

NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION



ANNUAL REPORT **2017 – 2018**

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

NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. David A. Lawson, Chairperson

Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Angela C. Chastain, Secretary

Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan, Assistant Secretary

Mr. Bill Dahl

Mr. Joseph Failla

Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach

Mr. Brian McCauley

Mr. J.T. Schemm

Board of Education Annual Report 2017 – 2018

The New Milford Public Schools served 4,102 students in kindergarten through grade 12 during the 2017-18 academic year with a staff of 371.4 teachers, 17 building administrators, and 256.4 support staff (non-certified staff). The operating budget for the New Milford Public Schools for 2017-2018 totaled \$62,810,586.

July 2017

- The Board participated in a two day retreat on July 18 and 19. Facilitated by Nick Caruso, CABE Senior Staff Associate for Field Service, the workshop encompassed Board roles, responsibilities and goal setting.
- At a regular meeting on July 18, the Board approved policy 6141.321/4118.4/4218.4 Responsible Use of Technology, Social Media, and District Network Systems.
- The Board approved a motion to request that the End-of-Year Balance for 2017, subject to final audit, go to capital reserve.
- The Board discussed revised regulation 2400 Superintendent Evaluation Process.
- The Board approved a new, three-year contract for Mr. Joshua Smith, Superintendent of the New Milford Public Schools, and authorized the Board Chair to sign the contract on its behalf.

August 2017

- At a regular meeting on August 15, the Board approved Theories of Action to guide the work of the district.
- Teachers returned August 25, with staff meetings and open houses held on August 29. The All Staff Convocation took place on August 28 followed by professional development.
- Students returned August 30.

September 2017

- **Mrs. Denise Duggan** was recognized as New Milford's Teacher of the Year for 2017-18.



New Milford Teacher of the Year Denise Duggan

- The 2016-17 Annual Report of the Board was distributed.

- A donation of \$1,205.00 for Girls' Soccer was approved by the Board.
- The Board approved revisions to Policy 5113 Truancy.
- The following curricula were approved by the Board:
 - Kindergarten Art
 - Art Grade 1
 - Art Grade 2
 - Art Grade 3
- Tuition rates were established and approved for the 2017-2018 school year.
- The New Milford High School graduation date for 2018 was approved by the Board for Saturday, June 23, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.
- The Use of Facilities Fee Schedule was approved as proposed.
- The Board discussed the Lillis Building ADA Report, with further discussion to take place at future Facilities Sub-Committee meetings.
- Regulation 1325 Advertising and Promotion was discussed. This new regulation sets general parameters, primarily in regards to fundraising towards replacement of the turf fields.

October 2017

- The Board held a workshop on October 17, 2017 to review and discuss district assessments.
- At its regular meeting, the Board recognized:
 - NMPS Retiree **Marie Pomeroy** (not pictured) and



- NMPS Stars of the Month: **Deborah Clark, Priscilla Fisher, Cindy Gallagher, Andrea Norem, Rosemary Simmons, and Joanne Weber**



- New student representative **Elizabeth Meskill** joined current representative Gregory Winkelstern.



- On behalf of the Board, Chairperson David Lawson thanked outgoing Board member **Robert Coppola** for his dedication and service.
- The Board accepted the following donations:
 - New Milford PTO in the amount of \$10,240.00
 - New Milford Diamond Club in the amount of \$1,025.00
- The Board awarded the following bids:
 - Medical Advisor to Dr. Evan Hack
 - NES Fire System Device Replacement to Turri-Masterson
- The Board approved the following grant:
 - Pre-K/Kindergarten Transition Initiative Grant from the CT Community Foundation in the amount of \$4,060.00
- The Board approved activity stipend requests:
 - NAMES advisor for New Milford High School
 - Ecology Club advisor and Yoga/Mindfulness Club advisor for Sarah Noble Intermediate School
- The Board approved the following curricula:
 - Honor's Freshman World History
 - AP World History
 - Grade 6 Social Studies
 - Grade 7 Social Studies
 - Grade 8 Social Studies

- The Board approved the Teacher Evaluation Plan.
- The Board received a summary of Direct Donations and Anticipated Fundraisers.

November 2017

- The Board held a workshop on November 21, 2017 to review and discuss district enrollment and staffing.
- The Board of Education recognized the following:



- Commended Students - 2018 National Merit Program: NMHS students **Joseph Alexander** and **Jeffrey Schlyer** (not pictured)



- NMPS Stars of the Month: **Jane Cox** (not pictured), **Judy Grossenbacher**, **Susan Holland** (not pictured), **Al Marchena Rodriguez**, **Barbara Morris**, **Jennifer Tuozzoli**



- On behalf of the Board, Chairperson David Lawson thanked outgoing Board member **Dave Littlefield** for his dedication and service.
- The Board approved activity stipend requests for Schaghticoke Middle School for:
 - Unified Sports – Bowling advisor
 - Schaghticoke Allies for Equality (S.A.F.E.) advisor
- The Board approved the following curricula:
 - Conversational Spanish I
 - Conversational Spanish II
- The textbook *American History: Beginnings Through Reconstruction* was approved by the Board for Grade 8 use.
- The Board discussed a review of tobacco policies as they relate to vaping devices.
- Superintendent Smith presented some possible budget drivers and asked for Board input.
- The Board discussed prioritizations for the Lillis Building ADA Report.

December 2017

- 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**



Newly elected Board members **Joseph Failla** and **Eileen P. Monaghan**



New Milford Board of Education, December 19, 2017

- At its regular meeting, the Board recognized:



- Peace Poster Contest winner
SMS student **Keira Sosbe**



- VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest winner:
SMS student **Claire Daniels**



- New Milford Public Schools Retirees: **Jody Altenhof** (not pictured),
Claudia Avery, Linda Mercier and Janet Natale



- NMPS Stars of the Month: **Karla Buffington, Lee Dovale, Allyson Drahota, Jennifer Okoski, Kathleen Taylor, and Ashley Vinhateiro**
- Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach was appointed Parliamentarian and Interim Operations Subcommittee Chair while subcommittee assignments are being considered.
- The Board accepted the following donations:
 - New Milford PTO in the amount of \$2,665.00
 - CAS/CIAC in the amount of \$1,500.00
- The Board approved the following curricula:
 - Health K-2
 - Health 7 & 8
- The Board approved the following new courses:
 - Digital Photography
 - AP Computer Science Principles
 - Computer Literacy
- The following entitlement grants were reviewed as items of information:
 - Bilingual Grant
 - ESSA Title IV: Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant
- Mr. Smith continued previous discussion regarding possible budget drivers and asked the Board members to share any thoughts, concerns and suggestions.

January 2018

- The Board held a meeting on January 9, 2018 for a mid-year review of Board goals and Superintendent performance goals where they had informal discussion and feedback regarding Superintendent performance and adjustment of goals as needed.
- The Board of Education conducted three evenings of hearings and adopted a budget on the fourth night for the 2018-2019 school year in the amount of \$64,278,670.

- At the meeting on January 24, 2018, the Board unanimously passed a motion to rescind the motion and Board action taken at the July 18, 2017 meeting requesting that the End of Year balance for 2017, subject to final audit, go to capital reserve. This was followed by the approval of a motion to request and authorize the Town to use funds from the End of Year balance for 2017, as reflected in the final audit, to cover any budgetary shortfalls resulting from reduced State aide, grants and revenue during the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

February 2018

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



Brett with BOE Chair David Lawson and Principal Chris Longo

- NMPS Stars of the Month: **Shannon Arcano, Victoria Giudice, Robyn Hicks, Roger Hill, Stephanie Sagaria, and Lynn Sheeran** (*pictured below*)



- The Board held a special meeting in executive session for the purpose of discussing a security strategy, as well as the deployment of security personnel, and/or devices affecting security, as well as emergency lockdown plans in the New Milford Public Schools. New Milford Police Chief Boyne was invited into the session.
- At the regular meeting, the Board gave out a summary security overview.
- Superintendent Smith discussed the Next Gen report.
- The Board of Education accepted the following Gifts:
 - New Milford PTO in the amount of \$8,967.00
 - Lowe's Toolbox for Education Program in the amount of \$2,000.00
- The Board approved the following policies:
 - 4112.5/4212.5 Criminal History Inquiries, Employment Reference Checks and Disclosure of Employee Information to Prospective Employers
 - 4118.112/4218.112 Sexual and Other Unlawful Harassment
 - 5114 Removal/Suspension/Expulsion
 - 5157 Use of Physical Force
- The Board approved the following curricula: Physical Education K-12.
- The Board approved the Agreement between the New Milford Board of Education and the Sherman Board of Education and authorized the Board Chair to sign the agreement on its behalf.
- An Important Dates handout for New Milford Public Schools 2018-2019 was distributed.
- The Board discussed fuel tanks.

March 2018

- The Board held a special meeting on March 20, 2018 where they met in executive session for the purpose of discussing the pending Appellate court NMBOE v. NMEA case with the Board's attorney.
- The Board recognized the following students and staff:
 - The Board recognized **SMS chorus students Leah Lawson, Kayla Machado, Lucy McKay, Teagan Piskura, Paige Raffaele, Connor Sainz, and Cassandra Williams; SMS instrumental students Irene Chen, Charles Greiner, Madison Jewell, Evan Klimowich, Riley Mahlke, Stella Mahlke, Yae Young Min, Alexander Rogg, and Kelsey Stewart** 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

- NMPS Stars of the Month: **Florence Hottes, Michelle Klee, Erin Moriarty, Tracy Nevins, Sandra Sullivan, Konnie Tlasky** (pictured below)



- Mr. Smith noted that March is Board Appreciation Month and thanked the Board members for their service to the community.
- Mr. Smith said the school health inspections for Food Services are complete for the year for 2017-2018 and all the schools achieved a score of either 99 or 100. He reported that the New Milford Police Department and New Milford Public Schools held a joint safety meeting on March 19, 2018 with about 75-100 people in attendance and the presentation and video will be posted on the district website.
- The Board of Education accepted the following Gifts and Donations:
 - New Milford PTO in the amount of \$15,927.00
- The Board approved the following policies:
 - 1140 Distribution of Materials to and by Students (Use of Students)
 - 6146.2 Statewide Mastery Examinations
- The Board approved the following curricula:
 - AP Human Geography
 - AP Environmental Science
 - AP US History
- The Board approved the Capital 5 Year Plan – Technology and Facilities.
- Mr. Smith said the district is preparing an RFP with the Town regarding fuel tanks. This is for a price estimate and to find out the scope of work needed.
- Mr. Smith updated the Board on an expected shortfall in excess cost reimbursement for special education funds that qualify.

April 2018

- There was a Board Workshop held on April 24, 2018 where the Board received an update on Special Education.
- At its regular meeting on April 24, 2018, the Board recognized the following students and staff:
 - NMHS Art Students: **Maya Addison, Fiona Alexander, Nicholas Arlands, Katherine Clawson, Jenna Epstein, Justin Forero, Kristen Kornhaas, Liam Lacey, Colleen Ryan, Hunter Sloane, Jefferson Vieira, Cassandra Way, Michaela Zegarelli, Karolina Zimny, and Emma Street**



NMHS Art teacher Annette Marcus and Principal Greg Shugrue pose with students.

- NMPS Stars of the Month: **Denise Ambrose-Arnauckas, Christine Benson, Jennifer Chmielewski, Jack Ducey, Theresa McGuinness, Ann Marie Tozzi**



- The Board of Education accepted the following Gifts and Donations:
 - PTO - \$10,121.27
- The Board approved the following curriculum:
 - AP Language and Composition
 - Writing Research and Workshop

May 2018

- The Board held a Meeting on May 3, 2018 to discuss the Superintendent's annual performance evaluation.
- John J. McCarthy Observatory Board members presented a status report along with their Annual Report to the BOE.

- At its regular meeting, the Board recognized:
 - New Milford High School student participants in CMEA Northern Region Music Festival events: **Joshua Abel, Hannah Arasim, Jessica Berkun, Michael Cavuoto, Nicholas Cavuoto, Jenna Drahota, Duncan Edel, Jessica Learson, Amanda Manaog, Ryan McNulty, Christina Onorato, Eliza Peery, John Santoro, Connor Stahl, Michael Tarby, and Terrell Williams**



CMEA participants

- NMPS Stars of the Month: **Jennifer Andrea, Gina Bernard, Kelly DeYorio** (not pictured), **Yvonne de St. Croix, Michael Fitzgerald** (not pictured), and **Shayna Sexton**



- The Board accepted the following Gifts and Donations:
 - PTO - \$6,400.00
- The Board approved the following curriculum:
 - Introduction to Engineering Design
- The following bids were awarded by the Board of Education:
 - Septic Cleaning – New Milford Septic
 - Boiler Cleaning – Pen Mar Boiler Cleaning
- The Board approved the following grants:
 - Adult Education – ED 244 grant in the amount of \$112,000.00
 - IDEA-611 grant in the amount of \$871,110.00 and the IDEA-619 grant in the amount of \$34,315.00
- 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 awarded the bid for the HPS fuel tank replacement to ETT Environmental Services.
- The Board authorized the Board Chair and its legal counsel to enter into discussions and/or negotiations with the Superintendent of Schools on a new, three-year contract, the final terms of which shall be subject to Board approval.
- The Board held a Special Meeting on May 29, 2018 to receive public comment regarding the proposed Board of Education budget as recommended by the Town Council on May 21, 2018 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019.

JUNE 2018



June retirees in attendance at the annual Reception.

- The Board held a reception on June 19, 2018 to recognize the following:
 - New Milford Public School June Retirees: **Vicki Braucci, Karla Buffington, Antoinette Fortuna, Joyce Johnson, Corby Kennison, Mary Mercer, Suanne**

Merlino, Gary Molenaor, Cathy Neill, Jennifer Sheaffer, Lynn Singleton, Kathleen Taylor, and Karen Terhaar

- Winners of the 2018 CHET Dream Big! Competition: SNIS students **Annabella Gronbach** and **Maayan Rosenberg**
 - Winners of the HRRRA Billboard Contest: NES students **Emma Pollack** and **Brooke Buccieri**, SNIS student **Layla Colarusso**, SMS students **Diana Jara Pulla** and **Clarissa Garza**, and NMHS students **Catelyn D'Amato** and **Phair Haldin**
 - SMS Battle of the Books School Champions: for 6th grade **Shannon Conley, Quinn Geier, Alex Polo, Hannah Rainey, Trevor Sweet, and Francisco Vazquez**; for 7th grade **Allison Higgins, Evan Klimowich, Jmere Robinson-Witherspoon, Brinett Rodriguez, Owen Vaughan, and Christopher Wologodzew**; for 8th grade **Clarissa Garza, Kayla Machado, Trinity Mink, Joseph Sturino, and Evelyn Toth**
 - Place finishers at the FBLA State Leadership Conference: NMHS students **John Adams, Randall Davis, James Day, Evan Golembeske, Abby Hunniford, Lilly McDermott, Michael Milczarski, and Ryan Mondoneto**
 - Place finishers at the DECA State Leadership Conference: NMHS students **Mykenzee Baier, Jacob Berendsohn, Matthew Clarke, Kayla Foster, Kallie Johnson, Alicia Leno, Brianna LeRose, James Lewis, Kieth Manaog, Madisyn Martinelli, Vincent Rago, Taha Rao, Victoria Schmidt, and Emilia Tesoriero**. Also recognized for DECA for School Based Gold Certification for the NMHS School Store were **Davin Roberts** and **Olivia Thalassinis**
 - CAS Middle Level Scholar-Leaders: SMS students **Sarah Rondini** and **Dillon Thomas**
 - Connecticut Association of Boards of Education Leadership Award recipients: **Giovanna Esposito** and **Ishaani Pradeep** from SMS and **Davin Roberts** and **Olivia Thalassinis** from NMHS
 - Western Connecticut Superintendents Association 2017-18 Award recipients: **Annabelle Colonna** and **Jack Cossari** from SMS and **Katherine Grinnell** and **Derek Profita** from NMHS
 - The Board recognized the senior student representative to the Board of Education: **Gregory Winkelstern**
- At its regular meeting on June 19, 2018, the Board recognized and thanked outgoing Town-wide PTO President Kathleen Lewis for her leadership and volunteerism.
 - The Board approved an Eagle Scout project for Northville Elementary School which will convert two courtyards into outdoor classrooms.
 - The Board accepted the following Gifts and Donations:
 - PTO - \$13,873.54
 - New Milford River Trail Association - \$6,700.00
 - The Board approved new policy 3520 Student Data Privacy.
 - 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
 - Security Services to Securitas for a three year period

- The Board of Education approved the following Grants:
 - Carl D. Perkins Grant in the amount of \$34,500.00
 - Adult Education Grant: ESL for Life and Work Pathways to the Future in the amount of \$83,000.00
- 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, 2018 through June 30, 2019.
- The Board approved authorization for the Superintendent to accept resignations and make appointments, excluding administrative appointments, from June 20, 2018 through September 18, 2018.
- The Board approved authorization for the Superintendent to purchase budgeted instructional materials and other supplies, equipment and services from June 20, 2018 through September 18, 2018.
- The Board approved the proposed five-year Contract, beginning July 1, 2018, between the New Milford Board of Education and All-Star Transportation for Pupil Transportation Services.
- The Board approved a motion to execute the Memorandum of Agreement with the New Milford School Administrators' Association to implement an early retirement incentive program and to authorize the Board Chair to execute, on the Board's behalf, the individual administrator's Election, Agreement, Release and Waiver Forms when returned to the Superintendent's office.
- The Board received the following annual reports:
 - Annual Emergency Preparedness Report
 - Annual Wellness Report
- The Board entered into Executive Session to discuss the proposed, three-year contract for the Superintendent of Schools.
- At a special meeting on June 21, 2018, the Board approved amending the 2018-19 Board of Education Adopted Budget from \$64,278,670 to \$63,010,586, as proposed by the Superintendent of Schools on Item 3A, "Proposed Adjustments to the 2018-2019 Budget", dated June 20, 2018.

Summary of 2017-2018 Assessments

Smarter Balanced Assessment Grades 3-8

In the spring of 2018 students across Connecticut and the Nation participated in the administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessment. The pilot assessment based on the new NGSS standards took place in lieu of a scored Science assessment. Participation in this assessment counted, even though the scores did not count.

The Smarter Balanced assessment provided district and student level results. In Mathematics, New Milford scored a 47.1% average overall, outperforming the state average of 46.7%. The DRG, however, scored an average of 56.6%. In Reading/Language Arts, New Milford's overall average was 58.3%, outperforming the state average of 55.3%. The DRG, however, outperformed New Milford's average with an overall score of 64.8%.

In 2015-2016 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 1010 (2015), 1023 (2016), 1030 (2017) and is now 1019 (2018). Comparatively, New Milford students have averaged a combined score of 1033 (2015), 1068 (2016) 1084 (2017) and 1060 (2018). The New Milford combined score of a 1060, was comprised of a 542 on the Reading section and a 518 on the Math section. Over the past 3 years, New Milford High School students have been averaging almost 40 points higher than from where we had been historically. The summer of 2017 saw the return of a support program for students with identified gaps in their learning. The program was well attended and resulted in clear gains in math and reading for those involved.

Advanced Placement Exams

In 2017-2018, 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 666 exams in 2017 up from in 529 exams in 2016, and 67% scored a three or higher. A score of three or higher represents passing. The state average for 2017's administration was 71% and the national average was 61%. 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 2017-2018 school year saw a continued focus on student programing and academic performance. This was the fourth year of implementation of the math curriculum in grades K-6, year three of the program in grade 7 and year two 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 433 AP exams up from 404 in 2016.

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 2017-2018 school year the Board recognized **113** students and **61** staff members for outstanding achievement. Donations in excess of **\$148,489** were received from the PTO and other benefactors to benefit the New Milford Public Schools. The Board was awarded **\$1,447,068** 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.