

**New Milford Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2008
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

Present:	Dr. Lisa Diamond, Chairman
	Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach
	Mr. David A. Lawson
	Mrs. Amy Llerena
	Mr. Thomas McSherry
	Mrs. Alexandra Thomas
	Mrs. Julie Turk
	Mr. William Wellman
Also present:	Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools
	Mr. Thomas Mulvihill, Assistant Superintendent
	Mr. John Turk, Director of Fiscal Services
	Mr. David Elmore, Director of Technology
	Mr. John Calhoun, Director of Facilities
	Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School

1.	The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 7:31 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance
2.	Public Participation There was none.	Public Participation
3.	PTO Report	PTO Report
4.	Student Representative Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The All School Musical—“Thoroughly Modern Millie” debuts March 14, 15, 28, 29, & 30. ➤ The regional Science Horizons Fair was held at NMHS last weekend. ➤ The Cheerleading Team placed second in state finals. ➤ The Hockey Team made the SWC Finals. 	Student Representative Report
5.	Approval of Minutes Mrs. Thomas moved to approve the Special Board of Education meeting minutes of February 19, 2008, seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach and unanimously approved.	Approval of Minutes Motion made and seconded to approve the Special Board of Education meeting minutes of February 19, 2008 passed unanimously, 9-0-0.
6.	Superintendent’s Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr. Paddyfote reviewed the enrollment figures for March 	Superintendent’s Report

	<p>and said the decrease of 14 students at New Milford High School is due to early graduates and transfers to adult education that were not captured in the February report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Science Horizon Fair was held at New Milford High School with over 500 projects and New Milford had eight student finalists. ➤ Erica Masella, a high school physical education teacher applied for a grant and received it which included 1 archery kit, a year's membership in an archery association, and program training for two teachers. ➤ The Sarah Noble Principal search continues with an advisory committee led by Thomas Atticks. They met on February 27th to recommend a candidate. The Board will have the opportunity to meet the candidate. 	
7.	<p>Board Chairman's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr. Diamond announced that under the bylaws of the Board she was forming a special personnel search committee to meet the Sarah Noble Principal candidate on March 17th at 2:30 pm in the Boardroom of the Central Office. Any board member interested should let her know if they wish to serve on the special committee. ➤ Also, she encouraged everyone to attend the all school musical. 	Board Chairman's Report
8.	<p>Committee Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mrs. Faulenbach reported on behalf of the Operations Committee and said her committee reviewed the monthly reports and discussed the internal service fund which will come up later on the agenda. ➤ Mr. McSherry reported on behalf of the Facilities Committee and said that they had been updated by Mr. Calhoun on ongoing energy savings initiatives; the parking situation at Sarah Noble; and the generator at Sarah Noble. ➤ Mr. Lawson reported on behalf of the Committee on Learning that they had recommended six curricula which were part of the Five Year Plan and they would be looking at more curriculums at this months meeting. 	Committee Reports

	<p>➤ Mrs. Finney reported on behalf of the Policy Committee that they had reviewed a draft breathalyzer policy which was on this agenda.</p> <p>Mrs. Smith, Town-Wide PTO President, was recognized and reported that each elementary school is doing a silent auction fundraiser; book fairs at the elementary level just concluded; next month there will be election of Town-Wide officers.</p>	<p>PTO Report</p>
<p>9.</p> <p>A.</p> <p>B.</p> <p>C.</p> <p>D.</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>Revised Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointment, Resignations and Leaves of Absence</p> <p>Mrs. Finney moved to approve Revised Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointment, Resignations and Leaves of Absence, seconded by Mr. McSherry and passed with Mr. Lawson abstaining from the vote.</p> <p>Monthly Reports: Budget Transfer Requests, Purchase Resolution D-608, and Budget Position Report as of 2/29/08</p> <p>Mr. McSherry moved to approve the monthly reports: Budget Transfer Requests, Purchase Resolution D-608, and Budget Position Report as of 2/29/08, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and passed unanimously.</p> <p>Gifts & Donations: Exhibit B: PTO Gifts Mrs. Thomas moved to approve Exhibit B: PTO Gifts, seconded by Mrs. Finney and passed unanimously.</p> <p>Draft Policy 5131.6 – Drugs, Alcohol & Tobacco</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action Revised Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointment, Resignations and Leaves of Absence</p> <p>Motion made, seconded to approve Revised Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointment, Resignations and Leaves of Absence and passed 8-0-1.</p> <p>Motion to accept Monthly Reports: Budget Transfer Requests, Purchase Resolution D-608, and Budget Position Report as of 2/29/08 made, seconded and passed unanimously, 9-0-0.</p> <p>Motion to approve Exhibit B: PTO Gifts made, seconded and passed unanimously, 9-0-0.</p> <p>Draft Policy 5131.6 – Drugs, Alcohol & Tobacco</p>

<p>E.</p>	<p>Dr. Diamond reminded the Board that this was for discussion only at this meeting but would be on the April agenda for a vote.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Wellman said his concern with this policy was the adult guests of students and said the attorney had addressed the issue by saying that the final decision with regard to the adult guests of students would be handled by the police department. <p>Review of parameters suggested by the Operations Sub-Committee to the administration regarding an internal review of the funding of the medical insurance line</p> <p>Dr. Diamond said this item was appearing on the agenda with the intent of giving clear direction to the administration regarding the internal service fund.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Wellman said the Chief Financial Officer for the Town raised questions regarding the budgeting techniques followed in the past years which led to an overage of \$500,000 per year in the Board of Education budget. Ray Jankowski's letter suggested that this was not the result of poor guesswork but rather was deliberate and with purpose. Mr. Wellman suggested that it might be a conflict of interest between the interests of the Board of Education and the school administration and perhaps the Board should appoint its own committee to conduct its own investigation. He suggested a legal opinion be sought to determine if there is such a conflict. ➤ Mr. Lawson said the town was looking for an auditor and he suggested they be allowed to do their job first. Mr. Lawson expressed dismay that Mr. Jankowski's letter did not account for 2.4 million dollars in accounts receivables. ➤ Mrs. Faulenbach said the Operations Committee was comfortable with allowing the internal research first with a two week time frame report back and if outside sources were needed after that, they would be sought. ➤ Mrs. Turk said she felt that more specific direction needed to be given in terms of the answers to questions 	<p>Review of parameters suggested by the Operations Sub-Committee to the administration regarding an internal review of the funding of the medical insurance line</p>
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	<p>and the research the Board needs to settle this issue. She said the Board needed to see the numbers of employees and the co-payment to assist with the calculation to determine if there is an overage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Mr. McSherry said his issue was different from the Town's in that he felt if the Board had given too much money to the Town then the medical insurance line would need to be adjusted.➤ Mrs. Thomas said there were multiple issues. She said since the Town is no longer self-insured, can the money be accessed for the community. She said the letter from Mr. Jankowski had another set of concerns in which he made accusations that need to be reviewed. She said she would like the internal review to continue.➤ Mrs. Turk said there were two issues which included the accusation of improper budgeting and the \$2.4 million in receivables. She said the question was where did the \$2.4 million go.➤ Mr. Wellman said his other concern with this accusation was that this Board may have proposed a budget for this coming year with a mistake. He said this Board should determine immediately if this \$500,000 mistake has been made again.➤ Mrs. Llerena said the number was an estimate from the Board and medical expenses being what they are, three cases could eat up this \$500,000 easily. She also inquired why Mr. Jankowski raised his concerns now, rather than three years ago.➤ Mrs. Turk said the claim is not that the Board is over budgeting but that they are underestimating the co-pays of the employees. She said it should be simple to determine the number of employees, the coverages, the co-pays and then do the multiplication.➤ Mr. Lawson said if an audit needs to be done that it should be done properly the first time around so that the administration can get back to running the schools.	
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<p>F.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr. Paddyfote noted that the administration has been meeting every single day but that there are multiple files to go through including electronic files and the process is not as simple as everyone may think. She said the administration is doing the work to answer the Operations Committee's questions and is treating Mrs. Turk's request as an FOI request. The Superintendent noted that in recent years, through 2006-07, under the Department of General Administration (DOGA) section of the budget, there was text indicating the projected employee contributions regarding medical insurance. ➤ Mr. Wellman said he still felt a legal opinion needed to be sought for the question of conflict of interest of the administration. ➤ Dr. Diamond reviewed the discussion of the Board and said it was her understanding that the Board wanted the conflict of interest question resolved and if there was no conflict then the internal review would continue to be presented at the next Operations Committee meeting. <p>Approval of curricula for: Physics, Advanced Placement Biology, College Accounting, Algebra II Academic, Applied Geometry (General Level), and Advanced Placement Statistics</p> <p>Mr. Lawson made a motion to approve the curricula for: Physics, Advanced Placement Biology, College Accounting, Algebra II Academic, Applied Geometry (General Level), and Advanced Placement Statistics, seconded by Mrs. Thomas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Wellman said the Board should be aware that the curriculum for Advanced Placement Biology says it will help prepare students for citizenship and decision-making with respect to public issues coming before the public, meaning the course will deal with a lot of procedures that are quite controversial such as gene replacement. ➤ Mr. Lawson said he was confident in the way the curriculum was written and did not agree. A curriculum must be taken as a whole, not just parts. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion to approve curricula made and seconded for Physics, Advanced Placement Biology, College Accounting, Algebra II Academic, Applied Geometry (General Level) and Advanced Placement Statistics passed unanimously, 9-0-0.</p>
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G.	Textbook Approvals Mrs. Llerena moved to approve textbooks for grades 8, 9 and 10, seconded by Mr. Lawson and unanimously approved.	Motion to approve textbooks for grades 8, 9 and made, seconded and passed unanimously, 9-0-0.
10.	Items for Discussion ➤ Textbook Previews ➤ Field Trip Report There was no discussion.	Items for Discussion
11.	Items of Information	Items of Information
12.	Adjourn Mrs. Faulenbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m., seconded by Mr. McSherry and passed unanimously.	Motion to adjourn made, seconded and passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Lawson
 Board Secretary