

**New Milford Board of Education  
 Special Meeting Minutes  
 May 29, 2018  
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

Present:	Mr. David A. Lawson, Chairperson Mr. Bill Dahl Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan Mr. J.T. Schemm
Absent:	Mrs. Angela C. Chastain Mr. Joseph Failla Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach

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Also Present:	Mr. Joshua Smith, Superintendent of Schools Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Ms. Roberta Pratt, Director of Technology Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Mr. Kevin Munrett, Facilities Director
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1. A.	<b>Call to Order</b> <b>Pledge of Allegiance</b>  The special meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	<b>Call to Order</b> <b>A. Pledge of Allegiance</b>
2. A.	<b>Public Comment</b>  <b>To receive public comment regarding the proposed Board of Education budget as recommended by the Town Council on May 21, 2018 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Lawson said the Board is here to listen to public comment regarding the budget. He noted that due to the date of the upcoming referendum, there was a tight window in which to hold this special meeting. As such, some Board members are not able to be here due to prior commitments that were scheduled long before this meeting.</li> <li>• Megan Byrd, a New Milford resident, thanked the Board for holding this meeting so that the</li> </ul>	<b>Public Comment</b>  <b>A. To receive public comment regarding the proposed Board of Education budget as recommended by the Town Council on May 21, 2018 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019</b>

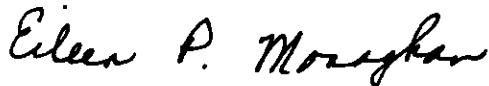
public can say what is important to them and what matters to their students. She said in her case, she has two 3<sup>rd</sup> grade children. They are bright students and being watched for the Talented and Gifted Program (TAG) so keeping that is key for her. Her daughter has a 504 plan for her ADHD so keeping extra classroom supports, such as paraeducators, is important to her too, especially as class sizes are increasing. Her children participate in before and after school intramurals and clubs and she finds them a huge benefit socially and intellectually. She said if the Board is considering eliminating them, she hopes they will ask the parents to financially support them instead, so that they can continue. She has heard talk about cutting administrators and secretaries to save money. In her experience, they are busy all the time, multitasking as is. Students will be impacted if a cut is made at that level. In the end, she asks the Board to try and cut where there will be the least impact to students.

- Greg Mullen, a New Milford resident, said for his children, his priorities include keeping the TAG program, after school enrichment and music programs. He says the Town Council is dealing with the reality of the Town's financial situation and the lack of support from the state. While he appreciates all the BOE does, he believes they need to share the burden with the Town.
- Jennifer Tuozzoli, a NES kindergarten teacher, said there has been a lot trimmed at the elementary level already. She said paraeducator support in the classroom for students is important and she suggested that adding positions back into classrooms could free up funds in other areas. She said they are seeing significant student needs at the elementary level, and that gap will only grow in the future if they are not addressed at this level where it all starts.
- Roseanne Petruso, a New Milford resident, said she is a teacher in another town and she agrees

	<p>the elementary level is key; if gaps are not addressed there, students may never recover. She said she also thought smaller class sizes were important.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Greg Mullen asked for clarification regarding the \$1.2 million unencumbered surplus which keeps getting discussed at the Town level. He said there is waste in government and New Milford is no exception; improved efficiencies are needed. He asked that cuts be fair across the Board and that administrators share the same pain as the rest.</li><li>• Julia Taborsak, a New Milford resident, asked the Board to continue to look at cost sharing with other towns, as they have been. She asked that the Board continue to fund enrichment programs, as they are such a benefit to students.</li><li>• Megan Byrd asked what the process is moving forward with the budget. Mr. Lawson answered for general clarification. When the budget is finalized, the superintendent will recommend adjustments, the Board will have discussion at a public meeting and ultimately decide. He said Board members have had input for months now. In late September, the process will start all over again for the following year's budget. Projecting a year or more out creates quite a challenge.</li><li>• Yvonne de St. Croix, NMPS TAG teacher, said she primarily services grades 3-8. She spoke in support of the K-5 Science enrichment teacher, with whom she works hand in hand. She said the teacher is an essential component to the work Ms. de St. Croix does with TAG.</li><li>• Megan Byrd and Jennifer Tuozzoli agreed. Jennifer said the K-5 teacher is a valuable resource to teachers, especially with the new NGSS science standards.</li><li>• Greg Mullen said he supports both TAG and the Science enrichment and doesn't think there is enough money for these programs now.</li><li>• Jennifer Tuozzoli said that any cuts to administrators will have a domino effect and suggested that allowances would have to be</li></ul>	
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	<p>made in such things as the amount of evaluations that administrators do.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Lawson asked for final comments. When none were forthcoming, he reminded the group that they are not limited to this one opportunity. Comments are always welcome and the Superintendent can be contacted by phone and email. Public comment is also offered at all Board and Sub-Committee meetings.</li> <li>• Mr. Dahl thanked the people present for coming and said he wished the Board had heard from more people.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p>Mr. Dahl moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 p.m., seconded by Mr. McCauley and passed unanimously.</p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 p.m.</b></p>

Respectfully submitted:



Eileen P. Monaghan  
Assistant Secretary  
New Milford Board of Education