

**New Milford Board of Education  
 Budget Hearing and Adoption Minutes  
 January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007  
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School**

Board Members Present:	Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Board Chairperson
	Mr. Tom McSherry, Vice Chairman
	Mrs. Dian Traisci-Marandola, Board Secretary
	Dr. Lisa Diamond, Assistant Secretary
	Mr. Joseph Failla
	Mr. David A. Lawson
	Mr. Bill McLachlan
	Ms. Jennifer Oliveira
	Mr. Robin Ruggiero
	Dr. Lawrence Stillman
	Mrs. Julie Turk
	Mr. Joseph Vita

Administration Present:	Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools
	Mr. Thomas Mulvihill, Assistant Superintendent
	Mr. Thomas Corbett, Director of Operations
	Mr. John Turk, Director of Fiscal Services
	Mr. John Calhoun, Director of Facilities
	Mr. David Elmore, Director of Technology
	Mrs. Adele Johnson, Supervisor of Special Education
	Dr. Sandra Nadeau, Principal, Hill & Plain Elementary School
	Mr. Tom Atticks, Principal, Northville Elementary School
	Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal, John Pettibone Elementary
	Mrs. Ellamae Baldelli, Principal, Sarah Nobel Intermediate
	Mrs. Dana Ford, Principal, Schaghticoke Middle School
	Mr. Gregory Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School

1.	Mrs. Faulenbach Called to Order the Budget Hearing of the New Milford Board of Education at 7:00 p.m.  The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed.  Mr. Faulenbach opened the meeting, explaining the procedures for the budget hearings. The meeting was then turned over to Dr. Paddyfote for her budget presentation.	Call to Order  Pledge of Allegiance
2.	Dr. Paddyfote gave a power-point slide presentation on the proposed 2007-2008 school budget.	Presentation by Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote of the 2007-2008 School Budget

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 2

3.	<p>Mrs. Faulenbach then asked the Board members for any questions regarding Dr. Paddyfote's overview of the proposed budget. There were no questions at this time.</p>	
	<p>Dr. Nadeau discussed the accomplishments of Hill &amp; Plain since the opening of the 2006-2007 school year.</p> <p>Regarding budget requests for Hill &amp; Plain, Dr. Nadeau would like the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional library books</li> <li>• Classroom supplies</li> <li>• Increase to half-time Assistant Principal</li> <li>• Math and new texts</li> <li>• Periodicals</li> <li>• Instructional and Non-instructional equipment</li> </ul> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Mr. Ruggiero asked for an example of any cost savings initiatives at Hill &amp; Plain.</p> <p>Dr. Nadeau discussed the new remedial program at Hill &amp; Plain without any additional costs incurred. The tutors and two reading specialists have a set time for remedial reading, five days a week for all grade levels. In addition, the special area team meets once a week per grade to collaborate on what they are doing and what equipment can be shared.</p> <p>Mr. Failla asked if there were any costs involved with the new phone system at Hill &amp; Plain. Mr. Elmore stated that there is a maintenance fee involved.</p> <p>Mr. Failla questioned the \$500 budgeted for newspapers. Dr. Nadeau explained that part of this is for "A Time for Kids" by National Geographic and also the Weekly Reader. There are times when Hill &amp; Plain works with the News Times on special projects.</p>	<p>Dr. Nadeau gave an overview of Hill &amp; Plain's budget requests</p>
	<p>Mr. Atticks discussed some events and accomplishments at Northville since the opening of the 2006-07 school year.</p>	<p>Mr. Atticks gave an overview of Northville's budget requests</p>

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 3

	<p>Regarding budget requests, Mr. Atticks would like the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Most important would be personnel</li></ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An increase and support of summer school</li><li>• An emphasis on working together as a team will continue</li><li>• Parent volunteers with instruction and also in the cafeteria will continue</li><li>• The Evening Library Program will continue</li><li>• The Early Bird Program will continue</li></ul> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Mrs. Turk asked how many students Northville had on free and reduced lunch. Mr. Atticks stated 5%.</p> <p>Mr. McLachlan asked Mr. Atticks his feelings on the present construction of the school year, ten months out of the year. Mr. Atticks discussed other possibilities, including more than 180 school days.</p> <p>Mrs. Marandola asked Mr. Atticks to comment on the role of the Assistant Principal and how many Assistant Principals are currently serving the elementary schools. Mr. Atticks stated that Northville has an assistant principal three half days a week. This does not allow for issues to be addressed in a timely fashion. The principal is responsible for any and all discipline, attendance at PPT's, central office meetings, supervision of all staff needs, classroom observations, and sometimes playground and cafeteria coverage. A .5 assistant principal would bring the staffing back to where it was two years ago.</p> <p>Mr. Failla asked if there would be costs involved annually for the Saxon math program and how was the program working. Mr. Atticks explained that there are annual costs involved with Saxon Math. It is a fundamental math program and is serving his students well.</p> <p>Mr. Vita questioned the phone system at Northville. Mr. Atticks stated it is a very old system. There are three in-coming lines, however only two work and one line disconnects randomly. As for telephone conversations that require privacy, there is one</p>	

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 4

<p>phone in a closet.</p> <p>Mr. Vita asked what the frustration level is with the parents regarding the phone system. Mr. Atticks responded that there is no voicemail and the random disconnection is very frustrating to parents.</p> <p>Ms. Oliveria asked if the goal was for a phone to be placed in every classroom. Mr. Elmore stated that, indeed, is the plan.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the phone issue was also a safety issue. Mr. Atticks stated that communication is critical and that safety is an important part of the phone issue.</p> <p>Maintenance of the phone system will cost approximately \$2500 annually.</p> <p>Mr. Ruggiero asked where the underground fuel tank is located at Northville. Mr. Calhoun stated it was at the eastern side of the school in the grassy area.</p> <p>Mr. Failla asked about contamination and Mr. Calhoun stated that cost had been included in the budget.</p>	
<p>Mrs. Kelleher gave an overview of John Pettibone since the 2006-07 school opening.</p> <p>Regarding budget requests, Mrs. Kelleher would like to see the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Library books</li><li>• Guided reading books</li><li>• Classroom supplies</li><li>• Science books</li><li>• Non-instructional supplies</li><li>• Reading Intervention Program for Special Ed</li></ul> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Mr. McLachlan asked if the depletion of library books was partly due to the opening of Saran Noble. Mrs. Kelleher stated yes.</p> <p>Mr. Vita asked about the phone system. Mrs.</p>	Mrs. Kelleher gave an overview of John Pettibone's budget requests

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 5

	<p>Kelleher stated one works half the time and one does not work at all. Mr. Vita mentioned that there was nothing budgeted for phones. Mr. Elmore stated it would cost approximately \$32,000 for each school.</p>	
	<p>Ms. Baldelli discussed the positive effect of adding the assistant principals on a full-time basis to Sarah Noble has made.</p> <p>Regarding budget requests, Ms. Baldelli would like to see the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Now that teachers have been working on data driven decision-making, common release time is needed to analyze the data and develop common assessments.</li><li>• Science curriculum updates</li><li>• Co-teaching class materials</li><li>• Stipends for student activities</li><li>• Coordination of subject content among grades and subjects</li></ul> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked if an additional art teacher would help with scheduling as well as the program. Ms. Baldelli stated that she hoped the position remained in the budget, as it would affect the entire schedule. It would create more of a block schedule, allowing teachers to extend activities and allow for more flexibility. Ms. Baldelli is researching what other schools are doing and seeing what works best for Sarah Noble.</p> <p>Mr. Failla asked how often students are scheduled for P.E. Ms. Baldelli stated it is usually every ten days. But can be up to six weeks due to scheduling issues.</p> <p>Mr. McSherry asked if the addition of an art teacher would eliminate this problem. Ms. Baldelli stated it would.</p> <p>Mr. Vita asked how many students participate in the band program. Ms. Baldelli will get that information to the Board.</p> <p>Mr. McLachlan asked if the possibility of breaking</p>	<p>Ms. Baldelli gave an overview of Sarah Noble's budget requests</p>

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 6

	<p>Sarah Noble into two separate schools (at every level, including entry) had been considered. Ms. Baldelli stated it had been considered, up to the two separate entrances to the school, but the issue remains that all students feel that Sarah Noble in their school.</p> <p>Mr. Failla questioned the additional purchasing of on-line research. What additional help will that give the students. Ms. Baldelli stated they are looking for subscriptions that teachers will use in their classrooms and the opportunity for more technology at each grade level.</p> <p>Mr. Failla asked how many computers were at Sarah Noble. Mr. Elmore responded that there are 195 computers both in computer labs and in the library. Every classroom has one computer.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the cost of art supplies in the amount of \$7500 was contingent on filling an additional art position. Ms. Baldelli stated it was.</p>	
	<p>A recess was taken at 8:35 p.m. The Budget Hearing reconvened at 8:44 p.m.</p>	
	<p>Mrs. Ford gave an overview of the accomplishments of Schaghticoke Middle School since the 2006-07 school opening.</p> <p>Regarding budget requests, Mrs. Ford would like to see the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchased services for police at special events</li> <li>• Textbooks for world language - German</li> <li>• Math books for seventh grade pre-algebra math pilot</li> <li>• Guidance counselor to start prior to the first day of school – 3 additional days per counselor</li> </ul> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Mr. McLachlan was shocked to see that electric is up 15% since we are engaging in an energy cost savings program as well as a light replacement program. Mr. Turk stated that a 15.4% increase was</p>	<p>Mrs. Ford gave an overview of budget requests for Schaghticoke Middle School</p>

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 7

	<p>built into the budget. We will not see any savings from the energy plan as yet due to the fact that we started late.</p> <p>Mr. Ruggiero asked if the capital costs for roofing and carpeting was a carry-over from last year. Mr. Calhoun stated no, the elementary schools were done last year.</p> <p>Mr. Ruggiero asked if the septic was a new issue and Mr. Calhoun stated it is.</p>	
	<p>Mr. Jeff Winter addressed the Board regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of proposed budget on-line</li> <li>• Condition of athletic fields</li> <li>• Condition of playground equipment, basketball hoops, and tennis courts</li> </ul>	Public Participation
	<p>The New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearing recessed at 9:01 p.m.</p>	Recess
	<p>Chairperson Wendy Faulenbach reconvened the New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 17, 2007 at Sarah Noble Intermediate School Media Center.</p> <p>The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed.</p> <p>Board Members Present: Chairperson Wendy Faulenbach, Dr. Lisa Diamond (7:15 p.m.), Mr. Joseph Failla, Mr. David A. Lawson, Mrs. Dian Traisci-Marandola (7:20 p.m.), Mr. Bill McLachlan (7:32 p.m.), Mr. Tom McSherry, Mr. Robin Ruggiero, Dr. Lawrence Stillman, Mrs. Julie Turk, Mr. Joseph Vita</p> <p>Administration Present: Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent, Mr. Thomas Mulvihill, Mr. Thomas Corbett, Mr. John Turk, Mr. John Calhoun, Mr. Dave Elmore, Mrs. Adele Johnson, Mr. Greg Shugrue, Mrs. Dana Ford, Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Mr. Dave Shaffer, Mr. Lance Pliego, Mrs. Diane Miller-Osborne, Mrs. Donna Luzi, Mrs. Maryann Ness, Mr. Jonathan Grauer</p>	<p>Reconvened Budget Hearings</p> <p>Pledge of Allegiance</p>

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 8

<p>Chairperson Wendy Faulenbach opened the budget hearing with questions for Mrs. Ford regarding her budget requests from January 16, 2007.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Mr. Failla had questions regarding item 731 on page 13. Mrs. Ford explained that these are non-instructional supplies such as a music white board and power joints for Industrial Arts.</p> <p>Mr. Failla questioned the new texts, item 641. Mrs. Ford explained these texts were for the math course that was piloted this year in grade 7 and for world language – German texts.</p> <p>Mr. Lawson asked what is the cost of a textbook, in general. Mrs. Ford stated a textbook could cost between \$65 and \$75 and in some cases, i.e., science, between \$85 and \$90.</p>	
<p>Mr. Shugrue gave an overview of the accomplishments for the high school since the 2006-2007 school opening.</p> <p>As for budget requests, Mr. Shugrue would like to see the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Math teacher</li><li>• Social Studies teacher</li><li>• Computer lab added to the LMC</li><li>• Equipment lease for band</li></ul> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Dr. Stillman asked if one person was coordinating the music program. Mr. Shugrue answered yes, Jonathan Grauer and a great parent organization.</p> <p>Dr. Stillman asked what is the capacity of the high school. Mr. Shugrue answered the high school has six teachers pushing carts because they do not have classrooms.</p> <p>Mr. Failla asked Mr. Pliego if equipment and uniforms are in disrepair. Mr. Pliego stated that it depends on the sport. At this time, Mr. Pliego discussed the athletic budget in detail.</p>	<p>Mr. Shugrue gave an overview of the budget requests for the high school.</p>

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 9

<p>Mr. Lawson asked about the availability of electives. Mr. Shugrue stated that seniors need 22.5 credits to graduate and have first opportunity to the electives. Freshman need 5.25 credits to go onto their sophomore year and do not always have an opportunity for electives. If a freshman fails a course, they then play catch-up because of the limited opportunity for electives.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked if social studies had 38 sections with over 35 students or just 38 sections. Mr. Shugrue stated 38 sections with over 35 students.</p> <p>Mr. McLachlan asked if there are any courses with fewer than 25 students (referring to a color coded hand-out from Mr. Shugrue). Mr. Shugrue stated there are some classes with fewer than 25 students most often due to the fact that they contain special ed students.</p> <p>Mrs. Marandola asked Mr. Grauer to review the music program. Mr. Grauer discussed the music program in detail. The biggest problem is the instruments for the Marching Band. These are instruments that are not usually owned by the students or available for rental. Orchestra is not a problem. In regard to orchestra, most students own their own instruments but do pay for transportation. The Band Parents have helped out tremendously. Uniforms are holding up, since they were bought a few years ago.</p> <p>Mrs. Marandola asked if there is any schedule for band and athletic replacements. Mr. Shugrue stated, replacements can be done on a rotation, it depends on the budget.</p> <p>Mr. Failla asked why we send students to Brookfield for AP Statistics. Mr. Shugrue explained we do not have enough staff to offer an AP Statistics course. The students take AP Statistics in Brookfield, first period, and are back in time for second period at New Milford. There is no charge to New Milford and the students provide their own transportation.</p>	
--	--

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 10

	<p>Mr. Failla asked what it would take to enable New Milford to offer the AP Statistics course. Mr. Shugrue stated the additional math position that has been requested, would help address this issue.</p> <p>Mr. Mulvihill added that the Five Year Plan calls for an AP Statistics course at the high school.</p> <p>Mrs. Marandola asked Mrs. Miller-Osborne to give an overview of the World Language program. At this time Mrs. Miller-Osborne gave an overview of the World Language program.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked Mr. Shugrue to discuss the requests for a computer lab in the LMC and how that would address the NEASC requirements. Mr. Shugrue discussed the six points NEASC recommendations that would be addressed by a computer lab in the LMC, as well as a detailed handout.</p>
	<p>Mr. Mulvihill gave an overview of the Department of Instruction, adding what programs are involved. Mr. Elmore was available for any questions.</p> <p>Regarding budget requests for the Department of Instruction, Mr. Mulvihill would like to see the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Funds for tutoring</li><li>• Funds to expand the on-line program being used with expelled students to enable this program to be used as an alternative form of instruction at SMS and the HS.</li><li>• Extend the Summer School program to post grades K-4</li><li>• Funds for Health Scope &amp; Sequence K-12</li><li>• Funds for three staff training days</li><li>• Funds for AP course work</li></ul> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Mr. McLachlan asked if we do not have the number of students attend summer school that we hoped for, is there a way to reduce the cost per pupil. Mr. Mulvihill explained that due to the late approval of</p>

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 11

<p>adding summer school last year, we were not able to communicate, in a timely fashion, the availability of summer school to the public. If summer school were not cut from the budget requests this year, the district can advise parents and get a better indication of how many students would be participating.</p> <p>Mr. Lawson questioned the tuition for the Magnet School and Nonnewaug. Dr. Paddyfote handed out a letter from a parent requesting a seat at the Magnet School. In addition, Dr. Paddyfote discussed a conversation she had had with the Superintendent in Danbury. The Superintendent from Danbury emailed Dr. Paddyfote stating that tuition to the Magnet School for the 2007-08 school year would remain at \$1,000. Dr. Paddyfote has contacted Mr. Kevin Chambers at the state level to confirm what the reimbursement would be from the state for the Magnet School seats and is awaiting a reply. Dr. Paddyfote will bring this information to the Board when it becomes available.</p> <p>Mr. Lawson asked what is currently budgeted for the Magnet School. Dr. Paddyfote stated \$1,750 for each of the 15 students currently attending. The reason for the increase was due to the fact that at the last Magnet School Trustee meeting, it was indicated that tuition would be increasing. That total is \$26,250. In addition to the \$26,250, a bus costing \$37,000 has been budgeted for. New Milford does get reimbursed \$1,300 per student for transportation.</p> <p>Mr. McLachlan questioned our involvement with Nonnewaug, how many students attend and what is the cost to New Milford. Mr. Corbett stated that it costs \$7,200 to send a student to Nonnewaug. The reimbursement from the state is \$2,000.</p> <p>Mr. Failla asked how long of a commitment does New Milford make for students attending the Magnet School. Dr. Paddyfote stated it is a five year commitment.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach wanted to make sure the Board was aware that the New Milford Board of Education</p>	
---	--

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 12

<p>is only an advisory board regarding the Magnet School. Dr. Paddyfote explained that the Danbury Board of Education establishes the policies for the Magnet School.</p> <p>Mrs. Marandola asked for a review on our program with Nonnewaug to be brought to the next Budget Hearing meeting, next Tuesday, January 23, 2007.</p> <p>Mr. Failla asked if the district is purchasing computers outright. Mr. Elmore stated the district is leasing the computers, not purchasing them. However, supplies are purchased.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked how many laptops could be purchased with \$1500. Mr. Elmore stated approximately 12.</p> <p>Mrs. Turk questioned the hourly rate for tutors. Mr. Mulvihill explained that a tutor is paid \$14/hour, however after a certain number of years, is paid \$15/hour. If a certified staff member tutors a student for homebound instruction they are paid \$41.09 an hour, per contract. In addition, tutors who are working with expelled students are paid \$31.09 an hour.</p> <p>Mrs. Turk asked if the district is required to have certified (New Milford) staff tutor home bound and expelled students. Dr. Paddyfote stated that staff for homebound instruction must be a certified New Milford staff member. However, the tutoring for expelled students takes place during the school day and does not lend itself to New Milford certified staff because they are teaching during those hours.</p> <p>Mr. McLachlan asked if the on-line program for expelled students could be expanded. Mr. Mulvihill stated that the system currently has 50 titles in the on-line program. If the budget request were approved, more titles would be available.</p> <p>Mrs. Marandola asked for an explanation of the difference between summer school and special education summer school. Mr. Mulvihill stated that summer school which the system is requesting</p>	
---	--

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 13

<p>funds for is not obligatory, but has been found to be very beneficial. The Special Ed Summer School program is driven by a student's PPT and is required by law.</p> <p>Mrs. Marandola asked if a special ed student does not have summer school as a requirement in their PPT, may they attend the summer school offered by the district. Mr. Mulvihill stated they could.</p> <p>Mr. Vita asked what the current rate is for substitutes. Mr. Mulvihill stated \$70-\$75 . A long-term (over 90 consecutive days) substitute gets paid \$115 day because that person is now responsible for lesson plans and grades. Shortage areas also drive this rate. Mr. Vita asked if the amount budgeted in the 07-08 budget is an increase over 06-07. Dr. Paddyfote stated the budgeted amount is just about the same for both budgets. Mr. Lawson pointed out that an average substitute is on-call for several school systems.</p> <p>Mr. McLachlan asked if a background check was done on substitutes. Dr. Paddyfote stated a background check is definitely done.</p> <p>Mr. Failla asked what the requirements are for a substitute. Mr. Mulvihill answered that the person has to be a four-year college graduate; they go through an interview process, are fingerprinted, and are approved by the Board.</p>	
<p>Mrs. Denise Smith, PTO President, addressed the Board, thanking them for all that they are doing and asked them to support the budget.</p>	Public Participation
<p>The New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearing recessed at 9:06 p.m.</p>	Recess
<p>Chairperson Wendy Faulenbach reconvened the New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 23, 2007 at Sarah Noble Intermediate School Media Center.</p> <p>The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed.</p>	<p>Reconvened</p> <p>Pledge of Allegiance</p>

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 14

<p>Board Members Present: Chairperson Wendy Faulenbach, Dr. Lisa Diamond, Mr. Joseph Failla, Mr. David A. Lawson, Mrs. Dian Traisci-Marandola, Mr. Bill McLachlan, Mr. Tom McSherry, Mr. Robin Ruggiero, Dr. Lawrence Stillman, Mrs. Julie Turk, Mr. Joseph Vita</p> <p>Administration Present: Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent, Mr. Thomas Mulvihill, Mr. Thomas Corbett, Mr. John Turk, Mr. John Calhoun, Mr. Dave Elmore, Mrs. Adele Johnson, Mrs. MaryAnn Ness, Ms. Laura Olson, Ms. Jodi Bayer, Ms. Dawn Figlewski, Ms. Samantha Friedman, Mrs. Lynn Holmes, Mrs. Debbie Clark, Mr. Greg Shugrue, Ms. Ellamae Baldelli</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach explained that the budget hearing would begin with the discussion of special education and asked Mrs. Johnson for comments.</p> <p>Mrs. Johnson discussed the accomplishments that were made and the results of those accomplishments due to the support of last year's Board of Ed budget. The addition of two social workers had a tremendous, positive impact and Mrs. Johnson discussed the impact in detail.</p> <p>Regarding the budget requests for the Special Education Department, Mrs. Johnson would like to see the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• .4 Social Worker</li><li>• .4 nurse and supplies at Faith Academy</li><li>• Continued support of the alternative learning program through on-line courses</li><li>• Support for the nurses program</li></ul> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the costs related to Faith Academy for a nurse and supplies are reimbursable and, if so, does this money go back to the Board of Ed. Mrs. Johnson stated there was a reimbursement and it does go back to the town.</p> <p>Mr. McSherry asked for an explanation of why the</p>	
---	--

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 15

<p>social worker position would only cost \$21,000 versus the \$41,000 listed in the budget book. Mrs. Johnson explained that substance use counseling services were provided through an agency. However, there was a major increase in fees. The high school funds in program 1116 (\$20,000) are offsetting the social worker's salary.</p> <p>Mrs. Marandola asked Mrs. Johnson to explain the difference between prevention and early intervention programs. Mrs. Johnson gave a detailed explanation.</p> <p>Mr. McLachlan stated that the district is slightly higher than the state average relating to our special ed population. He then asked if the district is above the state average in any specific special ed area, i.e., speech, etc. Mrs. Johnson stated that one area would be other health impaired.</p> <p>Mr. McLachlan asked for confirmation, that it is the district's goal to move students out of special education. Mrs. Johnson explained that students could look as though they are ready to move on but when they approach new curriculum, they need to learn new skills. It is not advisable to declassify a student too quickly.</p> <p>Mr. Failla asked that while it is beneficial to the students to have an additional social worker position, it also seems to be cost effective to the system. Mrs. Johnson agreed.</p> <p>Mr. Failla asked if all day kindergarten would fall into the category of early intervention. Mrs. Johnson stated, from her view, that overall learning takes less time when the learning is more concentrated.</p> <p>Mr. McLachlan asked what is the basis for the projected increase in EXCEL enrollment. Is it doctor referrals, etc. Mrs. Johnson stated it is sometimes attributed to doctor referrals, but it is important to note that these referrals will sometimes come to the district very late in the school year and are for the next school year. In addition, for every</p>	
--	--

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 16

<p>special needs student, a typical peer is included in the EXCEL program. Head Start has also started making referrals to EXCEL.</p> <p>Mr. Vita asked what other health impaired was on the demographic and educational trends page. Mrs. Johnson explained it is part of IDEA. It encompasses two areas - one having to address attention, and the other, medical conditions that limit or interfere with a child's learning process.</p>	
<p>Mr. Calhoun discussed the projects that were accomplished last year due to the favorable budget. The Maintenance Department had not had a capital budget in a number of years.</p> <p>Regarding budget requests for 2007-08, Mr. Calhoun would like to see the funds for the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Service contracts maintained</li><li>• Mandated compliance issues, i.e., sprinklers, addressed</li><li>• Gyms and fields maintenance funded</li><li>• Chiller Service Contracts maintained</li><li>• Building automated systems for air quality</li><li>• Boiler service contracts</li><li>• Elevator service maintained</li><li>• Pest Management</li><li>• Pumping of sewage</li><li>• Vandalism repairs</li><li>• Door and key repairs</li><li>• Unanticipated repairs</li><li>• Preventative maintenance program is presently in effect. This is a scheduled, as well as on an as-needed basis, maintenance.</li><li>• Implementation of Tools for Schools</li></ul> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Mr. Failla asked if the all doors were handicap approved. Mr. Calhoun stated that all doors are in ADA compliance.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the district recoups any of the money spent on vandalism repairs. Mr. Calhoun stated if the students are caught, their families are</p>	Maintenance

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 17

<p>responsible and are charged for any repairs.</p> <p>Dr. Stillman asked which school seems to have the most vandalism. Mr. Calhoun stated Hill &amp; Plain because it is the darkest and most out of the way. The area in the back is hard to police. There are no surveillance cameras at Hill &amp; Plain. The high school has the least vandalism.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach discussed the issue of lighting to prevent vandalism that has been raised in the past. Mr. Calhoun explained, in most cases, it is much more cost effective to have a lighting system than to repair the vandalism.</p> <p>Mr. Ruggiero question the costs involved with training. Mr. Calhoun explained some of the training is on computer, however, there is an amount of federally mandated training that has to be taken. In addition, employees take courses to improve their skills to be able to have the ability to stay in-house for most situations rather than contracting out of the district for services.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach questioned the floating custodian. Mr. Calhoun explained he would like to have a custodian to be able to cover vacation times and sick time to avoid paying overtime to cover these situations.</p>	
<p>Mr. Turk discussed three aspects of utilities Energy Education, Fuel and Electric.</p> <p>Regarding Energy Education, the costs incurred would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stipend for the Education Energy Manager</li><li>• Consultant fees</li><li>• Travel for the manager to attend 3 seminars</li><li>• \$1,000 for software</li></ul> <p>Due to the fact that we did not sign the contract until August, hired an Education Energy Manager in October and then begun gathering data, we have not been able to determine any savings at this time. Mr. Turk will be meeting with the Superintendent, the Energy Education Manager and representatives</p>	Utilities

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 18

<p>from Energy Education next week to discuss issues.</p> <p>Regarding oil, Mr. Turk explained that the Board of Ed is in partnership with the town. The item went out to bid and Mr. Turk made sure that the Board of Ed would not be tied into a consumption minimum. We are currently locked into \$2.1925 per gallon. It is projected to be \$2.36/gallon next year. For the schools using natural gas, JPS, SNIS and the high school, we are currently paying \$1.40/gallon and are anticipating an increase to \$1.84/gallon. At this time, Mr. Turk gave an explanation of the savings by going from oil to natural gas at JPS, SNIS and the high school. The overall savings is \$115,000.</p> <p>Regarding electric, a 15.4% is projected. According to CCCP, CL&amp;P may be receiving an additional increase between 7 and 15%. The town has projected a 7.7% increase. Mr. Turk split the difference for the Board of Ed projected increase.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked if utilities could end up worse than projected. Mr. Turk explained he is confident with the projection, and, if money were cut from this line item, he would be concerned.</p> <p>Mr. McSherry asked if Mr. Turk had noticed any improvement in the electric bills. Mr. Turk did not actually look at the bills when he needed to copy them.</p> <p>Mrs. Turk asked what was the budgeted fuel costs for 2007-08. Mr. Turk answered that in 06-07 oil was budgeted at \$2.19/gal and next year, 07-8 it is projected at \$2.36/gal.</p> <p>Mr. McLachlan would like to see the statistics between oil and natural gas, the comparison of how far a gallon of oil goes versus a gallon of natural gas.</p>	
Dr. Paddyfote explained that the following departments fall into this category: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Insurance</li><li>• Transportation</li></ul>	Department of General Administration

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 19

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Technology</li><li>• Fiscal Services</li><li>• Human Resources</li><li>• Community Relations</li><li>• Board of Education</li></ul> <p>Mr. Corbett explained the bulk of the costs are made up of benefits, health insurance, being the biggest. When the district went to full premium, a lock-in of a 14% increase was built into the agreement.</p> <p>Mr. Failla asked if an increase of 14% was realistic. Mr. Corbett stated that the Siegel Company has been on target in the past. This is the first year the district has gone back to a full premium charge.</p> <p>Mrs. Turk would like a number of what Mr. Corbett thinks will be left over from this year in the 200 account. Mr. Corbett will bring that number tomorrow night.</p> <p>Mrs. Marandola asked Mr. Turk to discuss the benefits as they differ between self-insurance and full premium. Mr. Turk gave a handout, which he discussed.</p> <p>At this time Mr. Corbett discussed transportation. We will be operating with the same fleet that exists currently. The bus company has taken over the scheduling of bus routes and, therefore, has reduced excess time charges.</p> <p>Mr. Ruggiero asked if there were any changes made to accommodate transportation. Mr. Corbett stated the bell time at the schools was changed to reduce the excess time charges.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the excess time charges had been in the \$80 – \$90,000 range and that was correct.</p> <p>Mr. McLachlan asked if the bus company is on target for replacement vehicles. Mr. Corbett stated that should begin this summer.</p>	
---	--

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 20

<p>Mr. Elmore explained what was covered in his budget requests, i.e., non-instructional technology services, Director of Technology's salary, Network Coordinator salary, repairs to non-instructional equipment, support software, maintaining network software. Mr. Elmore explained, as the district's equipment is getting older, there are costs anticipated with the computers, as well as printers.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Mr. Vita asked how the system deals with printer cartridges. Do we have color, as well as black and white cartridges? Mr. Elmore explained that toner and ink is typically bought 2-3 times a year, based on usage. Brand name supplies are used, as it has been noticed that there are more repairs when brand names are not used. We do have color printers, but not many.</p>	Technology
<p>Mr. Turk stated there was a \$50,000 increase in the 330 account, purchased services. Of the \$50,000, \$45,000 is budgeted for an upgrade of the ASA 400 system. This would include payroll services, as well as human resources. This would be a tremendous improvement.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Mr. Vita asked if Mr. Turk has checked to see what other districts were using this system. Mr. Turk stated he planned to visit another district and discuss with them what our uses would be.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked for a brief history on this package, which Mr. Turk gave.</p> <p>Mrs. Turk asked why the town was not part of this plan. Mr. Turk stated it is not on the town's radar screen. The Board of Ed has the largest human resources department within the town. Mr. Turk did not know why the town was not going in this direction.</p> <p>Mrs. Turk asked if this cost would be repeated annually. Mr. Turk stated just the purchased services contract portion. The other is a one-time expense.</p>	Fiscal Services

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 21

<p>Mrs. Turk asked what the on-going expense would be. Mr. Turk will get that information.</p> <p>Dr. Stillman asked why legal services had been reduced from last year. Dr. Paddyfote explained it depends on what contracts are being negotiated. This year the secretaries, administrators, teamsters and cafeteria employee contracts are being negotiated.</p> <p>Mrs. Turk questioned the dues and fees budget request. Dr. Paddyfote stated that CABE and Ed Connection were part of that line item. The actual costs will be brought to the next budget adoption meeting on Wednesday.</p> <p>Mr. Corbett mentioned that the salary account might look different, as the Business Department has tried to take into account the attrition factor at a total of \$103,000.</p>	
<p>Mr. Elmore discussed a handout he distributed. Mr. Elmore discussed the process for computer rotation. He would like to purchase 432 computers at \$400,000. Due to the large number, a lease purchase agreement is being considered rather than an outright purchase. Mr. Elmore explained where these computers would be placed, how old the computers are that they would be replacing and the software that would be updated. There are places where the replaced computers would go such as computer labs, less heavy usage areas, etc. In addition to the computers, there are two telephone systems in the Technology capital budget for NES and JPS. Both these telephone systems are over 15 years old.</p> <p>Mr. McLachlan left the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Dr. Diamond left the meeting at 9:40 p.m.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Mr. Failla asked about virtualization systems for computers. Mr. Elmore said that the district has looked into this alternative; however, he did not feel the district was at a point to recommend this</p>	Technology Capital

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 22

	approach.	
	<p>Mr. Calhoun gave a slide presentation showing the Board what had been accomplished out of last year's budget, as well as capital requests for this year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New carpeting at SMS and Music Room at NES</li> <li>• Hot Water Heater</li> <li>• Replace Tunnel Doors</li> <li>• Replace Classroom Blinds</li> <li>• Roof Repairs</li> <li>• Underground Oil Tank Replacement</li> <li>• Septic Tank Repair</li> <li>• Fuel Economizer</li> <li>• Storage Barn Roof Replacement</li> <li>• Dump Truck Replacement</li> </ul> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Mr. Ruggiero asked what the miscellaneous projects were in A2. Mr. Calhoun explained classroom tiling for NES, risers for the nurse program (?) and walkie-talkies. At SMS it is the power joiner and a music white board; at SNIS it is folding tables and chairs for the café.</p> <p>Mrs. Marandola asked about the fields mentioned by Jeff Winter. Mr. Calhoun stated that the fields are usually maintained through the regular budget, unless it is a complete renovation of a field. The district does not usually maintain fields that are strictly used by outside consumers, other than routine maintenance.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked Mr. Calhoun what part his department had in regards to the LMC request by Mr. Shugrue. Mr. Calhoun stated it would be the glass walls, mostly costs related to structure.</p>	Facilities Capital
	There was no public comment.	Public Comment
	The New Milford Board of Education budget hearing recessed at 10:08 p.m.	Recess
	The New Milford Board of Education special	Reconvene

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 23

<p>budget adoption/business meeting reconvened at 7:02 p.m.</p> <p>The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed.</p> <p>Board Members Present: Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Vita, Mrs. Turk, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Failla, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. Lawson, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Marandola</p> <p>Administration Present: Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent, Mr. Thomas Mulvihill, Mr. Thomas Corbett, Mr. John Turk, Mr. John Calhoun, Mr. Dave Elmore, Mrs. Adele Johnson, Mrs. Kelleher, Dr. Nadeau, Mr. Atticks, Mr. Shugrue, Ms. Baldelli, Mrs. Ford, Ms. Autori, Ms. Greene, Mrs. Luzi, Mrs. MaryAnn Ness, Mrs. Golden, Mrs. Kaczka, Mr. Shaffer, Mrs. Racey</p> <p>Public Comment was moved to the beginning of the agenda. There was no public comment.</p>	<p>Pledge of Allegiance</p> <p>Public Comment</p>
<p>Mrs. Faulenbach began the meeting addressing the business portion of the agenda.</p> <p>Motion made by Mr. Ruggiero: Move that the Board of Education approve Exhibit A – Personnel as recommended by the Superintendent.</p> <p>Seconded by: Mr. Vita</p> <p>Aye: Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Vita, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. Failla, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. McSherry, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk</p> <p>Nay:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Motion Passed – Unanimously 10-0-0</p>	<p>Motion made and passed to approve Exhibit A – Personnel as recommended by the Superintendent</p>
<p>Gifts &amp; Donations:</p> <p>Motion made by Mr. McSherry: Move that the Board of Education vote to accept Exhibit B, PTO Gift/Donation.</p> <p>Seconded by: Dr. Stillman</p> <p>Aye: Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Vita, Mrs. Faulenbach,</p>	<p>Gifts &amp; Donations</p> <p>Motion made and passed to accept Exhibit B, PTO Gift/Donation.</p>

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 24

<p>Mr. Failla, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. McSherry, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk Nay: Abstain: Motion Passed – Unanimously 10-0-0</p> <p>Motion made by: Mr. Vita. Move that the Board of Education vote to accept Exhibit C, Wal-Mart Gift/Donation. Seconded by: Dr. Stillman</p> <p>Aye: Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Vita, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. Failla, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. McSherry, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk Nay: Abstain: Motion Passed – Unanimously 10-0-0</p> <p>Motion made by Mr. McLachlan: Move that the Board of Education vote to Exhibit D, IBM Gift/Donation. Seconded by: Mr. McSherry</p> <p>Aye: Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Vita, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. Failla, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. McSherry, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk Nay: Abstain: Motion Passed – Unanimously 10-0-0</p>	<p>Motion made and passed to accept Exhibit C, from Wal-Mart Gift/Donation.</p> <p>Motion made and passed to accept Exhibit D, IBM Gift/Donation</p>
<p>At this time, Chairperson Wendy Faulenbach, asked for a motion to adopt the New Milford Public School Budget as recommended by the Superintendent.</p> <p>Motion made by Dr. Stillman: Move that the New Milford Board of Education vote to adopt the 2007-2008 New Milford Public Schools budget as recommended by the Superintendent in the amount of \$56,621,414. Seconded by: Mr. McSherry</p>	<p>2007-2008 Proposed School Budget</p> <p>Motion made to adopt the 2007-2008 New Milford Schools budget as recommended by the Superintendent in the amount of \$56,621.414. Discussion followed</p>

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 25

<p>Motion made by Mrs. Marandola: Move that the New Milford Board of Education amend the budget by adding the position of a Personnel Manager in the amount of \$90,000.</p> <p>Seconded by: Mr. Lawson</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p>Mrs. Marandola discussed the inordinate amount of data and personnel adjustments on a monthly basis, the district's seven employee contracts, a tremendous amount of processes leading to payroll, etc. Considering all of these activities, and the fact that a personnel software package is recommended in this budget, we need an individual to go along with this tool. In addition, it would assist in achieving one of the strategies proposed by the Strategic Planning Team. We need a dedicated personnel manager. From a community standpoint, as with the sewer expansion to promote the infrastructure needed to support business development in town, the school system needs the same support for its schools. In order to attract new business, these potential businesses need to see that schools are supported by the community.</p> <p>Mr. Lawson asked when the district last had the position of a personnel manager. Dr. Paddyfote responded in 1995. Mr. Lawson asked what the budget was in 1995. Although there was not a definite figure, it is believed that the budget was approximately \$30,000,000 at that time.</p> <p>Dr. Diamond arrived to the meeting at 7:15 p.m.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach agreed the district needs the position of a personnel manager, but was not ready to support adding that position at this time. Mrs. Faulenbach would like to see the district hold onto what is already in the budget and hoped the addition of the personnel software would help alleviate some burdens.</p> <p>Aye: Mrs. Marandola, Mr. Lawson, Dr. Stillman Nay: Mr. Failla, Mr. Ruggiero, Mrs. Turk, Dr. Diamond, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. Vita, Mr. McSherry, Mrs. Faulenbach</p>	<p>Motion made and failed to add the position of a Personnel Manager in the amount of \$90,000</p>
--	--

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 26

<p>Abstained:</p> <p>Motion Failed: 3-8-0</p> <p>Motion made by Mr. Failla: Move that the Board of Education amend the budget by reducing Purchased Services, line item 339, in the amount of \$75,000.</p> <p>Seconded by: Mr. Vita</p> <p>Discussion: Mr. Failla stated he understood the need to increase purchased services, but there are certain areas wherein the district should be cautious. He did not want to determine which items should be eliminated from purchased services, that would be at the discretion of the administration.</p> <p>Mr. McLachlan agreed. Dr. Stillman did not agree, he felt the reduction is too vague; he stated it was a disservice to the system. Mr. Failla stated he could go item by item and school by school, but felt that was a disservice to the system. These judgments, Mr. Failla felt, are better left to those who need the services. Mrs. Turk agreed with Mr. Failla. Mr. Lawson could not agree; there was no guidance given to the administration. Mr. McLachlan stated any suggestions now, could be changed through transfers at an Operations' meeting. Dr. Diamond asked Mr. Failla if there was a bottom line number that he was trying to get to, in terms of a percentage decrease to the budget. Mr. Failla stated that the number is fluid; to give an arbitrary number would not be fair to the system, students and administration. The number should be based on comments and the process throughout this evening. Dr. Diamond asked Mr. Failla if he thought there were items in this account that were not needed. Mr. Failla stated he felt the object line was excessive.</p> <p>Aye: Mr. Failla, Mr. Ruggiero, Mrs. Turk, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. Vita</p> <p>Nay: Mr. McSherry, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mrs. Marandola, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Stillman, Mr. Lawson</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Motion Failed: 5-6-0</p>	<p>Motion made and failed to amend the budget by reducing Purchased Services, line item 339, in the amount of \$75,000</p>
--	--

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 27

<p>Motion made by Mrs. Turk: Move that the New Milford Board of Education amend the budget in the DOGA account by reducing program 2310, line item 810, Dues &amp; Fees, in the amount of \$17,000. Seconded by: Robin Ruggiero</p> <p>Discussion: Mrs. Turk felt in these tight times, the Board should give up some services as well. The dues budgeted are mainly for CABE. Dr. Stillman asked what services were offered by CABE. Dr. Paddyfote explained that CABE notified the district of legislative updates, offered multiple workshops throughout the year, would give in-district workshops when requested, etc. Mrs. Marandola was concerned about the policy updates that CABE was providing and asked if these updates would be available in another venue. Dr. Paddyfote stated we could have the Board counsel keep the district updated on legislation affecting the district. Dr. Stillman asked if Board members would attend CABE workshops as individuals. Dr. Paddyfote stated that was possible, at a non-member charge.</p> <p>Aye: Mrs. Turk, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Failla, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. Vita, Mr. McSherry, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mrs. Marandola, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Stillman, Mr. Lawson</p> <p>Nay:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Motion Passed – Unanimously</p> <p>Motion made by Mr. Ruggiero: Move that the New Milford Board of Education amend the budget by reducing the DOGA account, program 2840, line item 112 by \$43,287. Seconded by Mr. Failla</p> <p>Discussion: The reduction reflected in this motion is for a non-certified data coordinator. Mr. Ruggiero stated he would need to know the depth of responsibility for this individual regarding state reports. Dr. Paddyfote distributed a handout listing all the reports this individual would be responsible for coordinating and submitting the data. There are</p>	<p>Motion made and passed to amend the budget in the DOGA account by reducing program 2310, line item 810, Dues &amp; Fees, in the amount of \$17,000.</p> <p>Motion made and passed to amend the budget by reducing the DOGA account, program 2840, line item 112 by \$43,287.</p>
--	---

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 28

<p>approximately fifteen different people who contribute to these reports at this time. The Accounting Manager primarily does the data input due to code security by the state. In addition, a network administrator works with the schools to gather the needed information. Mr. McSherry asked if this position would alleviate a burden that is now put on the teachers. Dr. Paddyfote explained that it is the principals who mostly work on getting the information for these reports. Mr. McSherry asked if the position would help with acquiring more grants. Dr. Paddyfote stated no, because that is a different skill set. Mr. Lawson stated that indirectly this position would not affect students, however, indirectly it does because it takes the Principal away from student related duties.</p> <p>Aye: Mr. Failla, Mr. Ruggiero, Mrs. Turk, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. Vita, Mrs. Faulenbach Nay: Mr. McSherry, Mrs. Marandola, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Stillman, Mr. Lawson Abstain:</p> <p>Motion passed 6-5-0</p> <p>Mrs. Turk questioned the DOI account, object 561, Tuition, in the amount of \$184,650. This tuition is for New Milford students to attend Nonnewaug. Does it also include Henry Abbot Tech? Dr. Paddyfote explained that we pay for transportation to Henry Abbott Tech; however, there is no charge for tuition. Tuition is paid to Nonnewaug and the Magnet School. Regarding Nonnewaug, it is required, as the state mandates that districts designate a VoAg school and fund all students accepted. Regarding the Magnet School, we pay tuition, however, it is permissive. Mrs. Turk asked, due to the change of the proposed tuition to the Magnet School, the district could send more students to the Magnet School? Dr. Stillman's concern regarding the Magnet School is the five year commitment. There is no guarantee what the tuition will be in the future. Mr. McLachlan stated that the Magnet School would always be competitive, as Danbury needs out-of-district students to attend the magnet school to operate</p>	
--	--

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 29

<p>efficiently.</p> <p>Mr. Lawson asked Mr. Mulvihill for the costs related to all day kindergarten for New Milford. Mr. Mulvihill explained the following:</p> <p>All day kindergarten across the board would cost approximately \$600,000.</p> <p>All day kindergarten for 3 sections, 1 at each school, would cost approximately \$150,000.</p> <p>All day kindergarten for 1 section at 1 school (JPS) would cost approximately \$30,000.</p> <p>Motion made by Mr. Lawson: Move that the New Milford Board of Education amend the budget by adding one section of an all day kindergarten pilot in the 2007-08 school year not to exceed \$28,000. Seconded by: Mrs. Marandola</p> <p>Discussion: Mr. Lawson stated that all day kindergarten would appeal to the community. It is good for early intervention and prevention as mentioned during the previous budget hearings. The New Milford School district would have total control, unlike the Magnet School, where the Board is only advisory. Mr. McLachlan asked how many kindergartners are there in New Milford? Mr. Mulvihill stated approximately 310. Mr. McLachlan asked how many students tried to get into the magnet school? Dr. Paddyfote explained there were 92 applications, with the majority being in kindergarten. Presently there are 14 applications for the magnet school, 11 of which are for kindergarten. Mr. Lawson agreed that the magnet school is an excellent opportunity, however, keeping control in New Milford is imperative. The magnet school is currently running at a deficit. Mrs. Marandola agreed with this motion and stated that parents who want all day kindergarten look elsewhere because New Milford does not offer it. Mrs. Turk asked if this item should go to the Committee on Learning. Mrs. Marandola stated that the COL has discussed this in depth; however, the reason for making the motion now, is that the Board is adopting a budget at this time. Dr.</p>	Motion made and passed to amend the budget by adding one section of all day kindergarten pilot in the 2007-08 school year not to exceed \$28,000.
---	---

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 30

<p>Stillman believes that the time for all day kindergarten has come. This program offers students an opportunity for math and reading readiness, social skills and an opportunity for an easier transition to first grade. Mr. McLachlan questioned the measurable gain from all day kindergarten. Mr. McLachlan asked if the particulars had been worked out, i.e., naptime, etc. Mr. Mulvihill stated that he has had discussions with the elementary Principals and that is why this would be a pilot program. Discussions have taken place regarding some of the issues, such as lunch, and that can be worked out. Mr. McSherry would like to see the pilot go forward and see if there is an effect on the magnet school applications. Mr. McSherry stated the Board should maintain the seats we have at the magnet school, and find another place in the budget to fund all day kindergarten. Mrs. Turk inquired how all day kindergarten would be measured, as there would be no history and studies show that progress is not retained after third grade. Mr. Mulvihill listed a number of ways the pilot can be measured such as IRIIs, math concepts, social skills, etc. Mrs. Faulenbach would not support all day kindergarten across the board, but could certainly support one section as a pilot.</p> <p>Aye: Mr. Failla, Mr. McSherry, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mrs. Marandola, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Stillman, Mr. Lawson Nay: Mr. Ruggiero, Mrs. Turk, Mr. Vita Abstain: Mr. McLachlan</p> <p>Motion Passed: 7-3-1</p> <p>The New Milford Board of Education recessed for a break at 8:35 p.m. and reconvened at 8:46 p.m.</p> <p>Motion made by Mrs. Marandola: Move that the New Milford Board of Education amend the budget by reducing the DOI account, program 6110, line item 561 by \$8,250 and send three students to the magnet school for the 2007-08 school year. Seconded by: Mr. Lawson</p>	<p>Motion made and passed to amend the budget by reducing the DOI account, program 6110, line item 561 by \$8,250 and send three students to the magnet school for the 2007-08</p>
--	--

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 31

<p>Discussion: Mrs. Marandola would like to keep the same format for the magnet school, 3 seats in each grade level, therefore, offering 3 seats for the 2007-08 school year. Mr. McLachlan would like to add 4 seats to each grade, including kindergarten, for a total of 24 seats. Dr. Paddyfote explained that the only seats available are in kindergarten; there are no seats available for grades 1-5. Mr. Lawson is concerned about the financial stability of the magnet school. Dr. Paddyfote stated that Danbury could only hold 60% of the seats in order not to be penalized by the state. Danbury is now at 68%. Mrs. Turk asked what the end date was for acceptance of applications to the magnet school. Dr. Paddyfote stated applications could be sent to Danbury until January 31, 2007. Mr. McSherry agreed with keeping the same level (number) of seats at the magnet school.</p> <p>Aye: Mrs. Marandola, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Failla, Mrs. Turk, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. Vita, Mr. McSherry, Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Stillman</p> <p>Nay:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Motion Passed – Unanimously</p> <p>Mr. McLachlan asked Dr. Paddyfote to please keep the Board informed if there was a change in position from Danbury regarding adding more students in the other grades.</p> <p>Motion made by Mr. McSherry: Move that the New Milford Board of Education amend the budget by reducing the Facilities Capital account by \$30,000 for classroom blinds.</p> <p>Seconded by: Mrs. Marandola</p> <p>Discussion: Mr. McSherry's intent was to use this money to fund the all day kindergarten pilot. Mr. McLachlan questioned if these blinds would be cost effective regarding energy. Mr. Calhoun stated the blinds are thermal blinds and would help with heating the schools as well as keeping the temperature down during the warmer months.</p>	<p>school year.</p> <p>Motion made and passed to amend the budget by reducing the Facilities Capital account by \$30,000 for classroom blinds.</p>
---	--

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 32

<p>Aye: Mr. McSherry, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. Failla, Mr. Ruggiero, Mrs. Turk, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. Vita, Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Stillman, Mr. Lawson Nay: Abstain:</p> <p>Motion Passed – Unanimously</p> <p>Motion made by Mr. Ruggiero: Move that the New Milford Board of Education amend the budget by reducing the Facilities Capital account by \$10,000 with regard to the various miscellaneous project line. Seconded by: Mr. McLachlan</p> <p>Discussion: Dr. Diamond asked what items would be involved with this reduction. Mr. Calhoun listed a number of items at several schools. Mr. Vita mentioned that this reduction was only a portion of the total funds requested and there would still be funds available to support some projects.</p> <p>Aye: Mr. Failla, Mr. Ruggiero, Mrs. Turk, Mr. McLachlan, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. Vita Nay: Mr. McSherry, Mrs. Marandola, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Stillman, Mr. Lawson Abstain:</p> <p>Motion Passed: 6-5-0</p> <p>Mrs. Marandola questioned whether the septic tank could be cut and the request made to the Capital Reserve. Mr. McLachlan felt the same way regarding the underground fuel tank and roof repairs. Mrs. Faulenbach stated there are different theories on why the Capital Reserve was developed. Mr. McSherry was concerned if the budget is reduced by the funds needed for these items and then the Board was not able to get the funds from the Capital Reserve, how would these items be funded, as there is a certain amount of urgency attached to them. Mrs. Marandola stated she felt the septic tank certainly met the definition of a Capital Reserve request. Mrs. Faulenbach reminded</p>	<p>Motion made and passed to amend the budget by reducing the Facilities Capital account by \$10,000 with regard to the various miscellaneous project line.</p>
--	---

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 33

<p>the Board that this request would have to go before two other Boards, the Town Council and then the Board of Finance. Mr. McLachlan asked if a motion could be made, keeping the funds in the Board's budget, and then automatically turn over the funds to the Capital Reserve, if the request is approved. Mrs. Turk suggested the Board consider a resolution.</p> <p>Motion made by Mrs. Marandola: Move that the New Milford Board of Education amend the budget by reducing the Capital account for SMS in the amount of \$30,000 for the septic tank repairs. Seconded by: Mr. Lawson</p> <p>Mr. Vita asked Mr. Calhoun to elaborate on how long the septic tank may hold up. Mr. Calhoun could not give a definitive date. Mr. Calhoun stated that the septic tank would fail at some point if the repairs are not made, but would hopefully last until the summer months.</p> <p>A discussion followed that put forth: if Town Council determines that budgeted capital items meet Capital Reserve requirements, they can make the budget adjustment and move those items to Capital Reserve during their deliberations. Mrs. Marandola agreed that this was a good idea.</p> <p>Mrs. Marandola withdrew her motion. Mr. Lawson withdrew his second.</p> <p>Motion made by Mr. McLachlan: Move that the New Milford Board of Education amend the budget by reducing the Technology Capital account by \$65,000, program 7002. Seconded by: Mrs. Marandola</p> <p>Discussion: Mr. McLachlan stated that most individuals are using cell phones due to the improvement of cell service. In addition, the school has gotten along thus far without a better phone system. Mrs. Marandola disagreed, stating that schools needs to have quick communication within and outside of their schools. It is one of the district's most valuable tools and is basic</p>	<p>Motion made and withdrawn to amend the budget by reducing the Capital account for SMS in the amount of \$30,000 for septic tank repairs.</p> <p>Motion made and failed to amend the budget by reducing the Technology Capital account by \$65,000 in program 7002.</p>
---	---

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 34

<p>equipment. Mr. Lawson agreed that the phone system replacement is an absolute need. Dr. Stillman mentioned the need for cell phones to be charged and Mrs. Faulenbach considered it a safety issue. Mr. McLachlan stated that email has become the preferable mode of communication.</p> <p>Aye: Mr. McLachlan, Mr. Ruggiero, Mrs. Turk, Mr. Vita Nay: Mr. McSherry, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mrs. Marandola, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Stillman, Mr. Lawson Abstain: Mr. Failla</p> <p>Motion failed: 4-6-1</p> <p>Motion made by Dr. Stillman: Move that the New Milford Board of Education amend the budget by reducing the Facilities Capital account by \$25,000 by not replacing the barn roof. Seconded by: Mr. Ruggiero</p> <p>Discussion: Dr. Stillman would like to tear the building down and sell the wood as antique wood. Mr. Vita asked Mr. Calhoun what is actually stored in the barn. Mr. Calhoun responded that landscape equipment, bulk paper products - such as trash liners, some furniture, theatre props, art displays and some small athletic equipment are stored in the barn. Dr. Stillman asked if these items could be stored elsewhere. Mr. Calhoun explained there is no room. The paper supplies alone, can be up to 15-16 pallets. Mrs. Faulenbach asked if any of the items from Bridge Street were being stored in the barn. Mr. Calhoun stated some furniture, however the records were being stored at SNIS. Mr. McSherry asked if the barn was torn down, could the budgeted funds of \$25,000 be used to build another storage facility. Mr. Calhoun stated it was a possibility.</p> <p>Aye: Dr. Stillman, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Failla, Mrs. Turk, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. Vita, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mrs. Marandola, Dr. Diamond Nay: Mr. McSherry, Mr. Lawson Abstain:</p>	<p>Motion made and passed to amend the budget by reducing the Facilities Capital account by \$25,000 by not replacing the barn roof.</p>
---	--

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 35

<p>Motion Passed: 9-2-0</p> <p>Motion made by Mr. Ruggiero: Move that the New Milford Board of Education amend the budget by reducing the Technology Capital account's bottom line by a flat \$35,000.</p> <p>Seconded by: Mr. McLachlan</p> <p>Discussion: Mr. Ruggiero was suggesting some of the reduction could come from the miscellaneous portion, as well as instructional labs and some out of the computer request. Mr. Mulvihill asked if Mr. Ruggiero's intent was to not touch the funds for the phone systems at NES and JPS. Mr. Ruggiero agreed that was his intent. Mr. McLachlan suggested there might be a phone system with fewer bells and whistles. Mr. Lawson thought \$35,000 was too much and it was not stated in the motion that the phone system should not be touched. Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the cost of the phone systems were firm. Mr. Elmore stated that it was an estimate. It is possible to look into systems with fewer features, such as voicemail. The reduction would most likely come from computers, as the funds budgeted for the phone systems would be a smaller amount. The four year lease for computers would have to be considered.</p> <p>Aye: Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. Failla, Mrs. Turk Mr. Vita</p> <p>Nay: Mr. McSherry, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mrs. Marandola, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Stillman, Mr. Lawson</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Motion failed: 5-6-0</p> <p>Mrs. Turk asked for an explanation of the request for a custodian and electrician. Mr. Calhoun explained that the custodial position was for the full year and the electrician was for half year. The electrician position was on hold due to the request for an Assistant Facility Manager. Mrs. Turk asked if this was an increase of 1.5 positions and Mr. Calhoun stated it was.</p>	<p>Motion made and failed to amend the budget by reducing the Technology Capital account's bottom line by a flat \$35,000.</p>
---	--

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 36

<p>Motion made by Mrs. Turk: Move that the New Milford Board of Education amend the budget by reducing the Maintenance/Facilities budget, program 14, line item 112, in the amount of \$58,695.</p> <p>Seconded by: Mr. Ruggiero</p> <p>Discussion: Mrs. Turk stated that enrollment has declined while staff increases. Mrs. Turk suggested outsourcing some services. Mrs. Marandola asked Mr. Calhoun if this reduction would impact overtime. Mr. Calhoun stated outsourcing would increase line item 114, contracted services and it would also mean more overtime. This is a union position and there could be the possibility of a grievance because work is being taken away from the bargaining unit. Mrs. Turk stated that the motion does not stipulate the position, just the bottom line. It would be the administration's decision.</p> <p>Aye: Mrs. Turk, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Vita, Mr. Failla Nay: Mr. McSherry, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mrs. Marandola, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Stillman, Mr. Lawson Abstain: Mr. McLachlan</p> <p>Motion failed: 4-6-1</p> <p>Motion made by Mr. Ruggiero: Move that the New Milford Board of Education amend the budget by reducing the DOI account, program 1410, line item 111 in the amount of \$25,000.</p> <p>Seconded by: Mr. McLachlan</p> <p>Discussion: Mr. Ruggiero believes in the summer school program, but not at the expense of \$44,000. We are anticipating 300 students, but have no guarantee. Mr. Mulvihill explained why he anticipates more students this year, as previously discussed at the budget hearings, regarding, in part, more notification to the parents. The cost is also increasing due to the fact that a couple of grades are being added to the program. There was a time when 400-450 students attended summer school, although at that time the district did provide</p>	<p>Motion made and failed to amend the budget by reducing the Maintenance/Facilities budget, program 14, line item 112, in the amount of \$58,695.</p> <p>Motion made and failed to amend the budget by reducing the DOI account, program 1410, line item 111 in the amount of \$25,000.</p>
--	--

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 37

<p>transportation. Mr. McLachlan asked if we are spending \$600 per student for 8 weeks. Mr. Mulvihill stated it is actually 4 weeks for students, with staff coming in an additional day for follow-up. Mrs. Faulenbach stated that the Board did make the commitment that there would be a three-year phase in of summer school. Mr. Mulvihill stated that in the grades the district serves, it is clear there could be over 300 students for summer school, however, the district will not know until later in the spring what the actual number will be. Mr. McLachlan asked what percentage of students need summer school. Mr. Mulvihill stated approximately 20-25% in the early grades. These are students who have not only been identified as not performing at grade level, but also include students that are performing at grade level, but are at risk.</p> <p>Aye: Mr. Ruggiero, Mrs. Turk, Mr. Failla, Mr. Vita Nay: Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. McSherry, Mrs. Marandola, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Stillman, Mr. Lawson Abstain: Mr. McLachlan</p> <p>Motion failed: 4-6-1</p> <p>Mr. Ruggiero pointed out a discrepancy on page 10 of the Introduction under Program Summary. Mr. Turk stated that he had made a data entry error and that the schedules in the Appendix were correct. He also stated that the total Capital budget is correct, but there is a switch between Facilities and Technology and that he would revise the Program Summary.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked where the computers budgeted in line item 432 are being placed. Mr. Elmore stated the computers would be placed throughout the district. Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the number of computers could be reduced.</p> <p>Motion made by Mrs. Faulenbach: Move that the New Milford Board of Education amend the budget by reducing the Technology Capital account by \$20,000. Seconded by: Mrs. Marandola</p>	<p>Motion made and passed to amend the budget by reducing the Technology Capital account by \$20,000.</p>
---	---

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 38

<p>Discussion: Mrs. Faulenbach asked how many computers would be eliminated with a reduction of \$20,000. Mr. Elmore stated approximately 80 computers. Priority is given to the secondary schools and special area/requests at the elementary schools.</p> <p>Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Failla, Mr. Vita, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Lawson Nay: Mr. McLachlan, Mrs. Marandola, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Stillman Abstain: Mrs. Turk</p> <p>Motion passed: 6-4-1</p> <p>Motion made by Mrs. Turk: Move that the New Milford Board of Education amend the budget by reducing program 1112, line item 111 at the high school in the amount of \$55,917 for a social studies teacher. Seconded by: Mr. Ruggiero</p> <p>Discussion: Mrs. Turk stated that enrollment does not warrant an increase in staff. Twenty-five students in a classroom is not too high. Mr. Lawson disagreed, stating that enrollment doesn't necessarily drive class size; it is also a scheduling issue. Mr. McSherry stated he could not support the motion. Enrollment numbers go up and down and there is a projected enrollment increase of 58 students at the high school for 07-08 and the high school is already short on electives.</p> <p>Aye: Mrs. Turk, Mr. Ruggiero Nay: Mr. McLachlan, Mr. Vita, Mr. McSherry, Mrs. Marandola, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Stillman, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Faulenbach Abstain: Mr. Failla</p> <p>Motion failed: 2-8-1</p> <p>Motion made by Dr. Diamond: Call the Question Seconded by: Dr. Stillman</p> <p>Aye: Mr. Failla, Mr. Ruggiero, Mrs. Turk, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. McSherry, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mrs.</p>	<p>Motion made and failed to amend the budget by reducing program 1112, line item 111 at the high school in the amount of \$55,917 for a social studies teacher.</p> <p>Motion made and passed to Call the Question.</p>
--	--

New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes

January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2007

Page 39

<p>Marandola, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Stillman, Mr. Lawson Nay: Mr. Vita Abstain:</p> <p>Motion to Call the Question passed 11-1-0</p> <p>Motion made by Mrs. Marandola: Move that the New Milford Board of Education adopt the 2007-2008 New Milford Public Schools budget as amended in the amount of \$56,495,877. Seconded by: Dr. Stillman</p> <p>Aye: Mr. Vita, Mr. McSherry, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mrs. Marandola, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Stillman, Mr. Lawson Nay: Mr. Failla, Mr. Ruggiero, Mrs. Turk Abstain: Mr. McLachlan</p> <p>Motion passed 7-3-1</p> <p>At this time, Board Chairperson Wendy Faulenbach thanked the entire Board and the administration for all their hard work preparing and reviewing the budget.</p> <p>Motion made by Mr. McSherry: Move that the New Milford Board of Education Budget Adoption/Business Special Meeting Adjourn. Seconded by: Mr. McLachlan</p> <p>Aye: Mr. Failla, Mr. Ruggiero, Mrs. Turk, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. Vita, Mr. McSherry, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mrs. Marandola, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Stillman, Mr. Lawson</p> <p>Motion passed – unanimously</p> <p>The New Milford Board of Education Budget Adoption/Business Meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.</p>	<p>Motion made and passed to adopt the 2007-2008 New Milford Public Schools budget as recommended by the Superintendent in the amount of \$56,495,877.</p> <p>Motion made and passed that the New Milford Board of Education Budget Adoption/Business Special Meeting adjourn.</p>
---	--

Respectfully submitted,

Dian Traisci-Marandola,  
Board Secretary