

**New Milford Board of Education  
 Regular Meeting Minutes  
 December 9, 2008  
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

Present:	Dr. Lisa Diamond, Board Chairperson Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. David Lawson Mrs. Amy Llerena Mr. Thomas McSherry Mrs. Julie Turk Mr. William Wellman Mrs. Elizabeth Finney Mrs. Alexandra Thomas
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Also Present:	Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools Mr. Thomas Mulvihill, Assistant Superintendent Mr. John Turk, Director of Fiscal Services Mr. John Calhoun, Facilities Manager Mrs. Adele Johnson, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Services Mr. David Elmore, Director of Information Technology Mrs. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources Mr. Greg Shugrue, New Milford High School Principal Mrs. Dana Ford, Schaghticoke Middle School Principal Mr. Les Weintraub, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Principal Daniel Holland, Student Representative Ryan Partelow, Student Representative
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1.	The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 7:30 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance
2.	Public Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Webb said he would like to make comments on the Board of Education budget but he could not find information pertaining to the budget on the district's website.</li> <li>• Dr. Paddyfote indicated that a program summary of the 2008-09 budget is on the counter for the public.</li> <li>• Kristine Stewart addressed the Board concerning the fourth grade field trip and the possible cancellation of the class trip. Dr. Diamond suggested Ms. Stewart address the principal of the school about this issue.</li> </ul>	Public Comment

3.	<p>PTO Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mrs. Chastain thanked Mr. Lawson for coming to a meeting and answering questions from the group. She said everything was going nicely at the schools.</li> </ul>	PTO Report
4.	<p>Student Representative Report</p> <p>Mr. Holland and Mr. Partelow reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On a successful talent show at NMHS</li> <li>Parent Teacher conferences continue this week</li> <li>Math Team hosted a competition on December 1<sup>st</sup></li> <li>A NAMES assembly was held December 3<sup>rd</sup> which went well</li> <li>ACT testing will be held on December 13<sup>th</sup></li> <li>Auditions for the All School Musical will start next week</li> <li>The band concert will be December 18<sup>th</sup> with chorus following on December 21<sup>st</sup></li> <li>Advanced Chorus took a trip to the Senior Center to perform</li> </ul>	Student Representative Report
5.	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Mrs. Llerena moved to approve the minutes from the regular Board of Education meeting held November 18, 2008, seconded by Mr. McSherry and passed 8-0-1.        Aye: Llerena, Finney, Lawson, Diamond, McSherry, Faulenbach, Turk, Wellman        Abstain: Thomas</p>	Motion made and passed to approve regular meeting minutes for November 18, 2008
6.	<p>Superintendent's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Paddyfote noted that she handed out a revised Exhibit A and December enrollment which had an increase of 3 students from November.</li> <li>The NMHS Marching Band will be performing in Orlando at the Citrus parade on December 30<sup>th</sup>; it will be televised on WTNH, Channel 8.</li> <li>The Observatory will be dedicating the Space Shuttle Tire on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.</li> <li>Winter break will from December 23<sup>rd</sup> until January 4<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>	Superintendent's Report
7.	<p>Board Chairperson's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairperson Lisa Diamond asked members to let her know what subcommittees they would like to serve on or chair. She also noted that the Committee on Learning and Policy will begin to be held on the same night in the new year, 2009.</li> </ul>	Board Chairman's Report

<p>8.</p>	<p>Committee Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilities:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mr. McSherry said recycling efforts continue including a possible change in plastic utensils to be more recyclable but that is somewhat cost prohibitive.</li> <li>○ The Siemens Audit is on the agenda for tonight. The audit is a program to replace existing equipment to be paid for using the savings in energy use.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Operations:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mrs. Faulenbach said the committee discussed monthly reports, and the next meeting is in February.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Policy Committee:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mrs. Finney said the Policy Committee did not meet.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Committee on Learning:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mr. Lawson said the Committee on Learning discussed curricula and the Five Year Plan was approved. The website does have the new curricula on it.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Committee Reports</p>
<p>10C.</p>	<p>Revised Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve Revised Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified and Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as recommended by the Superintendent, seconded by Mrs. Thomas.</p> <p>Mrs. Thomas said she was pleased to see the coaches on the list and understood there were new requirements for the coaches.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion made to approve Revised Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified and Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence</p>
<p>10D.</p>	<p>Monthly reports</p> <p>Mr. McSherry moved to approve the monthly reports: Revised Request for Budget Transfer, Revised Purchase Resolution D-614, and the Revised Budget Position as of 11/30/08, seconded by Mrs. Thomas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On Mr. Lawson’s question of how the Board was doing with the budget, Mr. Turk responded that the school system appears to be in good shape percentage wise from last year to this year. However, the town has asked the</li> </ul>	<p>Motion made and approved on the monthly budget reports: Revised Request for Budget Transfer, Revised Purchase Resolution D-614, and the Revised Budget Position as of 11/30/08.</p>

	<p>Board of Education to make an accounting change which has changed the percentages year to year. The BOE used to encumber the entire medical line and then reconcile monthly or quarterly, but the Town does not wish to do this so the auditors have suggested the BOE follow the Town's role for consistency. The Town encumbers their medical expenses 1/12<sup>th</sup> every month.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Thomas asked if the temperature could be dropped a degree in schools to help with energy costs. Mr. Calhoun said the temperature could be dropped but that was a decision that had to be made here. The daily temperature is 69-70 degrees at the schools, weekend is 55 and evenings is 55.</li> <li>• Mr. Wellman asked if there was any detailed information available on the impact of temperature and performance in a learning environment – this will be brought to a future Operations or Facilities Committee meeting.</li> </ul> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
10E1.	<p>Gifts &amp; Donations, Exhibit B: PTO</p> <p>Mrs. Thomas moved to accept Exhibit B: PTO Gifts &amp; Donations to Schaghticoke Middle School in the amount of \$6,220 and to Northville School in the amount of \$2,900 for various activities as listed on Exhibit B, seconded by Mr. Lawson.</p> <p>Dr. Diamond noted the gifts were appreciated.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion made and approved to accept gifts and donations from the PTO in the amount of \$6,220 to Schaghticoke and \$2,900 to Northville School.</p>
10F.	<p>Second Review of Policy 5157 – Use of Physical Force and Seclusion</p> <p>No comments were made.</p>	<p>First Review of Policy 5157 – Use of Physical Force and Seclusion</p>
10G.	<p>Mrs. Finney moved to approve Policy 6172.6 – Virtual Online Courses/College/University Courses, seconded by Mr. Lawson.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Wellman said he has tried to express his concerns with this policy and said he feels the Board is turning its back on an immense educational opportunity for the kids in this system. He does not understand the Board imposing restrictions on the online learning since no</li> </ul>	<p>Motion made and approved to approve Policy 6172.6 – Virtual Online Courses/ College/ University Courses.</p>

	<p>restrictions are imposed on students moving in from outside the school district. If attendance is an issue, than a policy could be put in place to address that. Next year, the budget is going to be challenging and the online courses cost around \$300 each versus \$1500-2000 for courses taught in the schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Lawson said he endorsed this policy and welcomes the technology and tools, but they are not a solution to all the educational needs, rather an enhancement.</li> <li>• Dr. Diamond said this is a wonderful opportunity to give students and that New Milford is one of the few schools that actually has a policy but we do need to proceed with caution and this policy is not restrictive.</li> <li>• Mrs. Llerena thanked Mr. Wellman for his passion for this policy but said she agreed with the policy and felt we could only grow from here.</li> <li>• Mr. McSherry said he felt that Mr. Wellman would like all students to stay home and take classes online. He said he understood Mr. Wellman’s point but this school system is not at that point yet. He said he is not comfortable with handing out a degree from New Milford schools when New Milford had no part in the education.</li> <li>• Mr. Wellman responded that he did not want students to stay at home and take courses online but he said a second semester senior could come into the school district and still receive a NMHS diploma.</li> <li>• Mrs. Finney said we need to be cautious and assess the program, see how students respond and start off slowly.</li> </ul> <p>The motion passed 8-1.        Aye: Llerena, Finney, Lawson, Diamond, McSherry, Thomas, Faulenbach, Turk        No: Wellman</p>	
10H.	<p>Siemens Audit</p> <p>Mr. McSherry moved to allow the Siemens Group to go ahead with the audit of the school system, seconded by Mrs. Llerena.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Wellman asked for a brief overview of the audit to which Mr. Calhoun responded it would allow the Siemens technology to analyze the equipment in our buildings and look at efficiencies including boilers, air</li> </ul>	<p>Motion made and approved to allow Siemens Group to go ahead with the audit of the school system.</p>

	<p>handlers, chillers, etc. Siemens would find a way to replace units and pay for them through energy savings over a 15 year period. They will also back up their savings plan with a firm guarantee that if the school does not save money in a given year, they will pay the difference.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<p>10I.</p>	<p>Approval of the following curricula:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advanced Creative Writing</li> <li>2. Chinese Studies</li> <li>3. Honors Chemistry</li> <li>4. Honors Pre-Calculus</li> </ol> <p>Mr. Lawson moved to approve the curricula, seconded by Mrs. Thomas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Wellman asked if the Chinese Studies curriculum could be separated from the others.</li> <li>• Mr. Lawson withdrew his motion. Mrs. Thomas withdrew her second.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Lawson moved to approve the following curricula: Advanced Creative Writing, Honors Chemistry, and Honors Pre-Calculus, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and passed unanimously.</p> <p>Mrs. Thomas moved to approve the following curriculum: Chinese Studies, seconded by Mr. Lawson.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Wellman said he made comments in the subcommittee meeting which he did not feel need to be repeated here.</li> </ul> <p>Motion passed 8-1.        Aye: Llerena, Finney, Lawson, Diamond, McSherry, Thomas, Faulenbach, Turk        No: Wellman</p>	<p>Motion made and approved for the following curricula:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advanced Creative Writing</li> <li>2. Chinese Studies</li> <li>3. Honors Chemistry</li> <li>4. Honors Pre-Calculus</li> </ol>

10J.	<p>Textbook Approvals for Grade 9</p> <p>Mrs. Thomas moved to approve the textbooks for grade 9, seconded by Mr. Lawson and unanimously approved.</p>	<p>Motion made and approved to approve the textbooks for grade 9.</p>
11.	<p>Items for discussion</p> <p>A. Field Trips – December 2008</p> <p>B. Five Year Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Wellman asked that the Strategic School Profile be put on the website to which Mr. Mulvihill said there is a link to the State Education Department which has the school profile.</li> </ul>	<p>Items for discussion</p>
	<p>A brief recess was held from 8:07 pm until 8:16 pm</p>	
9.A/B.	<p>Executive Session</p> <p>Mr. McSherry moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of considering the tentative agreement with the Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America and to interview and discuss the candidate for the position of Principal at Northville Elementary School. Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools and Attorney Catherine Thompson will be invited into Executive Session and the candidate for the position of Principal to Northville Elementary School will be invited into Executive Session at the appropriate time, seconded by Mrs. Turk and passed unanimously at 8:17 p.m.</p> <p>Mrs. Turk left Executive Session at 8:25 p.m.          Attorney Catherine Thompson left Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.          The Northville Principal candidate entered Executive Session at 8:47 pm and left the session at 8:59 p.m.          Public Session resumed at 9:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Motion made and approved to enter into Executive Session at 8:17 pm.</p>
10.A.	<p>Mr. McSherry moved to approve the agreement between the Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America for the period through June 30, 2011, and to authorize the Board Chairperson to sign the agreement, seconded by Mrs. Thomas.</p> <p>Motion passed:          Aye: Llerena, Finney, Lawson, Diamond, McSherry, Thomas, Faulenbach          Abstain: Wellman</p>	<p>Motion made and approved to accept the agreement between the Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America for the period through June 30, 2011, and to authorize the Board Chairperson to sign the agreement.</p>

10.B.	<p>Mrs. Llerena moved to appoint Susan Murray as Principal of Northville Elementary School effective February 13, 2009 and to place her on Step 3 at an annual base salary of \$104,155 prorated and to have Mrs. Murray work for nine (9) days between February 2 and February 12, 2009 at the per diem rate on Step 3 of the contract dated July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011 between the New Milford School Administrators' Association and the New Milford Board of Education, seconded by Mrs. Thomas.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion made and approved to appoint Susan Murray as Principal of Northville Elementary School.</p>
12.	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>Mr. McSherry moved to adjourn the meeting at 9: 06pm, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 pm.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Lawson, Secretary  
New Milford Board of Education