

**New Milford Board of Education
 Regular Meeting Minutes
 April 28, 2020
 By Zoom Virtual Meeting**

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NEW MILFORD, CT

Present:	Mrs. Angela C. Chastain Mr. Joseph Failla Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Pete Helmus Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan Mrs. Cynthia Nabozny Mrs. Olga I. Rella
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Also Present:	Dr. Kerry Parker, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Operations and Fiscal Services Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Mr. Kevin Munrett, Director of Facilities Mr. Brandon Rush, Director of Technology Mr. Keith Lipinsky, NMHS Athletic Director
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1.	Call to Order The regular meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mrs. Chastain, via Zoom Virtual Meeting.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Chastain acknowledged participants and asked each if they wished to make public comment. • Megan Byrd thanked educators for all their efforts. In light of the Board of Finance's \$1 million dollar cut to next year's budget, she encouraged the Board to make the public aware of specific reductions ahead of Town Council enactment. She is concerned about additional unbudgeted costs that schools may face with continued social distancing requirements. • Greg Lasser spoke regarding policy 5117. He requested that the Board hold off on approval 	Public Comment

	<p>with all the current upheaval, or that at the least a grandfather clause be added.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy Photopoulos encouraged the Board to share specific scenarios for the \$1 million cut. She thanked administrators and teachers for all their behind the scenes work. Regarding the new live interaction piece of distance learning, she is concerned with the optional nature and would prefer some level be required, with flexibility. 	
<p>3.</p> <p>A.</p>	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</p> <p>1. Special Meeting Minutes March 19, 2020</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes March 19, 2020, seconded by Mrs. Monaghan.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</p> <p>1. Special Meeting Minutes March 19, 2020</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes March 19, 2020.</p>
<p>4.</p> <p>A.</p> <p>B.</p>	<p>Superintendent's Report</p> <p>Distance Learning Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Parker said schools have been closed for six weeks now and this is day 20 of district learning. She said the district purposely chose to "start small and grow tall", rolling out district learning in chunks to be strategic in planning and enable feedback. She said next steps will include live interactions this week, webpages, webinars, grading options and procedures, and plans for graduation. She thanked everyone in the district for their hard work, present and future. <p>Special Education Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Olson said she typically gives a special education update at this time annually. She provided a breakdown of the IDEA grant and 	<p>Superintendent's Report</p> <p>A. Distance Learning Update</p> <p>B. Special Education Update</p>

	<p>said she will provide more detail in May at Operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She said she is extremely proud of the effort regarding distance learning and special education, as they follow legal guidance, state mandates and best practices, which continue to evolve. The priority is to be flexible in meeting families' needs. Mrs. Olson said they made careful decisions about the PPT process and are adhering to mandated timelines. Occupational and physical therapy, speech and language, ESS, guidance, behaviorists, social workers and psychologists are all providing support. There are webinars in the works for families and staff. • Mrs. McInerney asked how annual PPTs and 504s are being handled. Mrs. Olson said annual reviews are happening virtually. Incomplete referrals are on pause until schools reopen. Ms. DiCorpo's office is working on 504s. • Mrs. McInerney asked how out of district students are being checked. Mrs. Olson said they have distance learning contracts and mandated PPTs and communication is strong. • Mrs. Monaghan thanked Mrs. Olson and staff for their wonderful work and asked how many students they service. Mrs. Olson said 603. • Mrs. McInerney asked that Mrs. Olson's PowerPoint presentation be sent to all BOE members. Mrs. Olson encouraged them to watch the referenced videos. 	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Board Chairman's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Chastain said the virtual meeting environment is new and she appreciates everyone's patience. She thanked all staff and parents for their role in educating students. She thanked students too for all their efforts. The 2020-21 district calendar was presented at Operations last week, sent out to parents and published on the district website. • Mrs. McInerney said she was surprised it was not on tonight's agenda to allow comment by the full Board; she said she would prefer that in the future. 	<p>Board Chairman's Report</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Faulenbach said all documents presented are public information. The Board does not approve the calendar; it is presented as an item of information. At this time, the district was being proactive in getting the calendar out to the community, but in the future, it can certainly wait until after the full Board commentary. 	
<p>6.</p> <p>A.</p> <p>B.</p> <p>C.</p> <p>D.</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated April 28, 2020</p> <p>Mr. McCauley moved to approve Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as of April 28, 2020, seconded by Mrs. Rella.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Position dated March 31, 2020 Purchase Resolution: D-733 Request for Budget Transfers <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve monthly reports: Budget Position dated March 31, 2020; Purchase Resolution D-733; and Request for Budget Transfers, seconded by Mr. McCauley.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Grant Approval</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Education ED 244 <p>Mrs. Monaghan moved to approve the Adult Education ED 244 Grant in the amount of \$150,000.00, seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Audit Adjustment to 19-20 Budget from 18-19 Fiscal Year End Balance</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>A. Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated April 28, 2020</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as of April 28, 2020.</p> <p>B. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Position dated March 31, 2020 Purchase Resolution: D-733 Request for Budget Transfers <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve monthly reports: Budget Position dated March 31, 2020; Purchase Resolution: D-733; and Request for Budget Transfers.</p> <p>C. Grant Approval</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Education ED 244 <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the Adult Education ED 244 Grant in the amount of \$150,000.00.</p> <p>D. Audit Adjustment to 19-20 Budget from 18-19 Fiscal Year End Balance</p>

	<p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to make a request that the Town Council and Board of Finance close out the Audit Adjustment to the 19-20 Budget from the 18-19 Fiscal Year End Balance, seconded by Mrs. McInerney.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Faulenbach asked that the Board be notified when this is acted upon, in order to close the loop. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>E. Policies for Second Review</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 5117 School Attendance Areas 2. 5118.1 Homeless Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Chastain said these are for second review tonight and will be back next month for approval. • Mrs. McInerney said she was on board with the recommended revisions for policy 5117 in March when it was discussed. She agrees we need to tighten up movement between schools. However, due to the current uncertainties, she is concerned about moving students who are already doing this currently. She is in favor of tightening the policy for new requests only. • Mr. Failla said he thinks the revisions should be moved forward for approval. He trusts administration to be flexible with individual cases, if needed in the current environment. • Mrs. Faulenbach said these are for second review tonight so there is still some time for discussion. She suggested legal be consulted for one more look to see if the recommended revisions still make sense in light of recent events. • Mrs. Chastain said there is a Policy meeting before the next Board meeting and they can be discussed there as well. 	<p>Motion made and passed unanimously to make a request that the Town Council and Board of Finance close out the Audit Adjustment to the 19-20 Budget from the 18-19 Fiscal Year End Balance.</p> <p>E. Policies for Second Review</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 5117 School Attendance Areas 2. 5118.1 Homeless Students
<p>7.</p> <p>A.</p> <p>B.</p>	<p>Items For Information And Discussion</p> <p>Update on 2019-2020 Budget</p> <p>Update on 2020-2021 Budget</p>	<p>Items For Information And Discussion</p> <p>Update on 2019-2020 Budget</p> <p>Update on 2020-2021 Budget</p>

- Dr. Parker said Mr. Lipinsky had provided a document to the Board regarding spring coaches.
- Mr. Lipinsky said 300 students had signed up for spring sports. The CIAC has canceled post season championships, on the governor's recommendation. They are still hopeful to run a modified league schedule if students return to school. He requested that spring coaches be paid, saying they work with students throughout the year and support them virtually now.
- Mrs. McInerney asked how many spring coaches there are and of those, how many are full time district employees too. Mr. Lipinsky said there are 25, including those who are paid and who volunteer, and about 6-7 are full time too.
- Mr. Failla said Mr. Lipinsky provided a well written justification and he strongly recommends paying the coaches.
- Mrs. Monaghan agreed, saying the funds are budgeted, and this will support keeping programs going while hoping for a return.
- Mr. Helmus asked when stipends are paid. Mr. Lipinsky said in June.
- Mrs. Chastain asked Mr. Lipinsky if he had personally spoken to all coaches regarding the proposals in his document. Mr. Lipinsky said no, the document was formulated based on league and other districts' practices for distance learning. He said districts that have implemented them currently are very positive.
- Mr. Helmus asked if all the athletes have current physicals. Mr. Lipinsky said some have expired physicals so the voluntary nature of participation is important.

- Dr. Parker said a document was shared at Operations regarding general categories for possible savings and additional expenses due to COVID-19.
- Mr. Giovannone said historically the average end of year balance is approximately \$350,000. COVID-19 will have an additional impact, but figures are just unknown at this point, as changes evolve daily.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said that both the Board and the Town are looking at financials daily, as there

	<p>will be both expenditures and savings, as well as possible revenue shortfalls.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. McInerney said any end of year savings roll to the Town and the Board then makes a request for placement in capital reserve. She asked if there was any change due to COVID-19 that would allow those funds to be used for the operating budget. • Mrs. Chastain said that she and Dr. Parker spoke with the Mayor today to look at ways to move forward to capture any savings for use in next year's budget. She said they are all cognizant of the \$1 million decrease by the Board of Finance and of the fact that needs may be different for schools when they reopen. They are working together to look for answers, as all districts are at this time. • Dr. Parker said they are not waiting; they are working on a variety of plans in order to be ready. 	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Discussion of records concerning strategy and negotiations with respect to collective bargaining with CEA New Milford. *Executive Session anticipated. B. Discussion of draft proposals/responses and written attorney-client privileged communications concerning bus contract vendor payments. *Executive Session anticipated. C. Discussion of employment status/payment of student care workers. *Executive Session anticipated. <p>Mr. McCauley moved that the Board enter into executive session in order discuss:</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Discussion of records concerning strategy and negotiations with respect to collective bargaining with CEA New Milford. *Executive Session anticipated. B. Discussion of draft proposals/responses and written attorney-client privileged communications concerning bus contract vendor payments. *Executive Session anticipated. C. Discussion of employment status/payment of student care workers. *Executive Session anticipated. <p>Motion made and passed unanimously that the Board enter into executive session in order discuss:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • records concerning strategy and negotiations with respect to collective bargaining with CEA New Milford; • draft proposals/responses and written attorney-client privileged communications concerning bus contract vendor payments; • employment status/payment of student care workers; <p>And to invite into the session Dr. Kerry Parker, Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Mr. Anthony Giovannone and Mrs. Laura Olson.</p> <p>Seconded by Mrs. Rella.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>The Board entered executive session at 8:50 p.m.</p> <p>The Board returned to public session at 11:01 p.m.</p> <p>Mrs. Monaghan moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign the MOU with CEA New Milford on the Board's behalf, seconded by Mrs. Rella.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • records concerning strategy and negotiations with respect to collective bargaining with CEA New Milford; • draft proposals/responses and written attorney-client privileged communications concerning bus contract vendor payments; • employment status/payment of student care workers; <p>And to invite into the session Dr. Kerry Parker, Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Mr. Anthony Giovannone and Mrs. Laura Olson.</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to authorize the Board Chair to sign the MOU with CEA New Milford on the Board's behalf.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:02 p.m., seconded by Mrs. McInerney and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn at 11:02 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



Wendy Faulenbach
 Secretary
 New Milford Board of Education