

NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION



ANNUAL REPORT **2018 – 2019**

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
50 East Street
New Milford, Connecticut 06776

NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. David A. Lawson, Chairperson

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Board of Education Annual Report 2018 – 2019

The New Milford Public Schools served 3,968 students in PreK through grade 12 during the 2018-19 academic year with a staff of 361 teachers, 17 building administrators, and 220 support staff (non-certified staff). The operating budget for the New Milford Public Schools for 2018-2019 totaled \$63,010,586.

July 2018

- The Board participated in a workshop on July 17, 2018. Facilitated by Nick Caruso, CABA Senior Staff Associate for Field Service, the workshop focused on the measurement of Board goals.
- At its regular meeting on August 17, 2018, the Board accepted the following donations:
 - IBM Research in the amount of \$1,300.00
 - Weston Public Schools in the amount of \$17,000.00
- ESS/Source4Teachers was approved by the Board as the firm to manage substitutes for the district.
- The Board approved an adjustment to the 2018-19 Board of Education Adopted Budget as recommended by the Superintendent.
- Superintendent Smith reported an update as requested by the Office of Civil Rights regarding ADA accessibility at New Milford High School.
- The Board regretfully accepted Mr. Joshua Smith's resignation as Superintendent of the New Milford Public Schools, effective July 13, 2018.
- The Board held a special meeting on July 23, 2018 to discuss the superintendent transition process and steps moving forward. The Board agreed to form and appoint members to an Ad Hoc Personnel Search Committee for the purpose of screening and interviewing candidates, and making a recommendation for, the position of Interim Superintendent of Schools.

August 2018

- The Board held a special meeting on August 2, 2018 at which they authorized the Chairperson of the Board of Education to execute an agreement with Stephen Tracy to serve as Interim Superintendent of Schools.
- At a special meeting on August 8, 2018, the Board appointed Patricia Corvello as Interim Hill and Plain Elementary School Principal, effective August 9, 2018. The Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the NMEA. They approved the proposed agreement with the Interim Superintendent of Schools.
- At a regular meeting on August 21, the Board approved the following policies:
 - 1000 Concept, Goals and Roles in Community Relations
 - 1112 News Media Relationships
 - 1112.5 Media Access to Students
 - 1120 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings
 - 9321 Time, Place and Notification of Meetings
- The Board approved Changes to Signatories on District Accounts.

- Teachers returned August 24 with staff meetings and open houses held on August 28. The All Staff Convocation took place on August 27 followed by professional development.
- Students returned August 29.

September 2018

- **Mr. David Syzdek** was recognized as New Milford's Teacher of the Year for 2019.



New Milford Teacher of the Year David Syzdek

- New student representative **Craig Benvenuti** joined current representative Elizabeth Meskill.



Craig Benvenuti

- The Board approved revisions to the following policies:
 - 4111/4211 Recruitment and Selection
 - 4118.25/4218.25 Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect
 - 5141 Student Health Services
 - 5141.21 Administration of Medication
 - 5157 Use of Physical Force

- The following curricula were approved by the Board:
 - Computer Literacy
 - AP Computer Science Principles
- Tuition rates were established and approved for the 2018-2019 school year.
- The New Milford High School graduation date for 2019 was approved by the Board for Saturday, June 22, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.
- The Board approved a request to the Town that the Year End Balance for 2017-18, subject to final audit, go to capital reserve. The motion was amended to include a request that \$50,000 of the Year End Balance for 2017-18, subject to final audit, go for turf field replacement.
- The Board approved a request for capital reserve funds in the amount of \$92,000 to fund the HPS Oil Tank project.
- The Board discussed repair of the NMHS roof.
- The Board approved the addition of a Grade 2 teacher at Northville Elementary School.
- The Board Chair asked for volunteers to serve on an Ad-Hoc Committee for the superintendent search.
- The Board reviewed issues relating to condensation with the SNIS air conditioning system.

October 2018

- The Board held a special meeting on October 2, 2018 to approve funding for unanticipated additional costs associated with the oil tank project at Hill and Plain School, not to exceed \$70,000, and to make a request to the Town to take those funds from capital reserve.
- The Board held a workshop on October 16, 2018 to review and discuss district assessments.
- At its regular meeting, the Board recognized:
 - **NMPS Retirees Helen Crossen and Kathleen Lazzaro and**



NMPS Stars of the Month: **Michael Abraham** (not pictured), **Nicole DuVerger**, **Meredith Jaskolka**, **Christy Martin**, **Cortni Muir**, and **Christine Talarico**

- The Board accepted the following donation:
 - New Milford PTO in the amount of \$6,320.00
- The Board awarded the following bids:
 - Medical Advisor to Dr. Evan Hack
 - Lillis Oil Tank to ETT Environmental with the understanding that the Town would fund the project
- The Board approved activity stipend requests for Schaghticoke Middle School:
 - Robotics Club advisor
 - Writing Lab advisor
- The Board approved signatories for ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs
- The Board approved the following curricula:
 - Digital Photography
 - Graphic Design
- The Annual Report of the Board for 2017-18 was distributed.

November 2018

- The Board held a workshop on November 20, 2018 to review and discuss district enrollment and staffing.
- At the Board's regular meeting, NMHS Counselor Rob Nathan and junior class facilitators Tiffany Dessureau, Bridget Fedigan and Alyssa Lombardo spoke about the NAMES program for sophomores, which has taken place annually at NMHS for the past seventeen years. The program, sponsored by the ADL focuses on building connections among students.
- The Board of Education recognized the following:



Commended Student - 2019 National Merit Program:
NMHS student **Sean Murphy**



NMPS Stars of the Month: **Samantha Gati-Tisi, Jenna Giudice, Nicole Heering, Margaret Jones, Colleen Peterson, and Jennifer (Missy) Smith**

- The Board entered executive session to discuss negotiations with respect to collective bargaining health insurance; reopener negotiations with respect to collective bargaining with the teachers' union; and invited into the session Dr. Stephen Tracy, Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Mr. Anthony Giovannone and Mayor Pete Bass.
- The Board accepted the settlement reached with the teachers' union re: reopener negotiations, as recommended by the Board's negotiating team, and gave approval for the Board Chair to execute the revised collective bargaining agreement.
- The Board gave approval for the implementation of the New Milford Substance Abuse Prevention Council Survey and for the requested donation of \$1,000.
- The Board accepted the following donations:
 - New Milford PTO in the amount of \$3,300.00
 - CAS/CIA in the amount of \$1,000.00
- The Board awarded the following bids:
 - SNIS Oil Tank to ETT Environmental with the understanding that the Town would fund the project
 - Special Transportation Services for a three year period to EdAdvance and CT Transportation Solutions
- The Board approved the following grant:
 - Pre-K/Kindergarten Transition Initiative Grant from the CT Community Foundation in the amount of \$1,875.00
- The Board approved activity stipend request for New Milford High School:
 - Assistant Director for the All School Musical
- Policies 1250 Visits to the Schools and 1321 Public Performances by Students were submitted for First Review.
- The Board approved motions to request that the Mayor and Town Council acquire the necessary funding to replace the roofs at New Milford High School and Sarah Noble

Intermediate School, and schedule the work in coordination with the Board of Education, to meet the deadline for the next bonding cycle of 2019.

- The Board approved a request to the Town that the 2016-17 liability accrued for the school calendar grievance in the amount of \$371,223.00, go to capital reserve.

December 2018

- The Board held a special joint meeting on December 6, 2018 with the Town Council and Board of Finance to discuss town and school district health insurance. At the meeting, the Board approved a motion to authorize the Board's negotiating team to offer union exclusive bargaining agents the option of executing an MOU to change insurance plans to the State Partnership Plan 2.0 (SPP 2.0).
- On December 11, 2018, the Board held a special meeting to hear presentations regarding superintendent search consulting services and chose the firm Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates to provide services for New Milford Public Schools.
- The Board held its Annual meeting and elected the following officers:
 - Chairperson – **Mr. David A. Lawson**
 - Vice Chairperson – **Mrs. Tammy McInerney**
 - Secretary – **Mrs. Angela C. Chastain**
 - Assistant Secretary – **Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan**
- At its regular meeting, the Board recognized:



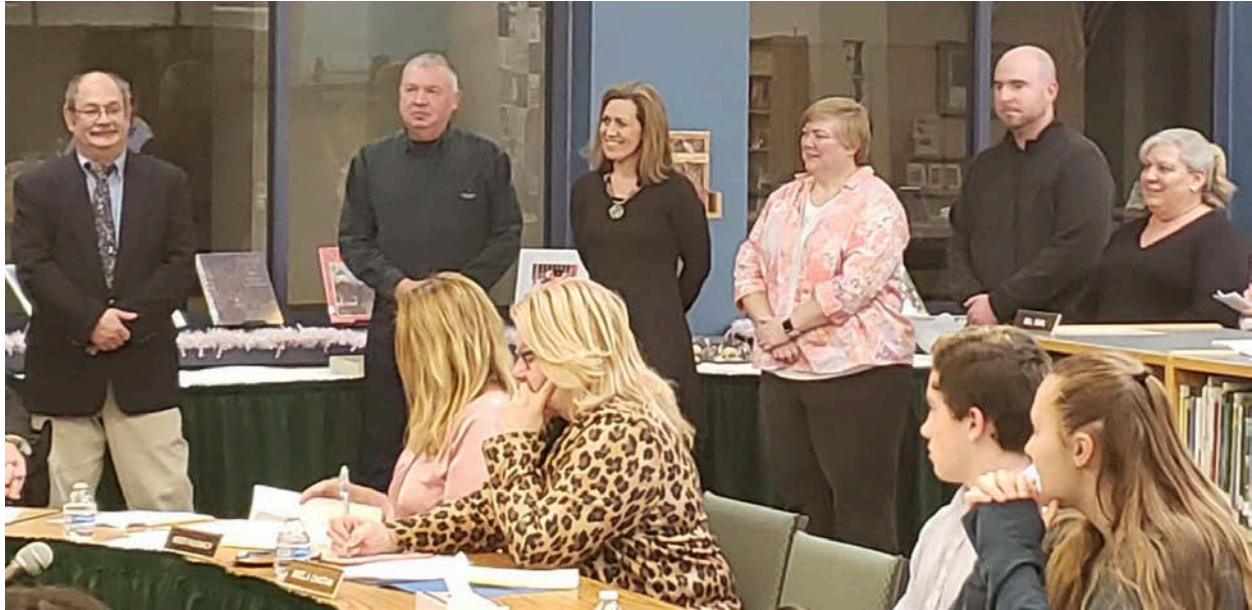
Peace Poster Contest winner:
SMS student **Brinett Rodriguez**



VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest winner
SMS student **Kathryn McDonagh**



New Milford Public Schools Retiree:
Diane Witkoski



NMPS Stars of the Month: **Lori Cerra, Stewart Day, Virginia Landgrebe, Heather Morin, Kevin Tolman and Angela Tufts** (not pictured)

- The Board accepted the following donation:
 - New Milford PTO in the amount of \$1,125.00
- The Board awarded the following bids:
 - Special Education School-Based Occupational Therapy Services for a three year period to Integrated Pediatrics
 - Special Education School-Based Physical Therapy Services for a three year period to Integrated Pediatrics and Debbie Myhill
- The Board approved activity stipend requests for Sarah Noble Intermediate School:
 - Kindness Club
 - Creative Writing/Journalism Club
- Policies 1250 Visits to the Schools and 1321 Public Performances by Students were submitted for Second Review
- The Board moved to rescind the motion and Board action taken at the November 20, 2018 meeting requesting of the Town that the 2016-17 school calendar grievance liability funds go into capital reserve; and to authorize the Town to place the 2016-17 school calendar grievance liability funds into the Town's general fund, as permitted by law.
- There was a lengthy discussion about the possible bonding by the Town of the high school and SNIS roofs.
- The Board entered executive session in order to discuss: negotiations with respect to collective bargaining with the secretaries' union; an Agreement with the Interim Superintendent of Schools; and to invite into the session Dr. Stephen Tracy, Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, and Mr. Anthony Giovannone.
- The Board moved to accept the settlement reached with the secretaries' union, as recommended by the Board's negotiating team, and for the Board Chair to execute the revised collective bargaining agreement.

- The Board moved to authorize the Chairperson of the Board of Education to execute an agreement with Dr. Stephen Tracy as Interim Superintendent of Schools, based upon the terms discussed in executive session and subject to any further necessary legal review.

January 2019

- The Board held a special meeting on January 8, 2019 for an orientation from Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates consultants regarding the superintendent search. At the meeting, the Board approved a motion to appoint the Board of Education in its entirety as the Superintendent Search Committee.
- The Board of Education conducted three evenings of hearings and adopted a budget on the fourth night for the 2019-2020 school year in the amount of \$64,642,589.
- At the meeting on January 31, 2019, the Board recognized:



NMPS Stars of the Month: **Ashley Dovale, Elizabeth Pitcher, Cheryl Reiner** (not pictured), **Marney Roberts, Gretchen Rondini, and Daniel Savo**

February 2019

- The Board recognized the following students and staff:
 - National Geographic Geography Bee: SMS student **Connor Sterling**



BOE Chair David Lawson with Connor and SMS Social Studies teacher Tracy Olmsted (in background)

- NMPS Stars of the Month: **Sara Filogomo, Amelia Lakoff Paquette, Barbara Marques, Jennifer Merriam, Donna Urban, and Annetta Volinski**



- The Board met in executive session to discuss a student matter and resolution.
- The Board approved the appointment of **Anthony Tomah** as Director of Technology.
- The Board of Education accepted the following Gift:
 - New Milford PTO in the amount of \$16,649.00
- The Board approved the following policies:
 - 1250 Visits to the Schools
 - 1321 Public Performances by Students
 - 5141.21 Administration of Medication
- The Board approved the following curricula:
 - Health 1
 - Sports Medicine
 - Allied Health
- The Board authorized up to \$18,000 for additional IEP/paraeducator support for Northville Elementary School.

March 2019

- The Board recognized the following students and staff:
 - The Board recognized **SMS chorus students Hannah Hallacker, Leah Lawson, Riley Mahon, Diya Sukumaran and Cassandra Williams; SMS instrumental**

students Irene Chen, Charles Greiner, Madison Jewell, Evan Klimowich, Gabriel Larsen, Stella Mahlke, Ashton Manaog, Yae Young Min, Maayan Rosenberg, Henry Runyan, Aidan Smith, Andrew Taborsak, Brandon Zhang and Ryan Zimmitti for their selection to the CMEA Northern Region Middle School Music Festival.



CMEA Northern Region Middle School Festival Chorus and Band students pose with music teachers Mrs. Beddows, Mr. Gregory and Mr. Polhemus

- **The Piper student literary magazine staff and students for the magazine's Superior rating by the NCTE.**



Piper staff members and advisor with Chairman Lawson

- **NMPS Stars of the Month: Cynthia Bonnell, Maria Brito, Maureen Dunkerton, Katherine Fossi, Charlene Kirkwood, and Virginia Quinn-Mooney**

- Assistant Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo, filling in for Dr. Tracy, noted that March is Board Appreciation Month and thanked the Board members for their service to the community.
- The Board entered into executive session to discuss a written legal opinion pertaining to status and response to school-based parent complaints.
- The Board of Education accepted the following Gifts and Donations:
 - New Milford PTO in the amount of \$2,170.00
 - New Milford Diamond Club in the amount of \$12,000.00
- The Board approved the following curricula:
 - Advanced Creative Writing
 - World Literature and Culture
- The Board approved the replacement of the SNIS roof top unit in the amount of \$37,020.98 through the U.S. Communities purchasing agreement, and a request for that amount from capital reserve.
- Regarding the Lillis Oil Tank project, the Board approved sending change order #1 to the Mayor and Town Finance Director for signature, and approved a request for no more than \$100,000 from capital reserve to fund the project.
- At a special meeting on March 26, 2019, the Board approved the appointment of Eric Williams as Principal of Hill and Plain Elementary School. The Board also approved a requested waiver of tuition for a non-resident student.

April 2019

- There was a Board Workshop held on April 23, 2019 where the Board received an update on Special Education.
- At its regular meeting on April 23, 2019, the Board recognized the following students and staff:
 - SMS student **Stella Mahlke** for Excellence in Writing
 - SMS student **Carly Lynch** as a First Place Winner in the Unified Sports Michael's Cup Essay Contest



Stella with TAG teacher Yvonne de St. Croix



Carly with PE teacher Eileen Holden

- NMHS Art Students: **Isabella Baggott, Aaron Hollister, Chloe Onorato, Christina Onorato, Alyssa Parsons, Colleen Ryan, Julia Sparaco, Emma Street, Michaela Zegarelli and Kyle Paist**



NMHS Art teacher Annette Marcus with students.

- **NMPS Stars of the Month: Rebecca Allen, Diana Beddows, Jane Cornelis (not pictured), Kelly Gallo, Megan Lago, George Osuch (not pictured)**



- The Board of Education accepted the following Gifts and Donations:
 - PTO - \$20,569.99
- The Board approved the following curricula:
 - CP Algebra II
 - Honors Algebra II
 - Honors Geometry
 - NGSS CREC Bundles for K-8 Science
- The Board approved policy 1323 Gifts to Students.

May 2019

- The Board held a Special Meeting on May 2, 2019 where they authorized the Board's attorney to take all reasonable measures to preserve the legal rights awarded to the Board in the 2014 interest arbitration with the NMEA.

- At its regular meeting, the Board recognized:
 - New Milford High School student participants in CMEA Music Festival events: **Jessica Berkun, Nicholas Cavuoto, Matthew Hasiak, Justin Howard, Allan Lian, Ryan McNulty, Sarah Morris, Eliza Peery, Hannah Spinner, Terrell Williams, Cory Woolley, Connor Stahl, Joshua Abel, Madeline de la Parra, Brian Hinger, Madison Lafontan, Chloe Onorato, Christina Onorato**



NMHS CMEA participants

- NMPS Stars of the Month: **Gail Burger, Kate DeBarber** (not pictured), **Sarah Divine, Kim Foss, Mary Lavoie, and Nancy Mowrey**



- Director Sandra Sullivan presented an overview of the Food and Nutrition Services Program.
- The Board approved the appointment of Gwen Gallagher as Principal of Northville Elementary School.

- The Board accepted the following Gifts and Donations:
 - PTO - \$5,165.20
- The Board approved the following curriculum:
 - German AP
- The following policies were approved:
 - 6146 Graduation Requirements
 - 6141.4 Independent Study
 - 6172.6 Virtual/Online Courses/College/University Courses
- The Board approved the following grants:
 - Adult Education – ED 244 grant in the amount of \$108,109.00
 - IDEA-611 grant in the amount of \$926,284.00 and the IDEA-619 grant in the amount of \$32,887.00
 - Title III Immigration grant in the amount of \$48,501.00
- The Board voted to continue its participation in the National School Lunch Program and adopted certifications for food items, school fundraisers, and beverages.
- The Board authorized signatories for school district accounts.
- A MOU Between the NMBOE and CEA-NM dated 5/6/19 was approved by the Board and the Board Chair was authorized to sign the memorandum on behalf of the Board.
- End of year projects were approved as recommended.
- The Board approved the successor collective bargaining agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and the United Public Service Employees Union (“UPSEU”), representing the New Milford Board of Education Paraeducators, Local 424 – Unit 107 as discussed in executive session and delegated to the Chairperson of the Board the authority to execute said agreement on behalf of the Board.
- The Board authorized the Board Chair and the Board’s legal counsel to negotiate with Dr. Kerry Parker the terms and conditions of a proposed draft Contract of Employment as Superintendent of the New Milford Public Schools in accordance with the draft terms discussed in executive session; and authorized the Board’s legal counsel in consultation with the Board Chair to draft a proposed Contract of Employment as Superintendent of the New Milford Public Schools, subject to Board review, approval, finalization, and signature.

JUNE 2019

- The Board held a reception on June 18, 2019 to recognize the following:
 - New Milford Public School Retirees: **Carol Allison:** 13 years as a Grade 6 Science teacher at SNIS and SMS, **Jody Bayer:** 20+ years as a school Social Worker at SMS, **Bob Burkhardt:** 44 years as a PE teacher, primarily at SMS and NMHS, **Melody Devlin:** 20 years, Grade 1 at HPS to start then Grade 4 at SNIS, **Jacci Farquharson:** 14 years for the Food Services including at SNIS, SMS and NMHS, **Josephine Hipp:** 14 years for the Food Services at JPS and NMHS, **Karen Hores:** 42 years as a School Psychologist, majority of that time at SMS, **Douglas McHan:** 16+ years as a Night Custodian at NMHS, **Susan Murray:** 10+ years as Principal at NES, **Susan Partelow:** 40 years as a French teacher at SMS, **Deborah South:** 26 years for the Food Services at HPS, **Robin Stiles:** 9+ years as a Library Media Specialist, at SMS and NMHS, **Catherine Topp:** 33 years as a Reading Consultant, at SMS, SNIS and NES



June retirees in attendance at the annual Reception.

- **Ingersoll Automotive of Danbury:** Staff Recognition Sponsor



Mrs. Tracey O'Connor of Ingersoll with Chair David Lawson

- Winners of the 2018 CHET Dream Big! Competition: SNIS students **Molly Thomas** and **Rafael Morataya**
- Winners of the HRRRA Billboard Contest: NES students **Riley Jones** and **Briella Bittner**, SMS students **Sarah Shaikh** and **Mya Morabito**, and NMHS students **Grace Christian**, **Nicole McNab**, **Madisyn Martinelli**, and **Christina Onorato**
- Code Quest Computer Programming Competition winners: NMHS students **Isabella Bianchi**, **Christopher Caraluzzi** and **Malin Zucca**
- SMS Battle of the Books School Champions: for 6th grade **Marinella Grasso**, **Cindy Huang**, **Katherine Taborsak**, **Regan Williams**, **Catherine Zeng**, **Rain Zheng**; for 7th grade **Braeden Arias**, **Sean Hoyt**, **Noah Hulse**, **Caitlin O'Connor**, **Hannah Rainey**, **Emerson Riedl**; for 8th grade **Evan Klimowich**, **Yae Young Min**, **Giovanni Puglia**, **AJ Taborsak**, **Jessica Wang**
- Place finishers at the FBLA State Leadership Conference: NMHS students **James Bishop**, **Nicole Chodack**, **Alexa Duncan**, **Evan Golembeske**, **Abby Hunniford**,

Nicholas Magnante, Lilly McDermott, Michael Milczarski, Skylar Mink, Jacob Wilkinson

- Place finishers at the DECA State Leadership Conference: NMHS students **Kyle Beebe, Mackenzie Brady, Liam Lacey, Dylan Magner, Sophia McSherry, Sarah Mickelson, Amelia Moschitta, Ayden O'Neill, Jack Schipul, Jack Snowdon, Emilia Tesoriero**. Also recognized for DECA for School Store Recertification were **Madisyn Martinelli** and **Ivanna Torres-Gierbolini**
- CAS Middle Level Scholar-Leaders: SMS students **Madison Jewell** and **Ryan Zimmitti**
- Connecticut Association of Boards of Education Leadership Award recipients: **Conner Martinelli** and **Kara Murphy** from SMS and **Conner Caridad** and **Anna Santarelli** from NMHS
- Western Connecticut Superintendents Association 2018-19 Award recipients: **Alexander Rogg** and **Cassandra Williams** from SMS and **Liam Lacey** and **Elizabeth Meskill** from NMHS
- The Board recognized the senior student representative to the Board of Education: **Elizabeth Meskill**
- Twenty-seven NMHS students were awarded the CT State Seal of Biliteracy: **Isabella Bianchi, Skylar Busch, Stephanie Cafiero, Conner Caridad, Maylai Chamreun, Jackson Cramer, Sophie Danish, Brian Dugan, Samantha Ehrenberg, Karley Greene, Elena Harcken, Liam Lacey, Ryan Logan, Julia March, Satil Moni, Amelia Moschitta, Sean Murphy, Chloe Onorato, Christina Onorato, Emily Papp, Michael Rafferty, Leonelly Romano, Kimberlyn Romero, Ana Silva, Connor Stahl, Abhimanyu Sukumaran, Sierra Woods**
- At its Regular Meeting on June 18, 2019, the Board accepted the following Gifts and Donations:
 - PTO - \$9,697.00
 - Goldring Family Foundation - \$22,265.60
- The following bids were awarded by the Board of Education:
 - Food and Nutrition Services – Milk to Wades Dairy Inc. for a one-year period
 - Food and Nutrition Services – Frozen Dessert to New England Ice Cream Corporation for a one-year period
 - Boiler Cleaning to Penn Marr Boiler Cleaning
 - Septic Cleaning to New Milford Septic
 - Security Cameras, Equipment and Licensing to Omni Data
- The Board of Education approved the following Grant:
 - Adult Education PEP Grant in the amount of \$78,000.00
- The Board authorized signatories on School District Accounts
- The Revised Sending Town Agreement for the Shepaug Regional Agriscience Program 2019-20 was approved by the Board and the Board Chair was authorized to sign it on the Board's behalf.
- The Board approved curriculums for:
 - Grade 6 General Music
 - Grade 7 General Music
 - Grade 8 General Music

- The Five-Year Curriculum Plan (2020-2025) was approved by the Board.
- The Board approved the appointment of the Assistant Superintendent, and in his/her absence, the Director of Human Resources, as the Designee for the Superintendent of Schools from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.
- The Board approved authorization for the Superintendent to accept resignations and make appointments, excluding administrative appointments, from June 19, 2019 through September 17, 2019.
- The Board approved authorization for the Superintendent to purchase budgeted instructional materials and other supplies, equipment and services from June 19, 2019 through September 17, 2019.
- The Board received the following annual reports:
 - Annual Emergency Preparedness Report
 - Annual Wellness Report
 - Annual Report of the John J. McCarthy Observatory
 - Clubs and Activities Report
- The Board approved the employment and salary of the Assistant Superintendent, Director of Human Resources, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations, Director of Food Services, Systems Analyst, Account Data Specialist, Network Administrator, Accounting Manager, Facilities Director, Assistant Facilities Director, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Adult Education Facilitator, Board Certified Behavior Analyst, District Courier and Lab Assistant.
- The Board unanimously approved the proposed three-year contract for the Superintendent of Schools for Dr. Kerry Parker as discussed in executive session, and authorized the Board Chair to sign the contract on behalf of the Board.
- At a special meeting on June 25, 2019, the Board amended the 2019-20 Board of Education Adopted Budget from \$64,642,589 to \$64,040,692.

Summary of 2018-2019 Assessments

Smarter Balanced Assessment Grades 3-8

In the spring of 2019, students across Connecticut and the Nation participated in the administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessment. A new Science assessment based on the NGSS standards was piloted in 2018 and in 2019 had cut scores developed which will result in scores that will be issued to school districts and parents.

The Smarter Balanced assessment provided district and student level results. In Mathematics, New Milford scored a 52% average overall, outperforming last year's average of 47.1% by 4.9%. In Reading/Language Arts, New Milford's overall average was 55.7%, slightly down from 2017-18's results of 58.3%. The summer of 2017 saw the return of a support program for students with identified gaps in their learning which has continued throughout the summers of 2018 and 2019. The program has been well attended and has resulted in clear gains in math and reading achievement and growth for those involved.

In 2015-16, the State of Connecticut removed the Smarter Balanced Assessment from Grade 11 and replaced it with the administration of the SATs for Grade 11 students. Our students in New Milford have historically outperformed the state in terms of both the Math and Reading sections

of the SATs. The last four years Connecticut students have averaged a combined score of 1023 (2016), 1030 (2017), 1019 (2018) and is now a 1016 (2019). Comparatively, New Milford students have averaged a combined score of 1068 (2016) 1084 (2017), 1060 (2018) and 1060 (2019). The New Milford combined score of a 1060, was comprised of a 530 on the Reading section and a 530 on the Math section. Over the past 4 years, New Milford High School students have been averaging almost 40 points higher than from where we had been historically.

Advanced Placement Exams

In 2018-19, New Milford High School students continued to increase their participation in Advanced Placement courses and more students elected to take the national proficiency exam. Students took a total of 655 exams in 2017 and 74% scored a three or higher, which was a nice uptick from 67% last year (2017-18). A score of three or higher represents passing. In 2018-19, New Milford High School had its highest number of passed exams at 451, meaning more students than ever qualified for exemptions and/or college credit as they continue their educational careers. We expect both enrollment and student successes to continue as the district works to expand opportunities for students and provide professional development to the teachers.

Summary

The 2018-19 school year saw a continued focus on student programing and academic performance. This was the fifth year of implementation of the math curriculum in grades K-6, year four of the program in grade 7 and year three in grade 8. Finally, we saw an increased enrollment in Advanced Placement courses while more students met the college and career readiness standards on the exam. At New Milford High School, students passed 451 AP exams up from 433 in 2017-18.

The Board of Education routinely recognized the talent and accomplishments of students and staff at its meetings and end-of-the-year reception. During the 2018-2019 school year the Board recognized **149** students and **66** staff members for outstanding achievement. Donations in excess of **\$102,292** were received to benefit the New Milford Public Schools. The Board was awarded **\$1,683,297** in grants. The majority of funds were obtained through entitlement grants from the State Department of Education and the federal government. It should be noted that most grants cover a two-year period.