

Milford Board of Education
Regular Meeting
October 10, 2006
Sarah Noble Intermediate School—Media Center

Present: Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Chairperson
 Dr. Lisa Diamond
 Mr. David A. Lawson
 Mrs. Dian Traisci-Marandola
 Mr. Thomas McSherry
 Mr. Robin Ruggiero
 Dr. Lawrence Stillman
 Mrs. Julie Turk
 Mr. Joseph Vita

Absent: Mr. William McLachlan
 Ms. Jennifer Oliveira

Also Present: Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, Superintendent
 Mr. Thomas Mulvihill, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum
 Mr. Thomas Corbett, Director of Operations
 Mr. John Turk, Director of Fiscal Services
 Mr. David Elmore, Director of Technology
 Mr. John Calhoun, Director of Facilities
 Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Principal, Sarah Noble Intermediate School
 Ms. Amy Holland, Student Representative
 Ms. Dannielle Pelillo, Student Representative
 Mr. John Lee, Vice-Principal, New Milford High School
 Ms. Christy Martin, Adult Education Facilitator
 Mrs. Jane Cornelis, Adult Education

<p>1. Mrs. Faulenbach called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:30 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.</p>	<p>Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance</p>
<p>2. Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mrs. Shelly Pitser, a member of the New Milford Taxpayers' Association, spoke in favor of the BOE hosting Dr. Armand Fusco for a workshop regarding preparation for the upcoming budget season. 	<p>Public Comment</p>

3. Staff Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Superintendent recognized Ms. Christy Martin, Adult Education Facilitator and Mrs. Jane Cornelis, Adult Education for their efforts targeting early childhood pre-reading and pre-math level learners with simple interactive games and craft activities that parents can take home to help their children learn basic math and reading concepts. This program is funded through a Motherhead/Fatherhead and an ELL Civics Grant. Adult Education has found that by identifying “family patterns”, they can impact learners at every level to help create a greater comfort level with the education process.	Staff Recognition
4. PTO Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mrs. Denise Smith, President of New Milford PTO reported that the PTO website was not functional for the greater part of the first two weeks of school and so the membership drive got off to a rough start.	PTO Report
5. Student Representatives’ Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ First quarter progress reports were out October 3rd.▪ The first meet for the Math Team is against New Fairfield on October 11.▪ SAT tests are scheduled for October 14 at NMHS.▪ The first meeting of the Principal’s council is October 18th▪ PSAT tests are scheduled for October 21st.▪ The NMHS band has a competition on October 20-21st.▪ October 23rd to the 27th is Homecoming Week with the Homecoming Dance on the 28th.▪ The Band Concert is on October 26th at 7:00 pm.	Student Representatives’ Report
6. Approval of Minutes of the BOE Meeting of September 12, 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The BOE Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2006 will be brought forward next month as it was discovered that a portion of the minutes may be missing from the copies provided the Board. The complete minutes will be placed on the agenda for approval at the next BOE meeting scheduled for November 14, 2006.	Approval of Minutes

<p>7. Superintendent's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ On October 5th, the Superintendent attended the first half of a meeting by the State Dept of Education CT Initiative for Educational Improvement to discuss NCLB requirements. A team from New Milford attended the meeting all day.▪ Also on October 5th, the Superintendent attended a Magnet School Trustee Meeting attended by representatives of the State Dept of Education to discuss operational issues as well as next year's projected participation by the partner districts. Dr. Paddyfote will put this item on the agenda for the November Operations Sub-Committee meeting.▪ Dr. Paddyfote extended an invitation to the BOE members from Paula Marion to attend an exhibition and informational session on samplers sponsored by the New Milford Historical Society on November 19, 2006.	<p>Superintendent's Report</p>
<p>8. Board Chairman's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mrs. Faulenbach reported that plans for the Strategic Plan are moving forward, pending full Board approval with proposed dates in late November.▪ Plans for the BOE self-evaluation are also underway, pending the BOE's approval.▪ Mrs. Faulenbach read aloud a note from Mrs. Dana Ford, Principal of Schaghticoke Middle School, thanking the BOE for the reinstatement of the interscholastic sports program at SMS, citing a significant surge in school spirit as a direct result.	<p>Board Chairman's Report</p>
<p>9. Committee Reports</p> <p>A. Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mr. McSherry reported that Mr. John Turk gave the Committee an update on the Energy Conservation Plan.▪ The Committee is still looking into grant money to finance the repairs to the Larson Road barn.▪ Mr. John Calhoun gave the Committee an update on the Tools for Schools program.▪ The use of snow removal products was discussed. The town has requested to be reimbursed for whatever product the maintenance staff uses and ways of measuring this amount were discussed. However, since the meeting, the town is looking for an accounting of products used.▪ A master plan for Facilities Management was discussed and will be re-visited.▪ An increase in vandalism was discussed – John Calhoun will research options on ways to increase security (ie: extra lighting) and help control the damage being done.▪ A fire hydrant at the high school that was in the way of the Rt 7 reconstruction project was determined to be unnecessary and was capped off.▪ A right-of-way at the back of H&P property was	<p>Committee Reports Facilities Committee</p>

<p>discussed as the current owner of the right-of-way has parked used equipment there. The Facilities department is working with the town to clean up this area. The Board Attorney is working with the town to explore legal action against the property owner.</p> <p>B. Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Dr. Diamond reported that the Operations Committee also heard an overview of the Energy Conservation Plan from Mr. Turk.▪ The Committee supports the construction of a strategic plan as outlined by The Cambridge Group.▪ The Sherman Contract was discussed and will be ready for the November BOE agenda.▪ Ms. Baldelli spoke at length regarding staffing, scheduling and other needs at SNIS. The Committee requested that she develop a listing of short-term as well as long-term needs to bring to the next Operations Sub-Committee meeting scheduled for November 7th, 2006.	<p>Operations Committee</p>
<p>C. Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mrs. Marandola reported that the Policy Committee has sent the Policy 9000 Series to the legal team for review.	<p>Policy Committee</p>
<p>D. Committee on Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mrs. Faulenbach reported that the COL discussed the curricula for several courses and sent them to the full BOE for approval.▪ Mr. Mulvihill gave the COL an overview of Windows on New Milford.▪ Test score results were discussed as an extension of this overview.▪ All day kindergarten was discussed at length, with specific emphasis on projected space and staffing needs.	<p>Committee on Learning</p>
<p>10. Discussion and Possible Action Items</p> <p>A. Motion by Mrs. Marandola: Move to approve Revised Exhibit A – Personnel as of October 10, 2006 as recommended by the Superintendent</p> <p>Seconded by: Mr. Rugeiro</p> <p>Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Rugeiro, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk, Mr. Vita</p> <p>Nay:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Motion: Passed Unanimously 9-0-0</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action Items Motion made and passed to approve Revised Exhibit A- Personnel</p>

B. Motion by: Dr. Stillman: Move that the NMBOE approve the Monthly Reports: Revised Request for Budget Transfers, Revised Purchase Resolution D-594, and the Budget Position as of 9/30/06.

Seconded by: Mrs. Marandola

Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggeiro, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk, Mr. Vita

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion: Passed Unanimously 9-0-0

C. Motion by Mr. Ruggeiro: Move that the NMBOE accept gifts and donations from the Carlson Family Foundation as reported on Exhibit B and from the NM PTO as reported on Exhibit C.

Seconded by: Dr. Stillman

Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggeiro, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk, Mr. Vita

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion: Passed Unanimously 9-0-0

D. Motion by: Mrs. Marandola: Move that the NMBOE approve the following curricula: Honors Statistics, Russian Studies, Astronomy, Spanish I, and Spanish II.

Seconded by: Mr. Lawson

Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggeiro, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk, Mr. Vita

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion: Passed Unanimously 9-0-0

E. Motion by: Mr. Ruggeiro: Move that the NMBOE authorize the Board Chairperson and Board Secretary to sign the Energy Conservation Management Plan.

Seconded by: Mrs. Marandola

Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggeiro, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk, Mr. Vita

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion: Passed Unanimously 9-0-0

Motion made and passed to approve the Monthly Reports: Revised Request for Budget Transfers, Revised Purchase Resolution D-594, and Budget Position as of 9/30/06.

Motion made and passed that the NMBOE accept gifts and donations from the Carlson Family Foundation as reported on Exhibit B and from the NM PTO as reported on Exhibit C.

Motion made and passed that the BOE approve the following curricula: Honors Statistics, Russian Studies, Astronomy, Spanish I, and Spanish II.

Motion made and passed to authorize the Board Chairperson and Board Secretary to sign the Energy Conservation Management Plan.

F. Motion by: Mr. Ruggeiro: Move that the NMBOE enter into a contract with The Cambridge Group to construct a strategic plan for the NMBOE as outlined by Dr. Howard Feddema.

Seconded by: Mrs. Marandola

Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggeiro, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk, Mr. Vita

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion: Passed Unanimously 9-0-0

G. Motion by: Dr. Stillman: Move that the NMBOE approve June 23, 2007 as the graduation date for New Milford High School.

Seconded by: Mr. McSherry

Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggeiro, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk, Mr. Vita

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion: Passed Unanimously 9-0-0

H. Motion by: Mr. McSherry: Move that the NMBOE add Ellamae Baldelli, Principal, as an authorized signatory on the following accounts, replacing Beverly Regan.

1. Sarah Noble Intermediate School Activity–New Mil Bank (Webster)
2. Sarah Noble Intermediate School Operations–New Mil Bank (Webster)

Seconded by: Mrs. Marandola

Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggeiro, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk, Mr. Vita

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion: Passed Unanimously 9-0-0

I. Motion by: Mr. McSherry: Move that the NMBOE authorize Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote and Mr. Corbett to sign for meal reimbursement from the CT Dept of Education.

Seconded by: Mrs. Marandola

Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggeiro, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk, Mr. Vita

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion: Passed Unanimously 9-0-0

Motion made and passed that the NMBOE enter into a contract with The Cambridge Group to construct a strategic plan for the NMBOE as outlined by Dr. Howard Feddema.

Motion made and passed that the BOE approve June 23, 2007 at the graduation date for New Milford High School.

Motion made and passed that the NMBOE add Ellamae Baldelli, Principal, as an authorized signatory on the following accounts, replacing Beverly Regan.

1. Sarah Noble Intermediate School Activity–New Mil Bank (Webster)
2. Sarah Noble Intermediate School Operations–New Mil Bank (Webster)

Motion made and passed that the NMBOE authorize Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote and Mr. Corbett to sign for meal reimbursement from the CT Dept of Education.

J. Motion by Mr. Ruggeiro: Move that the NMBOE authorize the Board Chairperson to arrange for an outside facilitator, Dr. Ira Yellin, to assist the Board in its self-evaluation.

Seconded by: Mr. McSherry

Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggeiro, Dr. Stillman, Mr. Vita

Nay:

Abstain: Mrs. Turk

Motion: Passed 8-0-1

K. Board workshop request to bring in Dr. Armand A. Fusco, to discuss budget preparation.

Discussion:

- Mrs. Turk stated that she feels that the BOE should take advantage of the offer by Dr. Armand Fusco of a two-hour free presentation regarding the analysis of budget data. She acknowledges that Dr. Fusco uses the term “corruption” but does not agree that this term negates the value of his underlying message – that Boards of Education need proper data presented properly to make informed budget decisions. Mrs. Turk stated that the Board’s willingness to listen to suggestions for improving the budget process demonstrates its commitment to fiscal responsibility.
- Dr. Stillman stated that, in his opinion, Dr. Fusco never saw a school system that was not corrupt. This presentation would be an insult to all those people who have worked on previous budgets in good faith. Dr. Stillman pointed out that CABE disavows Dr. Fusco’s views.
- Mr. Ruggeiro stated that limiting this workshop’s focus to the presentation of positive solutions and suggestions for budget management would be very helpful.
- Mrs. Turk pointed out that Dr. Fusco has his doctorate in education and has 17 years experience as a Superintendent and thus, has credibility. His workshop outline is about the review and analysis of school budgets plus scheduling and utilization issues germane to the budget process. It is not accusatory but strictly on an informational basis.
- Mr. Lawson stated that managing the budget is vital. The student-teacher ratio is also vital to determining the best decisions for our budget. He is not sure what the BOE’s problem is supposed to be.

Motion made and passed that the NMBOE authorize the Board Chairperson to arrange for an outside facilitator, Dr. Ira Yellin, to assist the Board in its self-evaluation.

Board workshop request to bring in Dr. Armand A. Fusco, to discuss budget preparation.

- Mrs. Faulenbach stated that although she is a big fan of the “workshop” format, she is very hesitant to support the choice of a speaker who has authored a book with the term “Corruption” in the title. She believes that Dr. Fusco will bring a bias to the proposed two-hour presentation. Mrs. Faulenbach stated further that she agrees with the idea of ensuring that our budgeted funds go directly to the classrooms. She believes that the budget process can always be more efficient. She reminded the BOE that the majority were not available last year for a proposed budget workshop.
- Mr. McSherry stated that, although he has an inflammatory reputation, Dr. Fusco’s proposed workshop is only two hours long and if the BOE only finds ten per cent of the presentation of value, then it may be worthwhile.
- Mrs. Marandola stated that she was tuned into the divisiveness of the budget process last year with groups trying to discredit budget information prepared by the administration and wondered if the choice of Dr. Fusco as presenter is a continuation of that agenda. She declines to waste her time.
- Dr. Diamond stated that years of experience can be meaningless. The notion of educating ourselves about different budget approaches is a good idea but feels that two hours would be useless and a more long-term education would be more effective. She has no confidence in the method of presentation by this speaker but admits to some curiosity about Dr. Fusco’s personality. However, she is not curious enough to spend two hours at his workshop.
- Dr. Stillman stated that Dr. Fusco is trying to sell his books and so will not come to the workshop evenhandedly. Dr. Stillman cannot support this choice.
- Mrs. Turk stated that Dr. Fusco has already given us useful information by providing a listing of good questions to ask in his discussion outline.
- Mr. Vita will vote to invite Dr. Fusco to make his presentation since the BOE members have enough experience to discern what is useful. Mr. Vita stated that he feels that “the price is right”, and since a fellow BOE member feels strongly enough to bring it forward, he will support the idea.

Motion by Mr. Lawson: Move that the NMBOE bring Dr. Armand Fusco to the BOE for a budget presentation workshop.

Seconded by: Mr. Vita

Yea: Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggeiro, Mrs., Turk, Mr. Vita
Nay: Dr. Diamond, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Marandola, Dr. Stillman
Abstain:
Motion: Failed 4-5-0

Motion made and failed that the NMBOE bring Dr. Armand Fusco to the BOE for a budget preparation workshop.

L. Motion by Dr. Stillman: Move that the NMBOE approve textbooks for grades 1 and 2.

Seconded by: Mrs. Marandola

Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggeiro, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk, Mr. Vita
Nay:
Abstain:
Motion: Passed Unanimously 9-0-0

Motion made and passed that the NMBOE approve textbooks for grades 1 and 2.

L. Motion by Dr. Stillman: Move that the NMBOE approve textbooks for grades 1 and 2.

Seconded by: Mrs. Marandola

Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggeiro, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk, Mr. Vita
Nay:
Abstain:
Motion: Passed Unanimously 9-0-0

Motion made and passed that the NMBOE approve textbooks for grades 1 and 2.

Items for Discussion

A. Field Trips – There was no discussion.

Motion by Dr. Stillman: Move that the NMBOE adjourn.

Seconded by: Mrs. Turk

Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggeiro, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk, Mr. Vita
Nay:
Abstain:
Motion: Passed Unanimously 9-0-0

Items for Discussion
Field Trips

Motion made and passed that the NMBOE adjourn.

The NMBOE meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Adjournment

Joseph Vita
Secretary