

NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION



ANNUAL REPORT **2015 – 2016**

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
50 East Street
New Milford, Connecticut 06776

Submitted by: Joshua D. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. David A. Lawson, Chairperson

Mr. Bill Dahl, Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Secretary

Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Assistant Secretary

Mrs. Angela C. Chastain

Mr. Robert Coppola

Mr. Dave Littlefield

Mr. Brian McCauley

Mr. J.T. Schemm

Board of Education Annual Report 2015 – 2016

The New Milford Public Schools served 4,204 students in kindergarten through grade 12 during the 2015-16 academic year with a staff of 376 teachers, 18 building administrators, and 230 support staff (non-certified staff). The operating budget for the New Milford Public Schools for 2015-2016 totaled \$61,178,808.

July 2015

- The Board approved a new, three-year contract for Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent of the New Milford Public Schools.

August 2015

- Superintendent of Schools, Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, announced the administrative appointment of **Mrs. Kerri Adakonis** as Interim Assistant Principal at Schaghticoke Middle School.
- Teachers and staff were welcomed back on August 18th and participated in staff meetings and professional development on August 19th and 20th.
- All Staff Convocation took place on August 20th.
- Students returned August 24th.

September 2015

- The Board held a workshop where Deputy Superintendent Joshua Smith presented information regarding district assessment data.
- **Mrs. Jennifer Singer**, Grade 3 teacher at Sarah Noble Intermediate School, was recognized as New Milford's Teacher of the Year for 2016.



New Milford Teacher of the Year Jennifer Singer

- The Board approved signatories on school district accounts.
- Tuition rates were established and approved for the 2015-2016 school year.
- The Board appointed Dr. Evan R. Hack to the position of School District Medical Advisor.
- The Board moved to request that the End-of-Year Balance for 2015, subject to final audit, be designated to capital reserve.

- The Board approved the appointment of the Board's legal counsel to serve as hearing officer in lieu of the Board for student expulsion hearings when the Board Chair deems it necessary or otherwise appropriate.
- The Board regrettably accepted Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote's notice of her intention to retire effective January 31, 2016 as Superintendent of the New Milford Public Schools.
- At a special meeting on September 24, 2015, the Board approved the appointment of **Mr. Kevin Munrett** as district Facilities Manager and agreed with Dr. Paddyfote's plan to name **Dr. Len Tomasello** Interim Principal of Schaghticoke Middle School and to transfer current assistant principal **Dr. Christopher Longo** from New Milford High School to Schaghticoke Middle School for the 2015-16 school year.

October 2015

- The Board recognized:



- SNIS students **Annabelle Colonna** and **Giacomo Colangelo** – Winners in the 2015 CHET Dream Big! Competition



- Artistry in Creating SNIS LMC Mural – **Mrs. Amy Gagnon** and **Mrs. Elizabeth McManus**



- Selection as State Finalist for the 2015 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching – **Mrs. Erin Lucia**, NMHS Science teacher



- NMPS Retirees – **Mr. Alan Smith** and **Mrs. Barbara Bates** (photo unavailable)
- Dr. Paddyfote noted that on October 9, 2015, the keys to John Pettibone School were turned over to the Town. The mural which had been painted at John Pettibone has been moved to Sarah Noble. Everything has been removed from the school building and it is now the Town's responsibility.
- The Board Chair distributed the 2014-2015 Annual Report of the New Milford Board of Education.
- The Board approved the following grants:
 - Bilingual Education Program Grant – ED114 in the amount of \$4,771.00
 - P-3 Preschool/K Transition and Collaboration Grant from the CT Community Foundation in the amount of \$4,101.38
- The Board approved the following policies:
 - 3524.1 Hazardous Material in School - Pest Management/Pesticide Application
 - 4112.5/4212.5 Criminal History Inquiries & Employment - Reference Checks
 - 4118.25/4218.25 Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect
 - 5113 Truancy
 - 5113.1 Work Permits
 - 5114 Removal/Suspension/Expulsion
 - 5121 Examination/Grading/Rating
 - 5141.3 Health Assessments and Immunizations
- The Board suspended policy 5157 Use of Physical Force and Seclusion.
- The Board approved the following curricula:
 - PE Leader
 - Keyboarding
- The Board approved the following textbooks:
 - *The Silver Star* – Grade 10
 - *Girl with a Pearl Earring* – Grades 10-12
 - *The Round House* – Grades 11-12
- The Board approved stipend positions for Schaghticoke Middle School.
- The Board approved the concept to renovate two fields at SNIS, pending the development and approval of the plans by the appropriate Town boards and the Board of Education.
- The Board approved the successor collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and the Teamster's Local 677–Custodians and Maintainers as discussed in executive session and authorized the Board Chair to sign the collective bargaining agreement and the Agreement & Declaration of Trust of Teamsters Local 677 HSIP on its behalf.

- At a special meeting on October 23, 2015, the Board authorized the Chairperson of the Board of Education to execute a contract with Mr. Joshua Smith to serve as Interim Superintendent of Schools, based upon the terms discussed in executive session and subject to further legal review.

November 2015

- The Board held a workshop at which Deputy Superintendent Joshua Smith presented information regarding 2015 assessment results.
- The Board of Education recognized the following:
 - Commended Students - 2016 National Merit Program: NMHS students **Christopher Ciaglo, Alexander Davlos, Nathaniel Diamond, Alexa Kugler, Francine Luo, Mackenzie Morehouse, Allegra Peery and Katherine Polley**
 - Semifinalist – 2016 National Merit Program: **Zachary Pitcher**



*Semifinalist and Commended students
with NMHS Principal Greg Shugrue*

- Dr. Paddyfote and Board Chair Chastain recognized the outgoing Board of Education members for their service to the New Milford Public Schools: **David Shaffer, Daniele Shook, John Spatola and Theresa Volinski.**
- The Board accepted the following donation:
 - New Milford PTO in the amount of \$7,540.00
- The Board approved policy 5141.21 Administration of Medication.
- The Board approved the following curricula:
 - Chinese Studies
 - Children's Literature
 - Journalism I
 - Journalism II
- The Board approved Sports and Entertainment Marketing as a new course and approved course revisions to Practical Math: Applications of Measurement; Practical Math: Applications of Percent; Practical Math: Applications of Probability; and Practical Math: Applications of Statistics.
- The Board approved the textbook: *Gateways to Art* for Grades 11 and 12.

- The Board approved the following requests for Capital Reserve funds:
 - \$261,900.00 for the telephone system
 - \$113,027.00 for the CEN line to SNIS
 - \$125,000.00 for the Corrective Action Plan
- The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding re School Resource Officers and authorized the Superintendent of Schools to sign it on the Board's behalf.
- NMHS Principal Greg Shugrue and Assistant Principal Linda Scoralick made a presentation to the Board regarding the Final Report of the NEASC Visiting Committee.
- The Board approved the Board negotiating committee's recommended collective bargaining settlements with: 1. Local 1303-154 of Council 4, representing the New Milford Nurses' bargaining unit, and 2. The New Milford Educational Secretaries Association Chapter of Local 136, I.F.P.T.E. as discussed in executive session and further move that the Board authorize the Board Chair to sign the collective bargaining settlements on its behalf.

December 2015

- The Board held its Annual meeting and elected the following officers:
 - Chairperson – **Mr. David A. Lawson**
 - Vice Chairperson – **Mr. Bill Dahl**
 - Secretary – **Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach**
 - Assistant Secretary – **Mrs. Tammy McInerney**



*Board of Education members – December 2015
(not pictured Bill Dahl)*

- Board Chairperson David A. Lawson appointed **Mr. Robert Coppola** as parliamentarian and **Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach** as assistant parliamentarian for the Board.

- The Board recognized Peace Poster Contest winners: SMS students **Ishaani Pradeep** and **Francesca Spindle**.



*Ishaani Pradeep and Francesca Spindle
with Dr. Tomasello, SMS Principal*

- The Board recognized New Milford Public Schools Retiree: **Dr. Eileen Cooper**.



*NMPS Retiree Dr. Eileen Cooper with
Board Chair David A. Lawson*

- The Negotiations Committee reported that all three bargaining unit contracts in progress were settled and signed.
- The Board accepted the following donation:
 - New Milford PTO in the amount of \$4,190.00
- The Board awarded the bid for Food and Nutrition Services – Serving Lines to Warehouse Store Fixture Company.
- The Board approved the District Consolidated Grant in the amount of \$368,764.00.
- The Board approved an increase to the compensation rate for a substitute teacher in the New Milford Public Schools to \$90.00 per day.
- Dr. Paddyfote requested Board input for the 2016-2017 Budget.

- The Board held a special meeting on December 14, 2015 where the Board's Legal Counsel conducted a workshop pertaining to various issues confronting Board members, including the legal contours of Board member speech as well as the Board-Central Office dynamic, such as hiring and working with superintendents.
- The Board held a special meeting on December 17, 2015 at which they authorized the Board Chair and Legal Counsel to negotiate the terms of the agreement with Cooperative Educational Services to provide consulting services for the superintendent search and to further authorized the Board Chair to sign the agreement pending legal review.
- The Board held a special meeting on December 28, 2015 to conduct an orientation regarding the superintendent search.

January 2016

- The Board of Education conducted three evenings of hearings and adopted a budget on the fourth night for the 2016-2017 school year in the amount of \$62,583,950.00.

February 2016

- At a special meeting on February 9, 2016, the Board moved to adopt the New Milford Public Schools 2016 Superintendent Search Leadership Profile Report as presented.
- The Board recognized the following students and staff:
 - VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest: SMS students **Katherine Lukens, Helen Ma and Kaley Toth**



Patriot's Pen Essay Contest winners with SMS teacher Keli Solomon and Principal Len Tomasello

- National Geographic Geography Bee: SMS student **Ryan Murphy**



Ryan with Dr. Tomasello

- NMPS Retiree: **Ms. Joanna Desmarais**



Ms. Desmarais is congratulated on her retirement.

- Mr. Smith reported that the first snow day for the year took place on February 5th.
- The Facilities Sub-Committee discussed the turf fields project, the SMS roof project and possible PCB testing.
- The Board of Education accepted the following Gifts:
 - New Milford PTO in the amount of \$11,520.00
 - Goldring Family Foundation in the amount of \$46,981.50
- The Board approved the following policies:
 - 3240 Tuition Fees
 - 5157 Use of Physical Force
- The Board acknowledged the Town of New Milford Audit Report dated June 30, 2015, as it pertained to the New Milford Board of Education. No material weaknesses were sited.

- The Board held an executive session for the purposes of reviewing and discussing a written legal opinion from the Board's attorney pertaining to the Superintendent's contract and/or formation of same and related legal issues.
- At a special meeting on February 17, 2016 the Board approved the appointment of Mr. Anthony Giovannone as Director of Fiscal Services and Operations.

March 2016

- The Board held a workshop at which Interim Superintendent Joshua Smith presented updates on district initiatives, specifically K-5 science enrichment and middle school Project Lead the Way.



SMS students from The Lion King, Jr. school musical performed *The Circle of Life* at the start of the meeting.

- The Board recognized SMS students **Joshua Abel, Nicholas Bon Tempo, Emma Chamberlin, Sophia Delohery, Kasey Donnelly, Olivia Esposito, Brian Hinger, Corryn Ivey, Scott Klimowich, Madison Lafontan, Samantha Learson, Lorelai Lee Swanek, Allan Lian, Madelyn Malinowski, Amanda Manaog, Lucy McKay, Gianna Militana, Sarah Morris, Eliza Peery, Teagan Piskura, Juliana Rella, Grace Schuette, Terrell Williams, Andrew Xu, and Grace Zona** for their selection to the CMEA Northern Region Middle School Music Festival.



CMEA Northern Region Middle School Festival Chorus and Band students pose with SMS Principal Dr. Tomasello and music teachers Ms. Taylor and Mr. Polhemus

- Mr. Smith noted that March is Board Appreciation Month and thanked the Board members for the many nights, e-mails, packet read-throughs, etc. that they do throughout the year.
 - Mr. Smith reported on the first phase of the new phone system installation at Central Office; high school course selection; Read Across America Day; budget presentation to the Joint Town Council/Board of Finance; the showing of SMS artwork at the Silo from March 12 through 25; and the upcoming *Lion King, Jr.* performances next month.
 - The Facilities Sub-Committee discussed an Eagle Scout project, PCB testing regarding the roof at Schaghticoke and the turf fields.
 - The Operations Sub-Committee discussed legal fees relating to an FOI complaint and an early retirement incentive proposal.
- The Board of Education accepted the following Gift:
- New Milford PTO in the amount of \$4,048.00
- The Board approved Changes to Signatories on District Accounts.
 - The Board approved the Five Year Technology Capital Plan 2016-2021.
 - The Board approved the following textbooks:
 - *The Scrapbook of Frankie Pratt* – Grade 10
 - *Economics* – Grades 11 and 12
 - The Board approved the Eagle Scout project of Will Ginn to build buddy benches at NES along with a storage shed.
 - An early retirement incentive program was discussed; the Board decided to table discussion and send it back to the Operations Sub-Committee.
 - The Board held a special meeting on March 17, 2016 to discuss possible contract/terms of employment/employment of a new superintendent. At the meeting, the Board unanimously authorized the Board Chair and the Board's legal counsel to negotiate with Joshua Smith the terms and conditions of a proposed draft Contract of Employment as Superintendent of the New Milford Public Schools in accordance with the draft terms discussed in executive session.

April 2016

- At a special meeting on April 12, 2016, the Board appointed **Dr. Christopher Longo** as Principal at Schaghticoke Middle School effective July 1, 2016.
- At its regular meeting, the Board recognized the following students and staff:



SMS Principal Dr. Len Tomasello with CAS Arts students

- CAS Arts Festival: SMS students **Annabelle Colonna** and **Jennifer Velez-Scuderi**



Kristen with NMHS Principal Greg Shugrue

- National K12 Ceramic Exhibition: NMHS student **Kristen Kornhaas**
- Young Women Rising Essay Contest: NMHS student **Marissa Fugardi** (not pictured)



Elizabeth with BOE Chair David Lawson

- Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest: NMHS student **Elizabeth Schlyer**



- NMPS Retiree: **Laura Hults**

- The Facilities Sub-Committee heard from two experts who said PCB testing is not necessary on the SMS roof project.
- The Operations Sub-Committee discussed an early retirement incentive and it was determined that it will be off the table for the 2016-17 school year but perhaps looked at in the fall for next year's budget as a cost savings.
- The Board of Education accepted the following Gifts and Donations:
 - PTO - \$45,615.18
- The Board approved the following curriculum:
 - Algebra I
 - Development of Western Civilization
 - Modern America 1945 to 1990
 - Sociology
 - AP Literature & Composition
 - Public Speaking
 - Modern and Contemporary Poetry
- The following new courses were approved by the Board:
 - Middle East Studies
 - Literature and Media Study
- The Board approved revisions to the following courses:
 - Introduction to Video Production
 - Advanced Video Production
- The Board approved the following textbooks:
 - *Connected Mathematics 2* – Grade 7
 - *Connected Mathematics 3* – Grade 8
- The Board approved the Five Year Facilities Capital Plan 2016-2021.
- The Board approved June 11, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. as the New Milford High School Graduation Date for 2016.
- The Board approved Exhibit C: Authorization of Signatories on the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Program to add Anthony Giovannone and Joshua D. Smith as signatories.
- At a special meeting on April 26, 2016 the Board in accordance with Section 10-157 of the Connecticut General Statutes, elected Joshua Smith as Superintendent of the New Milford Public Schools, effective as of July 1, 2016; and in conjunction with the election of Mr. Smith as Superintendent of the New Milford Public Schools, he was designated Superintendent-Elect, commencing immediately upon the passage of the motion and continuing until July 1, 2016, at which time he will assume the position of Superintendent of Schools. The Board also authorized the Board Chair to execute and thereby enter into on behalf of the Board a three-year contract of employment with Mr. Smith as Superintendent of Schools, with a commencement date of July 1, 2016 and continuing up through and including June 30, 2019.

May 2016

- At a special meeting on May 10, 2016 the Board held an executive session to interview and discuss candidates for the positions of Assistant Principal at Schaghticoke Middle School and Assistant Principal at New Milford High School. The candidates, **Mrs. Kerri**

Adakonis and Ms. Linda Scoralick were confirmed at the regular Board meeting that evening.

- The Board held a workshop on May 10, 2016 where they entered into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a security strategy, as well as the deployment of security personnel, and/or devices affecting security, as well as emergency lockdown plans in the New Milford Public Schools.
- At its regular meeting, the Board recognized:
 - New Milford High School student participants in CMEA Northern Region Music Festival events: **Hannah Arasim, Shealyn Baumgarner, Jessica Berkun, Cassandra Bielmeier, Kayla Blackburn, Aidan Busnel, Michael Carroll, Michael Cavuoto, Nicholas Cavuoto, Christopher Ciaglo, Jackson Cramer, Abbi Debes, Nathaniel Diamond, Jacob Dieterle, Nicholas Fitch, Karley Greene, Emma Hallacker, Christopher Kipp, Lukas Kugler, Emily Lessa, Grant Li, Francine Luo, Frank Magnante, Samantha McGuire, Brendan McLean, Chloe Onorato, Allegra Peery, Sunita Pfitzner, Zachary Pitcher, Brandon Rehaag, Michael Smith, Connor Stahl, William Stanton, Kendall Stewart, and Michael Tarby**



CMEA chorale participants with Mr. Keck



CMEA band participant with Mr. Syzdek

- The Board accepted the following Gifts and Donations:
 - PTO - \$7,253.00
 - Entegris Corporation – laptop computers, approximate value \$6,500.00
- The following bids were awarded by the Board of Education:
 - NMHS Chiller - Air Temp Mechanical Services Inc.
 - SNIS Entry (Catwalk) - Christopher Interiors
 - Special Transportation Services for a three-year period to Cardinal Driving Service, Inc.; Education Connection; CT Transport Solutions; and for a one-year period to EastConn Transportation
- The Board approved the following grants:
 - Adult Education – ED 244 grant in the amount of \$163,000.00
 - IDEA-611 grant in the amount of \$850,048.00 and the IDEA-619 grant in the amount of \$33,091.00
- The Board voted to continue its participation in the National School Lunch Program and filed the Healthy Food Certification Statement for 2016-2017 and authorized the Superintendent to approve Food Certification Exemptions for School Fundraisers as appropriate for 2016-2017.
- The Board approved a Request for Capital Reserve Funds - Exhibit D in the amount of \$336,240.00.
- At a special meeting on May 27, 2016 the Board discussed possible adjustments to the 2016-2017 Board of Education Adopted Budget. A motion was made and passed to reduce the 2016-2017 Board of Education Adopted Budget by 0.5% and to send that recommendation to the Town Council for discussion the following week.

JUNE 2016



A full house waits to recognize students and retirees.

- The Board held a reception on June 7, 2016 to recognize the following:
 - New Milford Public School June Retirees: **Janet Allsworth, Cecilia Barberio, Kathleen Fitzsimmons, Jane Harrison, Donna LaBella, Joy Marino and Nancy Miller**

- **NMHS Athletic Excellence in 2015-16** accepted by Athletic Director Keith Lipinsky
- Student representative to the Board of Education: NMHS senior **Eric Vazquez**
- Winners of the HRRRA Billboard Contest: NES student **Lana Bramhall**, SNIS student **Caden Reynolds**, SMS students **Helen Ma** and **Hannah Pryor**, and NMHS students **Cassandra Bielmeier**, **Casey Brown**, **Christina Onorato** and **Lizbeth Sanchez**
- SMS Battle of the Books School Champions: for 6th grade **Griffin Bock**, **Tyler Pilch**, **Bradley Rivera**, **Olivia Schulz**, and **Madelaine Sweeney**; for 7th grade **Cole Allen**, **Matthew Dugan**, **Caitlin Fanella**, **Lorelai Lee Swanek**, **Gabriel Rocca** and **Amanda Tesoriero**; for 8th grade **Mackenzie Brady**, **Gabriel Diamond**, **Sean Donahue**, **Emma Harvison**, **McKenzie Kleppin** and **Helen Ma**
- Place finishers at the FBLA State Leadership Conference: NMHS students **Heather Adams**, **John Adams**, **Kathryn Antonelli**, **Samantha Berry**, **Mark Chastain**, **Kyra Danish**, **Jack Day**, **Kyle Fabich**, **Dylan Jimenez**, **James Kainth**, **Mitchell Kellett**, **Ian Langley**, **Michael Lungo**, **Kellen Ness**, **Kelly Quinn**, **Keegan Robertine**, **Peter Ward** and **Kurt Zarba**
- Place finishers at the DECA State Leadership Conference: NMHS students **Caitlin DeCapua**, **Helen Elizondo**, **Kayla Foster**, **Megan Lynch**, **Curtis Makowicki**, **Kelsey Mecha**, **Christopher Montalvo**, **Victoria Schmidt**, **Hannah Seigel** and **Madeline Symon**
- CAS Middle Level Scholar-Leaders: SMS students **Alexa Esposito** and **Ryan Murphy**
- Connecticut Association of Boards of Education Leadership Award recipients: **Nicholas Bon Tempo** and **Brooke Thibodeau** from SMS and **Morgan Laucius** and **Christopher Montalvo** from NMHS
- Western Connecticut Superintendents Association 2016 Award recipients: **Emrin Leclair** and **Colin Murphy** from SMS and **Briana Abrams** and **Bryan Rojas** from NMHS
- At its regular meeting on June 14, 2016 the Board approved the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the hiring of **Ms. Alisha DiCorpo** as Assistant Superintendent.
- The Board accepted the following Gifts and Donations:
 - PTO - \$7,192.88
- The following bids were awarded by the Board of Education:
 - Food and Nutrition Services – Milk to Wades Dairy Inc. for a one-year period
 - Food and Nutrition Services – Frozen Dessert to New England Ice Cream Corporation for a one-year period
 - Special Education - Occupational Therapy to Integrated Pediatric Services for a three-year period
 - Special Education – Physical Therapy to Ms. Debra Myhill and Integrated Pediatric Services for a three-year period
 - SMS Server Room(s) Cooling to Air Temp Mechanical Services Inc.
- The Board of Education approved the following Grants:
 - Carl D. Perkins Grant in the amount of \$32,766.00

- Adult Education grant – El Civics for Work and Life Transitions CCR ready Grant in the amount of \$75,000.00
- The Board approved the following curricula:
 - Developmental Guidance K-2
 - Accounting II College Level
 - Business Law
 - Introduction to Web Design
 - Biology Honors
 - Chemistry Honors
 - Astronomy College Level
- The Board approved the End-of-Year Projects as proposed, based on the final end-of-year balance.
- The Board approved the appointment of the Assistant Superintendent, and in his/her absence, the Director of Human Resources, as the Designee for the Superintendent of Schools from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.
- The Board approved authorization for the Superintendent to accept resignations and make appointments from June 15, 2016 through September 13, 2016, excluding administrative appointments.
- The Board approved authorization for the Superintendent to purchase budgeted instructional materials and other supplies, equipment and services from June 15, 2016 through September 13, 2016.
- The Board received the following annual reports:
 - The Annual Emergency Preparedness Report
 - The Annual Wellness Report
 - The John J. McCarthy Observatory Annual Report
- The Board approved the employment and salary of the Director of Human Resources, Director of Food Services, Director of Technology, District Data Administrator, Systems Analyst, Accounting Manager, Facilities Manager, Assistant Facilities Manager, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, and Mail Courier.
- At a special meeting on June 22, 2016 the Board of Education unanimously moved to amend the 2016-2017 Adopted Board of Education Budget from \$62,183,950 to \$61,686,660.
- Mr. Smith presented a draft Turf Field Administration and Facility Use Manual for the turf fields which are scheduled to open in July.

Summary of 2015-2016 Assessments

Smarter Balanced Assessment Grades 3-8 and 11

In the spring of 2015 students across Connecticut and the Nation participated in the first administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessment. The Connecticut Mastery Test and the Connecticut Academic Performance Tests were only administered in the area of Science.

The Smarter Balanced assessment provided for the first time, district and student level results. In Mathematics, New Milford scored a 39.9% average overall, outperforming the state average of 38.9%. The DRG, however, scored an average of 46.5%.

In Reading/Language Arts, New Milford's overall average was 52.6%, outperforming the state average of 55.4%. The DRG, however, outperformed New Milford's average with an overall score of 63.3%.

In grades 5, 8 and 10, students participated in the State's Science assessment and maintained our history of strong performance. In grade 5 the mean score was constant and the percent of students at goal rate decreased by 1.2%. Over the same time period, the state percentage of students at goal rate dropped by 4.2%. In grade 5, New Milford's percentage of students at goal was equal to 58.2%, the DRG's average was 65.9%. Our analysis led us to review our elementary curriculum and through the support of an enrichment teacher, hired in 2014, students received additional opportunities to explore scientific concepts.

Our Grade 8 and Grade 10 Science scores demonstrated strong performance. Our grade 8 students performed 1.6% below the DRG average and 12.2% above the state average for students reaching the "Goal" range. Our grade 10 students outperformed the DRG by 1.6% and scored 12.9% above the State average.

Advanced Placement Exams

In 2015, New Milford High School students continued to increase their participation in Advanced Placement courses and more students elected to take the national proficiency exam. Students took a total of 401 exams, and 81% scored a three or higher. A score of three or higher represents passing. New Milford outperformed the state average of 72.2% and the national average of 60.6%. We expect both enrollment and student successes to continue as the district works to expand opportunities for students and provide professional development to the teachers.

Summary

The Board of Education routinely recognizes the talent and accomplishments of students and staff at its meetings and end-of-the-year reception. During the 2015-2016 school year the Board recognized **146** students and **17** staff members for outstanding achievement. Donations in excess of **\$167,652** were received from the PTO and other benefactors to benefit the New Milford Public Schools. The Board was awarded **\$1,521,370** in grants. The majority of funds were obtained through entitlement grants from the State Department of Education and the federal government. It should be noted that most grants cover a two-year period.

The 2015-2016 school year saw an expansion in student programing and academic performance. This was the second year of the newly implemented math curriculum in grades K-6 and year one of the program in grade 7. The improved curriculum and instruction in mathematics contributed to our gains in the results of the state assessments. This school year also saw expanded intervention and enrichment programs that allowed students to access a more individualized approach to their education. At the high school level, we saw an increased enrollment in advanced placement courses while the performance levels of our students remained strong. The summer of 2016 saw the return of a support program for students with identified gaps in their learning. The program was well attended and resulted in clear gains in math and reading for those involved. Major facilities projects included a new roof for Schaghticoke Middle School,

the installation of two turf fields and a new track. The new athletic facilities have transformed the high school and improved the capacity for the community to host regional athletic events. In addition, the district took great strides to rectify and improve access to our fields and buildings by completing projects recommended under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Safety and communications within our schools have also been improved through an upgrade to our phone system and the move of our core internet connection. Both systems are now up to industry standard and have increased capacity.