

**NEW MILFORD  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2021 – 2022**

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

# **NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Chairperson**

**Mr. Joseph Failla, Vice Chairperson (through 11/30/21)**

**Mr. Pete Helmus, Vice Chairperson**

**Mrs. Olga I. Rella, Secretary**

**Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Assistant Secretary**

**Mr. Eric Hansell**

**Mr. Brian McCauley**

**Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan (through 11/30/21)**

**Mr. Tom O'Brien**

**Mrs. Leslie Sarich**

**Mr. Keith A. Swanhall Jr.**

## **Board of Education Annual Report 2021 – 2022**

The New Milford Public Schools served 3,690 students in PreK through grade 12 during the 2021-22 academic year with a staff of 346.31 teachers, 17.15 building administrators, and 243.6 support staff (non-certified staff). The operating budget for the New Milford Public Schools for 2021-22 totaled \$65,846,024.

### **July 2021**

- At a special meeting on July 7, the Board approved the appointment of Matthew Cunningham to the position of Facilities Director. The Board also approved a request to the Town Council and Board of Finance to remove no more than \$250,000.00 from the Capital Reserve account to fund supplemental financials needed for the NMHS Roof Replacement project.
- At its Regular Meeting of July 20, the Board approved an Authorized Signature Change Request, heard updates on summer projects, reviewed new guidance on masks, and discussed School Based Health Centers.

### **August 2021**

- At a special meeting on August 10, the Board entered into executive session for the following purposes: 1) to discuss 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) to discuss a personnel issue pertaining to the terms of employment, including duties, performance and compensation, of a Central Office staff member; 3) to discuss 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.
- Following the executive session, the Board authorized 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.
- The Board approved the following curriculum:
  - Health Grade 6
  - Health Grade 7
  - Health Grade 8
  - Developmental Guidance Grade 3
  - Developmental Guidance Grade 4
  - Developmental Guidance Grade 5
  - AP Computer Science
  - Intro to Programming
  - Personal Finance I

- Accounting II
- Plant Science I
- Plant Science II
- AP World History
- Forensic Psychology
- History Through Film
- Literature and Media Studies
- Algebra I CP
- Algebra I Honors
- Advanced Chorus
- Chorus 9-12
- Superintendent DiCorpo and Central Office staff provided updates on the ESSER III grant, ESG/NV5 Solar and a Boys' Volleyball proposal.
- At its Regular Meeting of August 17, the Board approved revisions to policies:
  - 1324 Fundraising by Students
  - 1331 Smoking
  - 4111.1/4211.1 Equal Employment Opportunity
  - 5111 Admission/Placement/Age of Entrance
  - 5113 Truancy
  - 5114 Removal/Suspension/Expulsion
  - 5124 Reporting to Parents/Guardians - Report Cards
  - 5131.911 Safe School Climate Plan/Bullying
  - 5141.3 Health Assessments and Immunizations
- Bids were awarded to:
  - Wade's Dairy for Milk for the 2021-22 school year
  - New England Ice Cream Corporation for Frozen Dessert for the 2021-22 school year
- The Board approved a Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Waiver.
- Superintendent DiCorpo and Central Office staff provided updates regarding the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (Updated August 2021) and Facilities and Technology projects.

### **September 2021**

- At its Regular Meeting on September 21, the Board congratulated **Mrs. Lisa Montemurro**, New Milford's Teacher of the Year for 2021-22.
- The Board approved the following policies:
  - 1325 Advertising and Promotion
  - 3240 Tuition Fees
  - 3260 Sales & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies
  - 1900/4900/5900/6900 Wearing Masks and Face Coverings During the COVID-19 Pandemic
  - 4300 COVID-19 Staff Vaccination Policy
  - 6141.6 Weighted Grading for Advanced High School Courses
- The Board approved the Five-Year Curriculum Plan (2021-2026)
- The Board approved the Educational Specifications for the SNIS oil tank as dated September 14, 2021.

- The Board approved Tuition Rates for 2021-2022 as follows:
  - New Milford High School: \$13,562.00
  - Schaghticoke Middle School: \$11,703.00
  - Sarah Noble Intermediate School and Elementary Schools: \$11,663.00
- The New Milford High School Graduation Date for 2022 was approved for Saturday, June 11, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.
- The Board approved the Twin Lakes contract for PowerSchool support and the contract with Myke Foo Media.
- At a special meeting on September 23, 2021, the Board ratified the proposed successor collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and the CEA-New Milford and authorized the Chairperson of the Board to sign the successor collective bargaining agreement on its behalf pending further legal review. The Board also entered Executive Session for the purpose of review and consideration of attorney-client privileged communication regarding employee COVID-19 testing requirements and Executive Order # 13G.
- On September 28, 2021, the Board held a special meeting to hear presentations of the Ten-Year Enrollment Projection & School Facility Utilization Study and BOE Offices Relocation Study. The Board approved the appointment of Dr. Robert Tremaglio as Interim Schaghticoke Middle School Principal effective October 7, 2021.

### **October 2021**

- On October 12, at a Special Meeting, the Board held an executive session in order to review documents and discuss matters relating to strategy and/or settlement concerning collective bargaining matters pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-200(6)(E) and 1-210(b)(9).
- At its regular meeting on October 21, the Board recognized:
  - NMPS Retirees Kathleen Calabrese, Sandra Cipolla, Cindy Gallagher, Daisy Norlander, Kathleen Sanders
  - NMPS Stars of the Month Christine Arias-Santos, Scott Hoffman, Carol Schroedel
- The Board of Education accepted the following Gifts:
  - New Milford PTO in the amount of \$1,400.00
- The Board approved the direct hire of an athletic trainer.
- The Board voted to make a request of the Town Council and Board of Finance to remove \$11,975.00 from the capital reserve account to fund NMHS Alarm System upgrades.
- The Board voted to make a request of the Town Council and Board of Finance to deposit \$6,250.00 into the capital reserve account as a result of an Eversource rebate associated with the MUNIS capital project #000500 for the SNIS Roof Top Cooling Unit #1 replacement that was funded via the capital reserve account during the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year.
- The BOE Annual Report for 2020-21 was distributed.
- The Board voted to ratify the proposed successor 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. and authorize the Chairperson of the Board to sign the successor collective bargaining agreement on its behalf pending further legal review.
- The Board voted to ratify the proposed successor collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and the New Milford Board of Education School

Nurses Local 1303-154 of Council #4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO and authorize the Chairperson of the Board to sign the successor collective bargaining agreement on its behalf pending further legal review.

### **November 2021**

- At a Special Meeting on November 4, the Board approved the appointment of **Linda Scoralick** as Interim Schaghticoke Middle School Principal, and **Jeffrey Turner** as Technology Director.
- At its Regular Meeting of November 16, the Board recognized NMPS Stars **Keri Loth, Laura Lyon, and Dana O'Rourke**.
- The Board approved revisions to policies 4300COVID-19 Staff Vaccination and 1212 School Volunteers.
- The Board ratified the proposed successor collective bargaining agreement with the UPSEU Local 424-Unit 107 New Milford BOE Paraeducators.

### **December 2021**

- The Board held a Public Hearing on December 7th to hear presentations on topics related to the 2022-23 Superintendent's Proposed Budget.
- The Board held its Annual meeting on December 21st and elected the following officers:
  - Chairperson – **Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach**
  - Vice Chairperson – **Mr. Pete Helmus**
  - Secretary – **Mrs. Olga I. Rella**
  - Assistant Secretary – **Mrs. Tammy McInerney**
- At its regular meeting, the Board recognized: NMPS Retirees **Danette Lambiase, Eileen Mangin and Kenneth O'Neil**.
- The Board recognized NMPS Stars **April Breidster, Corinne Palmer and Jennifer Travers-Hartglass**.
- The Board approved the Perkins grant in the amount of \$41,171.00.
- The Board deleted policies:
  - 3270 Disposition and Rental of Real Property
  - 3313.1 Local Purchasing
- The Board approved policies:
  - 3280 Gifts to the School
  - 3281 School Fundraisers
  - 3313 Relations with Vendors
  - 6145.3 Development or Expansion of Athletic Programs
- **Ms. Megan Dwyer** was appointed Interim NMHS Assistant Principal
- The Board approved an agreement resolving a pending paraeducator grievance under general terms and conditions as discussed in executive session.

### **January 2022**

- Attorney Mark Sommaruga of Pullman & Comley LLC presented on Board members' roles and responsibilities and related legal issues at a special meeting on January 4, 2022.
- The Board held a Public Hearing on January 5th to hear presentations on topics related to the 2022-23 Superintendent's Proposed Budget.

- At a Special Meeting on January 19, 2022 the Board approved a MOU between the New Milford Board of Education and the New Milford School Administrators Association as discussed in executive session and authorized the Board Chair to sign it on its behalf.
- On January 18, 19, 25 and 26, 2022 the Board of Education conducted three evenings of hearings and adopted a budget on the fourth night for the 2022-2023 school year in the amount of \$67,767,289.

### **February 2022**

- At a special meeting on February 15, the Board approved the appointment of **Mr. Michael Boucher** as Schaghticoke Middle School Assistant Principal and **Ms. Rebecca Adams** as Human Resources Director.
- At its regular meeting on February 15, the Board repealed Board Policy 1900.4900.5900.6900 Wearing Masks and Face Coverings During the COVID-19 Pandemic effective March 1, 2022 and further moved that as of March 1, 2022 masks shall not be required to be worn by individuals on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities unless otherwise required by law.
- The Board repealed Board Policy 4300 COVID-19 Staff Vaccination effective February 16, 2022 and further moved that as of February 16, 2022 New Milford Public Schools' staff shall not be subject to mandatory COVID-19 vaccination or testing requirements unless otherwise required by law.
- The Board suspended Board Bylaw 9311's requirement of second review of the proposed amendment to Policy 1212 School Volunteers and then voted to amend Policy 1212 School Volunteers as proposed, reverting back to the wording of the November 6, 2018 version of the policy.
- The Board approved the Attitudes and Behavior Survey.
- The Board approved the Freshman Seminar for CTE Pathways.

### **March 2022**

- At a Special Meeting on March 3, the Board heard an update on the Strategic Coherence Planning process and held a mid-year review of Board goals and Superintendent performance goals.
- At its regular meeting on March 15, the Board recognized NMPS Retiree **Grace Rossell** and Stars of the Month **Katelyn Cafarelli, Lori Corsak, Peter Filippi, and Ashley Wyka**
- In honor of Board Appreciation Month, Superintendent DiCorpo thanked the Board for their countless hours, tireless effort and commitment to help the district achieve goals, align funding in the local budget to support the schools and adopt policies in support of the district.
- The Board approved the following curricula:
  - Advanced Video Production
  - French IV CP
  - French IV Honors
  - Graphic Novel Studies
  - Math 7
  - Modern World History
  - Pre-AP World History
  - World History

- Physical Education - 3rd Grade
- Physical Education - 4th Grade
- Physical Education - 5th Grade
- Physical Education 09
- Physical Education 10
- Physical Education 11
- Physical Education 12
- Practical Math - Applications of Probability
- Practical Math - Applications of Statistics
- The Board awarded the Managed Print Services bid to BASE Technologies in the amount of \$381,462.40 for the 5-year lease of copiers.
- The Board met in Executive Session to discuss a CEA-New Milford request in connection with retention and COVID-19 issues.

### **April 2022**

- On April 5, the Board held a Special Meeting to approve the appointment of **Linda Scoralick** as SMS Principal effective July 1, 2022, and to approve the appointment of **Patricia Colello** as 0.6 NES Interim Assistant Principal.
- The Board held a Special Meeting on April 26 for receipt and consideration of attorney-client privileged communication regarding roles and responsibilities with respect to personnel issues.
- At its Regular Meeting on April 26, the Board recognized NMPS retiree **Nancy Schindelar** and Stars of the Month: **Cara Abraham, Robin Barboza-Josephson, Maura Jabbonsky, Scott McKay** and **Connie Williams**
- The Board approved Exhibit A with the removal of item A.1.a.3, Raymond Manka's resignation and then added to the agenda to provide an opportunity for a public statement by Raymond Manka.
- Policy 3321 Requesting Goods and Services (Requisitions) and regulation 3324.1 Contracts were deleted by the Board, which also approved Policy 3432 Budget & Expense Report/Annual Financial Statement.
- The Board approved the following curricula:
  - Sports Literature
  - AP Language and Composition
  - Art - Kindergarten
  - Art - Grade 1
  - Art - Grade 2
  - Art - Grade 3
  - Art - Grade 4
  - Art - Grade 5
  - Art - Grade 7
  - Art - Grade 8
- The Board approved grant ED 244 in the amount of \$145,422.
- The bid for Special Transportation Services for the period of 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 was awarded to the following vendors by run, as outlined by location in Memo 9H - Bid Award Special Transportation Services:



- EdAdvance
- Connect Kids
- CT Transportation Solutions
- Coordinated Transportation Solutions
- The Board approved the Superintendent's request regarding her employment contract's carryover provision.

### **May 2022**

- At its Regular Meeting on May 17, the Board recognized NMPS Stars of the Month: **Lisa Lee, Katelynn Oviatt, Tracy Rossitto, Kristin Saplio, Megan Sylvester**
- The Board of Education accepted the following Gifts:
  - New Milford PTO in the estimated amount of \$28,774.00.
- The Board approved the following grants:
  - Adult Education PEP Grant in the amount of \$40,000.00
  - IDEA Section 611 grant in the amount of \$920,072.00 and the IDEA Section 619 grant in the amount of \$33,878.00.
- The Board awarded the following bids:
  - 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
  - OT/PT Services for the 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25 school years for occupational therapy services to Integrated Pediatrics and for physical therapy services to Integrated Pediatrics and Debbie Myhill
- The Board approved the Healthy Food Certification, Food Certification Exemptions for School Fundraisers and Beverage Certification Exemptions
- The Board approved the position of Food and Nutrition Services Dietician
- The Board approved policy 5121.2 Eligibility for Honor Rolls
- The Board approved the following curricula:
  - Art - Grade 6
  - Math 8
  - Practical Math: Applications of Measure
  - Practical Math: Applications of Percentage
- The Board approved 2021-22 Operating End of Year Expenditures as proposed in the amount of \$110,708.00.
- On May 24, the Board held a special meeting regarding the Superintendent's evaluation.
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### **JUNE 2022**

- At a Special Meeting on June 2, 2022, the Board discussed security strategy, as well as the deployment of security personnel, and/or devices affecting security in the New Milford Public Schools.
- A Special Meeting on June 7, 2022 concerned the employment, evaluation and contract of the Superintendent.

- The Regular Meeting was held on the special date of June 7, 2022. The Board recognized retirees **Nancy Alexander, Susan Brofford, Carol Couch, Heidi Fair, Linda Hurley, Mary Lavoie, and Joseph Raps.**
- Bids were awarded to Wade's Dairy for Milk and to New England Ice Cream Corporation for Frozen Dessert for a period of one year.
- The following Grants were approved:
  - Career and Technical Education Secondary Supplemental Enhancement Grant 2022 in the amount of \$49,997.00
  - Special Education Stipend Grant in the amount of \$15,000.00
- The Board approved an Authorized Signature Change Request.
- Twin Lakes Contract Hours were approved as proposed for July 1, 2022 to August 11, 2022.
- The following policies were approved:
  - 3440 Inventories
  - 3450 Monies in School Buildings
  - 3451 Petty Cash Funds
  - 4118.112/4218.112 Sexual and Other Unlawful Harassment
- The Assistant Superintendent, and in his/her absence, the Director of Human Resources, were approved as Designee for the Superintendent of Schools from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.
- The Board authorized the Superintendent to accept resignations and make appointments, excluding administrative appointments, from June 8, 2022 through September 20, 2022; and to purchase budgeted instructional materials, COVID-19 related materials, and other supplies, equipment and services from June 8, 2022 through September 20, 2022.
- The Board moved to make a request of the Town Council and Board of Finance to allocate the end of year balance for 2021-22 (subject to final audit) to the following: \$201,800.00 to the Internal Service Fund; \$50,000.00 to the Turf Field Replacement account; and the remaining balance to the BOE Capital Reserve account with the exception of any energy line items related to the current slate of energy savings projects.
- The Board approved the revised Five Year Capital Plan and moved to make a request of the Town Council and Board of Finance to remove \$980,030.00 from the BOE Capital Reserve Account to fund the proposed 2022-23 projects.
- The Board received the following annual reports:
  - Annual Emergency Preparedness Report
  - Annual Wellness Report
  - Annual Report of the John J. McCarthy Observatory
  - Annual Food and Nutrition Services Report
- The Board heard updates on the Energy Program, Cyber Security, the ECF Grant, the Base Technology Copier Contract and Transportation.
- The Board approved the employment and salary of the Technology Director, Substance Abuse Counselor, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources Director, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations, Food Services Director, Systems Analyst, Account Data Specialist, Network Administrator, Accounting Manager, Facilities Director, Assistant Facilities Director, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Adult Education Facilitator, and Board Certified Behavior Analyst as discussed in executive session.

- On June 14, 2022 the Board approved the appointment of Ms. Shannon Surreira as NES/SMS Assistant Principal, Mr. Frank Jawidzik as SMS Assistant Principal, and Dr. Megan Dwyer as NMHS Assistant Principal.
- At the same meeting, the Board entered into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion regarding the employment, performance and evaluation of the Superintendent and then approved the written evaluation for the Superintendent as discussed in executive session, subject to the changes discussed in executive session being included in the final evaluation document; and further moved that the Board authorize the Board Chair to sign the final evaluation document on behalf of the Board and to deliver the fully-executed evaluation document to the Superintendent.
- On June 30, 2022 the Board met to continue discussion regarding the contract of employment of the Superintendent of Schools.