

**New Milford Board of Education  
Operations Sub-Committee  
November 6, 2007  
Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

Present:	Dr. Lisa Diamond, Chairperson
	Mr. Joseph Failla
	Mr. David A. Lawson
	Mr. Thomas McSherry
	Mrs. Julie Turk
	Mr. Joseph Vita

Also Present:	Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools
	Mr. Thomas Mulvihill, Assistant Superintendent
	Mr. John Turk, Director of Fiscal Services

1.	The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Operations sub-committee was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Dr. Diamond.	Call to Order
2.	There was no public comment.	Public Comment
3.	Discussion and possible action on	
3.A.	Energy Education Update presented by Mr. Knipple. Mr. Knipple discussed duties including meeting with consultants from EEI; HVAC personnel are informed of results. An action plan for energy conservation has been in place since September; the program was instituted about a year ago. A compilation of utilities bills for two years has been recorded in a computer software program. Usage can be controlled, but cost is not easy to control. A significant savings of BTUs has been recorded. Mr. McSherry asked if energy savings measures that were started before the inception of this program can be separated out. Mr. Lawson inquired as to the impact on financial accounting. Mr. Turk noted a rate increase of 23% has been predicted. Dr. Stillman asked about the increase at Pettibone; Mr. Knipple noted the antiquated boiler system at Pettibone and the difficulty in heating the school. Also, air conditioning ran this summer and not in previous years and two hall heaters ran this winter, not previously.	Energy Education Update
3.B.	Exhibit A. Mr. Vita respectfully moved that the Operations Sub-committee meet in executive session	

	<p>to which Dr. Paddyfote and Mr. Mulvihill be invited to discuss the termination of James Costello.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach added that the person was not warned. Dr. Paddyfote had the BOE an email regarding the termination of a teacher on October 9. During the first 90 days of employment a teacher can be discharged without cause.</p> <p>There was no second of the motion.</p>	
3.B. (cont)	<p>Exhibit A. Dr. Paddyfote reported 5 teachers applied for early retirement; six others have applied for the additional spot. Mr. Lawson moved to bring Exhibit A to full board for consideration and action, motion seconded by Mr. Failla and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Exhibit A. Motion passed unanimously to bring Exhibit A to full board for consideration and action.</p>
3.C.	<p>Monthly Reports.          Mr. McSherry inquired about the due process decision. A past hearing officer had stated this was the board's responsibility. Mr. McSherry asked about the I chat machine which is used by students who are non-verbal to communicate; it is a critical device. The one machine is out of warranty.</p> <p>Mr. Vita asked about the funds for DEP; Mr. Calhoun explained this is for permitting fees for Schaghticoke and Northville septic pumping.</p> <p>Mr. Lawson inquired about energy costs; Mr. Turk noted that we are locked in for this year with current agreements expiring June 30. Mr. McSherry moved, seconded by Mr. Lawson, to send monthly reports to full board for consideration and action. Motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion to send monthly reports to full board for consideration and action passed unanimously.</p>
3.D.	<p>403(b) Requirements.</p> <p>Dr. Paddyfote introduced Greg Miller who explained that IRS revamped changes in the 403(b) plans making municipalities comply with the same rules as the private sector. Mr. Miller has solicited quotes from third parties to handle the 403(b) program. Mr. Lawson commented that it is wise to go to a third party to remove liability and is impressed with OMNI, one of those giving quotes. Mr. Failla commented on the complexity of the laws covering 403(b) plans. Mr. Miller has not checked references of the third parties. Mr. Miller had recommendations in his report, one being not to</p>	<p>403(b) requirements.          Motion passed unanimously not to allow 90-24 transfers effective immediately and to bring to full board for consideration and action.</p>

	<p>allow transfers – transfers being the employee’s choice to move funds from one vendor to another within the plan. Not allowing transfers would be temporary until third party is in place. Mrs. Turk inquired if the intent would be to not allow transfers until and if a third party is in place and further added that leaves employees hanging. Mr. Lawson added that a time limit could be included, until a third party can be researched and hired as quickly as possible, within 3 months. Mrs. Turk asked if this would have to wait until the 08-09 budget. Dr. Paddyfote asked Mr. Miller if he could have researched qualifications before the Board meeting November 13<sup>th</sup>. All employees will need to be notified of any action taken. Mr. Vita asked if any employees have problems with this action; Mr. Miller could not answer. Mr. Failla moved not to allow 90-24 transfers effective immediately and to bring this to full board for consideration and approval. Motion seconded by Mr. McSherry and passed unanimously.</p>	
3.E.	<p>Grants . 1. Title III – Immigrant Children &amp; Youth Education. Mr. McSherry moved to bring Title III Immigrant Children &amp; Youth Education to the full board for consideration and action. Motion seconded by Mr. Lawson and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion passed unanimously to bring Grant – Title III – Immigrant Children &amp; Youth Education to full board for consideration and action.</p>
3.F.	<p>Gifts &amp; Donations - Exhibit B: PTO. Due to a family emergency the paperwork required is not available, but will be presented at the full board meeting.</p>	<p>Gift &amp; Donations – Exhibit B: PTO. No action required at this time.</p>
3.G.	<p>Additional tutoring Time at NES. Mr. Mulvihill and Mr. Atticks explained the reason for this request which amounts to 325 hours. Tutoring provides for enrichment and remediation. Mr. Failla commented on the importance of early intervention. Mr. Vita agreed. Mrs. Turk commented that tutoring should be reviewed over a larger picture not just one school.          Mr. Mulvihill explained that Northville does not qualify for Title I funds. Students are reading below grade level; teachers can’t get to students for individual support. Getting to students early makes them more secure. Mrs. Turk asked about the percentage of enrichment; Mr. Atticks replied about 50%. Mr. Lawson moved to bring additional tutoring time to the full board for an additional 325 hours, not to exceed \$4,550. Mr. Failla seconded</p>	<p>Motion made and approved unanimously to move to the full board the request for an additional 325 hours of tutoring time not to exceed \$4,550.</p>

	the motion which passed unanimously.	
3.H.	Para Substitute Rate. Dr. Paddyfote is recommending \$9.00 per hour as the new rate. Mr. Lawson moved to bring para substitute rate to the full board for consideration and action. Motion seconded by Mr. McSherry and passed unanimously.	Motion passed unanimously to move para substitute rate to the full board for consideration and action.
3.I	Transportation update – Mr. Mulvihill submitted a report. Mr. Lawson asked if there were any safety issues, Mr. Mulvihill’s answer was no safety issues.	Transportation update
3.J	Magnet School update. Dr. Paddyfote reported the advisory council did not feel it had enough information to act on the issue of expanding the magnet school through eighth grade. Dr. Pascarella, Danbury Superintendent of Schools, sent a letter to the Commissioner of Education, Dr. McQuillan seeking an explanation of the Parent Choice legislation. Based on preliminary discussions with the State Department of Education, there appears to be no benefits to being a participating district.	Magnet school update.
3.K.	Food service update. Concern expressed about the drop in lunches. Mr. Wilson reported the drop has also occurred in free and reduced lunches. This drop will continue to be monitored.	Food service update.
4.	Adjourn. Mr. McSherry moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m., seconded by Mr. Failla. Motion passed unanimously.	Motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Diamond, Chairman  
 Operations Committee