

**New Milford Board of Education
Budget Hearing & Meeting Minutes
January 20, 21, 29 & 30, 2015
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

**Budget Hearing Minutes
January 20, 2015
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

Present:	Mrs. Angela C. Chastain, Chairperson Mr. Robert Coppola Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. David A. Lawson Mr. Dave Littlefield Mr. David R. Shaffer Mrs. Daniele Shook Mr. John W. Spatola Mrs. Theresa Volinski
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Also Present:	Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools Mr. Joshua Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources Mr. Jay Hubelbank, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Ms. Roberta Pratt, Director of Technology Mr. John Calhoun, Facilities Manager Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School Mrs. Dana Ford, Principal, Schaghticoke Middle School Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Dr. Len Tomasello, Principal, Hill & Plain Elementary School Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal, Northville Elementary School Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal, John Pettibone Elementary School
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NEW MILFORD, CT

1.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance
2.	Presentation by Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote of the 2015 – 2016 School Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Paddyfote presented her proposed budget which represents a 1.94% increase or \$1,184,125 over the 2014-2015 budget. • Dr. Paddyfote noted that budget development is a collaborative process with requests aligned with the strategic plan. • She said the goal of the budget is to support the mission which is as follows: <i>The mission of the New Milford Public Schools, a collaborative partnership of students, educators, family and</i> 	Presentation by Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote of the 2015 – 2016 School Budget

community, is to prepare each and every student to compete and excel in an ever-changing world, embrace challenges with vigor, respect and appreciate the worth of every human being, and contribute to society by providing effective instruction and dynamic curriculum, offering a wide range of valuable experiences, and inspiring students to pursue their dreams and aspirations.

- The district has been working on initiatives to improve the quality of education including alignment of curriculum with state standards; measures of academic progress; the teacher and administrator evaluation program; implementation of a new K-5 math program; the NEASC self-reflection process; standards based report cards for K-3; and continuous refinement of the SRBI process.
- The budget priorities for 2015-2016 include maintaining reasonable class sizes; providing professional development to accelerate achievement; improving access to reliable technology; increasing instructional opportunities for students; increasing access to college readiness opportunities; increasing mental health services to students; ensuring a smooth transition of staff and students to the reconfigured schools; and removing the fee-based structure for athletic programs.
- Professional development opportunities are given to provide training opportunities to increase the district's capacity to offer engineering and advanced placement courses; to provide training in current educational practices; to build instructional capacity through participation in regional conferences and trainings; to review and develop new science and social studies curricula that align with state standards; and to continue to provide onsite professional development through literacy and math coaches.
- In terms of technology, the budget proposal is to replace 400 computers aged 2007 or earlier and purchase 30 Smart Boards. Thirteen Smart Boards will be moved from John Pettibone School when it closes and be divided amongst

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	<p>the remaining schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The proposed budget calls for an increase of 1.0 FTE enrichment teacher with a background in STEM; 1.0 FTE technology teacher for computer education in grades 7/8; 3.0 FTE teachers at NMHS to increase elective options; and 0.60 FTE for alternative education for the offsite computer based instructional program.• Due to an increased demand at the elementary school level a 1.0 FTE social worker will be added to provide emotional support to students and families with mental health needs; and a 0.25 FTE substance abuse counselor will be added at NMHS.• In an effort to increase access to college readiness, the proposal is to fund the PSAT for all sophomores during the school day and fund 50% of AP test costs for students.• This budget calls for the elimination of the pay to participate for athletic programs.• The budget also seeks to ensure a smooth transition of students and staff to the reconfigured schools by hiring a 1.0 FTE transition administrator for SMS; providing three additional school buses to improve ride times to schools; engaging movers to relocate classroom materials to new locations; procuring the services of a company that specializes in moving library materials to the new library media centers; and providing a \$65,000 contingency budget for unanticipated issues that may arise during the transition period.• The budget is made up of \$37,456,754 for salaries, \$9,688,034 for benefits, \$3,329,987 for purchased professional and technical services, \$1,058,576 for purchased property services, \$7,913,361 for other purchased services, \$2,894,750 for supplies, \$1,108,993 for equipment, and \$80,087 for dues and fees.• To recap investments for achievement in this budget: the five year curriculum plan will continue to be reviewed; progress monitoring and reporting will continue; electives at NMHS will be increased; aging technology will be replaced; STEM enrichment opportunities will	
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	<p>be provided; the possibility of a STEM program at SMS for 7/8 graders will be explored; offsite alternative education programming will be expanded; all sophomores will have access to the PSAT; and 50% of AP exam costs will be funded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Paddyfote thanked the teachers and administrators for the hard work they do every day and thanked the central office for their assistance in preparing the budget. 	
3.	<p>Discussion of the 2015-2016 School Budget including, but not limited to, Elementary Schools and the Intermediate School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Len Tomasello, Principal of Hill and Plain School, explained the value of the literacy, math and data coaches. He said the coaches are supporting every classroom teacher and administrator in the schools. The math coaches facilitate the professional learning community meetings with lesson development and curriculum content. During a full day schedule the coaches visit the classroom and often co-facilitate teaching while providing feedback to the teachers. They conduct book studies after school for a higher level of understanding on new teaching practices. The coaches also participate in vertical alignment meetings with the Assistant Superintendent. The data coach is a welcome addition in helping to understand the interpreting of student data and guiding the use of that data. Overall, the coaches help change teaching to a more collaborative process. • Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal at John Pettibone School, noted the new math program is helping students become more mathematically proficient. The students learn to make sense of the problems and solve them. The math program is an investigations related math concept with hands-on activities and exercises in writing as well. She said teachers are pleased with the ability of the program to keep students engaged. Student conversations about math are far richer than before. 	<p>Discussion of the 2015-2016 School Budget including, but not limited to, Elementary Schools and the Intermediate School</p>

- Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal at Northville Elementary School, said the budget process is collaborative amongst the elementary schools. Each school does its own programming but there is awareness of what the other schools are doing. The schools are aligned so that what is happening in one school is also happening in another school. This budget was created through meetings with the K-3 principals and the K-6 principals and then with Mr. Smith and Mr. Hubelbank. The goal is to have a smooth transition for all.
- Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal at Sarah Noble Intermediate School, thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the budget and said she loves her job. She said every effort is being made to pay close attention to the upcoming transition. SNIS staff are particularly focused on the needs of the students in grades three and six so that when they get to their new homes they will be ready to learn.

Hill and Plain School

- Mr. Shaffer asked about the reduction in the 1102-111 account, namely the decrease in FTE from 17 to 14 at Hill and Plain and 18 to 14 at Northville. Mr. Hubelbank said that was due to the transition to SNIS.
- Mr. Lawson asked if that number included art teachers and Mr. Hubelbank said they were in their own category.
- Dr. Paddyfote reminded the Board that the left hand side of the budget page refers to this year. Using the AS400 accounting software, it cannot be removed for clarity.
- Mr. Shaffer asked why things like white boards and fraction tiles were being purchased year to year, why these items didn't last longer. Mr. Smith said the white boards in question are small white boards for student use and a certain percentage of these are replaced year to year.
- Mrs. Chastain asked about what would happen with the John Pettibone library. Mr. Smith said he has met with the library media specialists and some of the books will go to Sarah Noble

Hill and Plain School

	<p>while others will be divided among the remaining elementary schools. Some weeding will occur. He noted there is a separate library transition plan and they will be working with a moving company that specializes in library materials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Coppola asked Mr. Smith to please keep the reading ability of all students in mind so that not every grade level book got removed. Mr. Smith said the library staff is very aware of the age appropriate and reading level appropriate books to keep for the students.• Mrs. Volinski asked what happened to the books that were eventually weeded out and Mr. Smith said there is a procedure in place for books to be donated or decommissioned.• Mr. Coppola noted on the 1108 new math program there didn't seem to be money for replacements. Mr. Smith said the consumables were budgeted in line 1108-644.• Mr. Coppola asked if there was adequate money to take care of grades 3, 4 and 5 and Mr. Smith said they already have quotes for next year based on the projected enrollment and all of the supplies will be ordered through the Assistant Superintendent's office.• Mr. Coppola asked how the implementation of the new math program was going to work and Mr. Smith the math coaches plan ahead of where the teachers are currently to be sure that if other supplies are needed they are purchased ahead of time.• Mr. Coppola noted in the focus groups that parents were concerned about math. Mr. Smith said the math program was a testament to the staff. He said 180 parents visited Sarah Noble recently to see the program in action. He said the he has no reservations about this math program and that the district is moving in the right direction.• Dr. Tomasello said he has seen a lot of math programs come and go and there is a high level of engagement with this program. He said the teachers are doing less and the students are doing more. They are learning to persevere as they struggle through solving the math	
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	<p>problems which is a good thing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Coppola asked if the music times presently happening would be the same next year as well as PE and art. Mr. Smith said they are currently working on the scheduling but they did not anticipate any major changes. • Mr. Lawson asked if PE would still have the same amount of time and Mr. Smith said they will be keeping the status quo to the best extent possible. • Mr. Coppola asked about money for outside field trips and Mr. Smith said there is field trip money but many of the field trips are in-house, bringing programs into the schools. There are currently no dollars to subsidize outside field trips. • Mrs. Chastain asked if Excel students would receive art through the schools and Mr. Smith said the Excel program does have art as part of the program, but it is facilitated by the Excel teacher. • Mr. Coppola asked if there was an increase in guidance time and Dr. Paddyfote said there was no increase in guidance services in K-12 but there was an increase in social work services. • Mr. Coppola asked if Mrs. Kelleher and Dr. Tomasello were planning to build time in for Mrs. Kelleher to integrate with her new staff and Mrs. Kelleher said days were being planned. <p>Northville Elementary School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Shaffer asked about the 1211-111 line noting that there were 2.0 FTEs: 1.0 FTE tutor and 1.0 FTE in a grant. He asked if that was two tutors or one which was funded by the grant. Mr. Hubelbank said there were two tutors, one funded by the general fund and one funded by the grant. • Mr. Coppola said he was surprised that the enrollment number would stay the same; he said he thought the enrollment was dropping and Dr. Paddyfote said it was dropping. 	
		Northville Elementary School

	<p>Sarah Noble Intermediate School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Coppola asked if there was going to be anything different in experience for the third grade students once they transition to Sarah Noble. Mrs. Bilko said they are excited to have grades 3-5 at Sarah Noble and they are already meeting with the Grade 3 staff members to discuss opportunities. • Mr. Coppola asked what the implications would be of moving the third grade to Sarah Noble and Mrs. Bilko answered that most of the third grade students had not been in a planetarium before and they would now have that opportunity. She said there will be lots of chances to work together with the students and staff. She said she felt they were adequately prepared budget-wise. • Mr. Shaffer said currently there are three grades and all three grades can participate in band. He asked if Grade 3 would be able to participate when the transition happened. Dr. Paddyfote said the Committee on Learning had discussed this in the past and had determined that Grades 4-12 would participate but Grade 3 would not. She noted this would be a curriculum change. • Mr. Lawson asked what the student initiatives would be at Sarah Noble and Mrs. Bilko said beginner band, intermediate band, jazz band, student council and intramurals which consist of three sports per season over three seasons. • Mr. Lawson said most of what was just mentioned was not available to third graders and Mrs. Bilko said they could participate in chorus, student council, recorders and intramurals. Mrs. Shook noted that student council was new for third graders and Mrs. Bilko said intramurals would be too. 	<p>Sarah Noble Intermediate School</p>
4.	<p>Public Comment</p> <p>There was none however Mr. Coppola said he appreciated Mrs. Chastain leaving the public comment at the end of the budget sessions as in the past.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p>

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	The meeting recessed at 8:22 p.m. until Wednesday, January 21, 2015.	The meeting recessed at 8:22 p.m. until Wednesday, January 21, 2015.
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Budget Hearing Minutes

January 21, 2015

Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center

Present:	Mrs. Angela C. Chastain, Chairperson Mr. Robert Coppola Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. David A. Lawson Mr. Dave Littlefield Mr. David R. Shaffer Mrs. Daniele Shook Mr. John W. Spatola Mrs. Theresa Volinski
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Also Present:	Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools Mr. Joshua Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources Mr. Jay Hubelbank, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Ms. Roberta Pratt, Director of Technology Mr. John Calhoun, Facilities Manager Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School Mrs. Dana Ford, Principal, Schaghticoke Middle School Dr. Len Tomasello, Principal, Hill & Plain Elementary School Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal, Northville Elementary School
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1.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was reconvened at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance
2.	Discussion of the 2015-2016 School Budget including, but not limited to, Middle School, High School, and the Department of Instruction Schaghticoke Middle School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Ford said the instructional coaches have been very successful especially with aligning the common core standards. The teachers are happy to meet with the coaches. The school 	Discussion of the 2015-2016 School Budget including, but not limited to, Middle School, High School, and the Department of Instruction Schaghticoke Middle School

	<p>administration has been reaching out to parents to invite them to come into the school for reasons other than plays or school related activities. In the first month there were 10 parents who came in for instructional observation. To this point there have been 70 parents who have attended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An algebra class has been added for a section of seventh graders who showed the ability to take a more rigorous course. Next year they will take geometry in eighth grade. • As was noted in Dr. Paddyfote's budget presentation, there is some discussion about whether to continue with the Industrial Arts program or to begin a version of Project Lead the Way for middle schoolers. • Last year, Unity Days were instituted which allow the students an opportunity to take part in an activity to enhance the district's character education traits. • Schaghticoke students are using Chromebooks. This familiarity will help them later when they take the MAP and SBAC tests. • Mrs. Ford said all the staff is enthusiastic about the transition of the incoming fifth graders to the SMS sixth grade in the restructuring. There have been many meetings among Mrs. Bilko, Arum & Associates project managers, teachers, and parents in planning for the transition. The staff has been meeting weekly to create a workable schedule for next year. The school will be going from a five day rotation to a six day rotation to mirror Sarah Noble. There will be an academic lab on either side of the lunch period which is similar to the ELT at Sarah Noble. • Lunch periods will be increased from four to six to accommodate the increase in students. Sixth graders will have their own area in the school as will seventh and eighth graders. • Some of the school activities offered for next year will include chess, art, drama, yearbook, Battle of the Books, Geography Bee, academic fitness, math lab, and math and English SRBI tutoring labs. • Mr. Littlefield asked what happens with 	
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Industrial Arts now and Mrs. Ford said students choose a woodworking project such as making a wooden tic-tac-toe board and learn to measure, cut wood, etc. She noted that the middle school Project Lead the Way program was more like a robotics course.

- Mr. Littlefield asked if the idea was to replace Industrial Arts with Project Lead the Way and Mr. Smith said there was flexibility built into the budget to determine which direction to go. He said Project Lead the Way has been at the high school and we could now have a gateway program for the middle school.
- Mr. Coppola asked if it was determined whether to go in this direction or not and Mr. Smith said it was still in discussion for budgeting purposes. Mr. Coppola asked if the sixth graders would be able to take part in this program and Mr. Smith said currently it is slated for seventh and eighth graders.
- Mr. Coppola noted that one of the reasons the move was suggested was that sixth graders would have more opportunities. Mr. Smith said the intent was to keep the sixth grade structure as close to what it currently is for the move. He said to add Project Lead the Way, or some other course, would require that something else be removed from the current schedule.
- Mr. Lawson said he is concerned about the curricular opportunities for the sixth grade. He asked if recess was also out of the question. Mrs. Ford said they have not discussed how to put that into the schedule but she noted the cafeteria does open to the outdoors and if students wanted to go outside after they finished lunch they could.
- Mr. Lawson asked if sixth graders would have world languages added to their offerings. Mr. Smith noted that Project Lead the Way was a replacement program but adding world languages to sixth grade would be a programmatic change which would have implications for seventh and eighth graders as well.
- Dr. Paddyfote noted that the administration was instructed to take the sixth grade as it currently

	<p>exists and move it to Schaghticoke. She said some of the budgetary issues were from the transition and some were more long term such as adding world languages to the sixth grade curriculum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Coppola said the Board has not had the opportunity to discuss this issue; only the administration has. He said the budget meetings are a good time for the Board to get to discuss these changes.• Dr. Paddyfote said at the June 18, 2014 special meeting the Board made a decision and told the administration to make it work. She noted that the Board was made aware that during the first year of the transition, all of the space at Schaghticoke would be utilized with the existing programming. She suggested there might not be room to add programs.• Mr. Coppola said the Board was told there would be a benefit to moving the sixth grade to Schaghticoke but he felt the administration was being evasive about the benefit.• Mr. Lawson concurred with Mr. Coppola that he was not hearing too many benefits for the sixth grade in this budget in the move to Schaghticoke.• Mr. Smith said the district currently does not offer any advanced language arts class for any grade and they do not track data other than for math. He noted it is unusual to have a seventh grade algebra class but based on data they determined there were some students who could excel in such an offering.• Mr. Coppola asked about the increase FTE in line 1102-112 and Mrs. Ford said it was an additional paraprofessional for sixth grade.• Mr. Shaffer pointed out that one of the character traits on the pillars by the front entrance to Schaghticoke was "responsibility." He felt that this is an age group that can be responsible for bringing paper and pencils to class. Mr. Spatola said he agreed and a list used to be given to parents at the beginning of the school year with a list of school supplies that were needed. He suggested the schools should not be paying for these supplies.	
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- Mrs. Volinski asked if programs such as Project Lead the Way don't go through, what would happen to the money budgeted. Dr. Paddyfote said at the June 2015 Board meeting, a list of revisions would be given to the Board. If it was determined not to implement the program, the Board would be given the chance to cut it then.
- Mr. Lawson asked what the cost of the Columbia English program was and Mrs. Ford said approximately \$15,000.
- Mr. Coppola asked about the increase in line 1105-611 from \$850 to \$3,555 and Mrs. Ford said they order supplies as needed and they have not had to order as many supplies in the last couple of years but if the Board members looked back they would see an even higher budget number just a couple of years ago.
- Mr. Spatola said the district should be offering sixth graders some advancements. He asked if the district added these offerings if the schedule could accommodate it and Mrs. Ford said not if the current schedule is followed. She said it is hard to put in another course offering without losing something.
- Mr. Littlefield asked about the elimination of Industrial Arts and potentially putting the dollars to Project Lead the Way and Mr. Smith said the dollar amount would stay the same, it would just be repurposed.
- Mr. Lawson asked about the impact to the current Industrial Arts teacher and Dr. Paddyfote noted that his retirement had been accepted by the Board previously.
- Mr. Shaffer asked why the 1108-611 line was increasing so dramatically and Mrs. Ford said it was the new connected math program which will be coming up with the new sixth grade.
- Mr. Coppola asked if the Board was aware there was a proposed change in the math program and Mr. Smith said there was not officially a change, this is being piloted by some classes right now.
- Mr. Littlefield noted in the 611 line there are calculators being supplied and Mrs. Ford said they were classroom calculators.

- Mr. Coppola noted on line 1112-111 that the request was for 9.0 FTE where the other lines were requesting 11.0. Mrs. Ford said there was one team coming in that only has three teachers.
- Mr. Coppola asked why line 1127-111 had a 1.0 FTE increase and Mrs. Ford said that was to accommodate the sixth grade.
- Mr. Shaffer asked what Brain Pop was and Mr. Smith said it is a website that the current fifth graders use with learning activities and progress tracking. He noted it was subscription based.
- Mr. Shaffer asked if going from 3.0 guidance counselors to 3.5 was enough with the 381 kids coming to Schaghticoke and Dr. Paddyfote noted the guidance department had never been reduced when the sixth grade moved to Sarah Noble.
- Mr. Shaffer asked what a portable classroom was and Mrs. Ford said it was a cart that moved from classroom to classroom.
- Mr. Shaffer asked about the 0.45 administrator addition and Dr. Paddyfote said that was a full time position budgeted at 0.45.
- Mr. Coppola asked what the administration was currently and Mrs. Ford said she has one full time assistant principal, one assistant principal shared with Northville that comes Mondays and Fridays, and an assistant principal from Sarah Noble on Tuesdays.

New Milford High School

- Mr. Shugrue said building the budget is a collaborative event undertaken with a passionate, committed team. He noted that a few members of his team were monitoring two athletic events tonight so they could attend not this meeting.
- He said there is a lot going on at the high school including prepping for the May NEASC visit. He noted that initiatives were debated as a team and then a vote for consensus was taken by the staff.
- NMHS follows a WAVE acronym which

New Milford High School

	<p>stands for Work, Achieve, Value and Empower.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The high school continues to teach 21st century learning skills which include communications, problem solving and civic and social responsibility. • Accomplishments this year include continuing to grow AP classes and the number of students taking the tests. In May of 2014, 333 AP tests had been taken, up from 182 prior. Project Lead the Way had two new course offerings: Digital Electronics and Civil Engineering & Architecture. Engineering Design and Development will be offered next year. Project Lead the Way has been recommended for national certification following a site visit which means students can get college engineering credit at the University of New Haven and other colleges. • Goals for 2015 include improving technology per Board of Education policies and NEASC recommendations. Mr. Shugrue noted that technology is a sign of the times and NMHS has had cuts in previous capital budgets that have meant cuts to technology. • This budget continues to address the increased credits to graduate from high school: 25 credits this school year up to 26 credits for the 2017 graduating class. • Mr. Shugrue is requesting funding to allow all tenth and eleventh grade students to take the PSAT during the school day. • A college and career readiness day will be held in October of 2015 teaching freshmen successful study skills, sophomores and juniors a look at PSATs, and seniors a chance to work on college essays, as an example. • Money is requested to cover 50% of the cost of each AP test which currently costs \$97 per test. Statistics show that 85% of students taking AP tests experience favorable college acceptances. • Mr. Shugrue said the total high school budget is a 4.8% increase from this budget year. • Mr. Coppola said he was impressed with the students who came to speak at a meeting regarding the turf fields. Mr. Shugrue thanked 	
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	<p>Mr. Coppola for acknowledging the students and the fact that they spoke well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Shaffer asked why line 1107-611 was increasing from \$7,000 to \$16,000 and Mr. Shugrue said with the requested increase of 1.0 FTE more supplies were needed.• Mr. Shaffer asked why the position was being added and Mr. Shugrue said the high school operates on eight periods. As a result the industrial arts area has three periods where the rooms are empty. If the new position is added, CAD classes will be offered.• Mr. Coppola remarked that new positions should not be added at the high school because the decreased enrollment will hit the high school too.• Mr. Shaffer asked about the additional math teacher despite the decreased enrollment and Mr. Shugrue said it is a systematic approach to address the 2017 graduation requirements.• Mr. Lawson asked for the number of students enrolled in each math class.• Mr. Shaffer said he was concerned with sophomores taking the PSATs because they had not yet taken Geometry or Algebra 2 which comprise 50% of the test. He noted there will be a new version of the test coming out and there will be a free sample test available. The PSAT 10 will be offered during a two week period in the spring and students will have had a majority of the math concepts by then.• Mr. Spatola agreed with taking the test in the spring because the students don't get a summer packet to work on so they shouldn't come right back from summer vacation and take the test.• Mr. Coppola noted the total Athletic budget of \$768,000 remarking that some people say the Board does not support athletics or maintain the fields.• Mr. Shugrue said the field issues are use issues and not maintenance.• Mrs. Faulenbach agreed that athletics are taken very seriously in the schools.• Mr. Shaffer asked how many classrooms will still need Smart Boards after the ones come in from John Pettibone.	
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- Mr. Lawson noted the district has been able to extend the life of the lights at the football field by approximately double their listed life.
- Mr. Coppola asked about the 0.6 teacher for alternative education and Dr. Paddyfote said the alternative education program had been at Bridge Street then moved to the Lillis Building once the Board gave the town the Bridge Street building. The district is required to provide at least a four hour per week program.
- Mr. Coppola asked if the students who took part were those expelled from the high school and Dr. Paddyfote replied these were more than expelled students. The program also includes students who would benefit from offsite learning.
- Mr. Coppola asked what certification was needed for this position and Ms. Baldelli said it would have to be grade 7 – 12 certification.
- Mr. Coppola asked if the certification had to be subject specific and Dr. Paddyfote said the State Department of Education said this is a computer based program so the certification needs to be age appropriate.

The meeting recessed for a short break at 8:37 p.m. and reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

Department of Instruction

- Mr. Smith noted that public education is going through the most radical time of change in the history of education. The knowledge of children these days doubles every 12 hours. The internet is five million terabytes and children today have access to all that information. As a result, how children are instructed has to change to keep up as best possible with the technology. Teachers must remain fluid because the one constant is change. The district continues to collaborate across grade levels and vertically. This budget recognizes that the technology is aging faster than the current replacement cycle can keep up. The budget also allows for updates and standardization of the curriculum.

Department of Instruction

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Coppola asked about line 1102-111, the tutors, wondering if they were for K-12 and Mr. Smith said they were.• Mr. Coppola asked how many tutors were in each grade and Mr. Smith said there were two in elementary, 2.5 in intermediate, 1.5 at middle school, and 1.5 in the high school.• Mr. Littlefield asked what was in the kindergarten orientation literacy bags and Mr. Smith said the bags have books and parent resources. He noted that these have been provided at the evening kindergarten orientation event in the past through a grant but they are not sure if the grant will be continuing next year.• Mr. Coppola asked if the professional development days meant substitutes had to be hired and what amount was put in the budget for that. Mr. Smith said in some cases the teachers are pulled from the classroom for professional development and conferences. He also said they might pull teachers for a couple of classes and move substitutes around as needed.• Mr. Coppola asked for the amount of substitutes budgeted for sick days and the amount budgeted for professional development.• Mr. Shaffer said when he was a department head, they would take four hours off every few weeks to work with a co-teacher. He asked if that came out of the substitute line and Mrs. Olson said that typically comes from the IDEA grant.• Mr. Littlefield said he was happy to see an increase of 1.0 FTE in the 1210-111 line, gifted and talented. Mr. Smith said the intent was that one person will focus on the idea of problem solving and inquiry based learning and all classrooms will get eight or more sessions with targeted inquiry based learning and problem solving.• Mr. Lawson asked if that would include the sixth grade and Mr. Smith said it would.• Mr. Shaffer asked what certification was needed for this position and Mr. Smith said it would be age appropriate STEM certification.	
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- Mr. Coppola asked why the focus of this would be STEM and Mr. Smith said that was where the problem solving skills were talked about.
- Mr. Shaffer asked who would be directing Adult Education services now and Mr. Smith said they were hoping to hire a replacement soon. Mr. Coppola asked what certification was needed and Mr. Smith said they were looking for a certified administrator which was a challenge in seeking the replacement.
- Mr. Smith noted this position is part time with no benefits and if it were full time with benefits they could change the structure of the program. Mr. Coppola asked Mr. Smith to consider full time as adult education services the whole community. Mr. Smith said the program has grown under the current director who is retiring.
- Mr. Coppola asked about the after-school intervention program and Mr. Smith said the district recognized that students were struggling academically and their parents were struggling with providing transportation so the district is subsidizing transportation where necessary by providing an after-school bus.
- Mrs. Chastain asked if this was door to door bus transportation and Mr. Smith said it was based on what a student needed.
- Mr. Shaffer said in the curriculum development line, since the state doesn't have much idea of the topics for Algebra 1 and 2, what is the dollar figure for how much it was supposed to cost to write those two course guides.
- Mr. Coppola asked about the 6110-561 tuition line and asked if that was part of the Region 12 student tuition and Mr. Hubelbank said this is the cost to send students to Nonnewaug at the moment.
- Mr. Shaffer asked how successful the intervention program was. Mr. Smith said last year two intervention programs were budgeted: one for SAT Prep and one for content experience. The positions were split into four 0.5 positions and 1.0 FTE math at the middle school.
- Mr. Lawson asked if with the SAT intervention

	<p>the district was keeping track of the scores. Mr. Smith said the teacher has performance measures for student learning objectives. He noted that the teacher had identified 17 students at risk of failing and 11 of those have not failed a course this year. He said the data is being collected on who the interventionists work with and they continue to look for viable students to get intervention in place. He said they are taking a different approach with the data collection at Schaghticoke including the MAP assessments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Shaffer asked if the intervention at the high school was in groups or individual and Mr. Smith said it depended on the students' schedules. • Mr. Spatola said he looked at New Milford's SAT scores compared to the rest of the state and last year New Milford ranked 71 out of 194. He said New Milford needs to be doing better since a lot of the schools around us are doing better than us. • Mr. Spatola asked for some information for the capital budget discussion including a list from Mr. Calhoun of the current inventory of equipment, age of the equipment, date put into service, life expectancy, current condition, needed repairs, any needing to be replaced, and equipment the district doesn't currently own but might need. 	
4.	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anne Marie Sarbello, a New Milford resident, said she has attended a lot of meetings but she continues to feel frustrated that her input is not being considered. She said many parents have given up on speaking up but she has not. She said the mission calls for a collaborative effort but she doesn't feel that there is any collaboration ongoing. She was told at a meeting that any budgetary suggestions she had would not be considered because there was not enough time to put them into the budget. She believes there is no intention of keeping the sixth grade recess and yet the focus groups 	<p>Public Comment</p>

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	want recess. Instead they are getting an academic lab and study halls. She asked for more opportunities for the transitioning sixth graders.	
	The meeting recessed at 9:22 p.m. until Tuesday, January 27, 2015.	The meeting recessed at 9:22 p.m. until Tuesday, January 27, 2015.

**Budget Hearing Minutes
January 29, 2015 [Snow date used]
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

Present:	Mrs. Angela C. Chastain, Chairperson Mr. Robert Coppola Mr. David A. Lawson Mr. Dave Littlefield Mr. David R. Shaffer Mr. John W. Spatola Mrs. Theresa Volinski
Absent:	Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mrs. Daniele Shook

Also Present:	Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools Mr. Joshua Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources Mr. Jay Hubelbank, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Ms. Roberta Pratt, Director of Technology Mr. John Calhoun, Facilities Manager Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School Mrs. Dana Ford, Principal, Schaghticoke Middle School Dr. Len Tomasello, Principal, Hill & Plain Elementary School Mr. William Knipple, Energy Manager
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1.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was reconvened at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance
2.	Discussion of the 2015-2016 School Budget including, but not limited to, Pupil Personnel and Special Education, Department of Maintenance,	Discussion of the 2015-2016 School Budget including, but not limited to, Pupil Personnel and Special

<p>Utilities, Department of General Administration, and Capital</p> <p>Pupil Personnel and Special Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Olson thanked the Board for what they do and for their understanding of budgeting for the IDEA mandates. She said the district is required by law to provide services, supports, and programming necessary to educate these students in the least restrictive environment. She said what New Milford does is fair and appropriate. • Excel has three thriving programs at the K-3 schools for early intervention for students identified with disabilities or delays. There is often a waiting list for this program due to its high quality nature. • Two after-school sign language classes are offered as enrichment for non-disabled students who appreciate the offering so they can communicate with their peers who cannot hear. She noted she was pleased to walk through a school one day to witness a table of students communicating with each other by signing. • Sarah Noble has a multi-sensory reading class while Schaghticoke offers a continuum of services ranging from one-to-one highly individualized instruction to students who are completely included in the general education population. • Mrs. Olson is busy working on the Schaghticoke transition as two new classes will be there next year. • Last year 15 students graduated from New Milford High and moved on to begin their adult lives. Students at the high school participate on the dance team, football, track and field; two were nominated for prom prince and princess, and some participate in unified sports. • The Litchfield Hills Transition program continues to be popular. Students in this program have a variety of jobs; some might be working on auto repair or in a grocery store 	<p>Education, Department of Maintenance, Utilities, Department of General Administration, and Capital</p> <p>Pupil Personnel and Special Education</p>
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	<p>with job coaches. This program creates revenue for New Milford because tuition is charged to outs of district students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The district also has a growing emphasis on mental health needs. One out of every ten children has a serious mental health problem. So this budget is requesting one new full-time social worker to be shared with the K-2 schools.• Two of New Milford's social workers have been trained through Western Connecticut State University to participate in a regional crisis team to collaborate for support with other districts when help is needed.• The district is required to comply with federal and state guidelines and last year there were six issues of non-compliance. However, this past year there were none and Mrs. Olson thanked the staff for its dedication to following the letter and the spirit of the law.• Mrs. Volinski congratulated Mrs. Olson on the compliance.• Mr. Shaffer asked about the increase of one social worker and what would that mean for the other social workers. Mrs. Olson said the requested social worker would split time between the K-2 schools. She said the other social worker would then be able to focus on the high school.• Mr. Shaffer asked about the request for the 0.25 substance abuse counselor and Mrs. Olson said that was another mental health initiative. She noted that the district received a grant for this position years ago and she felt the position needs to be reinstated.• Mr. Shaffer asked if the budget is increasing 11.7% as a result of services and substance abuse and Mrs. Olson said it was.• Mr. Coppola noted that with the declining enrollment, there was no adjustment for nurses or paraeducators. Mrs. Olson said there is no reduction in nurses but one paraeducator from Schaghticoke was reduced. She also said there is a request for one more full-time nurse at Schaghticoke so one nurse will be reassigned to there next year.	
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- Mr. Coppola asked if an Excel program would be lost with the closing of John Pettibone and Mrs. Olson said no, for the most part the program would move from John Pettibone to Northville and there will be two classes at Northville.
- Mr. Coppola asked about Hill and Plain and Mrs. Olson answered there would be one class there.
- Mr. Coppola asked Mrs. Olson to explain program 1212-111. Mrs. Olson said it includes a part-time teacher of the deaf, an assistance tech which is a mandated service, and 12 summer school paraeducators which are also mandated.
- Mr. Shaffer asked about the student stipend wondering if we paid these students to work. Mrs. Olson said this is part of teaching budgeting life skills to the students. Students receive \$1 for every hour worked and they can spend the money on LHTC activities and recreational events.
- Mr. Shaffer asked if the district paid rent to the Maxx and Mrs. Olson responded no.
- Mr. Shaffer asked if the tutors were subject area experts and Mrs. Olson said the tutors were used for academic support for grades 6-12 and were certified teachers used in a variety of different ways.
- Mrs. Volinski asked how students who use these tutors get home and Mrs. Olson said transportation is provided.
- Mr. Coppola asked if the transportation for special education was in the transportation budget or separate and Mr. Hubelbank said it was in another transportation account.
- Mr. Coppola asked if the district has any say when the state assigns a child to a facility. Mrs. Olson said these placements qualify for excess cost reimbursement. She said the state reimburses the town 70% of tuition minus the basic costs.
- Mr. Coppola asked if the district was in the loop as to what kind of school a student might be sent to and Mrs. Olson said the district manages the IEP of New Milford residents

	<p>always with the goal of bringing them back to the district.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Coppola asked if the reimbursement was decreasing and Mr. Hubelbank said the state has a number in the budget but it is a function of how many towns apply and the district does not know until March of that budget year. • Mr. Coppola noted that this makes this budgeting process very difficult as it requires the Board to budget based on an assumption. • Mr. Lawson asked if there was any federal reimbursement and Mr. Hubelbank said the IDEA grant does not reimburse for these types of expenses. • Mr. Coppola asked about the non-public school tuition and Mrs. Olson said that was for programs like Archbridge which is excess cost eligible. • Mr. Shaffer said he was teaching an Algebra 2 course with a co-op teacher and when the co-op teacher was absent for a day or two a substitute was brought in for that person but they didn't do anything because they didn't know the content or students. He asked if it was really necessary to have the substitute when there were two co-op teachers. Mrs. Olson said according to the letter of the law, it was necessary to meet the needs of the students. • Mr. Shaffer asked if the special education population had to follow common core and smarter balanced testing and Mrs. Olson said the smarter balanced testing required universal accommodation by design. This allows more students to be successful in the SBAC. She said the department is working on the common core. She said it is a challenge to try to close the gap. IEPs reflect common core guidelines and standards but at the level of student ability. • Mr. Shaffer asked if special education teachers needed to be certified in the subject area they were teaching and Ms. Baldelli said it is a requirement. <p>Department of Maintenance - Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Hubelbank noted that the Energy 	<p>Department of Maintenance – Energy</p>
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Education program has been in place for a number of years helping to maintain the savings made.

- Mr. Spatola asked Mr. Calhoun if his department could do this job in-house instead of paying a stipend to another employee. Mr. Calhoun said he would have to look at the position because this piece is really educational done through a certified staff person.
- Mr. Knipple said this program has been in effect since 2006-07 and involves energy usage. He keeps track of what the district spends and uses each month through a software program. The energy program is a cost avoidance program for the district. Over the course of this energy program, the district has avoided \$2.5 to \$3 million in costs.
- Mrs. Volinski asked how many hours a month Mr. Knipple spends on this program and he said between 30 to 35 which includes walking through the buildings, paperwork, and communicating with Mr. Calhoun and Mr. Hubelbank.
- Mr. Littlefield asked if there were still opportunities to avoid costs and Mr. Knipple said it is important to maintain what has been done and not move back to bad habits.
- Mr. Shaffer asked if the district was still working with the outside energy company and Mr. Knipple said the contract is up but they will still come to the district if needed.
- Mr. Spatola asked if there was any consortium for better electric rates or perhaps negotiating with Kimberly Clark that now produces its own power. Mr. Hubelbank said the district works with the town on fuel oil and electricity. The contract is up for electricity and the town has gone out to bid.
- Mrs. Volinski asked Mr. Knipple if he just worked with the high school and he responded that he works with all six buildings.
- Mrs. Volinski noted lights can go off automatically and Mr. Knipple said when the new high school was built the light monitors were installed but the other buildings do not all have that capability. Mr. Calhoun sensors are

	<p>being added to classrooms over time.</p> <p>Department of Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Calhoun reported that the maintenance budget includes the facilities, custodians and maintenance workers. He said there are increases to budget due to the closing costs of John Pettibone. He reminded the Board that the new high school was built in 2000 and Sarah Noble was renovated in 2001. Efficiencies in the budget have been realized through using in-house tradesmen. He noted his request is a fairly flat operating budget. • He said the department is continuing its water conservation measures, recycling of waste, additional security initiatives, solar opportunities, electrical retrofits, and LED technology initiatives. • Mr. Calhoun also encouraged the Board to fund the needed capital budgets. • Mr. Hubelbank noted that in the department budget there was money specifically for decommissioning John Pettibone. • Mr. Spatola asked about the cost of decommissioning John Pettibone, wondering if some of the work could be done in-house since not all of it had to be done to start the school year and Mr. Calhoun said many of the things that need to happen are timely in nature. He also said the only outside work being done was with the library. Mr. Spatola noted there were three custodians at John Pettibone that could be paid to stay on a few more months to complete the work in-house. Mr. Calhoun said most of the general moving will be done with in-house staff. • Mrs. Chastain asked if the \$141,000 for the move was for all schools and not just John Pettibone and Mr. Hubelbank said that included moving materials to or from five buildings. • Mr. Shaffer asked if it would be possible just to see the moving costs of John Pettibone versus seeing that as part of the overall maintenance budget. • Mr. Coppola asked about the field maintenance 	<p>Department of Maintenance</p>
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	<p>noting that some members of the public suggested that the fields were not maintained. Mr. Calhoun noted among all the maintenance lines about \$30,000 was spent on field maintenance. He said it is not a matter of field maintenance; it is a matter of over usage of the current fields.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Spatola asked if there were any transfers out from this fund in the past five years and Mr. Calhoun said none that he was aware of. • Mr. Spatola noted on the vehicle equipment inventory that a mower was decommissioned and not replaced. Mr. Calhoun said it was replaced with a front deck which can only mow. The older mowers are used for snow removal only. <p>Department of General Administration (DOGA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Hubelbank noted that every school district has its idiosyncrasies but all want to provide high quality services that meet the needs of their students. <p>(Mr. Coppola left the table at 8:23 p.m.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Hubelbank said workers compensation represents about 1% of the budget which is done in conjunction with the town. CIRMA has said to expect a 15% increase for next year. • DOGA is 25.5% of the total budget. • The transportation line 2710 is the third year of a five year contract. <p>(Mr. Coppola returned at 8:25 p.m.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diesel fuel cost has dropped and so the budgeted savings is about \$52,000. This budget includes three additional school buses at \$59,000 per bus. This is necessary as the move to Schaghticoke will include 350 more bus runs; four routes would currently have more students than seats on the bus; an express bus will be added from Gaylordsville. • The health insurance is 11% of the total budget and has been decreased by \$125,000 due to a 	<p>Department of General Administration (DOGA)</p>
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	<p>change to a high deductible plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Line 2970 is other benefits such as workers compensation and the third and final year of a retirement program. The increase of \$75,000 is for workers compensation.• Line 2830 has a \$30,000 increase for fingerprinting because the fee is going from \$15 to \$65 per person; this line includes a new fingerprinting machine.• The technology line 2840 includes software licenses and the K-12 parent portal upgrade.• Mr. Spatola said when he drove from John Pettibone to Hill and Plain it took him about five minutes. Gaylordsville is seven miles and Gaylordsville to Hill and Plain would be 10 miles. He asked if it was worth \$150,000 for three extra miles. Mr. Hubelbank said it was not a question he could answer.• Mr. Spatola asked about the medical insurance at \$23,500 for a family of four wondering what a single person cost, or a single person with spouse, versus the family of four. Mr. Hubelbank said it varied from plan to plan.• Mr. Coppola said that the budget process for the Board of Education starts so early that many of these numbers are not solid. He said the Board of Education votes on a budget, the Mayor recommends a budget, the Town Council votes on a budget, and then the Board of Finance votes on a final budget in April.• Mr. Spatola said it would be nice to have more than four days to look at the budget and Mr. Coppola said it would require a charter revision. Mrs. Chastain reminded the Board that they were required to bring a budget to the Town by February 1st.• Mr. Coppola asked about the copiers and Mr. Hubelbank said the copiers are leased district-wide. Mr. Coppola asked how efficiently they worked and Ms. Pratt said there were some issues at first but there are few issues now as shown by the fact that the help desk tickets have stopped coming in to the Technology department.• Mr. Shaffer asked about the dues/fees for the Board of Education at \$18,200 and Mr.	
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Hubelbank said that was for CABE and Education Connection.

- Mr. Coppola asked what the district received for the \$15,000 dues it paid to CABE and Dr. Paddyfote said the district can consult with CABE on issues such as what supplies the district needs to provide, the regional calendar issue, etc. She said they will often call CABE before they call the Board attorney. Mr. Coppola mentioned that he had called CABE regarding an issue and has still not received a call back.
- Mr. Coppola asked about the retainer fee for the Board attorney and Mr. Hubelbank said the retainer is \$150,000 and they take care of all legal services as part of that retainer. They charge a reduced rate for services provided.

(Mr. Spatola left the table at 8:49 p.m.)

- Mr. Coppola asked if we don't use the full retainer amount do we get money back and Dr. Paddyfote said the district decides what amount to use for the retainer because we get a better rate. She noted during arbitration, the district can spend \$30,000 - \$80,000.

(Mr. Spatola returned at 8:51 p.m.)

- Dr. Paddyfote noted that the retainer is based on the historical billing.
- Mr. Coppola asked when the contract was up and Dr. Paddyfote said the district is in the third year but the way the policy is written, the district does not need to go out to bid.
- Mr. Shaffer asked about the new envelope stuffer and Mr. Hubelbank said the one currently used has reached its end life. He said all employees get a pay stub in an envelope even if they are direct deposited.
- Mr. Littlefield asked about the transportation which requires a taxi to pick up a student and Mr. Hubelbank said it is a narrow dirt road that the bus won't go down and it is an unsafe road for walking. Dr. Paddyfote noted that the Board attorney went out and drove on the road and

said the Board would lose on this hearing at the state level.

- Mrs. Volinski suggested a letter be sent to the Mayor and Director of Highway advising them of the \$40,000 expense because the road is not safe for traveling or walking and request they do something.
- Mr. Shaffer asked about the proposed strategic planning with the transition of the schools and Dr. Paddyfote said for the last two years the Board has deferred strategic planning. She felt it was a good time even with the transition.
- Mr. Shaffer asked about the fingerprinting machine and Mr. Hubelbank said this will connect to the state system.
- Mr. Coppola asked about the requirement to be fingerprinted and to pay and Ms. Baldelli said the volunteers do not have to pay but if someone will be working for the district they have to pay for themselves.
- Mr. Coppola asked if the fingerprints could go to a central spot and Ms. Baldelli said the State Police and FBI do not allow that.
- Mr. Littlefield asked about the \$12,000 for the machine and Mr. Hubelbank said it was proprietary from one source.
- Mr. Shaffer asked if student teachers were considered volunteers and Ms. Baldelli said they were.
- Mr. Spatola asked if the district was captive to CIRMA or could the district go outside and Mr. Hubelbank said the district could go outside but the town would have to make that decision.
- Mr. Spatola asked about the claims history and Mr. Hubelbank said there was a bad year a couple of years ago which is still being carried forward.

The meeting recessed at 9:20 p.m.

Mr. Lawson left the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:28 p.m.

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<p>Capital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Calhoun said the facilities capital includes gutter repairs, concrete repairs, playground equipment replacement and façade repairs. There is a need for more lockers at Schaghticoke and the metal shop will be refurbished to an art studio. <p>(Mr. Coppola left the meeting at 9:30 p.m.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Calhoun continued, saying some doors will be replaced at the high school, the high school scrubber will be replaced and more security upgrades will be implemented. • Mr. Shaffer asked about the Schaghticoke locker replacement and Mr. Calhoun said there is a need for about 100 more. <p>(Mr. Coppola returned at 9:32 p.m.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Volinski asked about the chiller replacement and Mr. Calhoun said the small chiller is getting close to its useful life. • Mr. Shaffer asked about the cafeteria sound proofing at Schaghticoke and Mr. Calhoun said the noise in the cafeteria gets to sound like an airport. He said the idea would be to soften the noise by putting in some ceiling tiles that would absorb noise. • Mr. Shaffer asked if there was anything in this budget addressing the Schaghticoke roof issue and Mr. Hubelbank said no. 	<p>Capital</p>
<p>Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Pratt gave credit to her staff for preparing this budget. She made a presentation highlighting where the district is now with technology noting there are 3,681 users, 1,258 email accounts, 3,461 google accounts, etc. • Ms. Pratt gave a history of technology since 2009-2010. She noted in 2007 the district entered into a four-year lease program for 500 computers but in the following four years no investments were made to computers. 	<p>Technology</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2010-2011, there was a focus on SmartBoards and the final 2007 lease payment was made. • In 2011-2012 the SmartBoard focus continued and the wireless infrastructure was installed. • In 2012-2013 the SmartBoard focus continued and district-wide computers were purchased. • In 2013-2014 there was a focus on the aging network infrastructure, portable technology, and SmartBoards. • In 2014-2015 the focus was on desktop technology, SmartBoards, and infrastructure technology. • This budget lays the groundwork for a capital refresh cycle and plan and includes district computers, portable devices, network/server equipment and SmartBoards. • Mr. Coppola asked what switches are and Ms. Pratt said that is how the district gets on the internet. • Mr. Coppola asked about leasing versus purchasing and Ms. Pratt said it was a difference in philosophies. • Mr. Spatola asked how many state or federal grants had been received to purchase computers and Ms. Pratt said they received one last year to purchase switches. The total grant was \$100,000. • Mr. Spatola asked if any grants were applied for through corporations like Microsoft and Ms. Pratt said she had looked into those types of grants but New Milford did not qualify because it is not an urban community. • Mrs. Chastain asked about the funding for Project Lead the Way and Mr. Smith said the grant was from a private philanthropist who asked that the money be used to buy enhanced equipment and not basic computers. <p>Revenues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Spatola asked why tuition from outside students was not a money maker. Dr. Paddyfote noted the revenue goes to the town. She also noted that two other districts were working with Sherman but New Milford High School is 	<p>Revenues</p>
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	the designated high school.	
4.	Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anne Marie Sarbello, a New Milford resident, asked that money budgeted for the John Pettibone transition not be cut. She said the additional buses are needed for increased routes for Schaghticoke. She noted the closing of John Pettibone impacts Northville, Hill and Plain, Sarah Noble and Schaghticoke schools and she asked the Board to fund all the needs to make this a smooth and successful transition. 	Public Comment
	The meeting recessed at 10:12 p.m. until Friday, January 30, 2015.	The meeting recessed at 10:12 p.m. until Friday, January 30, 2015.

**Budget Hearing Special Meeting Minutes
January 30, 2015
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

Present:	Mrs. Angela C. Chastain, Chairperson Mr. Robert Coppola Mr. David A. Lawson Mr. Dave Littlefield Mr. David R. Shaffer Mrs. Daniele Shook Mr. John W. Spatola Mrs. Theresa Volinski
Absent:	Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach

Also Present:	Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools Mr. Joshua Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources Mr. Jay Hubelbank, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Ms. Roberta Pratt, Director of Technology Mr. John Calhoun, Facilities Manager Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal, John Pettibone Elementary School Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal, Northville Elementary School
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1.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was reconvened at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance
2.	Public Comment There was none.	Public Comment
3.	DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION A. Adoption of the 2015-2016 Board of Education Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Paddyfote handed out a list of items that could be deducted from the budget proposal which totaled \$614,745. Items included \$554,600 from the capital account, and \$60,145 from the operating account. Dr. Paddyfote noted that Mr. Hubelbank is projecting a balance of \$379,681 in the 2014-2015 budget and she recommended spending \$226,900 from the year end projection. She also recommended that the Board request \$287,700 from the capital reserve account. Finally she explained that a contract for electricity that the Town and Board signed will allow the budget lines to be reduced by \$60,145. • Mr. Lawson noted there was nothing in this budget to address the roof at Schaghticoke and Mr. Hubelbank said administration had met with Ray Jankowski and the Mayor and they suggested the Town will bond for that. • Mr. Lawson said he didn't remember the Board making that decision and Mrs. Chastain said the Board did not make that decision yet. • Mr. Lawson asked what the CL&P upgrade would cost at East Street and Mr. Calhoun said it would be no cost to the district. • Mr. Spatola asked Dr. Paddyfote to explain the reductions she brought forward tonight and Dr. Paddyfote explained that they carefully looked at the certified and non-certified line and acknowledged they had put two placeholders in 	DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION Adoption of the 2015-2016 Board of Education Budget

<p>for kindergarten if enrollment exceeded what was anticipated but it did not. She also noted the administration never really knows who is going to retire and who will replace retirees when the budget is developed. Now that we are five months into the school year, the administration is confident about the proposed reductions in the salary lines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Spatola asked why the money was being requested from capital reserve and Dr. Paddyfote said the capital reserve fund has \$2.2 million and there has been no consensus yet on whether the town will seek state reimbursement for the SMS roof. She noted there would still be enough in the capital reserve to do the SMS roof project in sections. <p>Mr. Coppola moved to approve the Superintendent's proposed 2015-2016 budget in the amount of \$62,145,903, seconded by Mrs. Shook.</p> <p>Mr. Coppola moved to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2015-2016 budget by decreasing it by \$614,745 by using a favorable year-end balance of \$266,900 towards capital items to be done this fiscal year as originally proposed in 2015-2016 budget, and to recommend spending from the capital reserve account in the amount of \$287,700 for other capital items, and use a contracted reduction for a fixed electrical price in the amount of \$60,145, seconded by Mr. Lawson.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Coppola thanked the Superintendent and staff for making these adjustments. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Coppola asked if Mr. Smith was comfortable with the budget to hire someone for Adult Education and Mr. Smith responded that he had given the Board a handout of what it would take to make this position more attractive. He said the position could be 36 hours per week including health insurance 	<p>Motion made to approve the Superintendent's proposed 2015-2016 budget in the amount of \$62,145,903.</p> <p>Motion made to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2015-2016 budget by decreasing it by \$614,745 by using a favorable year-end balance of \$266,900 towards capital items to be done this fiscal year as originally proposed in 2015-2016 budget, and to recommend spending from the capital reserve account in the amount of \$287,700 for other capital items, and use a contracted reduction for a fixed electrical price in the amount of \$60,145.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>
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which would make it easier to fill. He said this position could qualify for the Workforce Enhancement Act, potentially increasing grant funding, and maybe adding more certification programs. He said the online enrollment has already helped the Adult Ed program registration, with 100 people enrolled in the first week or so when last year there were only 200 the entire enrollment period when it was not online.

Mr. Coppola moved to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2015-2016 budget by increasing it by \$35,000 for the purpose of increasing the Adult Education line from \$30,000 to \$65,000, seconded by Mrs. Shook.

- Mr. Coppola noted this program benefits the community at large as well as providing programming for students who can't go through the high school for whatever reason.
- Mr. Lawson noted several programs were mandated.
- Mr. Spatola asked about the increase last year of \$33,000 and Mr. Smith said the salary increased to \$33,000 from \$13,000.
- Mr. Spatola asked what duties would be added to this position with the increase to full-time. Mr. Smith said the person will work Monday through Thursday from 2:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. which would allow them to come up with new programming ideas and then from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. when they would be in charge of the Adult Education activities. The schedule on Friday would be 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. allowing the person to meet with community partners, to determine what kind of certifications should be offered and maybe to offer some day time Adult Ed programming for those that work at night.
- Mr. Spatola asked about the cost of health insurance for this position being added into the line and Mr. Hubelbank said this one position would not affect the district's health insurance cost.

Motion made to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2015-2016 budget by increasing it by \$35,000 for the purpose of increasing the Adult Education line from \$30,000 to \$65,000.

	<p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Shaffer asked about the proposed addition of the math teacher at the high school noting that there are 50 sections with less than 24 students and 30 with less than 20. He said 30 sections are the same size as one would find at a private school. He also said there will be 31 fewer students in the high school next year. Mr. Smith noted the issue with classes at the high school was how the periods are scheduled. He said there are classes that are so popular there is not enough room or scheduled offerings for students to take. He said as an example, AP Calculus and Engineering meet at the same time because there are not enough teachers to run more sessions. This means students are forced to choose. He said sophomores are now required to take 26 credits to graduate which means 6 ½ per year. If they get a study hall or have a tough year gradewise, they may not get enough credits. He also noted that math currently has 15 teachers for the four credits needed while English has 16 teachers with a higher variety of classes. • Mrs. Shook noted there were 31 sections with 24 or more students while Pre-calculus honors has 30 students. She said as a math teacher she would not want that big a class size for Pre-calculus. • Mrs. Volinski asked if a student wants a class but can't get in, can they take summer school. Mr. Smith said their best option at this time is an online independent study. • Mrs. Volinski asked if that cost money and Mr. Shugrue said if the student is blocked out and takes an online cost, they incur the expense of about \$135 to \$150 per 1/2 credit. • Mr. Lawson asked if the scheduling issue was just confined to the Math department and Mr. Shugrue said he often walks by the Guidance department and hears, "No, I'm sorry that is full." He said this is why they are requesting the math teacher, business teacher and tech education position. He said band students and world languages students are all set because of 	<p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>
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	<p>the manner in which they are scheduled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Spatola felt if the Guidance department was doing its job appropriately they would know what classes a student should be taking freshman, sophomore, junior and senior years. • Mr. Littlefield noted that the enrollment going forward will bump up when Schaghticoke students go through the high school and then decrease. He said the district loses about ten teachers a year through attrition. • Mr. Shugrue said the enrollment may decrease but the high school cannot decrease its programming. He said there is no specific degree at the high school like college. He noted the school does have plans for students from their freshman year on but upperclassmen need more electives to reach the 26 credits. • Mr. Coppola asked if this was a state mandate for the number of math credits and Mr. Shugrue said the state mandated that high school graduation would require 25 credits. He noted that in 2013, he went to the Committee on Learning suggesting to keep the level at 24 credits but have the students do a capstone project. The Committee on Learning decided against that and instead went to 26 credits to graduate. He told the Board at that time that would require additional staffing to get the additional electives. • Mr. Lawson asked if four math credits were required by the state and Mr. Smith said the legislation has been proposed. • At the Board's request, Mr. Hubelbank noted the current proposed budget stood at \$61,566,158 or a .99% increase. <p>Mrs. Chastain moved to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2015-2016 budget by increasing it by \$5,000 for the purpose of providing an after-school exploratory language program for Schaghticoke students, seconded by Mr. Coppola.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Lawson said he was in favor of the idea but was not sure what was being talked about completely. Mrs. Chastain said this would be a program for language students not currently in 	<p>Motion made to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2015-2016 budget by increasing it by \$5,000 for the purpose of providing an after-school exploratory language program for Schaghticoke students.</p>
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	<p>a class or if in a language class they could participate too.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Lawson asked if this was for sixth grade only and Mrs. Chastain said it would be for anyone. • Dr. Paddyfote said this would be for two stipends at Schaghticoke. Ms. Baldelli said the stipends would range from \$947 to \$1895. Mrs. Chastain noted she was adding an amount for supplies. • Mr. Littlefield asked about the Youth Agency offering after-school programming and Dr. Paddyfote said she had spoken to them about an adventure experiential program but had no update since that conversation. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Mrs. Chastain moved to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2015-2016 budget by increasing it by \$18,150 for the purpose of adding two activity buses, one at Schaghticoke and one at the high school, seconded by Mr. Coppola.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Chastain said the idea would be to provide student transportation to a central drop off point and not door to door service. • Mr. Lawson said he has seen this system work very well. • Mrs. Volinski asked what this would bring the budget to and Mr. Hubelbank said \$61,589,308 or a 1.03% increase. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Mrs. Chastain moved to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2015-2016 budget by decreasing it by \$18,500 for the purpose of eliminating the energy coordinator stipend, seconded by Mr. Spatola.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Chastain said this is an important program but now it is in a maintenance stage and can be picked up in other ways. • Mr. Spatola said he had spoken to Mr. Calhoun and he said he was comfortable with his staff 	<p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Motion made to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2015-2016 budget by increasing it by \$18,150 for the purpose of adding two activity buses, one at Schaghticoke and one at the high school.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Motion made to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2015-2016 budget by decreasing it by \$18,500 for the purpose of eliminating the energy coordinator stipend</p>
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<p>taking this on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Coppola asked Mr. Calhoun if that was true and Mr. Calhoun said they will have to adjust some resources but his department could make it work. • Mr. Lawson asked if the program would be maintained at the same level and Mr. Calhoun said it would. • Mr. Shaffer asked if the staff would be reluctant to make suggestions to the teachers. Mr. Calhoun said that might need to come from more of an administrative level. • Dr. Paddyfote said the leadership team would have to look at how to handle the program, including sending the bills for analysis to Mr. Hubelbank as an example. • Mr. Calhoun said they will look at putting in more automatic switches in the buildings. <p>The motion passed 6-2.</p> <p>Aye: Mr. Spatola, Mrs. Volinski, Mrs. Shook, Mr. Littlefield, Mrs. Chastain, Mr. Coppola No: Mr. Lawson, Mr. Shaffer</p> <p>Mrs. Chastain moved to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2015-2016 budget by increasing it by \$8,000 for the purpose of adding \$2,000 for Sarah Noble, \$2,000 to Schaghticoke, and \$4,000 to the high school for science fairs, seconded by Mr. Coppola.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Littlefield noted that last year's high school science fair sent kids onto the state science fair and five students won awards. • Mrs. Volinski asked again for the budget number and Mr. Hubelbank said it was at \$61,578,808 or a 1.01% increase. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Mrs. Chastain moved to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2015-2016 budget by decreasing it by \$20,681 for the purpose of eliminating the money to pay the AP test fees and the tenth grade PSAT testing fees, seconded by Mr.</p>	<p>The motion passed 6-2.</p> <p>Motion made to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2015-2016 budget by increasing it by \$8,000 for the purpose of adding \$2,000 for Sarah Noble, \$2,000 to Schaghticoke, and \$4,000 to the high school for science fairs.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>
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Shaffer.

- Mr. Spatola asked about the entire amount of \$24,981 and Mrs. Chastain said she was leaving the PSAT fee for the eleventh grade.
- Mr. Spatola was going to amend the motion to not include the PSAT for juniors but the Board asked that the first motion be voted up or down.
- Mr. Littlefield said he felt it was important for the district to help out with AP tests and PSATs for tenth grade. He said there are students who have taken the necessary courses and they should be encouraged to take the PSATs.
- Mrs. Chastain said she feels the need to offer the AP classes but did not feel it was the taxpayers' burden to pay for the tests. She noted there are state and federal programs to help pay for these tests and these students will receive college credits which saves the family money.
- Mr. Lawson noted the district is encouraging students to excel and paying for the AP tests was part of that. He said he was not necessarily comfortable with students taking the PSAT in the fall but Mr. Shugrue said the only time it was offered was the fall.
- Mr. Lawson said the district is trying to give students advanced degrees, advanced training and advanced skills and they should not put a financial penalty on the student.
- Mr. Smith said he surveyed surrounding towns and many offer students the PSAT in tenth and eleventh grade, some charge a nominal fee, some offer the test for free, and some offer the option to tenth and eleventh graders.
- Mrs. Shook said she did not want to delete this amount from the budget.
- Mr. Spatola said he felt the responsibility of paying for these things lies with the parents.

Mr. Lawson called the question, seconded by Mr. Coppola and passed unanimously.

The motion failed 3-5.

Aye: Mrs. Chastain, Mrs. Volinski, Mr. Spatola

Motion made to call the question passed unanimously.

The motion failed 3-5.

<p>No: Mr. Littlefield, Mrs. Shook, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Coppola</p> <p>Mr. Coppola moved to approve the Superintendent's proposed budget in the amount of \$61,578,808, seconded by Mr. Littlefield.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Spatola wanted to ask a question about technology. <p>Mr. Coppola withdrew his motion, Mr. Littlefield withdrew his second.</p> <p>Mr. Spatola moved to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2015-2016 budget by decreasing it by \$250,000 for the purpose of reducing the capital technology line 7002-733, seconded by Mrs. Volinski.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Spatola felt the technology request was a big number and he felt the district did not need to do everything all at once. He said the proposed spending was a 300% increase. • Mr. Hubelbank noted that the technology line had already been reduced within the Superintendent's proposed reductions at the outset at the meeting. <p>Mr. Spatola withdrew his motion and Mrs. Volinski withdrew her second.</p> <p>Mr. Coppola moved to approve the Superintendent's proposed budget as amended in the amount of \$61,578,808, seconded by Mr. Littlefield.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Spatola said this is the first time in the history of New Milford that the combined budgets would exceed \$100 million. He said the tax base only grew by 1/5 of 1% in 2014. • Mr. Coppola said he felt the budget was well done and thanked Dr. Paddyfote and staff. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion made to approve the Superintendent's proposed budget in the amount of \$61,578,808.</p> <p>Motion withdrawn.</p> <p>Motion made to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2015-2016 budget by decreasing it by \$250,000 for the purpose of reducing the capital technology line 7002-733.</p> <p>Motion withdrawn.</p> <p>Motion made to approve the Superintendent's proposed budget as amended in the amount of \$61,578,808.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>
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4.	Mrs. Shook moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m., seconded by Mr. Littlefield and passed unanimously.	Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m.
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Respectfully submitted:



Angela C. Chastain

Chairperson

New Milford Board of Education