

**New Milford Board of Education  
 Regular Meeting Minutes  
 September 15, 2020  
 New Milford High School Library Media Center**

<b>Present:</b>	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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NEW MILFORD, CT

<b>Also Present:</b>	Dr. Paul Smotas, Interim 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. Greg Shugrue, New Milford High School Principal Dr. Chris Longo, Schaghticoke Middle School Principal Mrs. Anne Bilko, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Principal Mrs. Gwen Gallagher, Northville Elementary School Principal Mr. Eric Williams, Hill and Plain Elementary School Principal
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Call to Order</b> <b>A. Pledge of Allegiance</b>  The regular meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mrs. Chastain. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed.	<b>Call to Order</b> <b>A. Pledge of Allegiance</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Recognition</b> <b>A. NMPS Teacher of the Year for 2020-21: Mrs. Susan Brofford</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Smotas congratulated Mrs. Brofford on being named New Milford's Teacher of the Year. Since he is new to the district, Dr. Smotas turned to Ms. DiCorpo for additional comments.</li> </ul>	<b>Recognition</b> <b>A. NMPS Teacher of the Year for 2020-21: Mrs. Susan Brofford</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. DiCorpo added her congratulations and said Mrs. Brofford is a dedicated professional who shares her knowledge with students and colleagues. She said the district is proud to have Susan represent New Milford as Teacher of the Year.</li> <li>Mrs. Brofford said it is an honor and privilege.</li> </ul> <p><b>B. NMPS Retirees: Mrs. Merete Bonacci, Mrs. Nancy Mowrey, Mrs. Christianne Urbanowski</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Smotas congratulated the paraeducators, thanked them for their many years of service to the schools, children and their peers and wished them a long and enjoyable retirement.</li> </ul>	<p><b>B. NMPS Retirees: Mrs. Merete Bonacci, Mrs. Nancy Mowrey, Mrs. Christianne Urbanowski</b></p>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roseann Petruso thanked staff for all they have contributed to the reopening of schools. She said she is curious to see what the hybrid instruction will look like after this two week introduction and hopes it will include synchronous learning. She also said she would like to know what metrics will be used to determine when full time return is possible.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Approval of Minutes</b></p> <p><b>A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</b></p> <p><b>1. Regular Meeting Minutes August 18, 2020</b></p> <p>Mrs. Rella moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes August 18, 2020, seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p><b>Approval of Minutes</b></p> <p><b>A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</b></p> <p><b>1. Regular Meeting Minutes August 18, 2020</b></p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes August 18, 2020.</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Superintendent's Report</b></p>	<p><b>Superintendent's Report</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Smotas invited the principals to report on opening of schools</li></ul> <p><b>A. Principal Reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mrs. Bilko said SNIS had a very positive start. The students were excited to be back and they provide great fuel for teachers and families. She said they have about 70% in school and 30% choosing temporary remote learning but it is fluctuating depending on what works for families. She said teachers have done a tremendous job teaching in a whole new way. The next “first day” will be Thursday- Cohort B.</li><li>• Mrs. Gallagher said she was so happy to see the students; they are why we do what we do. Staff did must heavy lifting leading up to the opening but it was all worth it. She said students are doing a great job with mask wearing. They are doing live twitter announcements to include home learners. She said NES is at about 24% temporary remote learners right now.</li><li>• Mr. Williams said they too had a very successful opening. He gave a shout out to parents for preparing their children to wear a mask. Everyone is learning new protocols, but they are working. He said HPS is at about 18% temporary remote learners but it is fluctuating.</li><li>• Mr. Shugrue said students are excited, resilient and adapting. Teachers have been spectacular in juggling and collaborating; parents are being extremely supportive. He said NMHS is at 17% temporary remote learners, up slightly from last week.</li><li>• Dr. Longo said it has been great to see students. Staff is working diligently on all student connections. Protocols, including a newly developed schedule, have gone well. They have even held a picture day. He gave a shout out to his administrative team for all their hard work.</li><li>• Regarding the Special Education department, Mrs. Olson said there has been a lot of heavy lifting to get this far and tremendous</li></ul>	<p><b>A. Principal Reports</b></p>
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	<p>accomplishments already. She thanked the principals and staff for their support in doing what is best for students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Smotas said it is indeed a journey and that it takes a village. There have been trials and tribulations but he believes we are on the right path. He asked everyone to be patient, each district has its own unique community and what works for others may not work for New Milford. He said we will get through the challenges one day at a time. He has visited every school and seen the excitement. He thanked NM Police Chief Cerruto and his officers, as well as Mayor Bass, for their support. He also thanked his administrative team for all their efforts.</li> </ul>	
6.	<p><b>Board Chairman's Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Chastain said she echoed Dr. Smotas' comments and thanked all staff for their hard work. She welcomed everyone back to the new school year.</li> </ul>	<b>Board Chairman's Report</b>
7.	<p><b>Discussion and Possible Action</b></p> <p><b>A. Policies for Approval</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 9320 Meetings of the Board</li> <li>2. 9325 Meeting Conduct</li> </ol> <p>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve policies 9320 Meetings of the Board and 9325 Meeting Conduct, seconded by Mrs. Rella.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p><b>B. Review and Approval of Curriculum</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Computer Science</li> </ol> <p>Mrs. Rella moved to approve the Computer Science Curriculum, seconded by Mr. McCauley.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p><b>Discussion and Possible Action</b></p> <p><b>A. Policies for Approval</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 9320 Meetings of the Board</li> <li>2. 9325 Meeting Conduct</li> </ol> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve policies 9320 Meetings of the Board and 9325 Meeting Conduct.</p> <p><b>B. Review and Approval of Curriculum</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Computer Science</li> </ol> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the Computer Science Curriculum.</p>

	<p><b>C. Teacher Evaluation Flexibility</b></p> <p><b>Mr. McCauley moved to approve the Teacher Evaluation Flexibility Waiver, seconded by Mrs. Rella.</b></p> <p><b>The motion passed unanimously.</b></p> <p><b>D. Substitute Differential for Retired Teachers</b></p> <p><b>Mrs. Rella moved to approve the proposed Substitute Differential for Retired Teachers, seconded by Mrs. Monaghan.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Smotas said, for clarity, that the differential if approved by the Board will be effective as of September 28, 2020 in order to give the Business Office time to make the adjustment.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>The motion passed unanimously.</b></p>	<p><b>C. Teacher Evaluation Flexibility</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the Teacher Evaluation Flexibility Waiver.</b></p> <p><b>D. Substitute Differential for Retired Teachers</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the proposed Substitute Differential for Retired Teachers.</b></p>
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Items For Information And Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mrs. Chastain said these are items of information only since the Board had authorized the Superintendent’s approval during summer months.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>A. Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated September 15, 2020 (Revised)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mrs. Chastain recognized the huge loss Ms. Baldelli’s retirement brings to the district. She thanked her for her many, many years in service to the district and said she will be really missed.</b></li> <li>• <b>Ms. Baldelli said she has been in the district since 1971 first as a teacher, then administrator, then at Central Office. She said she has enjoyed her time and will miss everyone.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>B. Monthly Reports</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Budget Position dated August 31, 2020</b></li> <li><b>2. Purchase Resolution: D-738</b></li> </ol>	<p><b>Items For Information And Discussion</b></p> <p><b>A. Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated September 15, 2020 (Revised)</b></p> <p><b>B. Monthly Reports</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Budget Position dated August 31, 2020</b></li> </ol>

<p><b>3. Request for Budget Transfers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mrs. Faulenbach noted the fluid nature of the salary encumbrance and parking revenues. She asked if the \$269,000 CARES reimbursement had been received and where it is going to be reflected.</li><li>Mr. Giovannone said it has not been received yet. It will go into a separate grant fund line on the BOE side.</li><li>Mrs. Faulenbach asked if there was any opportunity to appeal the state funding that awarded zero dollars to New Milford for transportation.</li><li>Dr. Smotas said CAPSS is trying to make inroads.</li><li>Mrs. Faulenbach asked if there were final numbers for the local COVID account. Mr. Giovannone said of the \$2,027,540 there is \$138,597 unallocated. He cautioned the Board that PPE had only been purchased for the first marking period. He said CARES funding will help with that too.</li><li>Mrs. Chastain reminded the Board that PPE ordering was really a best guess at the time so it is not surprising that adjustments are needed.</li><li>Mrs. Faulenbach asked that the Operations Subcommittee receive updates going forward. She asked if the auditors were done. Mr. Giovannone said preliminary only.</li></ul> <p><b>C. Transition Coordinator (Revised)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>There was no discussion.</li></ul> <p><b>D. School Reopening Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Dr. Smotas noted that the principals had spoken to this topic.</li></ul> <p><b>E. Enrollment Report</b></p>	<p><b>2. Purchase Resolution: D-738</b></p> <p><b>3. Request for Budget Transfers</b></p> <p><b>C. Transition Coordinator (Revised)</b></p> <p><b>D. School Reopening Update</b></p> <p><b>E. Enrollment Report</b></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Smotas said these numbers will be fluid as parents change from week to week. He will give a full report as of October 1, 2020 at the next meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b>F. Addendum 11: Interim Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings in Schools during COVID-19</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was no discussion.</li> </ul> <p><b>G. CIAC 2020-21 Fall Sports Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was no discussion.</li> </ul>	<p><b>F. Addendum 11: Interim Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings in Schools during COVID-19</b></p> <p><b>G. CIAC 2020-21 Fall Sports Plan</b></p>
<p><b>9.</b></p> <p><b>A.</b></p> <p><b>B.</b></p>	<p><b>Discussion and Possible Action</b></p> <p><b>Discussion regarding possible agreement with CEA-New Milford. Executive session anticipated.</b></p> <p><b>Discussion and possible action regarding extracurricular stipends. Executive session anticipated.</b></p> <p><b>Mrs. Monaghan moved to enter into executive session for discussion regarding a possible agreement with CEA-New Milford, to discuss extracurricular stipends, and to invite into the session Dr. Paul Smotas, Ms. Ellamae Baldelli and Mr. Anthony Giovannone, seconded by Mrs. Rella and passed unanimously.</b></p> <p><b>The Board entered executive session at 8:02 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>The Board returned to public session at 8:29 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Discussion and Possible Action</b></p> <p><b>Discussion regarding possible agreement with CEA-New Milford. Executive session anticipated.</b></p> <p><b>Discussion and possible action regarding extracurricular stipends. Executive session anticipated.</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to enter into executive session for discussion regarding a possible agreement with CEA-New Milford, to discuss extracurricular stipends, and to invite into the session Dr. Paul Smotas, Ms. Ellamae Baldelli and Mr. Anthony Giovannone.</b></p>
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p><b>Mrs. Rella moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Monaghan and passed unanimously.</b></p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.</b></p>

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Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy Faulenbach".

Wendy Faulenbach  
Secretary  
New Milford Board of Education