

**New Milford Board of Education
 Regular Meeting Minutes
 April 23, 2019
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

Present:	Mr. David A. Lawson, Chairman Mrs. Angela C. Chastain Mr. Bill Dahl Mr. Joseph Failla Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan Mr. J.T. Schemm	RECEIVED TOWN CLERK 2019 APR 30 A 10:33 NEW MILFORD, CT
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Also Present:	Dr. Stephen Tracy, Interim Superintendent of Schools Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Operations and Fiscal Services Mr. Kevin Munrett, Facilities Director Mr. Nestor Aparicio, Assistant Facilities Director Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School Ms. Elizabeth Meskill, Student Representative Mr. Craig Benvenuti, Student Representative
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1.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance The regular meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance
2.	Recognition A. Excellence in Writing: SMS student Stella Mahlke <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tracy recognized Stella Mahlke for her award in writing from the Annual Scholastic Writing Competition that takes place throughout the country. B. First Place Winner Unified Sports Michael's Cup Essay Contest: SMS student Carly Lynch	Recognition A. Excellence in Writing: SMS student Stella Mahlke B. First Place Winner Unified Sports Michael's Cup Essay

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tracy recognized Carly Lynch for winning 1st place in the Unified Sports Michael’s Cup Essay Contest. Carly discussed how the program and working with special education students in sports has impacted her positively. <p>C. NMHS Art Students: Isabella Baggott, Aaron Hollister, Chloe Onorato, Christina Onorato, Alyssa Parsons, Colleen Ryan, Julia Sparaco, Emma Street, Michaela Zegarelli and Kyle Paist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tracy invited Annette Marcus, Art teacher at NMHS, to join him in recognizing the students whose art was selected for and displayed at exhibitions and in competitions over the year, several of which had won awards. <p>D. NMPS Stars of the Month: Rebecca Allen, Diana Beddows, Jane Cornelis, Kelly Gallo, Megan Lago, George Osuch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tracy invited Mrs. Tracey O’Connor from Ingersoll Automotive to assist with the recognition. Dr. Tracy read a comment about each Star from the person who nominated them. They each received a pin recognizing their nomination and Kelly Gallo was randomly selected to drive the Ingersoll Automotive Courtesy Car for the month. <p>The meeting recessed at 7:39 p.m. for a brief reception and reconvened at 7:46 p.m.</p>	<p>Contest: SMS student Carly Lynch</p> <p>C. NMHS Art Students: Isabella Baggott, Aaron Hollister, Chloe Onorato, Christina Onorato, Alyssa Parsons, Colleen Ryan, Julia Sparaco, Emma Street, Michaela Zegarelli and Kyle Paist</p> <p>D. NMPS Stars of the Month: Rebecca Allen, Diana Beddows, Jane Cornelis, Kelly Gallo, Megan Lago, George Osuch</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Megan Byrd said she was disappointed in the recent budget reduction and had reviewed the proposed budget to offer suggestions of where to save funding for different programs. She suggested keeping pay to play but reducing the cost to \$65.00 and imposing a similar fee to other clubs and activities since most parents would be willing to pay for their child to participate. She pointed out items on the DOI 	<p>Public Comment</p>

	<p>line of the budget that seemed unnecessary including a new line for transportation costs that should be cut. A line regarding the field trip budget should also be cut as field trips are paid for by parents and it was not included in the elementary line. She suggested a reduction in staffing for non-certified interscholastic as well as reduction in staffing to PE. She was concerned that the younger aged schools seem to get hit harder than the others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Nahom said he is concerned about sports participation decreasing in schools and had asked for a report from Keith Lipinsky to indicate possible causes. After comparing data to other schools it does not seem to be a trend amongst them. Mike stated he would be willing to start a committee to work on increasing sports participation. • Amy Photopoulos said she was also disappointed in the recent budget decrease and suggested items to assist in funding. She suggested lowering thermostats in the buildings to save on electrical, have parents pay to provide supplies to the classrooms rather than supplied from the budget, and to reinstate pay to play since most parents are willing. She wanted to find a way to safely work within the lower budget to prevent reduction in staffing. • Jessica Ryan requested that no cuts be made from the Talented and Gifted program since her daughter was just accepted and already benefiting greatly from the program. She also commented on the thermostat and the above average temperatures in the buildings. 	
<p>4.</p>	<p>PTO Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Mandi MacDonald reported they are working on preparations for the 19-20 school year. The PTO raised funds for special education at all schools through sale of autism awareness shirts. Camella's Cupboard has an upcoming Junk in the Trunk fundraiser for funding supplies for summer lunch programs. The HPS 	<p>PTO Report</p>

	<p>PTO created a wellness room at HPS for de-stressing students and are planning a family fun night of yoga for relaxation. NES PTO hosted a read- a-thon and spring fling for kick off of spring break. SNIS to host Fiesta del Norte art exhibit. SMS is holding a Mother’s Day Krispy Kreme donut fundraiser. NMHS held a penny wars fundraiser which the junior class won and NMHS will be hosting a movie night at Bank Street Theater for the new Avengers movie. All school PTOs are setting up luncheons for teacher and bus driver appreciation days.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Student Representative’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student representatives Elizabeth and Craig reported that April 21 the Wind ensemble played with the West Point Band as organized by the Band Parent Association and the concert went well. This week there will be a Jazz Fest in the high school cafeteria where all school bands come together to play. On April 29, the high school and middle school chorus groups will come together to perform a chorus festival. The NAMES program will travel to SMS for an intro to the NAMES program to help 8th graders transition to high school. There is two months until graduation for seniors. AP exams, NGSS science exams for students in grade 11, and final college acceptances are all taking place over the next few weeks. 	<p>Student Representative’s Report</p>
<p>6.</p> <p>A.</p>	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</p> <p>1. Regular Meeting Minutes March 19, 2019</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Regular</p>	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</p> <p>1. Regular Meeting Minutes March 19, 2019</p> <p>Motion made and passed to approve the following Board of Education</p>

	<p>Meeting Minutes March 19, 2019, seconded by Mr. McCauley and passed 7-0-2.</p> <p>Aye: Mrs. Chastain, Mr. Dahl, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McCauley, Mrs. McInerney, Mr. Failla Abstain: Mr. Schemm, Mrs. Monaghan</p> <p>2. Special Meeting Minutes March 26, 2019</p> <p>Mr. Dahl moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes March 26, 2019, seconded by Mr. Schemm and passed unanimously.</p> <p>3. Special Meeting Minutes April 4, 2019</p> <p>Mr. Dahl moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes April 4, 2019, seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach and passed 8-0-1.</p> <p>Aye: Mr. Failla, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. McInerney, Mrs. Monaghan, Mr. Schemm, Mr. Dahl, Mrs. Faulenbach Abstain: Mr. McCauley</p>	<p>Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes March 19, 2019.</p> <p>2. Special Meeting Minutes March 26, 2019</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes March 26, 2019.</p> <p>3. Special Meeting Minutes April 4, 2019</p> <p>Motion made and passed to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes April 4, 2019.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Superintendent's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tracy reported that Eric Williams will begin his new assignment as principal of HPS on May 6. Initial interviews for a new NES principal will take place May 9. Dr. Tracy would like two Board members to participate in the process. Interested board members can contact the Board Chair. Dr. Tracy commented that the current budget is on track. He referenced that the 2019-20 budget with the \$600,000 reduction will be moving forward to a town meeting on May 7 and then will be voted on at a referendum, date to be 	<p>Superintendent's Report</p>

	<p>announced. Board will discuss how to implement those changes once approved. Dr. Tracy mentioned he saw both the school musical, Footloose, and the West Point Band Concert. He expressed how impressed he was with both and reminded all how important arts are to the students.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Board Chairman's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Lawson asked for patience as they wrap up the 2018-19 school year and transition into the 2019-20 year in regards to staffing positions, open contracts and curriculum that needs to be finalized. Mr. Lawson commented that the final budget date is not yet set and reiterated the \$600,000 reduction the Board will be working with. Mr. Lawson advised all audience members that if they have concerns to contact Dr. Tracy so they can work on it together as a community. 	<p>Board Chairman's Report</p>
<p>9.</p> <p>A.</p>	<p>Committee And Liaison Reports</p> <p>Facilities Sub-Committee – Mr. McCauley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. McCauley said there needs to be repairs on the SNIS roof prior to the full roof replacement to prevent current leaking issues. Mr. McCauley mentioned some recent donations from the Scouts of a compost bin and new picnic tables for SNIS. Lillis Oil tank project was paid and work will continue. Roof for SNIS and NMHS will be going out for bond and hopefully work will commence over summer. Rooftop AC unit for SNIS was approved and will be installed prior to need for use. • Dr. Tracy wanted to thank the Town Council for their support in joining forces to complete the funding for oil tank. The issues with the ledge and the sewer line would have been an issue regardless of when they were discovered and he appreciates that it has been resolved. 	<p>Committee And Liaison Reports</p> <p>A. Facilities Sub-Committee</p>

<p>B. Operations Sub-Committee – Mrs. Faulenbach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Faulenbach said there is a revised Exhibit A for approval, and the monies Mr. McCauley referenced will show on the purchase resolution for monthly reports as SNIS roof repairs. A memo was sent regarding items for clarification if there were questions prior to meeting about professional services, tech services, lease services and furniture. Next month there will be a clearer snapshot of where the district is and how we will finish year for budget. Usual gifts and donations are on for approval and she commented in appreciation of the generosity of the community. 	<p>B. Operations Sub-Committee</p>
<p>C. Policy Sub-Committee – Mrs. McInerney</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. McInerney said there will be policies for second review on the agenda for the evening and Board members are advised to weigh in on the topics. All other topics will be moved to the next meeting. One policy for approval is on the agenda regarding gifts to students. The next meeting date is currently TBD. 	<p>C. Policy Sub-Committee</p>
<p>D. Committee on Learning – Mr. Schemm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Schemm said there are three curricula and a K-8 CREC Unit of Study Bundle for approval on the agenda. Advanced mathematics for high school level and beyond, and honors geometry for approval as a course for 8th graders and high school students that can be used by 8th graders for high school credits if the Board permits. Reference made to NGSS presentation from COL that was given to board members demonstrating a 5 year plan to shift from lecture based to hands on learning for sciences. The benefit of the bundles allows us to learn from other districts and model the phenomenon to be more community based. Curricula allow flexibility to teach sciences based on unique qualities of each town. 	<p>D. Committee on Learning</p>

	<p>Continue to develop staff as we advance the next five years.</p> <p>E. EdAdvance – Mrs. Monaghan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Monaghan said there was a newsletter published online by EdAdvance and she was impressed by how integrated EdAdvance is into so many areas in the state. Chromebook ordering is coming up and needs to be addressed soon. <p>F. Connecticut Boards of Education (CABE) – Mr. Lawson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Lawson said CABE is involved in lobbying for the benefit of the school district, such as retirement board payments coming from municipalities which is off the table not discussable. Current issues with monies that come to school districts throughout the state such as ECS monies and special education monies, CABE and CAPPs are pushing unfunded mandates. <p>G. Magnet School – Mrs. Monaghan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Monaghan said there is no update at this time. 	<p>E. EdAdvance</p> <p>F. Connecticut Boards of Education (CABE)</p> <p>G. Magnet School</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>A. Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated April 23, 2019</p> <p>Mr. Dahl moved to approve Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as of April 23, 2019, seconded by Mr. McCauley.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Lawson questioned staff member listed on both the first and second page. 	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>A. Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated April 23, 2019</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as of April 23, 2019.</p>

- Ms. Baldelli said the person is on paid leave for the year and then moving to unpaid days and then resigning at the end of the school year.

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Monthly Reports

- 1. Budget Position**
- 2. Purchase Resolution: D-721 (Revised)**
- 3. Request for Budget Transfers (Revised)**

Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve monthly reports: Budget Position dated March 31, 2019; Revised Purchase Resolution D-721; and Revised Request for Budget Transfers, seconded by Mrs. McInerney.

- Mrs. Faulenbach wanted to provide a breakdown on a few changes. Budget position was a snapshot of where we are based on March total and wanted to address change on the capital reserve line due to significant activity in account.
- Mr. Giovannone mentioned that capital reserve as of April 23 is \$770,184.21 reflecting recent activity. Difference between March and now is Town Council and Board of Finance both agreed and Town Finance deposited security money from grant, interest payment from March, and withdrew the oil tank and rooftop AC unit for SNIS. Anticipated change will be \$40,000 for next month and they will keep an eye on costs and projects.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said based on prior Operations minutes looking at where we are now versus last year this time we are finishing above our goal. We are down with certified salary account and approx. \$134,000 down in excess cost.
- Mr. Giovannone said based on the March meeting update on excess costs we are projecting to be \$121,000 under at end of fiscal year. Mr. Giovannone commented that the number could change based on May payment but if all in line

B. Monthly Reports

- 1. Budget Position**
- 2. Purchase Resolution: D-721 (Revised)**
- 3. Request for Budget Transfers (Revised)**

Motion made and passed unanimously to approve monthly reports: Budget Position dated March 31, 2019; Revised Purchase Resolution: D-721; and Revised Request for Budget Transfers.

	<p>based on February payment that is where we will be.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Faulenbach commented that the excess costs will be absorbed into the Operations Budget. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>C. Gifts & Donations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. PTO – Exhibit B <p>Mr. Lawson moved to accept Gifts and Donations: PTO – Exhibit B in the amount of \$20,569.99, seconded by Mr. McCauley.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Lawson made a comment thanking the PTO for their generosity. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>D. Approval of the Following Curricula</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. CP Algebra II2. Honors Algebra II3. Honors Geometry4. NGSS CREC Bundles for K-8 Science <p>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve the following curricula:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. CP Algebra II2. Honors Algebra II3. Honors Geometry4. NGSS CREC Bundles for K-8 Science <p>Seconded by Mr. Schemm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Tracy made a comment to thank Ms. DiCorpo for her work with curricula. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>C. Gifts & Donations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. PTO – Exhibit B <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Gifts & Donations: PTO – Exhibit B in the amount of \$20,569.99.</p> <p>D. Approval of the Following Curricula</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. CP Algebra II2. Honors Algebra II3. Honors Geometry4. NGSS CREC Bundles for K-8 Science <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following curricula:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. CP Algebra II2. Honors Algebra II3. Honors Geometry4. NGSS CREC Bundles for K-8 Science
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<p>E. Policy for Approval 1. 1323 Gifts to Students</p> <p>Mr. Dahl moved to approve Policy 1323 Gifts to Students, seconded by Mr. McCauley.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Discussion <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>F. Policies for Second Review</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 6146 Graduation Requirements2. 6141.4 Independent Study3. 6172.6 Virtual/Online Courses/College/University Courses <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Failla said overall he is on board with the graduation requirement changes. He has concerns with the 3 credits transferring from middle school to high school. Issue was raised that seniors will not be required to be in school during their senior year right before starting college.• Mrs. Faulenbach agreed that she is not quite on board yet with the 3 credit transfer from middle to high school. Will be back on agenda for review at next Board meeting for further discussion.• Mrs. Faulenbach stated that there is a Policy meeting next month around this discussion and parents are welcome to attend to discuss their expectations of this policy and what they prefer and to get their input and questions.• Mr. Schemm asked if there is any movement on Act 1742, the legislation, or is it not official as of yet?• Ms. DiCorpo looked at proposed legislation that is going up for discussion with the Education Committee and graduation requirements are not listed for discussion. This will mean the requirements will be in effect for the class of 2023.• Mr. Schemm pointed out that the 3 credit was simply a proposed idea and not a hard and fast	<p>E. Policy for Approval 1. 1323 Gifts to Students</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Policy 1323 Gifts to Students.</p> <p>F. Policies for Second Review</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 6146 Graduation Requirements2. 6141.4 Independent Study3. 6172.6 Virtual/Online Courses/College/University Courses
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one. This will allow students to graduate in 6 semesters rather than 7 which causes concern to him with seniors having too much free time prior to college entry.

- Ms. DiCorpo stated that the following courses are being proposed for high school credit at the middle school Level: Algebra 1 Honors, French A and B, Spanish A and B, and Geometry Honors. They are looking at opportunities to offer world language to all 7th and 8th grade students to alleviate pressures on high school staffing for language.
- Mrs. McInerney is in approval of 3 credit proposal. The courses offered in middle school have the same curriculum and exams as the courses offered in high school so same standards should be applied. These students will generally seek out those more difficult courses throughout high school as well. Why would a student enroll in this during middle school if it will not count towards high school?
- Mrs. Chastain expressed concern over anxiety and stress levels placed on the students by increasing the standard at a younger age. Students stress over GPA as is without added pressure of harder courses.
- Mr. Shugrue commented that it doesn't count towards GPA only counts towards total credits earned. Suggested that it is only a proposal and if board is hung up on it we can just remove it from the proposal. Only surfaced due to the new legislation allowing it.
- Mr. Failla reiterated that the overall change in the graduation requirements is fantastic and the Board should move forward with the other items. There should be further and deeper conversation about the issue of moving the credits from middle school to high school. Even though students are already taking these courses, does adding credit to them make students feel more stress and pressure to enroll in harder courses in middle school to try and get out of high school earlier. Students may end up with too big of a gap between high school and the start of college.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Shugrue commented that the ones taking these courses are the ones who will continue to seek out educational opportunities in high school and additional courses. Class size has increased in the advanced math courses that have recently been added showing there is a need for these upper level courses. The fear of not having enough courses to take at the end of the year is valid but to add additional courses and opportunities requires additional monies that are not presently available. • Mrs. Faulenbach reminded the Board that this will be coming forward again at the Policy review meeting and they will make a recommendation to bring the proposal to the full Board for a vote. • Mr. Schemm confirms that this moves the graduation requirement credits to 25 from the original 26 which includes the mastery credit required for graduation for the class of 2023. 	
<p>11.</p> <p>A.</p> <p>B.</p> <p>C.</p>	<p>Items For Information And Discussion</p> <p>Field Trip Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no discussion. <p>NMPS 2019-2020 School Calendar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tracy said given that the calendar is not subject to a vote he will publish the calendar this week with the key dates provided from years prior. <p>Insurance Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Faulenbach said they are working on wrapping items up and closing outstanding items. As we head into next fiscal season and look for savings, it will be a source for potential savings in budget. They built the budget based on numbers by town and actuary and are on track 	<p>Items For Information And Discussion</p> <p>A. Field Trip Report</p> <p>B. NMPS 2019-2020 School Calendar</p> <p>C. Insurance Update</p>

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 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

	<p>to be accurate. Cost avoidance is significantly less than prior years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Lawson is working to clarify how much money is in the internal service fund to use for other medical issues, currently unsure of how much is available. Budget savings could be substantial from the change in medical plans. 	
<p>12.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Mr. Dahl moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m., seconded by Mr. McCauley and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:54 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



Angela C. Chastain
 Secretary
 New Milford Board of Education