

**New Milford Board of Education
 Regular Meeting Minutes
 September 21, 2021
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

Present:	Mr. Joseph Failla Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Eric Hansell Mr. Pete Helmus Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mrs. Olga I. Rella Mrs. Leslie Sarich
Absent:	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. Matthew Cunningham, Facilities Director Mr. Nestor Aparicio, Assistant Facilities Director Ms. Jamie Terry, Technology Director Mrs. Anne Bilko, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Principal Mrs. Gwen Gallagher, Northville Elementary School Principal Dr. Christopher Longo, Schaghticoke Middle School Principal Mr. Raymond Manka, New Milford High School Principal Mr. Eric Williams, Hill and Plain Elementary School Principal Nicholas Carroccio, Student Representative Ishaani Pradeep, Student Representative
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1. A.	Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance The regular 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. A.	Recognition NMPS Teacher of the Year for 2021-22: Mrs. Lisa Montemurro <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. DiCorpo said she was honored to welcome 	Recognition A. NMPS Teacher of the Year for 2021-22: Mrs. Lisa Montemurro

	<p>and congratulate Lisa Montemurro, New Milford's Teacher of the Year. Lisa will represent the district at the state level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Faulenbach congratulated Mrs. Montemurro on behalf of the Board. 	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Faulenbach requested that public comment follow the three minute limit per person. • Carolyn Hyde asked that the district reconsider and put closing alerts on the tv stations. She said there are too many parents and grandparents who rely on the television notices. • Brenda Vaughey said she thinks the \$215 parking fee charged to students at the high school is too high, especially in comparison to surrounding districts. She hopes it can be adjusted going forward. 	<p>Public Comment</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>PTO Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Pelletier, Townwide PTO President, said the staff breakfasts scheduled for all schools on 8/23 were cancelled due to the hurricane forecast. • Membership envelopes were sent home with students this year. This is the PTO's biggest fundraiser for the scholarship fund. They are also sharing on social media, so there is still a digital option again this year for those who prefer paying via Venmo. • NMHS provided a staff breakfast on 9/1. The PTO will be assisting with the decorating of the rotundas by class for Spirit Week. They will sell refreshments at the Homecoming Dance if the dance is allowed to take place this year on 10/2. The Penny Wars will be starting in October. On 10/5, a portion of each order at All Aboard Pizzeria will be donated to the Senior Class. Each month a different class will be featured. • SMS provided a staff breakfast on 8/24. The 	<p>PTO Report</p>

	<p>PTO provided welcome back sacks to all the students at SMS. The PTO will be hosting dances at The Maxx in conjunction with the Youth Agency. Dances are scheduled on 10/29 (6th grade) and 10/30 (7th and 8th grades). The SMS PTO President will work with the New Milford Health Director in completing the COVID Mitigation paperwork. They have one grant that needs to be approved for up to \$1,400.00 to provide each student with a grade level book for Summer Reading as well as prizes for next fall's Summer Reading Contest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SNIS provided a staff breakfast on 8/27. Picture Day is scheduled for 9/29. The PTO will host a Welcome Back Ice Cream Social this Friday, 9/24, with a rain date of 10/1. A Halloween event is planned for 10/29. ● HPS provided a staff breakfast on 8/24. Picture Day is scheduled for 9/28. This PTO held their Fall Festival on 9/10 with a dunk tank, petting zoo, and mums sales. They will be hosting a pumpkin and costume contest on 10/30 in conjunction with their book fair. ● NES provided a staff breakfast on 9/8. Picture Day is scheduled for 9/28. The PTO hosted an ice cream social on 9/8 to welcome students back to school. They will be doing a catalog fundraiser starting 10/4 through 10/15, so if you need wrapping paper or other miscellaneous gifts, find a NES student to order from. ● Grad Party sold Class of 2022 apparel online to the senior class parents. The Grad Party will be hosting an Oktoberfest on October 5th at Housatonic River Brewing from 6-9 p.m. Tickets are available for purchase online for \$45 each. Tickets will not be sold at the door. 	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Student Representatives' Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. DiCorpo welcomed Ishaani Pradeep and Nicholas Carroccio as new student representatives. Ms. DiCorpo said she met with 	<p>Student Representatives' Report</p>

	<p>the students via google meet this afternoon and requested that they work with the principals going forward to report on all schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The students reported on the following high school events: 9/21 and 9/24 - Senior portrait retakes 9/25 - Band Home Show 9/27-10/1 - Spirit Week 10/6 - Underclass photo retakes 10/7 - National Honor Society induction 10/18 and 10/19 - Senior portrait retakes 10/20 - Concert 	
<p>6.</p> <p>A.</p>	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</p> <p>1. Regular Meeting Minutes August 17, 2021</p> <p>Mrs. Rella moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes August 17, 2021, seconded by Mr. McCauley.</p> <p>The motion passed 8-0-1, with Mrs. Faulenbach abstaining.</p>	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</p> <p>1. Regular Meeting Minutes August 17, 2021</p> <p>Motion made and passed to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes August 17, 2021.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Superintendent's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. DiCorpo welcomed the new Board members and student representatives. • She said the Board members received a revised Exhibit A which includes the resignation of SMS Principal Longo. She thanked Dr. Longo for his service to NMPS. She said the district will be starting the process of finding an interim principal while posting for the permanent position. • The first Strategic Coherence Planning meeting was held with a group comprised of 	<p>Superintendent's Report</p>

	<p>approximately 25 community members, BOE members, teachers, administrators, and cabinet members. The meeting set the stage for the upcoming work and explained the what and the why behind the work. Community input will be solicited in the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contracts have been signed for the Community Based Health Clinics. Planning meetings are upcoming. Ms. DiCorpo is also reaching out to Representative Buckbee to advocate for state funding support. ● We continue to make progress on obtaining vaccination status from our employees and our local contracted agencies in accordance with Executive Order 13G. ● Smarter Balance letters will be going home to parents in the next few weeks with student reports. ● The NMHS Band Home Show is Saturday. Board members have all received invitations. Ms. DiCorpo said she hopes they are able to attend. ● There are no fundraisers to report this month. As a reminder, Ms. DiCorpo said she only reports the internal district fundraising efforts that we maintain. ● Ms. DiCorpo said she attended regional meetings with other superintendents and with the health directors to receive updates and to discuss protocols and procedures related to COVID-19 and vaccinations. ● Keith Lipinsky is looking for one additional BOE member to serve on the Turf Field Committee. Please contact him if you are interested. Athletic passes have been distributed to Board members. 	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Board Chairman's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mrs. Faulenbach welcomed the new Board members who have been sworn in. Ms. DiCorpo and Mrs. Faulenbach have met with both new 	<p>Board Chairman's Report</p>

	<p>members and provided orientation materials. The Board members will fill the vacancies left for subcommittees. Mrs. Sarich will join Policy and Committee on Learning and Mr. Hansell will join Facilities and Operations. Mrs. Faulenbach encouraged them to email the subcommittee chairs with any questions and requested that they copy her.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Faulenbach said multiple negotiation sessions continue. Once collective bargaining agreements are finalized, they will be brought to the Board. 	
<p>9.</p> <p>A.</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>Policies for Approval</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>Mrs. Rella moved to approve the following policies:</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>Seconded by Mr. McCauley.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Faulenbach said these have been reviewed multiple times. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>B. Policies Recommended for Revision and Approval at Initial Board Presentation in accordance with Board Bylaw 9311</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>A. Policies for Approval</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>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following policies:</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>B. Policies Recommended for Revision and Approval at Initial Board Presentation in accordance with Board Bylaw 9311</p>

	<p>1. 1900/4900/5900/6900 Wearing Masks and Face Coverings During the COVID-19 Pandemic</p> <p>2. 4300 COVID-19 Staff Vaccination Policy (Revised)</p> <p>3. 6141.6 Weighted Grading for Advanced High School Courses</p> <p>Mrs. Rella moved to approve the following policies:</p> <p>1. 1900/4900/5900/6900 Wearing Masks and Face Coverings During the COVID-19 Pandemic</p> <p>2. 4300 COVID-19 Staff Vaccination Policy (Revised)</p> <p>3. 6141.6 Weighted Grading for Advanced High School Courses</p> <p>Seconded by Mrs. McInerney.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mrs. Rella asked if these are required mandates. ● Mrs. Faulenbach said they are, and that is why they are proposed for immediate action according to Board policy. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>C. Five-Year Curriculum Plan (2021-2026)</p> <p>Mrs. Rella moved to approve the Five-Year Curriculum Plan (2021-2026), seconded by Mr. McCauley.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mrs. McInerney said it is impressive to see all the work and vetting that goes into the district's curriculum and plan. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>D. SNIS Oil Tank Education Specs</p>	<p>1. 1900/4900/5900/6900 Wearing Masks and Face Coverings During the COVID-19 Pandemic</p> <p>2. 4300 COVID-19 Staff Vaccination Policy (Revised)</p> <p>3. 6141.6 Weighted Grading for Advanced High School Courses</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following policies:</p> <p>1. 1900/4900/5900/6900 Wearing Masks and Face Coverings During the COVID-19 Pandemic</p> <p>2. 4300 COVID-19 Staff Vaccination Policy (Revised)</p> <p>3. 6141.6 Weighted Grading for Advanced High School Courses</p> <p>C. Five-Year Curriculum Plan (2021-2026)</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the Five-Year Curriculum Plan (2021-2026).</p> <p>D. SNIS Oil Tank Education Specs</p> <p>Motion made and passed</p>
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	<p>Mrs. Rella moved to approve the Educational Specifications for the SNIS oil tank as dated September 14, 2021, seconded by Mr. McCauley.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Faulenbach said this topic was discussed at the Facilities subcommittee. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>E. Tuition Rates for 2021-2022</p> <p>Mrs. Rella moved to approve the Tuition Rates for 2021-2022 as follows:</p> <p>New Milford High School: \$13,562.00 Schaghticoke Middle School: \$11,703.00 Sarah Noble Intermediate School and Elementary Schools: \$11,663.00</p> <p>Seconded by Mrs. McInerney.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. McInerney asked for confirmation that these rates do not apply to Sherman students. • Mrs. Faulenbach said that is correct. Sherman students are covered under a different contract and fee. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>F. New Milford High School Graduation Date 2022</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve the New Milford High School Graduation Date for 2022 for Saturday, June 11, 2022 at 2:00 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Rella.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Faulenbach said this was discussed at the Operations subcommittee. • Mrs. Rella asked if the O'Neill Center is being held as a placeholder. • Ms. DiCorpo said it is the intention to hold the graduation ceremony at the O'Neill Center, unless COVID-19 restrictions prevent that. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>unanimously to approve the Educational Specifications for the SNIS oil tank as dated September 14, 2021.</p> <p>E. Tuition Rates for 2021-2022</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the Tuition Rates for 2021-2022 as follows:</p> <p>New Milford High School: \$13,562.00 Schaghticoke Middle School: \$11,703.00 Sarah Noble Intermediate School and Elementary Schools: \$11,663.00</p> <p>F. New Milford High School Graduation Date 2022</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the New Milford High School Graduation Date for 2022 for Saturday, June 11, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.</p>
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<p>G.</p>	<p>Twin Lakes Contract for PowerSchool Support</p> <p>Mrs. Rella moved to approve the Twin Lakes Contract for PowerSchool Support, seconded by Mrs. McInerney.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Faulenbach said this was discussed at the Operations subcommittee. The contract is in the Board packet. There is no additional funding requested, it will be taken from a budgeted line. • Mrs. McInerney said she was glad to see this request on the agenda as it is crucial to the district. She thanked Ms. Terry for all her work in getting this far. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>G. Twin Lakes Contract for PowerSchool Support</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the Twin Lakes Contract for PowerSchool Support.</p>
<p>H.</p>	<p>Myke Foo Media Contract</p> <p>Mrs. Rella moved to approve the contract with Myke Foo Media, seconded by Mr. Helmus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Faulenbach said this contract is similar to last year. She hopes to utilize the company in other areas going forward as well. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>H. Myke Foo Media Contract</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the contract with Myke Foo Media.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Items for Information and Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Faulenbach said Exhibit A and the Monthly Reports have been for information only over the summer months. Next month, they will be on for Board action. <p>A. Exhibit A: Personnel - Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as of September 21, 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Failla said the resignation of Ms. Schiesel is unfortunate as she is a high school teacher who makes a difference in students' lives. 	<p>Items for Information and Discussion</p> <p>A. Exhibit A: Personnel - Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as of September 21, 2021</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mrs. Rella said all resignations are losses. <p>B. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget Position dated August 31, 2021 2. Purchase Resolution: D-750 (Revised) 3. Request for Budget Transfers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Giovannone said he followed up with the Town on the audit fee question asked at Operations. This is year 1 of 3 of the new agreement and the fee was reduced going forward. Last year there was an extension and the amount paid was \$48,000; this year the amount paid will be \$40,500. ● Mr. Giovannone said the purchase resolution has been revised to include the dividers discussed at Operations. ● Mrs. McInerney asked about the Board's 2019-20 contribution to the turf field account. Mr. Giovannone said there was no contribution made that year; all available funds went into the COVID account. The Board is doubling the contribution this year to make up for that. ● Mrs. Faulenbach said the account total after final audit will be \$313,000. It is good for the public to see that the Board and Town are working towards the future of the fields. ● Mrs. Faulenbach noted on the other hand that the capital reserve account is woefully low. ● Mrs. Rella said that it doesn't include year end from last year. ● Mrs. Faulenbach said that is correct since it is pending final audit. She said there have been collaborative discussions with the Town as to what would be done should an emergency expenditure occur. All parties want to avoid the need for a supplemental appropriation. ● Mrs. McInerney said that once the final audit is approved, the Board will still need to request that the year end balance go to capital reserve. ● Mrs. Faulenbach said this was already done and approved proactively in June. ● Mrs. Rella asked why all the revenue lines were 	<p>B. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget Position dated August 31, 2021 2. Purchase Resolution: D-750 (Revised) 3. Request for Budget Transfers
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	<p>negative at this time and if we are currently charging for student parking at the high school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Giovannone said revenues are posted quarterly so they do not show anything yet. He said we are charging for student parking. ● Mr. Failla asked how many spaces are available at the high school and how many have been sold to students. He is opposed to this “tax” on students. Mr. Giovannone said he would check. ● Mrs. Faulenbach noted the fee was waived last year during the pandemic. ● Mrs. McNerney noted that Ms. DiCorpo said they are already in budget planning internally and she asked who the Board members should contact if they have suggestions. ● Ms. DiCorpo said they should share any suggestions soon since she is working with Mr. Giovannone to expedite the budget process so that she has more time to publicize it out in the community. ● Mrs. Rella asked if workshops would be held again like last year, because they were very helpful. ● Ms. DiCorpo said workshops are being planned for enrollment, capital and perhaps other topics. ● Mrs. Faulenbach said it will be important to invite Town leaders as well, as had been done in the past. <p>C. Tuition Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There were no comments. <p>D. Policy for First Review</p> <p>1. 1212 School Volunteers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mrs. Faulenbach said vaccination of volunteers was discussed at the Policy subcommittee. This policy is up for first review and will go back to the Policy subcommittee in October for second review. ● Mrs. McNerney said she is glad to see this suggested requirement. Her one concern is with 	<p>C. Tuition Students</p> <p>D. Policy for First Review</p> <p>1. 1212 School Volunteers</p>
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who will follow up regarding the testing out opportunity within 48 hours.

- Ms. DiCorpo said right now, Human Resources in conjunction with the COVID Liaison will be doing staff monitoring. She envisions replicating that internal process for volunteers.
- Mrs. McInerney asked about the volunteer coaches that the Board approves.
- Ms. DiCorpo said in checking with legal, they are considered volunteers exempt from the executive order. This policy, if approved, would cover them.
- Mrs. Rella asked if the change to this policy is due to executive order 13G.
- Ms. DiCorpo said this is a result of a request from the Policy subcommittee.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said we are not asking anything of volunteers that we are not asking of staff.
- Mrs. Rella said she doesn't want to lose volunteers either.
- Mr. Failla said he doesn't agree with this revision. We would be putting a higher burden on volunteers than the state does.
- Mrs. Rella said some districts are not allowing volunteers at all.
- Mrs. Gabianelli shared historical numbers regarding volunteers and said we currently have 30 athletic volunteers and 57 band volunteers this year.
- Mr. Hansell disagrees with the suggested revisions which he says will have a negative impact on volunteers. He said the Board should not go above the executive order requirements.
- Mr. McCauley disagreed. He said we are in a pandemic still and anyone working with students should be vaccinated like staff must be.
- Mrs. Rella agreed.
- Mrs. Sarich asked if parents need to show a vaccination card to come in for meetings with teachers or administrators.
- Mrs. Gabianelli said parents are exempt, along with volunteers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Mrs. McInerney noted that most parent meetings are still virtual. She thinks volunteers are extremely important but it is also important to keep students as safe as possible in close contact situations.● Mrs. Sarich asked if the 3 to 6 feet social distancing is still followed.● Ms. DiCorpo said yes, and mask wearing.● Mrs. Faulenbach said it is the same protocols as staff follow.● Mr. Helmus said the Board can't be hypocrites. If staff need to follow protocols, then all others with student contact should do the same. He feels these are general draconian measures by the Governor, but they can't be changed at the Board level.● Mrs. Faulenbach asked where the district stands with vendors.● Ms. DiCorpo said they have been sent the information regarding the requirements.● Mrs. Faulenbach said policy is very important and discussions are crucial for public understanding. These suggested changes will continue to be discussed in committee.● Mr. Hansell said he is a scientist specializing in statistics. He said the Board should be careful about the terminology used, such as "safety", without quantifying what that means. He said children aren't dying from COVID. <p>E. Field Trip Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Mrs. McInerney asked why some band trips are fully funded and others are not. Ms. Hollander said she would follow up.● Mr. McCauley asked why marching band trips are considered field trips and athletics are not counted the same way.● Ms. DiCorpo said she will need to investigate that question further.● Mrs. Faulenbach noted that there is a separate athletic transportation line in the budget. She	<p>E. Field Trip Report</p>
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	<p>asked if there is a separate line for band/music and that it be reported on at Operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. DiCorpo said they are reviewing fundraising in general as it impacts the budget. ● Mrs. Faulenbach noted that they should always be looking at fundraising versus what should be embedded in the operating budget. 	
<p>11.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Mr. McCauley moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m., seconded by Mr. Failla.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McInerney
 Assistant Secretary
 New Milford Board of Education