

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

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 NEW MILFORD, CT

Present:	Mrs. Angela C. Chastain Mr. Joseph Failla (arrived at 6:31 p.m.) Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Pete Helmus (arrived at 6:12 p.m.) Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan Mrs. Cynthia Nabozny Mrs. Olga I. Rella
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Also Present:	Dr. Paul Smotas, Interim Superintendent Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services 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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1.	Call to Order The special meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mrs. Chastain.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was none. 	Public Comment
3.	Discussion and Possible Action A. Restorative Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. DiCorpo introduced Joann Freiburg and Pat Ciccone for a discussion regarding restorative practices. • Ms. Freiburg said restorative practices is a way of thinking and being, designed to change school culture. It moves from a punitive, exclusionary model of discipline to a model that focuses on a restorative, growth process and the building of relationships in spite of 	Discussion and Possible Action A. Restorative Practices

conflict. It provides framework and strategies to help create a positive climate.

- Ms. Ciccone said it is not about having a permissive environment but about having and gaining expectations for student success and behaviors. The focus is on “raising good people” and providing intrinsic motivations.
- Mrs. Monaghan asked about the timeframe for implementation.
- Ms. Freiburg said it varies by district, according to how staff training is scheduled. She said parent workshops are also available.
- Ms. Ciccone said New Milford has scheduled 20 hours of staff training so far.
- Mrs. McInerney said that she loves the program but worries it is one more thing to put on teachers’ plates right now.
- Ms. Freiburg said it is not a curriculum or program to learn. It is more about how you do what you do.
- Ms. DiCorpo said they are helping teachers both by providing modules for instruction and by building the training into the Wednesday schedule. She said if full time in person returns, the training will shift to pre-scheduled after school meetings. She said the \$23,000 training will be paid for out of the Title IV grant.
- Mrs. Gallagher said she was trained in the program while in Danbury schools and it was phenomenal. She said it works to embrace students, take them from where they are, and problem solve through a difficult time for them to bring them to a better place to learn.
- Mrs. Bilko said it is more about “how” you do things and not extra work. It provides the tools before they are needed.
- Mrs. Rella asked if all staff will be trained. She said paraeducators, secretaries, nurses all interact with students. Ms. DiCorpo said right now the focus is on teachers. They will reconvene after that and determine forward action. She said the state is also showing an interest in social emotional learning right now so she is hopeful funding may follow.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said she thinks this is a good shift and she appreciates the soft commitment

	<p>right now as it is rolled out in stages. She asked about the effect on current Board policies, which are often statutory driven.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Freiburg said CAFE has developed a model School Climate policy that may be adopted. It aligns with current policy. Both policies are in the Board packet for review. • Ms. Ciccone said there is nothing in the model policy that violates statute. She said there are always consequences to all actions. • Mrs. McInerney asked when parents are brought into the process and how. • Ms. Freiburg said the timeframe is flexible and it is through a series of forums which may be taped for later viewing as well. • Ms. DiCorpo said she would be happy to work with the PTO for future development. She would also like to include child care centers, the Youth Agency and others. • Mrs. Rella said parents are starving for guidance now and this is the right time to do this. <p>Mr. McCauley made a motion that the Board approve the Title IV grant.</p> <p>Seconded by Mrs. Rella.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion made and passed unanimously that the Board approve the Title IV grant.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Nabozny and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



Wendy Faulenbach
Secretary
New Milford Board of Education