

**New Milford Board of Education
 Budget Hearing Minutes
 January 30, 2008
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

Present:	Dr. Lisa Diamond, Chairman
	Mrs. Elizabeth Finney
	Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach
	Mr. David A. Lawson
	Mrs. Amy Llerena
	Mr. Thomas McSherry
	Mrs. Alexandra Thomas
	Mrs. Julie Turk
	Mr. William Wellman
Also present:	Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools
	Mr. Thomas Mulvihill, Assistant Superintendent
	Mr. John Turk, Director of Fiscal Services
	Mr. David Elmore, Director of Technology
	Mrs. Adele Johnson, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Services
	Mr. John Calhoun, Director of Facilities
	Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School
	Mrs. Dana Ford, Principal of Schaghticoke Middle School
	Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Principal of Sarah Noble Intermediate School
	Dr. Sandra Nadeau, Principal of Hill & Plain School
	Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal of John Pettibone School

1.	The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was reconvened at 7:01 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance
2.	<p>Public Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dana Ford, Principal of Schaghticoke Middle School, clarified some of her remarks made during the budget presentation explained that to add department heads, cuts were made from several line accounts. Department heads are necessary especially in terms of hiring new teachers, in areas such as foreign languages and mathematics, and to align curriculum. Mike Foster spoke in support of the staffing requests at Northville. He said second graders are in classes of 25 and he feels that is an unreasonable number. 	Public Participation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dian Marandola spoke on behalf of Healthy Community 2020. She said an article published in American Public Health, November 2007, speaks to reducing class sizes and the health benefits to the kids. She also spoke on behalf of Dr. Diane D’Isidori who suggested a full time health educator should be hired at Sarah Noble and one for the K-3 schools. <p>Public Participation was closed at 7:11 pm</p>	
3.A.	<p>Committee Reports – Operations Committee</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach said there was a presentation of a demographic study done by Dr. Chung and a discussion of the items about to be voted on for Exhibit A., and monthly reports.</p>	Committee Reports – Operations Committee
4.A.	<p>Revised Exhibit A: Personnel</p> <p>Ms. Thomas made a motion to approve Revised Exhibit A: Personnel, seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach.</p> <p>Mrs. Turk asked if the Board was responsible for benefits during unpaid leave to which Dr. Paddyfote responded they were not.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p>	Motion unanimously passed to accept revised exhibit A
4.B.	<p>Monthly Reports</p> <p>Mr. McSherry moved to approve the monthly reports, Mrs. Llerena seconded.</p> <p>Mr. Lawson asked for the current budget position to which Mr. Turk responded the Board was within 1% of last year to date.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p>	Motion unanimously passed to approve the monthly reports
4.C.	<p>PTO Gifts & Donations – Exhibit B</p> <p>Mr. Lawson moved to approve the PTO gifts and donations, Exhibit B, Mr. McSherry seconded.</p> <p>Mr. Lawson mentioned that the gifts from the PTO have totaled almost \$100,000.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p>	Motion unanimously passed to approve the PTO Gifts & Donations
5.	<p>Discussion of 2008-09 Budget</p> <p>Dr. Paddyfote started the discussion by handing out the information requested at a previous meeting regarding last year’s balance.</p>	Discussion of 2008-09 Budget

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Wellman said according to the paperwork received that the items paid should have been budgeted and did not understand how they reduced the surplus.• Dr. Paddyfote said that under certified salaries—tutors are not encumbered.• Mr. Turk said the administration can encumber contracted services, but not hourly services—custodians and substitutes. He added there was no projected surplus on the budget position, the number listed was merely a glimpse at the end of a month. <p>Dr. Paddyfote handed out information on the capital projects broken down by savings for the school system versus security of the students or schools.</p> <p>Mrs. Llerena asked if item 15, which was the windows for the East Street School, would have some financial input from the Youth Agency to which Mr. Calhoun responded that the Youth Agency would be putting money in its budget.</p> <p>Dr. Paddyfote handed out information on the staffing summary.</p> <p>Mrs. Turk asked how 56 hours could be equivalent to 10 FTE's.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Johnson said the services needed by special education students and families were hard to break down into hours because they required several different resources. <p>Dr. Paddyfote handed out information showing items in the 2008-09 budget that were related to the strategic plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Paddyfote pointed out that strategy #4, the integration of technology, relates to Appendix A-3. The technology capital projects came through the building principals and staff and correlate to the strategic plan. <p>Dr. Paddyfote handed out a brief memo on the Internal Service Fund which used to be referred to as the Medical Reserve Account. The memo indicated that there was no way to account for the town's share or Board of Ed's share separately. It was determined that this item should be revisited.</p> <p>Dr. Paddyfote handed out information on the Pepsi account which is potential revenue for the district.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Corbett said the contract appeared to have been paid	
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	<p>every other year, but this year no payment was received. This matter may be headed to litigation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The annual payment from the Pepsi Fund has been used to offset expenses in the Food Service Program. <p>Dr. Paddyfote closed the discussion of the budget by thanking all the principals and staff for their support of putting this budget together. She also thanked all those in the central office. She said the original requests to her were a 10.4% increase and she had the difficult task of lowering the initial requests to what she felt was a more reasonable and responsible budget of approximately 6.5% increase. She asked the Board to be sensitive to the fact that some cuts were made from some line items already. The Superintendent cut 20% out of object 611—instructional supplies, and other 600 line item objects.</p> <p>Dr. Paddyfote reported that there was some good news in that object 412, sewage, could be reduced by \$20,000. With respect to medical insurance, the Town’s consultant contacted the Town and Board of Education today, and recommended a 12% increase in the medical insurance line. The Board budgeted 14.5%, and a \$220,000 reduction in that line would bring the increase down to 12%.</p> <p>Mr. Turk said with these cuts the budget would be \$59,133,622 or an increase of 6.45% over the current budget.</p>	
6.	<p>Vote on Adoption of 2008-09 School Budget</p> <p>Mr. McSherry moved to adopt the Superintendent’s Proposed Budget in the amount of \$59,373,622 for the 2008-09 school year, seconded by Mr. Lawson.</p> <p>Motion: Passed unanimously.</p> <p>Mr. Lawson moved to amend object 200, employee benefits, by reducing the amount by \$220,000, Mrs. Finney seconded.</p> <p>Motion: Passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Vote on adoption of 2008-09 school budget</p> <p>Motion made and passed to adopt the Superintendent’s Proposed Budget in the amount of \$59,373,622 for the 2008-2009 school year.</p> <p>Motion to amend object 200, employee benefits, by reducing the amount by \$220,000. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

	<p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to amend object 412, sewage, by reducing the amount by \$20,000, Mr. McSherry seconded.</p> <p>Motion: Passed unanimously.</p> <p>Mr. Lawson moved to amend object 561, department of instruction, by reducing the amount by \$7,500, which would reflect not filling the 3 Kindergarten seats at the magnet school and to not fill any other seats as they come open, Mrs. Llerena seconded.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Wellman discussed the budget in general and said that he was concerned that the budget process was done backwards. He said he was told that this year’s budget was a good budget and that based on what he has heard, the contractual increases equal about 4.8% and not 6.45% as proposed. Mr. Wellman said he does not wish to micromanage and did not want to give detail on where he would cut the budget but would leave that to the administration. He said a budget higher than 4.8% would not be responsible. • Mr. Turk said the reduction from 6.45% to 4.8% would mean approximately a \$900,000 cut. • Mr. Lawson said he was confident the budget only included needs but that the true test of the budget was when the citizens voted. • Mrs. Turk said on the motion on the floor, that she could not support the motion to reduce the magnet school tuition as it cost less per person to educate the children at the magnet school than it did in this school system. • Mr. Lawson said he had serious concerns about the magnet school because this board has no control over the school’s policies, etc. This board does not see the CMT scores. He said the new state laws will most likely allow the parents to do this anyway but he felt that data should be forthcoming to this Board for its review. • Dr. Paddyfote said the lottery has already started and she knew parents from New Milford had already applied. <p>The motion to reduce object 561 by \$7500 failed by the following</p>	<p>Motion to amend object 412, sewage, by reducing the amount by \$20,000. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Motion to amend object 561, Department of Instruction—tuition for the Magnet School, by \$7500; not to fill the 3 kindergarten seats and any other seats as the come open. Motion failed.</p>
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	<p>vote: Yes – Mr. Lawson, Ms. Thomas No – Mr. Wellman, Mrs. Turk, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. McSherry, Dr. Diamond, Mrs. Llerena, Mrs. Finney</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to amend object 561 by reducing the amount by \$18,000 reducing the tuition by \$1,000 per seat, seconded by Mr. McSherry.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Faulenbach said this budget called for a \$2500 increase though the current tuition was \$1000. She said she did not think the tuition could double that quickly and so she thought a more appropriate amount for an increase would be \$1500 or a reduction from this budget of \$18,000. <p>The motion to amend object 561 by \$18,000 passed unanimously.</p> <p>Mrs. Turk moved to amend object 810, general administration, by reducing the number by \$17,026 which reflected the CABE dues, seconded by Mr. Wellman.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Turk said the CABE dues were not part of this year's budget. • Mr. Lawson said CABE offered a lot if this Board chose to participate. • Mr. Turk said CABE had helped the Board in an unemployment compensation case in the past, saving time and money. <p>The motion to amend object 810 failed as follows: Yes – Mr. Wellman, Mrs. Turk No – Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. McSherry, Dr. Diamond, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Llerena, Mrs. Finney, Ms. Thomas</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to amend object 511, transportation, by reducing the amount by \$50,000, Mr. McSherry seconded.</p>	<p>Motion to amend object 561, Department of Instruction—Magnet School tuition, by \$18,000. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Motion to amend object 810-Dues and Fees, Department of General Administration, by \$17,026—CT Association of Boards of Education dues. Motion failed.</p> <p>Motion made to amend object 511, transportation, by reducing the amount of \$50,000. Motion failed.</p>
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	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Faulenbach said in looking for ways to cut the budget she felt the transportation issues were better this year than in year's past and therefore the new bus could be cut.• Mr. Mulvihill said he resolved the issues this year by telling parents that he could listen to them but there was not much that could be done without additional buses. He said more than one bus is required to solve all the issues. <p>The motion to reduced object 511 by \$50,000 failed as follows: Yes – Mrs. Turk, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mrs. Finney No – Mr. McSherry, Dr. Diamond, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Llerena, Ms. Thomas Abstention – Mr. Wellman</p> <p>Mrs. Turk moved to amend the capital budget by reducing the number by \$75,000 with the administration determining where the cuts would occur, Mr. Wellman seconded.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Turk said she did not want to micromanage, but felt the new chairs and tables [at the high school] could be cut without impeding learning.• On question of whether the chairs could be phased in, Mr. Shugrue said they could be. However, he reminded the Board that there has been consistency at the high school and he felt phasing in the tables and chairs would not be consistent in that he was hoping to replace them with different types than were currently being used.• Mr. McSherry asked if the windows at East Street could be phased-in differently to which Mr. Calhoun said they could be done over three years or more, if needed.• Mr. Turk noted that the facilities capital budget request was only .21% of the replacement value of the facilities at \$148,220,000. Mr. McSherry said his goal was to get the budget passed the first time so he was willing to support a \$75,000 cut from the capital budget.• Mr. Wellman reminded the board that no "cuts" were being made, but increases were being limited and the 2007-08 budget was supposed to be a good budget. <p>Motion to amend capital budget by \$75,000 failed as follows: Yes – Mr. Wellman, Mrs. Turk, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. McSherry No – Dr. Diamond, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Llerena, Mrs. Finney, Ms.</p>	<p>Motion to amend the capital budget by reducing the number by \$75,000 with the administration determining where the cuts would be made. Motion failed.</p>
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	<p>Thomas</p> <p>Mr. McSherry moved to approve the 2008-09 Board of Education budget in the amount of \$59,115,622 as amended, Mrs. Faulenbach seconded.</p> <p>Motion Passed as follows:</p> <p>Yes – Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. McSherry, Dr. Diamond, Mrs. Lawson, Mrs. Llerena, Mrs. Finney, Ms. Thomas No – Mr. Wellman, Mrs. Turk</p>	<p>Motion made and passed to approve the 2008-2009 Board of Education budget in the amount of \$59,115,622, as amended.</p>
7.	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 pm, Mr. Lawson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion made to adjourn.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Lawson, Secretary
New Milford Board of Education