

**New Milford Board of Education  
 Regular Meeting Minutes  
 December 20, 2022  
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

<p><b>Present:</b></p>	<p>Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach          Mr. Eric Hansell          Mr. Pete Helmus          Mrs. Tammy McInerney          Mr. Tom O'Brien          Mrs. Olga I. Rella          Mrs. Leslie Sarich</p>
<p><b>Absent:</b></p>	<p>Mr. Brian McCauley          Mr. Keith A. Swanhall Jr.</p>

RECEIVED  
 2022 DEC 21 AM 10:19  
 NEW MILFORD, CT

<p><b>Also Present:</b></p>	<p>Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Interim Superintendent of Schools          Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent          Mr. Matthew Cunningham, Facilities Director          Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services          Mr. Jeffrey Turner, Technology Director          Nicholas Carroccio, Student Representative          Naomi Post, Student Representative          Mayor Pete Bass, Ex Officio</p>
-----------------------------	--

<p><b>1.</b> <b>A.</b></p>	<p><b>Call to Order</b>  <b>Pledge of Allegiance</b></p> <p>The regular meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Helmus, Chairperson. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed.</p>	<p><b>Call to Order</b>  <b>A. Pledge of Allegiance</b></p>
<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Lawson congratulated Mr. Helmus on his election as Chair. He recognized Mrs. Silverman on her retirement and thanked her for her work over the years. He recognized outgoing Chair Wendy Faulenbach for her many, many years of service and said she has the distinction of being the longest serving Board member in the state.</li> <li>• Christine Raymond asked that the Board consider a policy change that would allow high achieving students who are offered out of town/out of state development opportunities to have an NMHS-based online option. She</li> </ul>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>

	<p>suggested it could be introduced as a pilot program to be evaluated after a certain number of students. Mrs. Raymond thanked NMHS Assistant Principal Dr. Megan Dwyer for working with her daughter regarding her special program.</p>	
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>PTO Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Byrd said the Sip and Shop was very successful and earned enough to fund a full scholarship. K-5 held holiday shops this week. All Book Fairs have been completed. SMS held a 6th grade dance at the Maxx in conjunction with the Youth Agency. All school staff will receive treats this week courtesy of the PTO.</li> </ul>	<p><b>PTO Report</b></p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Student Representatives' Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nicholas Carroccio, student representative, introduced new student representative Naomi Post, a NMHS junior. The students reported on happenings in the schools.</li> <li>• NES: Northville started off the month enjoying the town wide spirit day - Ugly Sweater Day. The CARES Assembly for December focused on compassion. Students are learning to be compassionate to others, as well as themselves. To show compassion to others, Northville had a sock, glove, and hat drive called 'Spreading Warmth from Head to Toe' which will donate the items to the New Milford Social Services. Staff also donated gifts for the holidays for community members in need of extra support.</li> <li>• HPS: Hill and Plain would like to thank the PTO who have sponsored some fun events this past month. The Book Fair was a huge success and HPS thanks all of the families who supported the event. Students also had fun holiday shopping for family and friends at the annual Holiday Store. In guidance this month, students have been focusing on kindness and identifying different ways to be kind. Second grade classes lit up their hallway with kind acts throughout the</li> </ul>	<p><b>Student Representatives' Report</b></p>

	<p>month. Kindergarten and first grade spent time learning about how different countries around the world celebrate the holidays. Each classroom focused on a different country and students visited the different classrooms during the school day to learn more about how that country celebrates the holidays.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SNIS: Joyful noises abounded with three concert days where instrumental and choruses performed in the morning for their peers and at night for families. For the 7th year, the fifth grade has partnered with Social Services and Suzan Dahl to raise money to buy and wrap gifts for several children in the community. This year, fifth graders raised \$1,305.65! Finally, this month SNIS had their very first Shark Tank Competition in the 5th grade. Students used what they learned in their STEM classes with Mrs. Bonnell to design and build a prototype that would be of use to society. Each class nominated one project to move forward to the Shark Tank Competition; several judges scored the entries on Best Prototype and Best Presentation. Our winners this year designed an 'agua aquifer' cup. Staff is already excited about making this an annual competition!</li> <li>● SMS: The Battle of the Books is underway. This is an annual competition that encourages students to read throughout the year. There are weekly trivia questions and trivia battles along the way. Winter concerts have begun. The band concert was held last week and the first chorus concert of the year is Wednesday evening. In January we look forward to Orchestra, Jazz Band and Voices concerts as well.</li> <li>● NMHS: December concerts took place. Winter sports have started. Students are in the middle of a Holiday Break Spirit Week. Tomorrow is Wingman day and Thursday is the last Activity period of 2022.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Approval of Minutes</b></p>	<p><b>Approval of Minutes</b></p>
<p><b>A.</b></p>	<p><b>Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</b></p>	<p><b>A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</b></p>

	<p><b>1. Regular Meeting Minutes November 15, 2022</b></p> <p>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes November 15, 2022, seconded by Mr. Hansell.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p><b>1. Regular Meeting Minutes November 15, 2022</b></p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes November 15, 2022.</p>
6.	<p><b>Superintendent's Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Paddyfote said there are eighteen new fundraisers, fifteen at the high school, one at SMS and two at HPS. She reminded everyone that winter break starts on December 23rd and runs through January 2nd. She acknowledged Mrs. Silverman on her retirement and thanked her for her service.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Superintendent's Report</b></p>
7.	<p><b>Board Chairman's Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Helmus said he also wanted to thank Mrs. Silverman for her support to the Board. He thanked last year's Board officers for their work.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Board Chairman's Report</b></p>
8.	<p><b>Discussion and Possible Action</b></p> <p><b>A. Monthly Reports</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Budget Position dated November 30, 2022</li> <li>2. Purchase Resolution: D-765</li> <li>3. Request for Budget Transfers</li> </ol> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve Monthly Reports: Budget Position dated November 30, 2022, Purchase Resolution D-765, and Request for Budget Transfers, seconded by Mrs. McInerney.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Faulenbach said these were all discussed at Operations. Those minutes are in the Board packet.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Discussion and Possible Action</b></p> <p><b>A. Monthly Reports</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Budget Position dated November 30, 2022</li> <li>2. Purchase Resolution: D-765</li> <li>3. Request for Budget Transfers</li> </ol> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Monthly Reports: Budget Position dated November 30, 2022, Purchase Resolution D-765, and Request for Budget Transfers.</p>

	<p><b>The motion passed unanimously.</b></p> <p><b>B. Policy for Second Review</b></p> <p><b>1. 5132 Student Dress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mr. Helmus said there is no motion tonight as this is on for second review.</li> <li>● Mrs. McInerney said this represents a good compromise for all parties. She is pleased to see the new style of policy revision where the policy is brief and the regulation flushes out the details. It makes it easier for future revisions.</li> </ul> <p><b>C. Policies for First Review</b></p> <p><b>1. 4118.6 Employee Use of the District’s Computer Systems and Electronic Communications</b></p> <p><b>2. 5131.9 Student Use of the District’s Computer Systems and Internet Safety</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mr. Helmus said these will be back in February for second review.</li> </ul> <p><b>D. Central Office Move to SNIS/Lillis Building</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mrs. Faulenbach said this agenda item was added at Mayor Bass’ request but would have been on the agenda anyway. There have been numerous discussions of this topic at subcommittees and the full Board.</li> <li>● Mayor Bass thanked outgoing Chair Wendy Faulenbach for her leadership, Mrs. Silverman for her service, and Dr. Paddyfote for returning to lead the district as Interim Superintendent. He said he asked for this agenda item due to the concern on the Town’s part as we are now entering the winter season. With the Lillis boiler running at only 2 PSI now there is concern with keeping the building adequately heated so as to protect the building. He asked that the Board expedite the building’s transition back to the Town so that the Town will take responsibility for it. They will look to surplus money for an engineering study to see what is required to bring it up to code and then hold a public</li> </ul>	<p><b>B. Policy for Second Review</b></p> <p><b>1. 5132 Student Dress</b></p> <p><b>C. Policies for First Review</b></p> <p><b>1. 4118.6 Employee Use of the District’s Computer Systems and Electronic Communications</b></p> <p><b>2. 5131.9 Student Use of the District’s Computer Systems and Internet Safety</b></p> <p><b>D. Central Office Move to SNIS/Lillis Building</b></p>
--	--	--

hearing to discuss the future of this historic building.

- Mrs. Faulenbach said this is important dialogue since comments have been made previously about capital improvements made by the Board to the building in the past and the decision not to stay there long term. Concerns have also been raised regarding the funds the Board has budgeted for the building this year.
- Mayor Bass said the Town will request that money be turned back to the Town or bills incurred paid by the Board for this year.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said the Board has also made a commitment to Camella's Cupboard until March 1st.
- Mayor Bass said they are well aware that Camella's Cupboard helps hundreds of families and they will do whatever they can on the Town side to have them continue services.
- Mr. Helmus asked if the Mayor would be willing to memorialize that statement in a memo.
- Mayor Bass said he will bring it to the Town Council in January.
- Mr. Helmus asked if there is any emergency heating available through the DPW,
- Mayor Bass said he doesn't know the answer to that at this time; they will need Town ownership of the building to determine that.
- Mr. O'Brien asked if it is possible to "mothball the building", draining the pipes to guard against pipes bursting.
- Mr. Cunningham said it is, but ideally the building should be kept above freezing to avoid condensation and other issues. He said internal temperatures have been running in the 50s.
- Mayor Bass said the DPW Director Jack Healy advises strongly not to mothball the building due to concerns about condensation on the plaster walls.
- Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the building is vacant yet regarding BOE items.
- Mr. Cunningham said no. It is at about 80%. They are waiting on shredding and other disposal.
- Mrs. McNerney said she is not adverse to turning the building over to the Town but is

	<p>confused as to why the Town will not do any work prior to the turnover since it is in fact a Town building now with the Board as stewards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mayor Bass said it is technically still under BOE auspices so any issues that arise now would be the Board's problem to address financially. The Town wants the building protected prior to its transfer to the Town.</li><li>• Mrs. Faulenbach said she thinks we are overcomplicating the situation. The Board is maintaining the building now. Personnel have been moved to SNIS while we work out a smooth transition and plan for the permanent set up with funding from capital reserve, since there has been no discussion from the Town to help fund that. No one wants any more damage to occur while we work this out. She is fine with a properly executed transfer and with the line item return of funding since it all goes back to the taxpayer one way or another. She is confused by the sense of urgency she is hearing.</li><li>• Mayor Bass said the Board's capital reserve will be over \$3 million after audit and the SNIS move will cost anywhere from \$1.1-\$1.9 million. Other capital projects, such as the NES and HPS roofs, are coming, along with other deferred maintenance in all the schools. He wants to make sure any funds the Town and Board have overall are used efficiently and in the most proactive path going forward.</li><li>• Mr. Hansell said if something catastrophic were to happen to the building while it is still under Board purview that would complicate the Board's budget a great deal. He would like to see a timeline and plan expedited and continued maintenance of the building until that is done.</li><li>• Mrs. Faulenbach said the Board expects to call a special meeting in early January for other matters. She said that would give the Board time to work with legal on the proper transfer. She asked Mayor Bass if that works for him.</li><li>• Mayor Bass said it does and he will have the Town attorney work with the Board attorney. He said the district's Facilities department has been working magic to keep the building going and the Town will support that work where they can.</li></ul>	
--	--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mr. Cunningham said they are happy to work with the Town on this project and the other many large projects already ongoing.</li> <li>● Mr. O'Brien asked what the plan is short term if the boiler does indeed fail.</li> <li>● Mr. Cunningham said they would have to look into temporary heating of some kind. He said the move to SNIS was personnel driven due to the fact that code says a temperature of at least 65 degrees must be maintained for occupancy. To avoid a possible emergency move in the dead of winter, he recommended the proactive, planned move out this fall. Currently the building is being maintained in the 50 degree range.</li> <li>● Mr. Helmus noted the move was due to adverse conditions for staff and not building catastrophe.</li> <li>● Mrs. Faulenbach said she thinks they can all agree that the Board has made significant improvements to the building over the years but it is a 90 year old building and it is time to move on. The large capital reserve total developed due to many factors during COVID and will likely not be seen again, so it is natural the Board would be protective of it. The Board will need to secure adequate funding for the permanent relocation plan for SNIS. She hopes the Town Council and Board of Finance will be supportive. Though this topic was not warned for a motion this evening, she thinks the public discussion has been important and she looks forward to moving it forward in January.</li> <li>● Mr. Helmus said they will plan to add this as an agenda item in January.</li> <li>● Mayor Bass said he will schedule a pre-meeting with the Board prior to that meeting.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>9.</b></p> <p><b>A.</b></p>	<p><b>Items for Information and Discussion</b></p> <p><b>Employment Report: October - November (Revised)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mr. Helmus asked about current openings.</li> <li>● Dr. Paddyfote said there are a few paras, a Biology teacher, and the Board Clerk.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Items for Information and Discussion</b></p> <p><b>A. Employment Report: October - November (Revised)</b></p>



	<p><b>B. Field Trip Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ms. Hollander said there are nine trips on the report this month.</li> <li>● Mr. Helmus said he is happy to see field trips happening again.</li> </ul> <p><b>C. Regulations</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>4118.6R Administrative Regulation Regarding Employee Use of the District’s Computer Systems and Electronic Communications</b></li> <li>2. <b>5131.9R Administrative Regulation Regarding Student Use of the District’s Computer Systems and Internet Safety</b></li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mrs. Rella said these are the accompanying regulations for the policies presented earlier.</li> <li>● Mrs. Faulenbach said she echoes Mrs. McInerney’s earlier comments about the new format, which she finds very helpful.</li> </ul>	<p><b>B. Field Trip Report</b></p> <p><b>C. Regulations</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>4118.6R Administrative Regulation Regarding Employee Use of the District’s Computer Systems and Electronic Communications</b></li> <li>2. <b>5131.9R Administrative Regulation Regarding Student Use of the District’s Computer Systems and Internet Safety</b></li> </ol>
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>Discussion and Possible Action</b></p> <p><b>A. Discussion and possible action regarding amendment to terms and conditions of employment of Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Director of Facilities and Accounting Manager. Executive session anticipated. The Board may take action when it returns to public session.</b></p> <p><b>Mrs. McInerney moved that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of reviewing and discussing a possible amendment to the terms and conditions of employment of the Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Director of Facilities, and Accounting Manager and to further move that the Board invite Interim Superintendent JeanAnn C. Paddyfote into the executive session, seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach.</b></p>	<p><b>Discussion and Possible Action</b></p> <p><b>A. Discussion and possible action regarding amendment to terms and conditions of employment of Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Director of Facilities and Accounting Manager. Executive session anticipated. The Board may take action when it returns to public session.</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of reviewing and discussing a possible amendment to the terms and conditions of employment of the Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Director of Facilities, and Accounting Manager and to further move that the Board invite Interim</b></p>

	<p><b>The motion passed unanimously.</b></p> <p>The Board entered executive session at 8:00 p.m..</p> <p>The Board returned to public session at 8:23 p.m..</p> <p><b>Mrs. McNerney moved that the Board make an amendment to the terms and conditions of employment with the Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Director of Facilities, and Accounting Manager as discussed by the Board in Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Hansell.</b></p> <p><b>The motion passed unanimously.</b></p>	<p><b>Superintendent JeanAnn C. Paddyfote into the executive session.</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously that the Board make an amendment to the terms and conditions of employment with the Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Director of Facilities, and Accounting Manager as discussed by the Board in Executive Session.</b></p>
<p>11.</p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p><b>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m., seconded by Mr. O'Brien.</b></p> <p><b>The motion passed unanimously.</b></p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.</b></p>

Respectfully submitted:



Leslie Sarich, Secretary  
 New Milford Board of Education