Read</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2500 Retention and Disposition of Records and Information 2. 4131 Social Media 4231 3. 5125 Confidentiality and Access to Education Records 4. 5131.9 Student Use of the District's Computer Systems and Internet Safety 5. 5112 Policy and Administrative Regulations Regarding Admission to the Public Schools at or Before Age Five <p>D. Policies for Second Review and Approval</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 5000 Non-Discrimination (Students) 2. 5111 Student Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism 3. 5131 Student Discipline 4. 5142 Administration of Student Medications in
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	<p style="text-align: center;">6. 5165 Graduation Requirements</p> <p>No discussion</p> <p><i>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve the above policies listed in item 10.D. Seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p>E. Curricula for Review and Approval:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ECE Calculus 2. ECE Statistics 3. ECE Microeconomics 4. ECE Chineses Studies 5. ECE Middle Eastern Studies 6. ECE US History Since 1877 7. ECE English 8. ECE Intermediate Marketing 9. ECE Exercise Physiology <p>Mrs. McInerney thanked Mr. Manka and his team, noting these courses provide opportunities for students to get dual credit at the high school and for college. Some ECE courses will be co-seated with honors classes or AP classes. Mr. Barile pointed out that this will help with our district accountability indicators. Ms. Hollander stated these are anticipated to be in place for the coming fall. Curriculum writing will begin as soon as they are approved. Dr. Parlato added that the district is working with UCONN, Western Connecticut State University, and Sacred Heart University.</p>	<p>Schools</p> <p>5. 5145.45 Students and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990</p> <p>6. 5165 Graduation Requirements</p> <p>Motion made and passed to approve the above policies in item 10. D. Motion passed.</p> <p>E. Curricula for Review and Approval:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ECE Calculus 2. ECE Statistics 3. ECE Microeconomics 4. ECE Chineses Studies 5. ECE Middle Eastern Studies 6. ECE US History Since 1877 7. ECE English 8. ECE Intermediate Marketing 9. ECE Exercise Physiology
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	<p><i>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve the curricula listed above in item 10 E. Seconded by Mr. Barile Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p>Motion made to approve the curricula listed above in item 10 E. Motion passed.</p>
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<p>11.</p>	<p>ITEMS OF INFORMATION</p> <p>A. Items of Information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2500 R Administrative Regulations Regarding the Retention and Disposition of Records and Information 2. 4131 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Social Media 4231 R 3. 5125 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Confidentiality and Access to Education Records 4. 5131.9 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Student Use of the District's Computer Systems and Internet Safety 5. 5112 Policy and Administrative Regulations Regarding Admission to the Public Schools at or Before Age Five 6. 5000 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination (Students) 7. 5111R Administrative Regulations Regarding Student Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism 8. 5131 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Alternative Educational Opportunities for Expelled Students 9. 5145.45 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Students and Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 <p>Mr. Barile stated he wanted to ensure that teachers are informed on the regulations regarding Social Media and are aware of what should and</p>	<p>ITEMS OF INFORMATION</p> <p>A. Items of Information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2500 R Administrative Regulations Regarding the Retention and Disposition of Records and Information 2. 4131 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Social Media 4231 R 3. 5125 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Confidentiality and Access to Education Records 4. 5131.9 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Student Use of the District's Computer Systems and Internet Safety 5. 5112 Policy and Administrative Regulations Regarding Admission to the Public Schools at or Before Age Five 6. 5000 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination (Students) 7. 5111R Administrative
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	<p>should not be posted. Dr. Parlato stated she sends all that information to the staff.</p> <p>B. Employment Report February 2025 Mrs. Kavanaugh noted Mrs. Laura Olson will be retiring in September. Mrs. McInerney thanked Mrs. Olson for all her years of service. Mrs. Olson stated that she loves the school district and community. Dr. Parlato stated 30 years of service is laudable.</p> <p>C. Enrollment Report - February 2025 Dr. Parlato stated the report is close to the projected numbers.</p> <p>D. Fiscal Year 23/24 Audit Report Mr. Giovannone stated there are zero material weaknesses and deficiencies. Mr. Giovannone thanked his team and the Finance Department for all their hard work. It's their processes that allow for a clean audit. The memo provided also carves out the pieces of the fiscal year end balance and the motions that were already approved. They have not been posted in MUNIS but there will be a follow up with the town Finance Department. Dr. Parlato thanked fiscal services.</p>	<p>Regulations Regarding Student Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism</p> <p>8. 5131 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Alternative Educational Opportunities for Expelled Students</p> <p>9. 5145.45 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Students and Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990</p> <p>B. Employment Report February 2025</p> <p>C. Enrollment Report - February 2, 2024</p> <p>D. Fiscal Year 23/24 Audit Report</p>
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	<p>E. Busing Mr. Giovannone stated this item is a carryover from the Operations meeting discussion and the need for an Executive Session. Dr. Parlato stated that the situation with the buses is unacceptable. It is causing disruptions to families as well as loss of instructional time.</p> <p>F. Pilot Course at SMS - Cultural Connection Ms. Hollander stated this course is in response to the middle school's quest to limit study halls. It is designed to help students, who may not want to take a world language, gain exposure to them along with disciplinary literacy. Once it is closely examined, a proper course proposal will be put forward.</p> <p>G. Review Facilities 5 Year Capital Items for 24/25 Mr. Cunningham stated there was an in-depth review of the capital items at the Facilities meeting. All the equipment ordered has arrived and the F350 is currently in production. The facilities team has completed masonry repairs and security cameras are almost complete. The playground equipment project will include neurodiverse equipment. They are currently looking at the Hill & Plain and Schaghticoke Middle School septic systems. The RFP for the high school gutter seam repairs is out. Mr. O'Brien noted the playground equipment project involved focus groups with the students and close work with the Special Education Department. It was an intelligent move, making it something special.</p> <p>H. Field Trip Report Dr. Parlato stated there are a lot of trips for winter guard and winter sports.</p> <p>I. Gifts and Donations Dr. Parlato stated PTO fundraising is happening. The high school has received another donation from Battell-Stoeckel Music Trust in the amount of \$9,500.</p>	<p>E. Busing</p> <p>F. Pilot Course at SMS - Cultural Connection</p> <p>G. Review Facilities 5 Year Capital Items for 24/25</p> <p>H. Field Trip Report</p> <p>I. Gifts and Donations</p>
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	<p>Mrs. Sarich asked about the paperwork regarding the planetarium. Dr. Parlato stated we are upgrading the planetarium at Sarah Noble. We will use the 2% carveout money for the upgrade. This upgrade will allow the planetarium to also use the McCarthy Observatory content and incorporate more curriculum. Currently it is being used by the Library Media Center and Art. Mr. Scofield asked about clarification on the funding. Dr. Parlato stated it is part of the educational cost sharing. We are able to apply for 2% of that and keep it in the school district while the remainder of educational cost sharing funding goes to the town. Mrs. McInerney noted that the district reimburses the town the 2%. Mrs. Faulenbach reiterated that the town does not lose that revenue. The Board agreed we would take the 2%, but pay it back from the end-of-year balance. Dr. Parlato stated that those funds are not meant to supplant the general fund budget, and should be used for upgrades such as the planetarium.</p>	
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<p>12.</p>	<p>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</p> <p>A. Discussion and possible action concerning proposed collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and the New Milford Educational Secretaries Association Chapter of Local 136, I.F.P.T.E. Executive session anticipated.</p> <p><i>Mrs. Sarich moved that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of review and consideration of the New Milford Educational Secretaries Association. Invited into executive session are Dr. Janet Parlato, Superintendent of New Milford Public Schools, Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations, Mrs. Teresa Kavanaugh, Director of Human Services, and</i></p>	<p>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</p> <p>A. Discussion and possible action concerning proposed collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and the New Milford Educational Secretaries Association Chapter of Local 136, I.F.P.T.E. Executive session anticipated.</p> <p>Motion made and passed that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of review and consideration of the New</p>
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	<p><i>Attorney Zachary Schurin. Seconded by Mr. O'Brien. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p><i>The Board entered Executive Session at 7:27pm.</i></p> <p><i>The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:56pm.</i></p> <p><i>Mrs. Faulenbach moved that the Board ratify the successor collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and the New Milford Educational Secretaries Association and authorize the Board Chairperson to execute such collective bargaining in agreement, subject to any necessary legal review. Seconded by Mr. Hansell. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p><i>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to authorize the Board Chairperson to execute the Memorandum of Understanding discussed by the Board in executive session with the New Milford Educational Secretaries Association. Seconded by Mr. Barile. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p>B. Discussion and possible action regarding student transportation issues and consideration of attorney-client privileged communication regarding same. Executive session anticipated.</p> <p><i>Mr. Hansell moved that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of review and consideration of written attorney-client privileged communication regarding student transportation issues and invited into the session Superintendent, Dr. Parlato, Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of</i></p>	<p>Milford Educational Secretaries Association.</p> <p>Motion made and passed that the Board ratify the successor collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and the New Milford Educational Secretaries Association and authorize the Board Chairperson to execute such collective bargaining in agreement, subject to any necessary legal review.</p> <p>Motion made and passed that the Board authorize the Board Chairperson to execute the Memorandum of Understanding discussed by the Board in executive session with the New Milford Educational Secretaries Association.</p> <p>B. Discussion and possible action regarding student transportation issues and consideration of attorney-client privileged communication regarding same. Executive session anticipated.</p> <p>Motion made and passed that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of review and consideration of written attorney-client privileged</p>
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		<p><i>Fiscal Services and Operations, and Attorney Zachary Schurin. Seconded by Mr. Scofield. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p><i>The Board entered Executive Session at 8:01pm.</i></p> <p><i>The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:46pm.</i></p>	<p>communication regarding student transportation issues.</p>
13.		<p>ADJOURN <i>Mr. O'Brien moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47p.m. Seconded by Mr. Hansell. Vote passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p>ADJOURN Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Tammy McInerney
 Secretary
 New Milford Board of Education