

NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
NEW MILFORD, CONNECTICUT

SPECIAL MEETING
AGENDA

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

7:00 p.m.

Lillis Administration Building – Boardroom

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board welcomes Public Participation and asks that speakers please limit their comments to three minutes. Speakers may offer objective comments of items on this agenda. The Board will not permit any expression of personal complaints or defamatory comments about Board of Education personnel and students, nor against any person connected with the New Milford Public School System.

III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Race to the Top Grant and Memo of Understanding

IV. DISCUSSION

A. Presentation by and discussion with Board's legal counsel from Sullivan, Schoen, Campane & Connon, LLC on various legal issues pertaining to public school districts and school boards

V. ADJOURN

GEORGE C. BUCKBEE
TOWN CLERK

GP

2010 JAN -8 P 2: 21

NEW MILFORD, CT

New Milford Board of Education
 Special Meeting
 Catherine Lillis Building - Boardroom
 January 12, 2010

Present:	Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Board Chairperson
	Mrs. Lynette Celli Rigdon
	Mr. Thomas McSherry
	Mr. Daniel Nichols
	Mrs. Alexandra Thomas
	Mr. William Wellman
Absent:	Dr. Lisa Diamond
	Mr. David Lawson
	Mrs. Nancy Tarascio-Latour
Also Present:	JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Ph. D., Superintendent of Schools
	Board Counsel, Attorney Michael P. McKeon from Sullivan, Schoen, Campana & Connon, LLC

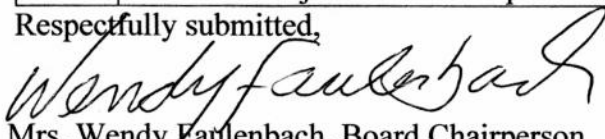
GEORGE C. BUCKBEE
 TOWN CLERK
 2010 JAN 14 P 2:59
 NEW MILFORD, CT

I.	The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Mrs. Faulenbach, and the Pledge of Allegiance followed.	Call to Order
II.	Public Comment None	Public Comment
III.	Item for Discussion and Possible Action	Item for Discussion and Possible Action
A.	<p>Race to the Top Grant and Memo of Understanding</p> <p>Motion by: Mr. Nichols, to authorize the Board Chair to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the Race to the Top Grant.</p> <p>Seconded by: Mr. McSherry</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Paddyfote reported the State Department of Education released information about this grant in early December. • Area meetings were scheduled by the Commissioner of Education for late December and January. Dr. Paddyfote, Mrs. Faulenbach, and Mrs. Patella, NMEA President, attended a meeting about the grant on January 8, 2010 at Education Connection. • The preliminary grant award for NM is \$69,129, however, that award is based on two facts: the SDE receiving an award of 1.75 M, and all eligible districts applying for the grant. • Dr. Paddyfote and Mrs. Faulenbach commented that the SDE does not have all of the answers pertaining to when the award will be distributed or the level of monitoring by the state. • Mrs. Faulenbach contacted the CT Association of Boards of Education (CABE) to find out if the 	<p>Race to the Top Grant and Memo of Understanding</p> <p>Motion made and passed to authorize the Board Chair to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the Race to the Top Grant.</p>

	<p>organization took a stance on the Race to the Top grant application. CABE did not take a position on the grant application, but the advice given was if a district is performing, or is expected to perform most of the criteria anyway, then it would be prudent to apply for the grant and be reimbursed for the activities the district is already doing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Rigdon asked what it would take to meet all of the indicators identified on the MOU to which Dr. Paddyfote replied the SDE has not defined the scope of each indicator, therefore, it was not possible to provide a clear answer. • Mr. Wellman raised questions regarding the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. What sanctions will be imposed if the district does not meet the state's indicators? b. When will the money become available? c. How much money will the district have to spend in order to meet the intent of the grant? • Mrs. Faulenbach explained the grant award would be paid over four years. She reiterated the SDE did not have answers to the questions Mr. Wellman raised. • Dr. Paddyfote added that the SDE wants to send the grant to the federal government on January 19 to be eligible for the first round of awards, and that is why this is a time sensitive manner. District applications were due at the State Department of Education on January 11, 2010. Dr. Paddyfote contacted the Commissioner's office and the grant application can be faxed on January 13, 2010. <p>Aye: Mr. Nichols, Mr. McSherry, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mrs. Thomas Nay: Mrs. Rigdon, Mr. Wellman Motion: Passed 4-2</p> <p>Mr. McSherry left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.</p>	
<p>IV.</p>	<p>Discussion</p> <p>Presentation by Board Counsel, Michael P. McKeon from Sullivan, Schoen, Campana & Connon, LLC on various legal issues pertaining to public school districts and school boards.</p> <p>Attorney McKeon passed out a folder with two documents: The Law and School Boards, and <i>The Connecticut Freedom of Information Act and Access to</i></p>	<p>Discussion</p> <p>Presentation by Board Counsel, Michael P. McKeon, from Sullivan, Schoen, Campana & Connon, LLC on various legal issues pertaining to public school districts and school boards.</p>

	<p><i>Public Meetings and Records: A Primer for Municipal Agencies, 2nd Edition</i>, by Mark J. Sommaruga, Esq., Sullivan, Schoen, Campana, & Connon, LLC.</p> <p>Attorney McKeon addressed the topics listed below and responded to questions from Board members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Board Powers; • Relationship Between School Boards and School Administrators; • Teacher Non-renewal and Termination; • Teacher Discipline; • Hearings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Residency ○ Transportation ○ Expulsion ○ Grievance • Transportation of Non-public Students; • Handling Complaints; • Special Education; • Negotiations; • Individual School Board Member Legal Authority; and • The Freedom of Information Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public Meetings ○ Notice of Regular Meetings ○ Agendas ○ Minutes ○ Executive Session, and ○ Votes in Public Session. 	
<p>V.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion made by Mr. Nichols and seconded by Mr. Wellman that the Special Meeting of the New Milford Board of Education adjourn.</p> <p>The Special Meeting of the New Milford Board of Education adjourned at 9:02 p.m.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion was made and passed unanimously to adjourn. The New Milford Board of Education adjourned at 9:02 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted,



Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Board Chairperson
 New Milford Board of Education