

# **NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**



## **ANNUAL REPORT** **2016 – 2017**

**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. Tammy McInerney, Secretary**

**Mr. Robert Coppola, Assistant Secretary**

**Mrs. Angela C. Chastain**

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**Mr. J.T. Schemm**

## Board of Education Annual Report 2016 – 2017

The New Milford Public Schools served 4,186 students in kindergarten through grade 12 during the 2016-17 academic year with a staff of 374 teachers, 18 building administrators, and 230 support staff (non-certified staff). The operating budget for the New Milford Public Schools for 2016-2017 totaled **\$61,686,660**.

### August 2016

- Teachers returned August 25<sup>th</sup> with staff meetings and open houses held on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Two days of professional development were held August 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.
- All Staff Convocation took place on August 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Students returned August 31<sup>st</sup>.

### September 2016

- **Mrs. Roxanne Kraft** was recognized as New Milford's Teacher of the Year for 2017.



*New Milford Teacher of the Year Roxanne Kraft  
with Superintendent Joshua Smith*

- Mr. Smith kicked off a new monthly staff recognition program, with Mrs. Kraft as the first honoree. She received a star lapel pin and will drive a new car for the month courtesy of a partnership with Ingersoll Automotive of Danbury.
- The 2015-16 Annual Report of the Board was distributed.
- The Board approved the Pre-K/Kindergarten Transition Initiative Grant from the CT Community Foundation in the amount of \$4,389.00.
- Tuition rates were established and approved for the 2016-2017 school year.
- The Board approved Dr. Christopher Longo as a signatory on school district accounts.
- The Board approved the following textbooks:
  - *12 Years a Slave* – Grades 11-12

- *D'Accord! Langue et Culture* – Grades 9-12
- The New Milford High School graduation date for 2017 was approved by the Board for Saturday, June 24, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.
- Turf Field light usage fees were set by the Board at \$15.51 per hour.
- The Board appointed Dr. Evan R. Hack to the position of School District Medical Advisor.
- The Board discussed the Mayor's proposal to move the administrative offices from East Street to the John Pettibone School building.
- The Board approved the successor collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and the Teamster's Local 677–Food and Nutrition Services as discussed in executive session and delegated to the Board Chair the authority to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board.

**October 2016**

- The Board recognized:



- SNIS student **Chayten Prashant** – Winner in the 2016 CHET Dream Big! Competition (pictured with Grade 5 teacher Dianne Johnson)



- NMPS Stars of the Month: **Darcy Campbell, Jane Danish, Danette Lambiase, Judy Larkin, Kerry Schur, and Michael Tremmel** (pictured with Supt. Smith)



- New student representative **Gregory Winkelstern** joined current representative Kendall Stewart.
- The Board approved the implementation of the New Milford Substance Abuse Prevention Council Survey and the requested donation of \$600.
- The Board approved the following grants:
  - Bilingual Education Program Grant – ED229 in the amount of \$4,062.00
  - District Consolidated Grant in the amount of \$396,728.00
  - Title III Grant in the amount of \$19,427.00
- The Board approved activity stipend requests:
  - American Sign Language Club and Jazz Club for Schaghticoke Middle School
  - Chess Club, Coding Club, Rubric’s/Game Club and Talent Show for Sarah Noble Intermediate School
- The Board approved the following policies:
  - 1700 Possession of Firearms on School Property Prohibited
  - 4112.5 Criminal History Inquiries and Employment Reference Checks
  - 4121 Substitute Teachers
  - 5131.6 Students – Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco
- The Board approved the following textbooks:
  - *Zaitoun – Grades 9-10*
  - *Nectar in a Sieve – Grade 10*
  - *The River Between – Grade 10*
  - *Looking at Movies: An Introduction to Film – Grade 12*
- The Board discussed that the capital reserve request included in the 2016-17 budget would not need a formal motion for release since it was accounted for during budget planning.
- The Board discussed the legal contract.
- The Board discussed a potential move of administrative office to the Pettibone property.
- The Board approved the successor collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and New Milford School Administrators Association as discussed in executive session and further moved that the Board delegate to the Chairperson of the Board the authority to execute said agreement on behalf of the Board.

### **November 2016**

- The Board of Education recognized the following:



- Commended Students - 2017 National Merit Program: NMHS students **Anthony Harkin, Jennifer Kast, Christopher Kipp, Sam Maniscalco, Raquel Morehouse** and **Rebecca Thomas**
- Semifinalists – 2017 National Merit Program: **Drew Humphreys** and **Ian Speziale**



- NMPS Retiree: **Linda Durkin**



- NMPS Stars of the Month: **Ruby Elaine Annese, Helen Crossen** (not pictured), **Jasmina Ferizovic, Karen Hores, Justin Mack,** and **James Martin**

- The Board approved the following curricula:
  - Sixth Grade Health
  - Health II
  - Introduction to Video Production
  - Advanced Video Production
  - Grade 6 Mathematics
  - Grade 7 Mathematics
  - Grade 7 Pre-Algebra
  - Algebra 1 Honors
  - Practical Math – Applications of Probability
  - Practical Math – Applications of Statistics
  - Practical Math – Applications of Percents
  - Practical Math – Applications of Measurement
- The Board approved the NMHS Athletic Wing Outside Improvement Plan which will create a landscaped sitting area for students waiting for rides.
- The Board authorized Joshua Smith, Superintendent of Schools, to engage an engineer or contractor to determine the costs for East Street School ADA compliance.
- The Board authorized Joshua Smith, Superintendent of Schools, and the Board Chair or designee to talk to the Mayor about a draft agreement on a possible move to John Pettibone School.
- The Board held a special meeting November 16, 2016 where CAFE Senior Staff Associate for Field Service Nick Caruso facilitated discussion regarding Board roles, responsibilities and goal setting.

**December 2016**

- The Board held its Annual meeting and elected the following officers:
  - Chairperson – **Mr. David A. Lawson**
  - Vice Chairperson – **Mr. Bill Dahl**
  - Secretary – **Mrs. Tammy McInerney**
  - Assistant Secretary – **Mr. Robert Coppola**
- At its regular meeting, the Board recognized:



- Peace Poster Contest winner: SMS student **Kara Murphy**.



- New Milford Public Schools Retirees: **Monique Gil-Rogers** (not pictured), **Lynn Holmes**, **Elizabeth Obstgarten** and **Roxanne Willoughby**.



- CTAHPERD Outstanding New Professional: **Deirdre Burke**



- NMPS Stars of the Month: **Dyane Rizzo**, **Anthony Nocera**, **Jane Loormann**, **Carrie Kelly**, **Karen Brenneke**, and **James Mattia** (not pictured)



- The Board accepted the following donation:
  - New Milford PTO in the amount of \$1,225.00
- The Board approved the following policies:
  - 5124 Reporting to Parents/Guardians – Report Cards
  - 9320 Meetings of the Board (with an effective date of July 1, 2017)
- The Board approved the following new courses:
  - AP Human Geography
  - AP Environmental Science
- The Board approved the following curricula:
  - Sixth Grade Digital Citizenship
  - Seventh Grade Introduction to Computer Applications
  - Eighth Grade Intermediate Computer Applications
  - Introduction to Computer Programming
  - AP Computer Science
  - English I: CP and Honors
  - English II: CP and Honors
  - English III: CP and Honors
  - Literature & Media Studies
  - Architectural Drafting I
- The Board approved an increase to the tutor rate for a tutor in the New Milford Public Schools to \$16.00 per hour effective July 1, 2017.
- The Board approved the following textbooks:
  - *Reading Children's Literature: A Critical Introduction* – Grade 12
  - *Essentials of Comparative Politics with Cases* – Grades 11-12
- A motion to award the bid for the East Street Lillis ADA Plan to KG&D Architects for \$5,950.00 with the option for \$7,950.00 for additional assessments failed.
- The Board of Education authorized its Chairman to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of New Milford and the New Milford Board of Education regarding use of the former John Pettibone School building located at 2 Pickett District Road, dated December 2016. [With date filled in once MOU is finalized.].
- Mr. Lawson said Board members could offer input for the 2017-2018 Budget now and during the budget process.
- The Board approved the tentative agreement for a successor collective bargaining agreement reached in negotiations between the New Milford Board of Education's negotiating team and the negotiating team for the New Milford Paraeducators, UPSEU, Local 424 – Unit 107 as discussed in executive session and further moved that the Board delegate to the Chairperson of the Board the authority to execute said agreement on behalf of the Board.

### **January 2017**

- The Board of Education conducted three evenings of hearings and adopted a budget on the fourth night for the 2017-2018 school year in the amount of \$63,817,418.

**February 2017**

➤ The Board recognized the following students and staff:

- VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest: SMS student **Kerith Bradshaw**



*Patriot's Pen Essay Contest winner Kerith Bradshaw  
with SMS teacher Keli Solomon and Principal Chris Longo*

- National Geographic Geography Bee: SMS student **Sophia Conklin**



*Sophia with Principal Longo*

- ***The Piper*** NMHS Student Magazine for its “Superior” rating from the National Council of Teachers of English, one of only four student magazines in the state to receive the rating (*advisors and student staff members pictured below*)



- NMPS Retiree: **Mr. Joseph Dragone**
- NMPS Stars of the Month: **Lorraine English, Lauren Iverson, Stephen Kern, Kimberlee Lavallee, Deborah Stephens, and Dana Wheeler** (*pictured below*)



- Mr. Smith reported that the schools were participating in “Start with Hello” Week that is an effort to increase connections between students, staff, etc. and is sponsored by the Sandy Hook Promise group.
- The Board of Education accepted the following Gifts:
  - New Milford PTO in the amount of \$17,960.00
- The Board approved the following textbook:
  - *Human Geography: Landscapes of Human Activities* – Grades 9-12
- The Board approved a motion that the Chair draft a memo to the Town requesting set up of an account for turf field replacement and that remaining funds from the project be put in the account as seed money.
- The Board approved a motion to officially null and void the Memorandum of Understanding dated December 13, 2016.
- The Board approved a motion to reject the Memorandum of Understanding dated February 7, 2017 as presented to the Operations Sub-Committee in relation to the move to John Pettibone School.
- A calendar of Important Dates for New Milford Public Schools 2017-2018 was distributed.

March 2017



**SMS students from Beauty and the Beast, Jr. school musical performed *The Circle of Life* at the start of the meeting.**

- The Board recognized the following students and staff:
  - The Board recognized **SMS chorus students Joshua Abel, Sophia Delohery, Olivia Esposito, Tyler Holm, Madison Lafontan, Julia Lane, Ciara Lynch, Ralph MacDonald, Amanda Manaog, Lucy McKay, Emma Padros, Jordi Padros, Teagan Piskura, and Grace Zona; SMS instrumental students Charles Greiner, Gianna Militana, Samuel Quigley, Alexander Rogg, Hannah Spinner, Kelsey Stewart, Terrell Williams, Andrew Xu, Sandra Xu, and Jason Zimmitti** for their selection to the CMEA Northern Region Middle School Music Festival.



**CMEA Northern Region Middle School Festival Chorus and Band students pose with music teachers Ms. Taylor, Mr. Gregory and Mr. Polhemus**

- NMPS Stars of the Month: **Maria Breton, Karin Dieterle, Jeanne Dubray, Erin Fagan, Tara Gee, Erin Lucia** (pictured below)



- 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 said the FOI complaint filed in December had been withdrawn and he read a statement for the record. He distributed a summary of the Next Gen Performance Report, which highlighted results of the new measurement tool created by the State. Mr. Smith reported all the K-2 schools participated in the Lion's Club sponsored Kidsight and were able to identify some children with sight issues.
- Mr. Lawson thanked all the Board members for signing the letter to the State legislators regarding the Governor's proposed budget.
- The Facilities Sub-Committee discussed solar but it is not on the agenda because the committee decided, based on the estimates, to wait to explore the solar panels until new roofs are needed.
- The Committee on Learning listened to a presentation about the mission of the Early Childhood Council, which is trying to improve the transition to Kindergarten for all New Milford children.
- The Ad-Hoc Committee on superintendent evaluation met and determined not to redesign the policy; rather they are working on the regulation. They plan to recommend a revision to the evaluation form for next year.
- The Board of Education accepted the following Gifts and Donations:
  - New Milford PTO in the amount of \$14,789.00
  - Diamond Club in the amount of \$8,320.00
- The Board awarded the following bids:
  - HPS Security System to OMNI DATA
  - Replacement of SNIS roof top air conditioning unit to AIR TEMP in the amount of \$35,700.00
- The Board approved a request from capital reserve for \$35,700.00
- The Board approved the following stipends:
  - Unified Sports Co-ed Basketball and Unified Sports Co-ed Track and Field for Schaghticoke Middle School
  - Co-ed Intramural Unified Sports Physical Education Activities for Sarah Noble Intermediate School

- The Board approved the following curricula:
  - Middle East Studies
  - Marketing I
  - Marketing Work Program
  - Sports & Entertainment Marketing
  - Grades 3-5 Choral Music
  - Choral Performance Grades 6-8
  - Grades 4-5 Instrumental Music
  - Grades 6-8 Instrumental Music
  - Grades 9-12 Instrumental Music
- The Board approved Source4Teachers as the firm to manage substitutes for the district for 2017-2018.
- The Board approved the Five Year Facilities and Technology Capital Plan 2017-2022.
- The Board discussed a request to waive the turf field usage fees for Special Olympics use on Sundays, April through June 2017 but no motion was approved.
- The Board approved a request that the End-of-Year Balance for 2016 in the amount of \$264,406 go to capital reserve.
- The Board approved the following textbooks:
  - *Environment: The Science Behind the Stories* – Grades 11-12
  - *Calculus* – Grade 12
- The Board held a special meeting on March 29, 2017 to meet with Board attorney in executive session to discuss communication privileged by the attorney-client relationship re: Sup. Ct. Docket No. CV-16-6013977-S.

### April 2017

- The Board held a Special Meeting on April 6, 2017 to discuss the Superintendent's annual performance evaluation.
- There was a Board Workshop held on April 18, 2017 where the Board heard a Summary of results from the Search Institute Survey *Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors* and received an update on Special Education.
- At its regular meeting on April 18, 2017, the Board recognized the following students and staff:
  - NMHS Art Students: **Mackenzie Burns, Daniel Krepil, Liam Lacey, Emma Street, Fiona Wilson, Karolina Zimny**



NMHS Art teacher Annette Marcus poses with students.



- NMPS Retiree: **Joann Salamon**
- NMPS Stars of the Month: **Anne Bilko, Susan Brofford, Kimberly Ginn, Janet Roache, Heliett Sanchez, Paul Shim**



- The Board of Education accepted the following Gifts and Donations:
  - PTO - \$8,749.76
- The Board approved the following curriculum:
  - Personal Finance
  - Forensic Science
  - College Prep Chemistry
  - Experimental Chemistry
  - College Prep Integrated Science
  - Anatomy & Physiology I
  - Anatomy & Physiology II
- The Board held a Special Meeting on April 26, 2017 where CAFE Senior Staff Associate for Field Service Nick Caruso facilitated discussion regarding Board roles, responsibilities and goal setting.

### **May 2017**

- There was a Board Workshop held on April 18, 2017 where the Board heard updates from the Facilities and Technology departments.

- At its regular meeting, the Board recognized:
  - New Milford High School student participants in CMEA Northern Region Music Festival events: **Jessica Berkun, Michael Carroll, Michael Cavuoto, Nicholas Cavuoto, Emma Chamberlin, Madeline de la Parra, Duncan Edel, Michaela Ferlow, Nicholas Fitch, Matthew Hassiak, Brian Hinger, Thomas King, Scott Klimowich, Allan Lian, Megan Lovejoy, Frank Magnante, Kevin McNulty, Ryan McNulty, Sarah Morris, Abigail Myhill, Chloe Onorato, Eliza Peery, Connor Stahl, Kendall Stewart, Tyler Volansky**



*CMEA chorale participants with Mr. Keck*



*CMEA band participant with Mr. Syzdek*



- **NMPS Stars of the Month: Michael Clyne, Joan Conn, Catherine Gardner, Nicole Lawlor, Timothy Polhemus, Madeleine Sanger**



- The Board accepted the following Gifts and Donations:
  - PTO - \$21,117.00
- The following policies were approved by the Board:
  - 4112.5/4212.5 Criminal History Inquiries, Employment Reference Checks and Disclosure of Employee Information to Prospective Employers
  - 9115 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board
- The following bids were awarded by the Board of Education:
  - Septic Cleaning – New Milford Septic
  - Boiler Cleaning – Pen Mar
- The Board approved the following grants:
  - Adult Education – ED 244 grant in the amount of \$145,400.00
  - Adult Education IEL/Civics - ESL for Life and Work grant in the amount of \$45,000.00
  - Adult Education Workplace Readiness - Pathways to the Future grant in the amount of \$40,000.00
  - 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 adopted certifications for food items, school fundraisers, and beverages.
- The Board approved a proposed two-year extension to the Contract between the New Milford Board of Education and All-Star Transportation for Pupil Transportation Services.
- The Board authorized the Board Chair and its legal counsel to enter into discussions and/or negotiations with the Superintendent of Schools on a new, three-year contract, the final terms of which shall be subject to Board approval.
- The Board held a Special Meeting on May 31, 2017 where CAFE Senior Staff Associate for Field Service Nick Caruso facilitated discussion regarding Board roles, responsibilities and goal setting in regards to an upcoming summer retreat.

## JUNE 2017



*A full house waits to recognize students and retirees.*

- The Board held a reception on June 13, 2017 to recognize the following:
  - New Milford Public School June Retirees: **Norma Calhoun, Valerie Clapp, Joan Conn, Trudy Cox, Kathleen Dombal, Angela Dzurka, Alice Edmonds, Lorraine English, Susan Guertin, Robert Keck, Diana Lyttle, Gloria Marchionne, Brenda Mead, Linda Meeker, Patricia Shannon, and Christina Sprindis**
  - **NMHS Athletic Excellence in 2016-17**
  - Winner of the 2017 CHET Dream Big! Competition: SNIS student **Nathan Gray**
  - Winners of the HRRRA Billboard Contest: NES student **Emma Heydet**, SNIS students **Paul Jennings, Florentina Lekaj, and Kaitlynn Carlson**, SMS students **Ishaani Pradeep and Imre Mancini**, and NMHS students **Ella Stewart, Casey Brown, Brittany Karasz and Chloe Onorato**
  - SMS Battle of the Books School Champions: for 6<sup>th</sup> grade **Adriana Bubbico, Maesha Hossain, Collin Rozelle, Abbey Sarich, Aidan Smith, Colin Walsh, Katrina Wang**; for 7<sup>th</sup> grade **Joseph Cafiero, Gabriella Dane, Craig Hulse, Joshua McMinn, Alistair Riney, Madelaine Sweeney**; for 8<sup>th</sup> grade **Evan Carlson, Lauren Grello, Lorelai Lee Swanek, Emma Padros, Madeline Stone, Brooke Thibodeau, Sandra Xu**  
Place finishers at the FBLA State Leadership Conference: NMHS students **Randall Davis, James Day, Zoe Dreyfus, Danielle Kwapien, Michael Lungo, Ryan Mondonedo, Grace O'Brien, Keegan Robertine, Rachel Santospirito**
  - Place finishers at the DECA State Leadership Conference: NMHS students **Matthew Adamou, Kyle Beebe, Jacob Berendsohn, Kyle Chaves, Caitlin DeCapua, Jack Dwyer, Hellen Elizondo, Thomas Foreman, Kayla Foster, James Lewis, Dylan Magner, Sam Maniscalco, Kelsey Mecha, Vincent Rago, Justin Rajagopalan, Victoria Schmidt, Jack Snowden, Madeline Symon**

- CAS Middle Level Scholar-Leaders: **SMS students Elena Stephens and Cole Allen**
- Connecticut Association of Boards of Education Leadership Award recipients: **Caitlin Fanella and Jack Valentine** from SMS and **Kendall Stewart and Kevin McNulty** from NMHS
- Western Connecticut Superintendents Association 2016 Award recipients: **Dylan Lewis and Hannah Spinner** from SMS and **Nicole DeBenedictis and Jacob Dieterle** from NMHS
- At its regular meeting on June 13, 2017 the Board recognized the senior student representative to the Board of Education: **Kendall Stewart**



*Student rep Kendall Stewart with Board Chair David Lawson*

- The Board accepted the following Gifts and Donations:
  - PTO - \$17,269.27
- 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 – Student Care Workers and Job Coaches to EdAdvance for a period of three years.
- The Board of Education approved the following Grant:
  - Carl D. Perkins Grant in the amount of \$34,009.00
- The Board approved revisions to the following policy:
  - 6142.2 Student Nutrition and Physical Activity (Student Wellness)
- The Board approved a motion to add to the purchase resolution an amount up to \$20,000.00 to contract with K&Z Architects to conduct an ADA assessment of the Lillis Building.
- The Board approved amending the 2017-2018 Adopted Board of Education budget from \$63,817,418 to \$62,810,586 as proposed by the Superintendent of Schools on the June 13th revised draft.

- The Board approved a motion that the Board Chair ask the Town to reconsider the tabled request that the End-of-Year Balance for 2016 in the amount of \$264,406.00 go to capital reserve.
- 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, 2017 through June 30, 2018.
- The Board approved authorization for the Superintendent to accept resignations and make appointments, excluding administrative appointments, from June 14, 2017 through September 19, 2017.
- The Board approved authorization for the Superintendent to purchase budgeted instructional materials and other supplies, equipment and services from June 14, 2017 through September 19, 2017.
- 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 received an update from the Turf Field Committee regarding the set up of an account through the town.
- The Board approved the employment and salary of the Assistant Superintendent, Director of Human Resources, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations, Director of Food Services, Director of Technology, District Data Administrator, Systems Analyst, Accounting Manager, Facilities Manager, Assistant Facilities Manager, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Mail Courier and Lab Assistant.
- At a special meeting on June 20, 2017, the Board approved the appointment of Jennifer Delaney as an assistant principal at Schaghticoke Middle School.

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Summary of 2016-2017 Assessments

Smarter Balanced Assessment Grades 3-8

In the spring of 2017 students across Connecticut and the Nation participated in the 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 district and student level results. In Mathematics, New Milford scored a 47.1% average overall, outperforming the state average of 45.6%. The DRG, however, scored an average of 57.8%. In Reading/Language Arts, New Milford's overall average was 50.9%, outperforming the state average of 54.2%. The DRG, however, outperformed New Milford's average with an overall score of 65.9%.

In 2015-2016 the State of Connecticut removed the Smarter Balanced Assessment from Grade 11 and replaced it with the administration of the SATs for Grade 11 students. Our students in New Milford have historically outperformed the state in terms of both the Math and Reading sections of the SATs, however the last two years our students have improved at an accelerated rate. The last three years Connecticut students have averaged a combined score of 1010 (2015), 1023 (2016) and this year of a 1030. Compared New Milford students have averaged a

combined score of 1033 (2015), 1068 (2016) and this year a combined score of 1084. The New Milford combined score of a 1084, was comprised of a 552 on the Reading section and a 532 on the Math section. The average combined score of a 1084 was the highest that our students have recorded on the SATs with one of the highest collective participation rates in recent history.

### Advanced Placement Exams

In 2016-2017, 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 538 exams, and 77.2% 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 60.3%. 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 2016-2017 school year the Board recognized **140** students and **69** staff members for outstanding achievement. The district also began a monthly staff recognition program. Parents, students, and fellow staff members were invited to nominate a New Milford Public Schools staff member of their choosing. From all the forms submitted, six honorees were selected each month, one from each school and one non-school specific honoree. All honorees were invited to attend the Board of Education monthly meeting for public congratulations where they received a star lapel pin as a small symbol in recognition of their “star” qualities. In addition, thanks to a new partnership with Ingersoll Automotive of Danbury, one lucky honoree each month was gifted at random with a courtesy car to drive for the month.

Donations in excess of **\$168,982** were received from the PTO and other benefactors to benefit the New Milford Public Schools. The Board was awarded **\$1,548,878** 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 2016-2017 school year saw an expansion in student programming and academic performance. This was the third year of the newly implemented math curriculum in grades K-6, year two of the program in grade 7, year one in grade 8. 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 2017 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 air conditioning unit for NMHS and resurfacing of the floors of the NMHS gym. We also replaced security doors in several schools and serviced more than 1500 work orders. In addition, all of the district phones were upgraded and we improved the capacity of our network.