

## **Bylaws of the Board**

### **Role of the Board and Member (Powers, Purposes, Duties)**

It is the obligation of the Board to understand the mandatory powers and duties assigned to the New Milford Board of Education.

The Board of Education shall be charged with the care and management of the New Milford Public Schools. The Board shall perform all duties as required by law and as needed to meet the educational needs of the district.

The New Milford Board of Education has the authority and the responsibility to govern the local public schools within the powers granted by the Constitution and the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut; the regulations of the Connecticut State Board of Education, and the pertinent provisions as determined by the Town of New Milford.

The New Milford Board of Education shall govern within an established set of Bylaws. As an elected Board of the community and an agent of the State, the Board shall:

1. Adopt policies for the operation of schools
2. Employ a Superintendent capable of ensuring that the district maintains a position as an outstanding school system and that school personnel carry out the policies of the Board with energy and dedication
3. Hold public meetings, including hearings, as required and in compliance with the Freedom Of Information Act
4. Appoint, promote, demote and discharge all personnel as recommended and/or nominated by the Superintendent
5. Negotiate and authorize all written contracts that relate to the operation of the schools
6. Formulate Board policies which best serve the educational interests of students and provide the Superintendent with sufficient and adequate guidelines for implementation.
7. Ensure with no less than 900 hours of instruction (or 450 hours for half-day kindergarten), schools be maintained for at least 180 days each school year.
8. Adopt a budget for Town approval and serve as the authority for the funds appropriated; the Board shall be responsible for the disbursement and transference of funds and shall require an accurate accounting for the funds expended

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### **Role of the Board and Member (Powers, Purposes, Duties) (continued)**

9. Exercise the authority over buildings, lands, apparatus and property used for school purposes; it being the responsibility of the Board to determine the facility needs of the schools and approve plans for construction, maintenance and repair
10. Provide the required and necessary program of services for all New Milford students
11. Promote open communication between the school system and the community to encourage public interest and participation in the operation of the schools
12. Perform any and all other duties which may be deemed necessary and/or required by law

### **Role of the Board Member**

Each individual should have a clear understanding of his/her role as a Board member.

Members of the Board of Education shall represent and balance the educational interests of students, citizens of the Town and the State of Connecticut. The Board of Education exists only when convened to conduct the business of the Board. Individual members of the Board have no authority except when acting as part of the Board legally in session or when discharging an assignment by the Board.

The members of the Board recognize that they hold no authority as individuals unless specified in their role as officers of the Board. They shall at all times maintain the attitudes and actions that will ensure the integrity of the Board of Education. Board members shall accept the responsibilities as dictated by law and abide by the standards as set forth in this policy.

1. Each new Board member shall receive from the Superintendent the materials necessary for the orientation to his/her role as a Board member.
2. Each Board member shall become informed about the New Milford schools and their educational programs and activities; as well as the general nature, value and direction of contemporary education in our society.
3. Each Board member shall understand and follow Board policy and shall become knowledgeable of the Board's authority, constraints and procedures.
4. Each Board member shall regularly attend and shall be prepared for all Board meetings, including the meetings of the committees on which he/she serves.

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### **Role of the Board and Member (Powers, Purposes, Duties) (continued)**

5. Each Board member shall treat fellow members with the respect due their office, demonstrating courtesy and decorum at all public meetings and in all public statements.
6. Each Board member shall not surrender his/her independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups; or to use the schools for personal gain.
7. Each Board member shall hold confidential all discussions held in executive session, as well as all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools.
8. Each Board member shall refer all complaints and/or concerns to the Superintendent of Schools.
9. A Board member shall not be employed by the New Milford Board of Education.
10. Each Board member shall avoid any situation which may be interpreted as a conflict of interest.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

1-200 Definitions

10-16 Length of school year

10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education

10-220 Duties of boards of education.

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules

10-240 Control of schools

10-241 Powers of school districts

Bylaw adopted by the Board: January 9, 2001  
Bylaw revised by the Board: April 10, 2012  
Bylaw reviewed by the Board: February 4, 2020

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
New Milford, Connecticut