


**New Milford Board of Education
 Board Workshop Minutes
 April 24, 2018
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

Present:	Mr. David A. Lawson, Chairman Mr. Bill Dahl Mr. Joseph Failla Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan Mr. J.T. Schemm	 RECEIVED TOWN CLERK 2018 APR 27 A 8:28
Absent:	Mrs. Angela C. Chastain	

NEW MILFORD, CT

Also Present:	Mr. Joshua Smith, Superintendent of Schools Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources Ms. Roberta Pratt, Director of Technology Mr. Nestor Aparicio, Assistant Facilities Director Mrs. Anne Bilko, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Principal Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Hill & Plain Elementary School Principal
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1. A.	Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance The Board Workshop of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Mr. Lawson. The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence immediately followed the call to order.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance
2. A.	Presentation Special Education Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Olson presented an update on special education as of April 2018. She said the current population of special education students in K-12 is 532 and is projected to be 536 in 2018-19. Hill and Plain currently has 39 with three referrals yet to be identified and 35 are projected for next year. Northville has 51 and five referrals with 47 projected for next year. • Sarah Noble has 132 with 23 referrals and 126 projected. Mrs. Olson noted that there are often 	Presentation A. Special Education Update

	<p>more special education students identified in Sarah Noble because the curriculum becomes more inferential and the SRBI process is in the works for the younger grades. The school also does not want to over identify students when they are younger.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. McInerney asked if the referral was for the evaluation process and Mrs. Olson answered that it was.• Mrs. Faulenbach asked if some of the referred students would be identified and some would not, and Mrs. Olson said the special education identification process was a rule-out process and not a rule-in. She said statistically half will be identified.• Schaghticoke has 146 students with eight referrals and 143 projected. The high school has 153 students with three referrals and 185 projected as the eighth grade group is very large right now.• The out of district placements are at 39 for 2017-18 and projected at 42 for 2018-19.• The state target for time spent with non-disabled peers is 68% and New Milford in 2017 is at 68.1%. Mrs. Olson said the district should be proud of that as it is not easy to do.• The district has increased support for mental health needs including: two full time social workers, Effective School Solutions (ESS) at the high school, "Parents as Partners," mental health forums, serving as members of NOVA regional crisis team, substance abuse counselors at Schaghticoke and the high school, and the full time behaviorist. There is some modeling being done for ESS at the K-2 schools that New Milford may wish to consider in the future.• The student performance in reading has shown slow but steady gains from 29.4% in 2014-15 to 34.6% on 2017-18. In Math the growth has gone from 23.4% in 2014-15 to 29.8% in 2017-18 which is a significant gain.• Mr. Schemm asked if these numbers reflected the same cohort and Mrs. Olson answered that they did.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Faulenbach asked the timeframe for these tests and Mrs. Olson said fall, winter and spring.• The district receives two entitlement grants under IDEA, one for ages 3-21 which is \$671,110 and one for just ages 3-5 for \$34,315. The district has always been compliant with the mandates of IDEA. The district is also mandated to provide services to Faith Prep and Canterbury Schools.• The IDEA grant section 611 Part B includes administrator/supervisor, staffing, in service, mental health and occupation therapy, parent activities, web based IEP direct, literacy training, travel, and assistive technology. Over 80% of the grant goes into staffing.• The IDEA section 619 Part B preschool grant includes staffing, in service, pupil services, parent activities and assistive technology and the bulk of the money also goes into staffing.• The district has been very effective at cost savings and cost avoidance. The ESS program has allowed New Milford to keep students in district and some will graduate from ESS and the high school this year.• Mr. McCauley asked how many students were in the program and Mrs. Olson answered currently there are 16 but they can go up to 18.• Mrs. Faulenbach asked how many students ESS has had on average and Mrs. Olson said they have been as high as 18.• Mr. Schemm wanted to clarify that the district is not saving \$112,000 per student or \$2,000,000. Mrs. Olson said the range of placements can be from \$48,000 to \$112,000 but not all of the students required out of district placement.• The LHTC program also keeps 18-21 year olds in district and working on job sites.• They have also been able to save money by sharing rides to out of district placements.• The professional development for special education includes basic crisis response training, crisis teams at each school, Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome	
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	<p>Training, and “Teaching Parenting the Positive Discipline Way.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Dahl asked how the school trains the parents and Mrs. Olson answered that they can look at the specific identified needs.• Mr. Dahl asked how the district got parents to come to the workshops and Mrs. Olson said it is all about the relationship with the family and building trust.• Mrs. McInerney said parents with students with disabilities are often looking for help.• Co-teaching is part of the professional development and Dr. Marilyn Friend, the guru of co-teaching, has been brought in for a session on making co-teaching work.• Literacy is also part of the professional development including Foundations, writing better IEPs, and multisensory reading workshops.• The social workers have set up mental health forums based on what they see as the needs – trends in drug use and social media, grief counseling, crisis management and cyber issues, how to develop functional behavioral analysis, anxiety and school phobia, and gender issues.• The Parents as Partners sessions have included “Help My Child is Struggling,” “ADHD and Executive Functioning,” and “Oral, Motor, Sensory and Behavioral Aspects of Feeding Challenges.”• Mr. Dahl said the feeding challenges session should be called ritualistic eating as that is often the precursor to eating disorders.• The 2018-19 focus areas include mental health, K-2 literacy training, a 1.0 FTE behavior interventionist, improvement of co-teaching outcomes for students, IEP rubric improvement and implementation, and increased time with non-disabled peers.• Mr. Schemm asked about the discrepancy with Hill and Plain and Northville and asked if the identification process was consistent. Mrs. Olson said the same batteries of tests are used.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Dahl asked if there was a movement away from thinking the K-3 behaviors were not just developmental and Mrs. Olson said it depends on the severity of the behavior. She said there are children who will outgrow their behavior issues but they do see behavior issues more so early on.• Mr. Schemm asked if the annual reviews are rolling and Mrs. Olson said they are done any time throughout the school year.	
3.	Adjourn Mr. Dahl moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



David A. Lawson

Chairman

New Milford Board of Education