

New Milford Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2021
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center

NEW MILFORD, CT

2021 JUL 22 A 8:01
 RECEIVED
 TOWN CLERK

<p>Present:</p>	<p>Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Pete Helmus Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mrs. Eileen Monaghan</p>
<p>Absent:</p>	<p>Mr. Joseph Failla Mrs. Olga I. Rella</p>

<p>Also Present:</p>	<p>Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Operations and Fiscal Services Mr. Nestor Aparicio, Interim Director of Facilities Ms. Jamie Terry, Technology Director Ms. Lisa Morrissey, Town of New Milford Director of Health</p>
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<p>1. A.</p>	<p>Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance</p> <p>The regular meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mrs. Faulenbach. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed.</p>	<p>Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mrs. Faulenbach said public comment is limited to 3 minutes per speaker, but she would allow up to 5 minutes if needed. ● Megan Byrd said she had two topics. She was disappointed to find out that the Talented and Gifted teacher had left and that parents were not notified. She asked what the game plan is going forward. She said she is 100% in agreement to mask both students and staff until all have an opportunity to get vaccinated, especially since there is no option for remote learning this year. ● Since masking appears to be the topic of interest for public comment, Mrs. Faulenbach said she would plan to move up item 8E, Mask Update, 	<p>Public Comment</p>

	<p>to earlier in the agenda, provided the Board members have no objection. There was none.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rebecca Anderson said she views mask wearing as forced medical intervention. She said parents should be able to make individual decisions for their children and she hopes choice is allowed either way if the Governor ends up leaving the decision to individual districts. She said public education is an American right and children who do not mask would lose that right as it now stands. ● Kim Roskowski said mask wearing has had a negative effect on her child and she advocates for choice. ● Emma Roskowski, student, says she finds it hard to breathe with a mask on. ● Mrs. Faulenbach thanked the public for attending and speaking. She said it is not an easy topic. 	
<p>3.</p>	<p>PTO Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mrs. McInerney reported in the absence of Mrs. Pelletier, new Townwide PTO President. She said the PTO is happily off for the summer, but still planning for all schools opening events, welcome back events for staff, and hopefully in-school book fairs, just to name a few. 	<p>PTO Report</p>
<p>4.</p> <p>A.</p>	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</p> <p>1. Special Meeting Minutes June 10, 2021</p> <p>Mr. McCauley moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes June 10, 2021, seconded by Mrs. Monaghan.</p>	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</p> <p>1. Special Meeting Minutes June 10, 2021</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes June 10, 2021.</p>

	<p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>2. Special Meeting Minutes June 14, 2021</p> <p>Mrs. Monaghan moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes June 14, 2021, seconded by Mr. McCauley.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>3. Regular Meeting Minutes June 15, 2021</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes June 15, 2021, seconded by Mr. Helmus.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>4. Special Meeting Minutes July 7, 2021</p> <p>Mr. McCauley moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes July 7, 2021, seconded by Mrs. McInerney.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>2. Special Meeting Minutes June 14, 2021</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes June 14, 2021.</p> <p>3. Regular Meeting Minutes June 15, 2021</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes June 15, 2021.</p> <p>4. Special Meeting Minutes July 7, 2021</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes July 7, 2021.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Superintendent's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. DiCorpo said she toured the Extended School Year (ESY) program and the Summer Bridge programs on July 13. Both programs are running smoothly at the start and have good daily attendance in their first few weeks running; 209 students and 7 community friends attend our ESY program and 58 students attend our Summer Bridge programs. The NMHS Credit Recovery program has 25 students in each session: morning/afternoon. 	<p>Superintendent's Report</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ms. DiCorpo said she met with Mr. Manka, the new NMHS Principal, and with Ms. Hollander, the new Assistant Superintendent, to prepare them for the start of the school year and to assess needs, organize training, and discuss operational and curriculum based projects. Both administrators have hit the ground running and are very busy hiring, meeting members of our school and community, and acclimating themselves to the district.● Planning for the School Based Health Centers is underway and the Board will hear more later in the agenda. We've had three meetings, have evaluated space in each of the buildings, and will begin discussions regarding costs for the medical clinics soon.● Planning is underway for Convocation, New Teacher Orientation, and the Administrative Retreat.● Dates are being considered for the Strategic Planning process that will take place this year beginning in September.● We have an executed MOU for the NV5/ESG project and meetings have taken place regarding the proposed order of the work and some logistics. Meetings have also been scheduled for the roofing project. There are also some updates on the oil tank at SNIS that the Board will hear about this evening. The Maxx renovation is coming along and the town and district continue to collaborate on the work that is upcoming as well as share in the costs of the project for the benefit of our students.● Regarding the Powerschool transition: we are in the process of completing the roll over and the Technology Director is hard at work planning training for administrators, secretaries, and teachers.● Kindergarten Enrollment Update is not available currently as secretaries return July 28.● There were two new fundraisers approved since my last report, both for NMHS: Football team - online donations and	
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	NMHS/Class of 2022 - concessions at 2021 Graduation.	
6.	<p>Board Chairman's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Faulenbach said there are many projects to be discussed tonight which represent months, sometimes years, of work by the Board and Central Office administrators. She said it is exciting to see them coming to fruition. She thanked Board members for their attendance at the many meetings. She said a special meeting is being planned for August 10 in place of subcommittees and the meeting may include executive sessions as well. Board correspondence may be viewed at Central Office. Please contact the Superintendent's Office to set up a time. Convocation will be held on August 23. • Ms. DiCorpo said she would like to address the public comment regarding the TAG teacher. She said the district found out early/mid-July that the teacher was resigning and there was no Assistant Superintendent at that time. The position was posted internally on July 13, and externally on July 18. Ms. Hollander is reaching out to universities regarding any recent graduates in this area. The district is exploring all options in finding a replacement. Ms. Hollander is working on pulling the list of parents and guardians that should receive notification. 	Board Chairman's Report
8.	<p>Items for Information and Discussion</p> <p>E. Mask Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. DiCorpo thanked New Milford's Director of Health Lisa Morrissey for being here this evening. • Ms. DiCorpo said she wants to talk about the decision making process. The Governor's Executive Order regarding masks ended in June. 	<p>Items for Information and Discussion</p> <p>E. Mask Update</p>

Districts were given the mandate to execute and publish a Reopen Plan with guidance for fall. Any changes to guidance from the state would in turn result in changes to the plan. Every public school in CT is under the same orders and whatever guidance comes from the Governor or CSDE in the future, it will be universal throughout the state, unless the guidance specifically states something different. Recently, the CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics issued updated guidance regarding mask wearing which the CSDE is now reviewing. Ms. DiCorpo said we are hoping to receive CSDE guidance within the next few weeks. She said she takes the health of staff, students, and the community in general very seriously and plans accordingly. There are weekly updates with the NMDPH and medical advisors regarding the positivity rate in Town, mitigation strategies, and any updates to be reviewed. At this time, recommended guidance is unknown. Ms. DiCorpo said she understands the wish for choice, but it is not an individual decision of the district at this time.

- Ms. Morrissey said the legal authority regarding masking comes from the Governor's office. She said in New Milford, 39% of the 12-15 year age group is fully vaccinated, and 45% have received one dose. That shows that a large majority are not vaccinated. The K-6 grade age group is not even eligible yet. She said masking is a primary tool for both protection and stopping the spread, especially with the Delta variant. From a DPH perspective, Ms. Morrissey appreciates choice when possible, but her focus is on legality and the protection of the public in general. Masking is part of that layered approach.
- Ms. Morrissey said she wanted to stress that there has been no change to the guidance regarding wearing masks indoors if unvaccinated, it is just on the honor system now. She also wanted to be clear that the CDC has

	<p>mandated masks for all on public transportation which includes school buses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ms. DiCorpo said they will be asking the bus company to provide seating charts for each bus to each building principal for our contact tracing efforts.● Mr. Helmus said in summarizing what he has heard, the public should contact the Governor's Office, state legislators, and CSDE to get their voices heard. He asked under what conditions the mask decision would fall to the BOE.● Ms. Morrissey said they are waiting on new Executive orders for the fall school year. If those orders state that the decision falls to the local health director and superintendent based on local transmission levels, then the Board might be involved to some extent. Ms. Morrissey said New Milford has a very strong collective with the DPH, schools, and medical advisor consulting. From her perspective, she doesn't always go by the numbers reported because the positivity rate in the community is often higher than reported. This is most often due to one person in the family testing positive and other members becoming symptomatic but not bothering to test. Contact tracing can help with this.● Mr. Helmus asked if conditions do worsen, what information would be used.● Ms. DiCorpo said she is hoping the state dashboard will provide metrics for masking; if there is choice allowed, masking might become required if positivity rates increase. She said depending on what develops, there could also be an emergency declaration for remote learning, which is not an option right now.● Mr. Helmus asked Ms. DiCorpo if she could imagine a situation where parents would be given a choice regarding masking children.● Ms. DiCorpo said her personal opinion might be perhaps as vaccination rates increase at different levels.	
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- Mrs. Faulenbach said each day is different and there are many unknowns at the moment. She said from a Facilities side, the Board continues to implement safety protocols for students and staff. She asked about the timeframe for future guidance.
- Ms. DiCorpo said she didn't know, but she was on a call today with the state where they discussed the steps being taken to gather input to make decisions.
- Mrs. McNerney said she hoped the use of tents for outdoor eating will continue as weather permits or that the district will look into more permanent options.
- Ms. DiCorpo said tents can only be used until the end of October per regulation and that more permanent structures would require significant planning and cost.
- Mrs. McNerney said she hopes guidance comes soon so that the district can plan, prepare, and communicate to parents.
- Ms. DiCorpo said she is concerned with school opening only four weeks away. She said any communication to parents may not come immediately after an announcement because they need time internally with the Cabinet and principals to thoughtfully plan before making any announcement.
- Mrs. McNerney commended Ms. Morrissey on how well the clinics were run. She asked if the quoted percentages were just from New Milford clinics or other sites as well.
- Ms. Morrissey said the percentages were for the entire municipality.
- Mrs. McNerney asked if more clinics are being planned.
- Ms. Morrissey said they are still running clinics but they have stagnated for adults. They are planning to be more aggressive in messaging about the clinics leading up to back to school. They are also planning influenza clinics. There has been a resurgence in respiratory viruses with the removal of masks.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mrs. McInerney asked if Ms. Morrissey has any idea when vaccinations will open for the under 12 age group. Ms. Morrissey said she did not. Originally the hope was late summer/early fall. Last week she heard mid-winter. She said as soon as it happens, they will be ready. ● Mrs. McInerney asked regarding busing, if the fully vaccinated would be exempt from quarantine if there is an outbreak. Ms. Morrissey said, under current guidance, they are exempt no matter the circumstances or place if fully vaccinated, not just on buses. ● Mrs. Faulenbach said this is a very passionate topic and she appreciates the respectful conversation. 	
<p>7.</p> <p>A.</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>Policy for Approval</p> <p>1. 1324 Fundraising by Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mrs. Faulenbach said this revision does not eliminate fundraising but seeks to streamline the process and adds procedures for clarity. It was to have gone back to the Policy subcommittee for further discussion after last month's meeting. Since the Policy meeting was canceled, Mrs. Faulenbach is not recommending any action this evening. Instead it will be put on the August 10 special meeting agenda for one more review before coming back to the Board for final approval. <p>B. Policies for Second Review</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1325 Advertising and Promotion 2. 3240 Tuition Fees 3. 3260 Sales & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mrs. Faulenbach said these will be placed on the August 10 agenda as well for second review to 	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>A. Policy for Approval</p> <p>1. 1324 Fundraising by Students</p> <p>B. Policies for Second Review</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1325 Advertising and Promotion 2. 3240 Tuition Fees 3. 3260 Sales & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies

	<p>allow further discussion.</p> <p>C. Twin Lakes Agreement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. DiCorpo said with the Powerschool conversion and other needs of the district, they are looking to extend the original agreement and review needs for additional support. Mr. Giovannone said they will be requesting a full five days a week. Mrs. Faulenbach asked how that would be funded. Mr. Giovannone said currently they are using ESSER II funds. The additional two days added will be through the operating budget using the line item for the Technology Director which is not filled. This may require a transfer to contracted services, but it is a budgeted item. Mrs. Faulenbach agrees the support is needed and she appreciates that there is funding. <p>D. Authorized Signature Change Request</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve the Authorized Signature Change Request, seconded by Mrs. Monaghan.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>C. Twin Lakes Agreement</p> <p>D. Authorized Signature Change Request</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the Authorized Signature Change Request.</p>
<p>8.</p> <p>A.</p>	<p>Items for Information and Discussion</p> <p>Exhibit A: Personnel - Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as of July 20, 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. DiCorpo said building principals are very actively interviewing with several positions filled already. Ms. Hollander is beginning the same process with the ESSER II positions. Mr. Helmus asked if Exhibit A can be revised going forward to designate the positions funded by ESSER II. 	<p>Items for Information and Discussion</p> <p>A. Exhibit A: Personnel - Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as of July 20, 2021</p>

	<p>B. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Budget Position dated June 30, 20212. Purchase Resolution: D-7483. Request for Budget Transfers <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Mr. Giovannone said the June 30 balance is unaudited. The capital reserve balance on page 4 reflects approved withdrawals. It does not include the projected 20-21 year end balance, since that requires a final audit.● Mr. Giovannone said the turf field balance does not include the \$100,000 approved by the Board from the year end balance or the Town's contribution of \$50,000.● Mrs. Faulenbach asked about the golf course rental charge on the purchase resolution.● Mr. Giovannone said it is a result of late billing. He said all items on the purchase resolution are already reflected on the budget position.● Mr. Giovannone said the budget transfer request is a realignment from contracted services to certified salaries. A memo from Mrs. Olson is included for explanatory purposes. <p>C. Summer Projects Update</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Maxx <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Mr. Aparicio said most of the items for the Maxx kitchen renovation are on site. The bathrooms need minor adjustments for them to be ADA compliant. We will be looking to do some painting and upgrading stalls as part of the renovation for the bathrooms.● Mrs. Faulenbach asked about the timeframe for the project. Mr. Aparicio said they are hoping to get it done before school starts.● Mrs. McInerney asked where LHTC students will be if it is not ready. Ms. DiCorpo said they will stay at SNIS if needed. <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. ESG/NV5	<p>B. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Budget Position dated June 30, 20212. Purchase Resolution: D-7483. Request for Budget Transfers <p>C. Summer Projects Update</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Maxx <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. ESG/NV5
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Mr. Aparicio said on June 29, we were informed that the Town Council voted to authorize the Mayor to pursue a lease agreement for the energy project. Currently the Town has put out RFP's for funding for this project. They will be looking to have the funding in place by the beginning of August. On June 12, he and Mr. Giovannone attended a meeting with Jack Healy and the ESG team for introductions and discussion on the overall Project Schedule. Work will begin in the schools sometime in September as long as materials arrive on schedule. This work is scheduled to go on throughout the next year. A significant amount of work will be done while schools are in session, but the contractors will be working the second shift to not disrupt any educational time. Meetings will be scheduled every other Wednesday for updates on the projects, project coordination, and to hear any questions or concerns anyone may have.● Mrs. Faulenbach asked who will manage the staff doing the projects.● Ms. DiCorpo said there will be an assigned clerk of the works for this project, as there will be for the roofing project as well. They will be added to the district's alert system in case of inclement weather. Background checks will be required. Projects will be coordinated. <p>3. SNIS Oil Tank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Mr. Aparicio said BL Companies has sent over an updated ASA (Additional Service Agreement) for the Sarah Noble oil tank. The MBC has approved \$5,000 additional funding for design revision and bid support. The project will be rebid, then applied for grant reimbursement. The hope is to start in September.● Mrs. Faulenbach asked about funding. Mr. Aparicio said this is a town funded project.● Ms. DiCorpo said the district will support it through the grant submission.	<p>3. SNIS Oil Tank</p>
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	<p>4. Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no report. <p>D. School Based Health Centers Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. DiCorpo said ESSER III funds will be used for this project. The program director, Melanie Bonjour, has visited the schools to review possible spaces for two administrative rooms and one exam room at each school. The next step is to obtain an architectural study to see what build up is required. We have reached out to Silver Petrucelli for initial conversation. The cost will be written into the ESSER III grant. • Program legal agreements are being reviewed by the Board attorney who will in turn review them with the Board at the August 10 special meeting. Once the agreements are executed, they will begin interviewing for three clinicians with secretarial support across five schools to start. This is primarily for mental health support. Some medical support is possible this year with the rest planned for year two. • Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the study for the SNIS move is still in process. Ms. DiCorpo said it is and the August 10 meeting will include a presentation regarding the enrollment study. • Mr. Helmus said he is excited to see this program. He asked if finances for SBHCs will be tracked by the school. Ms. DiCorpo said yes and overall. There will be a community oversight portion as well to increase involvement. • Mrs. Faulenbach said getting the message out to the community will be key to program support. <p>E. Mask Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This item was discussed earlier this evening. <p>F. 2020-2021 Fiscal Year End Balance Update</p>	<p>4. Other</p> <p>D. School Based Health Centers Update</p> <p>E. Mask Update</p> <p>F. 2020-2021 Fiscal Year End Balance Update</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Giovannone said this memo dovetails with the budget position. The impact of the COVID environment is shown in the size of the year end balance which is higher than in a normal year. ● Mrs. Faulenbach said we are fortunate to have it. It allows for reinvestment of taxpayer dollars for use for local COVID, capital reserve, roof project, etc. without a supplemental appropriation. 	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Mr. McCauley moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Monaghan.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McInerney
 Assistant Secretary
 New Milford Board of Education