

**New Milford Board of Education  
 Policy Sub-Committee Minutes  
 November 15, 2016  
 Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

Present: Mr. J.T. Schemm, Chairperson  
 Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach  
 Mr. Dave Littlefield  
 Mrs. Tammy McInerney

Also Present: Mr. Joshua Smith, Superintendent  
 Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent  
 Ms. Roberta Pratt, Director of Technology

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 NEW MILFORD, CT

1.	<p><b>Call to Order</b></p> <p>The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Policy Sub-Committee was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Mr. Schemm.</p>	<p><b>Call to Order</b></p>
2.	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There was none.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>
3.	<p><b>Discussion and Possible Action</b></p> <p><b>A. Policies for Review:</b></p> <p><b>1. 9320 Meetings of the Board: Version 1 and Version 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mrs. McInerney asked if the goal was to send one of these versions back to the Board for approval and Mr. Schemm said yes.</li> <li>Mrs. Faulenbach asked if there would be a motion to that effect and Mr. Schemm said he would entertain a motion. He said he prefers Version #1.</li> </ul> <p>Mrs. McInerney moved to bring Policy 9320 Meetings of the Board: Version #1 to the full Board for approval.</p> <p>Motion seconded by Mr. Schemm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Littlefield said he prefers Version #2</li> </ul>	<p><b>Discussion and Possible Action</b></p> <p><b>A. Policies for Review:</b></p> <p><b>1. 9320 Meetings of the Board: Version 1 and Version 2</b></p> <p><b>Motion made to bring Policy 9320 Meetings of the Board: Version #1 to the full Board for approval.</b></p>

	<p>which spells out the procedure to get an item on the agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Schemm said he prefers Version #1. He thinks changing the Board meetings to the third Tuesday after sub-committees makes sense. He feels that the additional language about adding agenda items in Version #2 could clutter future agendas with items that will not move forward at the Board level. He prefers to keep agendas tight for efficiency and productivity. He also questioned the selection of the number three and asked why that should be the magic number and if so why not include three members of the public requesting an item.</li><li>• Mr. Littlefield said the idea is to make sure the minority voice is heard and that if three members think it is important enough to be added it would not be “clutter”. This procedure would make sure that all voices are heard.</li><li>• Mrs. Faulenbach agreed saying that current policy allows three Board members to call a meeting, so why not have three members be able to add an item. She thinks it would provide a nice check and balance system for items that were not vetted through sub-committees for whatever reason.</li><li>• Mrs. Faulenbach asked when the switch to the third Tuesday would go into effect. Mr. Smith said he had prepared two versions of a meeting calendar for next year for discussion, one with the change taking effect in February after the budget meetings, the other in July. The Board attorney who works with us on policy said an effective date could be added to the approval line when the Board makes its determination. The calendars also list sub-committee dates for each month in accord with current policy. Individual meetings can be canceled or date shifted as special meetings if needed once the calendar is published.</li><li>• Mrs. McNerney asked if the goal was to recommend a version of the calendar to the full Board.</li><li>• Mr. Schemm said he would prefer to have that</li></ul>	
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discussion at the full Board with all members present.

- Mr. Littlefield said he thinks the change makes perfect sense and sees no reason to hold off. He is not a big fan of adding sub-committees in the summer but thinks having regular Board meetings then could be helpful to the business of the district.
- Mr. Schemm said he agreed but liked the option of listing them so they are available if needed.
- Mrs. McInerney worried about reaching a quorum in the summer when vacations are frequent.
- Mrs. Faulenbach agreed that the discussion should take place at the full Board but said she would prefer to begin the change in February for cohesion and so that people would have the schedule for the year upfront.
- Mr. Smith said he had asked Attorney Cannon for clarity on sub-committee motions and Attorney Cannon said the Board could bring items to the full meeting at any time without a motion from sub-committee. The motion from sub-committee is more to allow weighing in of Board members and for efficiency of action at the Board meeting.
- Mr. Schemm said regarding the language in 9320 Version #2 of three members requesting an item agenda, he would prefer to add that language to 9130 where the work of sub-committees is addressed since that is where the real work of the Board takes place.
- Mrs. McInerney said she agrees with Mr. Schemm and asked if there had been a problem in the past with an item not being brought forward from sub-committee.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said there had been and gave the example of the topic of East Street being brought forward from the Facilities sub-committee as an item under the Chair's report versus for discussion as she wanted. After some back and forth, it was added to the

	<p>agenda and resulted in a lengthy discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mrs. McInerney said in that case the system worked without this change.</li><li>• Mrs. Faulenbach said she is concerned with possible future issues.</li><li>• Mr. Littlefield said not every Board member is on a sub-committee and a member can only speak to an item if they are on the committee.</li><li>• Mr. Schemm said public comment is allowed at the beginning and end of every sub-committee meeting so members are free to use that as a viable option. He does not feel the current system is broken.</li><li>• Mrs. Faulenbach said she thought the Board should look at both versions again and decide as a whole which one they want. Mr. Schemm called for a vote on the motion.</li></ul> <p>Motion failed 2-2. Aye: Mr. Schemm, Mrs. McInerney No: Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. Littlefield</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to bring Policy 9320 Meetings of the Board: Versions #1 and #2 to the full Board for discussion and approval.</p> <p>Motion seconded by Mr. Schemm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Schemm said he thought the discussion is complicated by the fact that the policy reflects two changes: the switch to the third Tuesday and the discussion on adding agenda items.</li><li>• Mrs. Faulenbach said she would withdraw her motion and suggest instead that a new version of the policy be created and sent to the Board in which only the first and last sentence under 9320(a)#4 be included. She said perhaps the simplified language would move the policy forward. Further discussion about adding agenda items could be incorporated into other policies such as the two to follow.</li></ul> <p>The motion was withdrawn.</p>	<p><b>Motion failed.</b></p> <p><b>Motion made to bring Policy 9320 Meetings of the Board: Versions #1 and #2 to the full Board for discussion and approval.</b></p> <p><b>The motion was withdrawn.</b></p>
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<p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to bring Policy 9320 Meetings of the Board, adjusted to include third Tuesday language and removal of all but the first and last sentence under 9320(a)#4, to the full Board for approval.</p> <p>Motion seconded by Mr. Littlefield.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p><b>2. 9130 Board Committees</b></p> <p><b>3. 9323 Construction of the Agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Schemm said these policies were up for first review and added the language regarding three members requesting an agenda item.</li><li>• Mrs. Faulenbach said 9130 also references the appointment of standing committees by no later than the January regular meeting of the Board. She asked if the budget hearings were considered regular meetings and Mr. Smith said they were.</li><li>• Mrs. Faulenbach reiterated that this is about checks and balances to keep the system working.</li><li>• Mr. Smith said the new calendars presented adhere to 9130(c)#2 which says all standing committees shall plan to meet once a month.</li><li>• Mr. Smith said the Board has had discussions in the past about members not on a sub-committee being allowed to participate and this is addressed on 9130(a). He offered to research to see how other districts and CABA handle similar situations since the policy is under discussion for other possible changes.</li><li>• Mrs. Faulenbach said she believed it had to do with the definition of a quorum. Mr. Smith said he was offering to research as there appeared to be multiple opinions on this topic.</li><li>• The consensus of the committee was to bring both policies back to the next meeting for further discussion before bringing them to the</li></ul>	<p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to bring Policy 9320 Meetings of the Board, adjusted to include third Tuesday language and removal of all but the first and last sentence under 9320(a)#4, to the full Board for approval.</b></p> <p><b>2. 9130 Board Committees</b></p> <p><b>3. 9323 Construction of the Agenda</b></p>
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	full Board for first review.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Public Comment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There was none.</li></ul>	<b>Public Comment</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Adjourn</b> Mrs. McInerney moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach and passed unanimously.	<b>Adjourn</b> <b>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.</b>

Respectfully submitted:



J.T. Schemm, Chairperson  
Policy Sub-Committee