

**New Milford Board of Education
 Regular Meeting Minutes
 December 15, 2020
 Via Zoom Virtual Meeting**

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NEW MILFORD, CT

Present:	Mr. Joseph Failla Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Pete Helmus Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan Mrs. Cynthia Nabozny Mrs. Olga I. Rella
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Also Present:	Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Interim Superintendent of Schools Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Operations and Fiscal Services Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Mr. Kevin Munrett, Director of Facilities Mr. Brandon Rush, Director of Technology Mrs. Catherine Gabianelli, Director of Human Resources Mrs. Catherine Calabrese, Interim Assistant Superintendent 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 regular meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mrs. Faulenbach.	Call to Order
2.	Recognition A. NMPS Retirees: Mrs. Marshia King, Mrs. Irene Miller, Ms. Diane Taylor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. DiCorpo congratulated all retirees and invited principals to speak. • Mrs. Gallagher said Mrs. King was known for her love of job, school and kids. She had wonderful school spirit and a bright smile for all. She wished her well in her retirement. • Mr. Shugrue said Mrs. Miller was known for her quiet demeanor. He called her a supervisor's 	Recognition A. NMPS Retirees: Mrs. Marshia King, Mrs. Irene Miller, Ms. Diane Taylor

	<p>dream and thanked her for all she had done for students and staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Longo said Ms. Taylor was a pillar of the SMS community who always put students first. He said she will leave a lasting legacy for the SMS music program. Mr. Shugrue echoed Dr. Longo's sentiments and said that Ms. Taylor has a passion for teaching and chorus. She was wonderful with students and gave them so much time and opportunities. She will be missed.• Mrs. Faulenbach expressed gratitude on behalf of the Board to these dedicated staff members and wished them a happy retirement. <p>B. NMPS Stars: Sarah E. Herring, Dianne Johnson, Yvonne Lynch, Henry Marshall, Keith Nold, Jennifer Titus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. DiCorpo said she wished all these recognitions could be in person but that she hoped the slides helped. This group of six was actually nominated pre-COVID and have remained stellar throughout. She read what the nominee said about each one.• Mrs. Bilko added praise for Sarah Herring, saying she makes those around her stronger and better.• Mrs. Bilko said Dianne Johnson is a special teacher who knows every child and what makes each one unique.• Mrs. Bilko said Yvonne Lynch is an excellent teacher who is very supportive of all her students, when they are with her and in other classes.• Mr. Shugrue said Henry Marshall is all NMHS strives to be. He is kind, with great character, and works hard every day.• Mr. Williams agreed with the comment about Keith Nold being a ray of sunshine. He said Keith was one of the first people to help him settle in to his new position as Principal and he continues to do anything he can to help.• Mrs. Olson said Jennifer Titus is a highly skilled SLP who knows her students well. She is positive and very collaborative and the team is	<p>B. NMPS Stars: Sarah E. Herring, Dianne Johnson, Yvonne Lynch, Henry Marshall, Keith Nold, Jennifer Titus</p>
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	<p>lucky to have her. Mr. Shugrue said she is a wonderful asset.</p>	
3.	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jason O'Connor, Executive Director of the Youth Agency, said he supports the current Interim Superintendent in the Board's search for a permanent Superintendent. He said she is an exemplary citizen and professional within the district and throughout the community. • Brian Hembrook, who oversees the child care program through the Youth Agency, also supports the candidacy of Ms. DiCorpo for permanent Superintendent. He said she has shown initiative and provides tireless support. She has proven that she is invested in the Town and its children. 	Public Comment
4.	<p>PTO Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Mandi MacDonald said she was happy to see custodians recognized as "Stars" for all they do, including helping the PTO with their events. • Believe it or not, the holiday season is here and we have made it almost half way through this crazy new normal! All the PTOs are currently as busy as Santa's elves putting together some goodie bags for staff in all schools to help spread a little holiday cheer. • Discount cards are on sale. There are many great discounts for local businesses including some of our favorite restaurants and they make a great gift! • The PTO would like to thank the Board of Education, Interim Superintendent Ms. DiCorpo and the administrators, teachers and staff of all the schools. We know this has been a challenging school year thus far and we want you to know your tireless efforts do not go unnoticed. The New Milford PTO wishes you all a safe and blessed holiday season and a happy new year! 	PTO Report
5.	Approval of Minutes	Approval of Minutes

<p>A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</p> <p>1. Special Meeting Minutes November 16, 2020</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes November 16, 2020, seconded by Mrs. Monaghan.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>2. Regular Meeting Minutes November 17, 2020</p> <p>Mrs. Monaghan moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes November 17, 2020, seconded by Mrs. McInerney.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>3. Special Meeting Minutes December 3, 2020</p> <p>Mrs. Rella moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes December 3, 2020, seconded by Mrs. Monaghan.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>4. Special Meeting Minutes December 8, 2020 (4:00 PM)</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes December 8, 2020 (4:00 PM), seconded by Mrs. Rella.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>5. Special Meeting Minutes December 8, 2020 (5:00 PM)</p>	<p>A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</p> <p>1. Special Meeting Minutes November 16, 2020</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes November 16, 2020.</p> <p>2. Regular Meeting Minutes November 17, 2020</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes November 17, 2020.</p> <p>3. Special Meeting Minutes December 3, 2020</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes December 3, 2020.</p> <p>4. Special Meeting Minutes December 8, 2020 (4:00 PM)</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes December 8, 2020 (4:00 PM).</p> <p>5. Special Meeting Minutes December 8, 2020 (5:00 PM)</p>
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	<p>Mrs. Rella moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes December 8, 2020 (5:00 PM), seconded by Mrs. McInerney.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes December 8, 2020 (5:00 PM).</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Superintendent's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. DiCorpo thanked all for their collaboration over the Thanksgiving holiday, including the Town for providing testing. She said the additional week remote prevented the need for additional contact tracing and helped maintain safety for all. She continues to meet weekly with the DPH and Dr. Hack. They will meet Friday for the next update. The holiday travel letters will go out Wednesday to staff and families. • The district is offering a parent meeting on the topic of School Stress on January 17. She thanked Mrs. Olson for setting that up with ESS as presenter. • Ms. DiCorpo thanked the principals, instructional coaches and Mrs. Calabrese for their continued work with setting up the Caregiver Monday sessions. • She released a vaccination plan to staff today to begin gathering information on interest and priorities. This will happen in conjunction with the NMVNA. • The winter sports update is unchanged. The CIAC Board of Control will meet January 7. Winter coaches are on this evening's Exhibit A. • Ms. DiCorpo thanked the Cabinet and principals, for all their work on the budget, especially Mr. Giovannone. • She wished everyone happy holidays and thanked all for their continued support of the district. 	<p>Superintendent's Report</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Board Chairman's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Faulenbach echoed the holiday wishes. She said the Board held its annual meeting at 7 PM and elected officers for next year. This is just a slice of what the Board does as members work 	<p>Board Chairman's Report</p>

	<p>tirelessly and provide valuable input. She will be sending out requests for subcommittee assignments to Board members shortly.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>A. Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated December 15, 2020 (Revised)</p> <p>Mrs. Rella moved to approve Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as of December 15, 2020 as revised, seconded by Mrs. McInerney.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. McInerney said she was happy to see winter coaches on the Exhibit. It is important to keep students engaged socially, emotionally and recreationally. Coaches wear many hats, including mentor and advisor. She said the Board has supported activities and they should support the coaches as well. She asked Mr. Lipinsky to keep the Board updated regarding signups and engagement levels. • Mr. Helmus said he agrees with Mrs. McInerney but would like to see an assessment of what COVID like instruction looks like. He wants to know what we are getting for the \$86,000 price tag. He would like to see more detailed reporting and synopses. • Mrs. Monaghan said it is important to support athletes and she is pleased with the numbers Mr. Lipinsky sent. • Mr. Failla said he has been vocal in his past support of athletics. He did some additional research and he shared a small piece that spoke to the social and academic benefits of participation in team sports, as well as the increase to self-esteem and academic performance. He has said for years that sports are part of the overall educational process. • Mr. McCauley said he has personally seen the importance of after school activities and sports to 	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>A. Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated December 15, 2020 (Revised)</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as of December 15, 2020 as revised.</p>

<p>make connections to other kids and said these should continue to be supported.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Rella said she totally agreed with Mr. Failla and that students need support now more than ever.• Mr. Helmus said he is highly in favor of sports and activities. He is just questioning the benefit of long distance coaching, as well as the need for all the assistant coaches. He is looking for the rationale and data. Emotionally, he supports it as the right thing to do. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>B. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Budget Position dated November 30, 20202. Purchase Resolution: D-7413. Request for Budget Transfers <p>Mrs. Rella moved to approve monthly reports: Budget Position dated November 30, 2020; Purchase Resolution D-741; and Request for Budget Transfers, seconded by Mrs. Monaghan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Faulenbach said these were also reviewed at Operations. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>C. Grant Approvals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. No Kid Hungry <p>Mr. McCauley moved to approve the No Kid Hungry Grant application in the amount of \$70,200, seconded by Mrs. Rella.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Faulenbach said this was also reviewed at Operations. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Perkins <p>Mrs. Rella moved to approve the Perkins Grant in the amount of \$35,604, seconded by Mrs. McInerney.</p>	<p>B. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Budget Position dated November 30, 20202. Purchase Resolution: D-7413. Request for Budget Transfers <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve monthly reports: Budget Position dated November 30, 2020; Purchase Resolution: D-741; and Request for Budget Transfers.</p> <p>C. Grant Approvals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. No Kid Hungry <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the No Kid Hungry Grant application in the amount of \$70,200.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Perkins <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the Perkins Grant in the amount of \$35,604.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no discussion. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>D. NMHS Roof Project 1. Education Specs</p> <p>Mr. Helmus moved to approve the Educational Specifications for the NMHS Roof Project as dated June 5, 2020, seconded by Mrs. Monaghan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Munrett said this approval is necessary for the project to go out for state reimbursement now that we are past the December 1st date. The motion is designed to match one made by the Town Council for the project. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>E. SNIS Oil Tank Project</p> <p>Mrs. Rella moved to approve the Educational Specifications for the SNIS oil tank as dated December 4, 2020, seconded by Mrs. Monaghan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no discussion. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>D. NMHS Roof Project 1. Education Specs</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the Educational Specifications for the NMHS Roof Project as dated June 5, 2020.</p> <p>E. SNIS Oil Tank Project</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the Educational Specifications for the SNIS oil tank as dated December 4, 2020.</p>
<p>9.</p> <p>A.</p>	<p>Items for Information and Discussion</p> <p>Temporary Suspension of Waiver Request Process for Substitutes without a Bachelor's Degree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. DiCorpo said she brought this topic to Operations for discussion as it involves a change in practice. After further review, current policy 4121 does allow the superintendent to make an exemption to the bachelor degree requirement for good cause as permitted by the CSDE. Ms. DiCorpo said in this case they will be looking to bring in teacher candidates enrolled in a program at university and also to current paraeducator subs. She said this will help us to keep schools open, which is important not only from an 	<p>Items for Information and Discussion</p> <p>A. Temporary Suspension of Waiver Request Process for Substitutes without a Bachelor's Degree</p>

educational standpoint, but to continue the food program for our free and reduced lunch students.

- Ms. Beth Salaris, of Educational Staffing Service, said this will be helpful to increase the fill rate. The sub pool has been smaller during COVID and this change will provide significant help with coverage. They participate with other districts and are reaching out to colleges and universities for applicants. Other districts are allowing this and are getting applicants applying. It will also be helpful for current sub paraeducators' flexibility.
- Mrs. Faulenbach clarified that there is no motion needed procedurally because the policy already allows this. The discussion is to provide feedback only.
- Mrs. McNerney said she thinks this is a great idea to reach out to qualified college students and others. She said it also benefits the students by giving them a taste of the real classroom.
- Mrs. Nabozny said she appreciated the clarification that the district will be looking at vetted, targeted candidates.
- Mrs. Rella asked if this waiver is just for COVID. Ms. DiCorpo said yes, through the duration of the Executive Order, during the 2020-21 school year.
- Mrs. Rella said she appreciated the clarification also, as teachers were concerned about having qualified substitutes in the classroom.

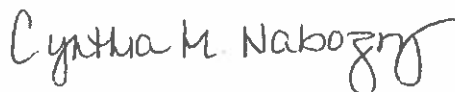
B. Lillis Building

- Mrs. Faulenbach said this is one of many conversations on this topic, both at Facilities and the full Board.
- Mr. Failla said the sooner we are out of Lillis and can give it back to the Town the better. It is important to get the administrative team together in one location, a location that is a healthy, safe environment accessible to all; and that is not the Lillis Building. He said even a temporary 3-5 year move to SNIS while planning for something more permanent should be done sooner rather than later.

B. Lillis Building

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Faulenbach said she will be asking all Board members for Board goals and this is one that needs to be addressed. She said she is looking for actual data, costs and a plan on how to get to that point. We need to hone in through Facilities and Operations and in collaboration with the Town to see when to go, where to go, how to get there, and how much it will cost. • Mrs. Monaghan said she would like to tour JPCC just to get a look at what may be feasible or not. • Mr. Helmus agreed we need to get out of East Street or renovate, which would be very costly. He needs to see options laid out, including SNIS, JPCC or another temporary location, so a decision can be made soon. • Mrs. McInerney agreed that the Board needs to plan seriously to move forward. • Mrs. Faulenbach said the topic will be on the next Facilities agenda. 	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Mrs. Monaghan moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Rella and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:44 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



Cynthia Nabozny
 Secretary
 New Milford Board of Education