

**New Milford Board of Education
Operations Sub-Committee
December 7, 2006
Lillis Administration Building – Room 2**

Present: *Dr. Lisa Diamond – Sub-Committee Chairperson
*Mr. Joseph Failla
*Mr. David A. Lawson
*Mr. Robin Ruggiero
*Mrs. Julie Turk
*Mr. Tom McSherry
Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach – BOE Chairperson

Also Present: Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, Superintendent
Mr. Thomas Mulvihill, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Thomas Corbett, Director of Operations
Mr. John Turk, Director of Fiscal Services
Mrs. Adele Johnson, Supervisor of Special Education
Mr. David Elmore, Director of Technology

* Sub-Committee Member

1. Dr. Diamond called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.	Call to Order
2. There was no public comment.	Public Comment
3. Discussion and Possible Action	Discussion and Possible Action
A. Exhibit A Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Failla asked why the two paras listed on Exhibit A declined the position after they were hired. ▪ Dr. Paddyfote explained that, although New Milford is somewhat competitive with surrounding districts concerning wages, insurance benefits are not as competitive, a deciding factor. 	Exhibit A
Motion by Mr. McSherry: Move to bring Exhibit A, as recommended by the Superintendent, to the full Board for approval. Seconded by: Mr. Lawson Aye: Dr. Diamond, Mr. Failla, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggiero, Mrs. Turk Nay: Abstain: Motion: Passed Unanimously 6-0-0	Motion made and passed to bring Exhibit A, as recommended by the Superintendent, to the full Board for approval.
B. Monthly Reports	Monthly Reports
1. Purchase Resolution D-596 Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mrs. Faulenbach clarified that \$7,652 is not the entire amount budgeted for JPS roof repairs, but only a portion. 	Purchase Resolution

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Turk confirmed the remainder of the repair work is scheduled to be done in the spring. 	
<p>2. Request for Transfers Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Lawson asked if there any large (in excess of \$10K) anticipated requests for transfers between now and June. ▪ Mr. Turk replied that we always have transfers, they do not affect the bottom line of the budget. ▪ The Facilities Department makes transfers all the time to accommodate changing needs. 	Request for Transfers
<p>3. Budget Position as of 11/30/06 Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Turk commented that we are in approximately the same position as we were one year ago at this time. 	Budget Position
<p>Motion by Mr. Ruggiero: Move to bring Purchase Resolution D-596, Request for Transfers, and Budget Position as of 11/30/06 to the full Board for approval.</p> <p>Seconded by: Mr. Failla</p> <p>Aye: Dr. Diamond, Mr. Failla, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggiero, Mrs. Turk Nay: Abstain: Motion: Passed Unanimously 6-0-0</p>	Motion made and passed to bring Purchase Resolution D-596, Request for Transfers, and Budget Position as of 11/30/06 to the full Board for approval.
<p>C. Resolution to participate in the solicitation of electricity supply services with the Connecticut Consortium for Cooperative Purchasing for Electricity and to enter into a contractual agreement presented and recommended by the Connecticut Consortium for Cooperative Purchasing.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Failla asked who participates in the Connecticut Consortium. Mr. Turk replied that schools and towns state-wide cooperate, for purchasing purposes only, on soliciting supplies of oil, electricity, and general supplies. ▪ Mr. Turk informed the committee that CL&P has applied for a rate increase of 8.9% to take effect in December. The Governor is attempting to delay the increase until January 1. Another rate increase will be coming in the spring. ▪ Mr. Elmore added that the designers of the high school took energy conservation measures but alternative energy sources were not explored. ▪ Mr. Ruggiero commented that Sempra, an electrical generation company that proposed building a power plant in New Milford, was voted down in this area. 	Resolution to participate in the solicitation of electricity supply services with the Connecticut Consortium for Cooperative Purchasing for Electricity and to enter into a contractual agreement presented and recommended by the Connecticut Consortium for Cooperative Purchasing.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Corbett added that an alternative between gas and oil is available, but only for the three schools (NMHS, JPS, and SNIS) fronting Rt 7. The switch from oil to gas has already been made at these three schools. ▪ Mr. Turk reminded the committee that a positive vote to participate with the Consortium allows us the option, but does not obligate us, to take advantage of Consortium rates. 	
<p>Motion by Mr. Ruggiero: Move to bring the resolution to participate in the solicitation of electricity supply services with the Connecticut Consortium for Cooperative Purchasing for Electricity and to enter into a contractual agreement presented and recommended by the Connecticut Consortium for Cooperative Purchasing to the full Board for approval.</p> <p>Seconded by: Mr. Failla</p> <p>Aye: Dr. Diamond, Mr. Failla, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggiero, Mrs. Turk</p> <p>Nay:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Motion: Passed Unanimously 6-0-0</p>	<p>Motion made and passed to bring the resolution to participate in the solicitation of electricity supply services with the Connecticut Consortium for Cooperative Purchasing for Electricity and to enter into a contractual agreement presented and recommended by the Connecticut Consortium for Cooperative Purchasing to the full Board for approval.</p>
<p>D. Verbal Update of the 2007- 2008 Budget Development Process</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Turk reminded the Committee that Foundation Costs include five (5) categories. (1)Certified and (2) Non-Certified Salaries are contractual and will not change. ▪ (3) Transportation costs, (4) Employee Benefits, and (5) Utilities are still in flux and we do not have finalized numbers. ▪ Mr. Turk is keeping his eye on the utilities including water, fuel, and sewer costs. ▪ Budgets, by school, are in and being reviewed. ▪ Mrs. Faulenbach commented that she thinks that, at this stage, the Board should be giving direction to the Superintendent regarding BOE goals and concerns. ▪ Mr. Lawson stated that, in his opinion, student needs, including staffing, should be met and other areas cut to accommodate these needs. ▪ Mr. Failla stated that it should be a zero based budget process, with no “free-for-all” spending. Contracts with teachers, 	<p>Verbal Update of the 2007-2008 Budget Development Process</p>

<p>including retirement benefits, have strangled budget decisions. The BOE has an obligation to address students' needs, but also is obligated to the taxpayer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. Paddyfote stated that New Milford pays no benefits for retirees. ▪ Mrs. Turk stated that New Milford teachers pay 50-60 % of their benefit costs. ▪ Dr. Diamond stated that contractual obligation is a progressive ladder – each contract moves forward a small amount toward a common goal. ▪ Mrs. Faulenbach reminded the Committee that each year a budget number is named but a pre-conceived number doesn't fit into the budgetary process. It is the Superintendent's responsibility to present a proposed budget; it is the BOE's responsibility to be cohesive and make changes to that budget. ▪ Mr. Ruggiero stated that, as this is his fourth budget year, he appreciates the detail provided by Mr. Turk, since it helps cut down on wasted time. Some guidance and direction would help the Superintendent prioritize and the BOE to work as a team to facilitate the budget. ▪ Dr. Paddyfote stated that it is her responsibility to prepare and present a proposed budget, taking into consideration NCLB/AYP guidelines. The Strategic Plan is part of this process. New Milford has had positive results and the Superintendent would like to maintain the progress. Some of the factors that have helped shape New Milford's budget are the Energy Program, re-instatement of summer school, SNIS issues, and the Transportation contract ▪ Mr. Mulvihill added that enrollment projections also play a part in decision making. Changes in the projections can have long-range consequences. Red shirting of Kindergarten-age children, the NMHS policy of earned credits determining grade status, and the fluctuating number of Sherman students attending New Milford High School all help to make projections difficult. On the plus side, substantial savings have been realized by the purchase of good used textbooks. ▪ Mr. Lawson reminded the Committee that State and Federal aid has steadily dropped over the years, as well. 	
<p>E. Long-term Disability Insurance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Corbett provided a Memorandum explaining his recommendation for a change in our long-term disability insurance carrier after researching and getting a quote from Prudential Insurance Company that will save New Milford \$90,000 per annum for two years while still providing equivalent coverage. 	<p>Long-term Disability Insurance</p>

<p>Motion by Mr. McSherry: Move that a change in insurance carrier, as recommended by Mr. Corbett, be brought to the full Board for approval.</p> <p>Seconded by: Mr. Lawson</p> <p>Aye: Dr. Diamond, Mr. Failla, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggiero, Mrs. Turk Nay: Abstain: Motion: Passed Unanimously 6-0-0</p>	<p>Motion made and passed that a change in insurance carrier, as recommended by Mr. Corbett, be brought to the full Board for approval</p>
<p>F. Gifts and Donations Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mrs. Faulenbach requested that a running total of donations from New Milford PTO for this year be provided to the BOE. 	<p>Gifts and Donations</p>
<p>Motion by Mr. McSherry: Move that the New Milford PTO donations, as provided on Exhibit B, be brought to the full Board for approval.</p> <p>Seconded by: Mr. Lawson</p> <p>Aye: Dr. Diamond, Mr. Failla, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggiero, Mrs Turk Nay: Abstain: Motion: Passed Unanimously 6-0-0</p>	<p>Motion made and passed that the New Milford PTO donations, as provided on Exhibit B, be brought to the full Board for approval.</p>
<p>4. Executive Session A. Status of Negotiations</p>	<p>Executive Session</p>
<p>Motion by Mr. Lawson: Move that the Operations Sub-Committee move into Executive Session, inviting in Dr. Paddyfote, Mr. Corbett, and Mr. Turk.</p> <p>Seconded by: Mr. McSherry</p> <p>Aye: Dr. Diamond, Mr. Failla, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggiero, Mrs. Turk Nay: Abstain: Motion: Passed Unanimously 6-0-0</p>	<p>Motion made and passed that the Operations Sub-Committee move into Executive Session, inviting in Dr. Paddyfote, Mr. Corbett, and Mr. Turk.</p>
<p>The Operations Sub-Committee moved into Executive Session at 8:15 pm.</p>	<p>Executive Session</p>
<p>The Operations Sub-Committee went into Public Session at 8:35 p.m.</p>	<p>Public Session</p>
<p>5. Adjourn</p>	<p>Adjourn</p>

<p>Motion by Mr. McSherry: Move that the Operations Committee adjourn.</p> <p>Seconded by: Mr. Lawson</p> <p>Aye: Dr. Diamond, Mr. Failla, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggiero, Mrs. Turk</p> <p>Nay:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Motion: Passed Unanimously 6-0-0</p>	<p>Motion made and passed that the Operations Sub-Committee adjourn.</p>
<p>The Operations Sub-Committee adjourned at 8:37 pm.</p>	<p>Adjournment</p>

Respectfully submitted,

**Dr. Lisa Diamond, Chairperson
Operations Sub-Committee**