


**New Milford Board of Education
Special Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2022
Lillis Administration Building Board Room**


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NEW MILFORD, CT

Present:	Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Chairperson Mr. Eric Hansell Mr. Pete Helmus Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Tammy McInerney (via zoom) Mr. Tom O'Brien (via zoom) Mrs. Olga I. Rella (via zoom) Mrs. Leslie Sarich Mr. Keith A. Swanhall, Jr.
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Also Present:	Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Superintendent of Schools Attorney Mark Sommaruga, Pullman and Comley, LLC
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1.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance The Special Meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mrs. Faulenbach. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance
2.	Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was none. 	Public Comment
3.	Discussion and Possible Action A. Presentation/discussion by Board of Education attorney on Board members' roles and responsibilities and related legal issues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Faulenbach introduced Board attorney Mark Sommaruga of Pullman and Comley, LLC, who was present to provide general information to the Board as well as answer any questions. • Attorney Sommaruga distributed a handout to the Board designed to provide insight into the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Education and administration. • Attorney Sommaruga discussed the scope of the Board's authority, both as an agent of the state and of the municipality, and possible 	Discussion and Possible Action A. Presentation/discussion by Board of Education attorney on Board members' roles and responsibilities and related legal issues.

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	<p>liability issues that may arise over time. He stressed the importance of Board bylaws and policies as guides. As a legal entity, the Board must speak with one voice, not as individuals. Individual Board members have no authority, unless officially delegated by the Board. He talked about the importance of the Board working in conjunction with administration, and likened the Board to a corporate Board of Directors with the Superintendent as CEO. The Board sets goals and policies, which the Superintendent is then charged with implementing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Board members asked questions on various topics. 	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Mr. Hansell moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. seconded by Mr. McCauley and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



Olga I. Rella, Secretary
 New Milford Board of Education