

**New Milford Board of Education  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 11, 2014  
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

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| Present: | Mrs. Daniele Shook, Chairperson<br>Mrs. Angela C. Chastain<br>Mr. Robert Coppola<br>Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach<br>Mr. David A. Lawson<br>Mr. Dave Littlefield<br>Mrs. Theresa Volinski |
| Absent:  | Mr. David R. Shaffer<br>Mr. John W. Spatola   |

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NEW MILFORD, CT

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| Also Present: | Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools<br>Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources<br>Mr. Gregg Miller, Director of Fiscal Services<br>Ms. Roberta Pratt, Director of Technology<br>Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services<br>Mr. John Calhoun, Facilities Manager<br>Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School<br>Mr. Ryan Fitzsimmons, Wrestling Coach, New Milford High School<br>Mr. Steve Botelho, Wrestling Coach, New Milford High School |
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| 1. | <b>Call to Order</b><br><b>A. Pledge of Allegiance</b><br>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.   | <b>Call to Order</b><br><b>Pledge of Allegiance</b>                          |
| 2. | <b>Recognition</b><br><br><b>A. NMHS Wrestling — Class L State Champions:</b><br><b>Caleb Anderson, David Angulo, Jorge Arcuri, Zachary Arnold, Cameron Berger, Tyler Bohenko, Halim Bourjeili, Christopher Brett, Steven Brooks, Joseph Carangui, Stefan Ceconi, Ryan Christopher, Evan Colley, Alexander Davlos, Drew DiSorbo, Turner Ellis, Ryan Fabich, Jordan Hill, David Ireland, Isaiah Jenkins, Brett Leonard, Kyle Lindner, Matthew Lockwood, Thomas McIlveen, Jomar Orejuela-Nunez, Ryan Paist, Louis Paties, Nikolas Pellicone, Denzel Phillips, Daniel Reyes, Hector Reyes, Bryan Rojas, Charles Schultz, Mijani Smith, and Nikolas</b> | <b>Recognition</b><br><br><b>A. NMHS Wrestling — Class L State Champions</b> |

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|    | <p><b>Stefanatos</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Paddyfote congratulated the team and coaches on their success. Coach Fitzsimmons elaborated on the team's accomplishments.</li> </ul> <p><b>B. Board of Education Appreciation for Service</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Paddyfote noted that March was Connecticut Association of Boards of Education recognition month so she thanked the Board for their service.</li> </ul> <p>The meeting recessed at 7:41 p.m. for a brief reception and reconvened at 7:52 p.m.</p>  | <p><b>B. Board of Education Appreciation for Service</b></p> |
| 3. | <p><b>Public Comment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denise Bard, a New Milford resident, reported that at a meeting held on Sunday night Attorney Deborah Stevenson said local Boards of Education are not compelled to adopt any curriculum standards or tests. She is against the common core standards and against the testing required to prove that common core works. She asked where the data is that shows that common core will work. She feels common core is developmentally inappropriate.</li> <li>• Jessica Higgins, a New Milford resident, said she finds it hard to believe that all 50 states need one standard curriculum. She felt the loss of local control and yet the expectation that the town would foot the bill was a bad idea. She said the students' community demographics account for 60% of the test results. She said in some states the students' promotion to the next grade is tied not to the work completed but the test score. She said schools need to encourage creativity, innovation, etc. and not conformity.</li> <li>• Kevin Bramble, a New Milford resident, asked if common core is so good why is there so much secrecy surrounding its introduction. He said there is no plan of implementation and no information has been provided to parents. He</li> </ul> | <p><b>Public Comment</b></p>                                 |

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|    | <p>noted parts of 24 states have signed on to common core and said that means 26 whole states and some parts of the other 24 states have not. He said the smarter balanced assessment is a test designed to validate the common core.</p>  |   |
| 4. | <p><b>PTO Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Romaniello noted the PTOs are looking forward to their spring fundraisers and events.</li> <li>• She said despite the poorer than expected fundraising efforts of the fall they are still providing grants to the schools.</li> <li>• Mr. Coppola asked Mrs. Romaniello to give a PTO form to Mrs. Silverman for Board members.</li> </ul>  | <p><b>PTO Report</b></p>  |
| 5. | <p><b>Student Representatives' Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Harkin said the band concerts took place in February including band, wind ensemble, chorus and honors chorus.</li> <li>• There was a spring sports meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup> for those interested in participating in spring sports.</li> <li>• CAPT science testing begins Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• There is a school climate meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• The all-school musical is CATS this year with shows upcoming.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Student Representatives' Report</b></p>   |
| 6. | <p><b>Approval of Minutes</b></p> <p>A. <b>Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes</b></p> <p>1. <b>Regular Meeting Minutes February 11, 2014</b></p> <p>Mrs. Chastain moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:<br/> <b>Regular Meeting Minutes February 11, 2014,</b></p>  | <p><b>Approval of Minutes</b></p> <p>A. <b>Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes</b></p> <p>1. <b>Regular Meeting Minutes February 11, 2014</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve following Board of Education Meeting</b></p> |

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|    | <p>seconded by Mr. Coppola.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Coppola noted it was nice that awardees received a glass award to take home with them.</li> </ul> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>  | <p>Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes<br/> February 11, 2014.</p> |
| 7. | <p><b>Superintendent's Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Paddyfote said the all-school musical Cats will be shown on March 21, 22, 28 and 29 at 7:00 p.m., March 23 at 3:00 p.m. and March 29 at 2:00 p.m.</li> <li>So far there have been seven snow days and, based on this, school will end on June 17<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>K-6 parent conferences will be conducted on March 24 – 26 and school will dismiss at 1:00 p.m. There will be early dismissal for professional development for grades 7 – 12 on March 25 and 26 with schools getting out at noon.</li> <li>There will be a special assembly at John Pettibone School on March 14<sup>th</sup> with Terry Alaberry who will perform an anti-bullying program at 11:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Superintendent's Report</b></p>                           |
| 8. | <p><b>Board Chairman's Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mrs. Shook thanked the Board members who were able to make it to the budget presentation before the Board of Finance and Town Council.</li> <li>There will be a budget deliberation meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the E. Paul Martin Meeting Room on March 13<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>A Special BOE Meeting is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup> at John Pettibone School regarding the School Facility and Utilization Study Committee's recommendations for John Pettibone and a follow up meeting will be scheduled for some time in April.</li> <li>March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Lillis Board Room is the Special Board Meeting to discuss</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Board Chairman's Report</b></p>                           |

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|           | the Superintendent's self-evaluation.   |   |
| <b>9.</b> | <b>Committee Reports</b>  | <b>Committee Reports</b>                  |
| <b>A.</b> | <b>Facilities Sub-Committee</b>   | <b>A. Facilities Sub-Committee</b>        |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Littlefield said they discussed the building usage fee structure, the security update and the winter maintenance updates.</li> </ul>   |   |
| <b>B.</b> | <b>Operations Sub-Committee</b>   | <b>B. Operations Sub-Committee</b>        |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mrs. Faulenbach said all the items discussed were on the agenda for discussion and action tonight.</li> </ul>  |   |
| <b>C.</b> | <b>Policy Sub-Committee</b>   | <b>C. Policy Sub-Committee</b>            |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mrs. Chastain said there was one policy for approval and five for first review on tonight's agenda.</li> </ul>   |   |
| <b>D.</b> | <b>Committee on Learning</b>  | <b>D. Committee on Learning</b>           |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Lawson said the Writing Workshop curriculum was on the agenda tonight for approval.</li> <li>They also heard the status of the common core, smarter balanced assessment and SEED evaluation.</li> <li>The ACT results were examined.</li> <li>Upcoming curriculum will include the Drama Workshop. Also K-5 math and writing programs are being reviewed.</li> </ul> |   |
| <b>E.</b> | <b>Education Connection</b>   | <b>E. Education Connection</b>            |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Coppola said he still had not been made aware of any meetings.</li> </ul>  |   |
| <b>F.</b> | <b>Connecticut Boards of Education</b>  | <b>F. Connecticut Boards of Education</b> |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mrs. Faulenbach hoped all Board members</li> </ul>   |   |

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|            | <p>were receiving the CABE newsletter.</p> <p><b>G. Negotiations Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mrs. Faulenbach said there were no negotiations ongoing.</li> </ul>  | <p><b>G. Negotiations Committee</b></p>  |
| <b>10.</b> | <p><b>Discussion and Possible Action</b></p> <p><b>A. Exhibit A: Personnel — Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated March 11, 2014</b></p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve Exhibit A: Personnel - Certified, Non-Certified, Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated March 11, 2014, seconded by Mr. Littlefield.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Coppola said he hoped that the custodian at Northville who was retiring would be brought to the Board at some point for recognition. He also noted that Mr. Miller's assistant was leaving and asked Mr. Miller to consider staying.</li> </ul> <p><b>The motion passed 6-1.</b><br/> Aye: Mrs. Chastain, Mr. Coppola, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. Littlefield, Mrs. Shook, Mrs. Volinski<br/> No: Mr. Lawson</p> <p><b>B. Monthly Reports</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchase Resolution D-663</li> <li>Budget Position dated 2/28/14</li> <li>Request for Budget Transfers</li> </ol> <p>Mr. Littlefield moved to approve monthly reports: Purchase Resolution D-663, Budget Position dated 2/28/14 and Request for Budget Transfers, seconded by Mr. Lawson.</p> | <p><b>Discussion and Possible Action</b></p> <p><b>A. Exhibit A: Personnel — Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated March 11, 2014</b></p> <p>Motion made and passed to approve Exhibit A: Personnel - Certified, Non-Certified, Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated March 11, 2014</p> <p><b>B. Monthly Reports</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchase Resolution D-663</li> <li>Budget Position dated 2/28/14</li> <li>Request for Budget Transfers</li> </ol> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve monthly reports: Purchase Resolution D-663, Budget Position dated</p> |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Coppola asked how the shortfall in the substitute account of \$160,000 plus was so miscalculated and Mr. Miller said it was not miscalculated but rather based on the last ten years of historical trends. This year is an anomaly.</li><li>• Mr. Coppola asked if this amount would be sufficient to get to the end of the year and Mr. Miller said he thought it would.</li><li>• Mr. Coppola asked what 15-111-2590 was and Mr. Miller said it was Administrative Services.</li><li>• Ms. Baldelli noted regarding the substitute teacher line that this year there were more longer-term absences than usual. In most years there might be 10 or 12. This year, so far, there are 20. She also noted that when retired teachers have to be brought in they make far more than the \$70 day a regular sub makes, as the retiree is paid what they made per day when they left which could be as high as \$400.</li><li>• Mr. Lawson asked for the budget position and Mr. Miller said that the available balance was \$605,071 but the true variance was about \$200,000.</li><li>• Mr. Coppola asked about the \$20,000 e-mail server project and what was put on hold to pay for it and Ms. Pratt said there was going to be an upgrade to the backup system but that will be put off until next year.</li><li>• Mrs. Chastain asked where retired teachers would be used and Ms. Baldelli said it was in the shortage areas such as world languages and special education.</li><li>• Dr. Paddyfote said that these substitute positions were not used for day to day absences, rather for long term sub positions. The pay rate is a new rule handed down by the teachers' retirement board.</li><li>• Mrs. Chastain asked about the school survey and Mr. Smith said that 5% of the teachers' evaluation is tied to the school climate and this would be an annual survey conducted to determine that.</li></ul> | <b>2/28/14 and Request for Budget Transfers.</b> |
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|  | <p><b>The motion passed unanimously.</b></p> <p><b>C. Gifts &amp; Donations</b><br/> <b>1. PTO – Exhibit B</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Lawson moved to accept Gifts and Donations: PTO – Exhibit B in the amount of \$6,715.00, seconded by Mr. Coppola.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mrs. Faulenbach thanked the PTO for their gifts.</li> </ul> <p><b>The motion passed 6-0-1.</b><br/> Aye: Mr. Coppola, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Littlefield, Mrs. Shook, Mrs. Volinski<br/> Abstain: Mrs. Chastain</p> <p><b>D. Approval of the Following Curriculum</b><br/> <b>1. Writing Workshop</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Lawson moved to approve the following curriculum: Writing Workshop, seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Coppola said he was impressed with the curriculum and felt it would be good if it could be offered to 11<sup>th</sup> graders as well.</li> </ul> <p><b>The motion passed unanimously.</b></p> <p><b>E. Policy for Approval</b><br/> <b>1. 3313 Relations with Vendors</b></p> <p><b>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve the following policy: 3313 Relations with Vendors, seconded by Mrs. Chastain.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the changes were basically legal references and Dr. Paddyfote said the vendors have to assure non-discrimination in their workplaces.</li> </ul> | <p><b>C. Gifts &amp; Donations</b><br/> <b>1. PTO – Exhibit B</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed to accept Gifts and Donations: PTO – Exhibit B in the amount of \$6,715.00.</b></p> <p><b>D. Approval of the Following Curriculum</b><br/> <b>1. Writing Workshop</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following curriculum: Writing Workshop.</b></p> <p><b>E. Policy for Approval</b><br/> <b>1. 3313 Relations with Vendors</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following policy: 3313 Relations with Vendors</b></p> |
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| <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p><b>F. Policies for First Review</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. 1700 Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property</b></li> <li><b>2. 3300 Purchasing</b></li> <li><b>3. 3313.1 Local Purchasing</b></li> <li><b>4. 3516.3 Accident Prevention and Reporting</b></li> <li><b>5. 3516.4 Safety</b></li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Faulenbach said these policies were being presented to the Board for first review for thoughts and ideas. They would come back before the Board for second review at the next meeting and then finally for approval.</li> <li>• Mr. Coppola asked about policy 3313.3 giving preference to local merchants. Dr. Paddyfote said the Board has always had this policy but this adds responsiveness and customer service aspects to the policy.</li> <li>• Mr. Coppola asked how that would be defined and Dr. Paddyfote said the vendor should have a history of being responsive or not, providing the right product, etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>G. Five Year Capital Plan:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Facilities</b></li> <li><b>2. Technology</b></li> </ol> <p><b>Mr. Littlefield moved to approve the five year capital plans for: 1. Facilities and 2. Technology, seconded by Mr. Coppola.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Littlefield said there are some significant expenses including the new roof at Schaghticoke at \$1.7 million and an additional \$3.85 million in capital improvements over the next five years.</li> <li>• Mr. Coppola said the Board needs to figure out how to pay for these items including splitting them up over five years or taking them from capital reserve.</li> <li>• Mrs. Faulenbach noted that this plan was</li> </ul> | <p><b>F. Policies for First Review</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. 1700 Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property</b></li> <li><b>2. 3300 Purchasing</b></li> <li><b>3. 3313.1 Local Purchasing</b></li> <li><b>4. 3516.3 Accident Prevention and Reporting</b></li> <li><b>5. 3516.4 Safety</b></li> </ol> <p><b>G. Five Year Capital Plan:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Facilities</b></li> <li><b>2. Technology</b></li> </ol> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the five year capital plans for: 1. Facilities and 2. Technology.</b></p> |
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|           | <p>necessary to see what expenses might be on the radar for the future but could change with need.</p> <p><b>The motion passed unanimously.</b></p>  |   |
| <b>H.</b> | <p><b>Emergency Health and Safety Containment Process at Schaghticoke Middle School</b></p> <p><b>Mrs. Volinski moved to approve the Emergency Health and Safety Containment Process at Schaghticoke Middle School, seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Littlefield asked if this netting was guaranteed and Mr. Calhoun said it was guaranteed for 20 years.</li> <li>• Mr. Littlefield asked if the idea was to wait for the bats to leave and Mr. Calhoun said the netting is trapping the bats between the wall and the outside so they could not come back into the gym.</li> <li>• Mrs. Chastain asked if the gym would be sterilized and Mr. Calhoun said his staff would be doing that work.</li> </ul> <p><b>The motion passed unanimously.</b></p> | <p><b>H. Emergency Health and Safety Containment Process at Schaghticoke Middle School</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the Emergency Health and Safety Containment Process at Schaghticoke Middle School.</b></p>   |
| <b>I.</b> | <p><b>Connecticut's Educator Evaluation and Support System 2013-14 Flexibility Request</b></p> <p><b>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve Connecticut's Educator Evaluation and Support System 2013-14 Flexibility Request as proposed and to further move that the Board authorize the Superintendent and the Board Chair to sign the request on its behalf, seconded by Mrs. Chastain.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Coppola said he resented the fast turnaround on this application to be approved before March 30<sup>th</sup>. He said he heard the act was being put on hold for two years but really it</li> </ul>  | <p><b>I. Connecticut's Educator Evaluation and Support System 2013-14 Flexibility Request</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Connecticut's Educator Evaluation and Support System 2013-14 Flexibility Request as proposed and to further move that the Board authorize the Superintendent and the Board Chair to sign the request on its behalf.</b></p> |

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|     | <p>seems to be a rejugling of the design.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Smith said there is no connection between the teacher evaluation and the smarter balanced assessment. He said the statute has been amended with the waiver being allowed through the federal government.</li> <li>• Mr. Coppola said the evaluation was going to be two formal evaluations and two informal evaluations and now is one formal and three informal.</li> <li>• Mr. Smith said the flex option as requested based on the feedback of the Professional Growth and Development Committee was to reduce the student learning objectives from two to one which puts a lot of pressure on the one metric.</li> <li>• Mr. Coppola felt this would put a burden on the teachers. He said the teachers are being evaluated on the common core which is not clearly identified.</li> <li>• Mr. Smith said teacher evaluations would exist whether or not common core was in place.</li> <li>• Mr. Coppola was insistent that it was because of common core.</li> <li>• Mrs. Shook said she has been teaching for 15 years and she says she has always had goals. Now she has two goals.</li> <li>• Mr. Coppola said the goals are tied into the new curriculum.</li> </ul> <p><b>The motion passed unanimously.</b></p> |   |
| 11. | <p><b>Items for Information and Discussion</b></p> <p><b>A. Field Trip Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Coppola asked who was paying for the winter guard trips and Mr. Smith said the trips are all handled differently: some from the music department transportation line while the band parents pay for others.</li> <li>• Mr. Coppola asked who was paying for the trips and Mr. Smith said for example the March</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Items for Information and Discussion</b></p> <p><b>A. Field Trip Report</b></p> |

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|            | <p>18<sup>th</sup> Shelton trip will be paid for by the band parents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Paddyfote noted that the Board's policy was to approve donations of \$1,000 or greater so all donations were not brought before the Board.</li> <li>• Mr. Coppola asked what the educational value of the Lake Compounce trip for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class would be since the new philosophy is to keep students in the classroom. Mrs. Chastain asked if socialization of the students was not important. Mr. Coppola did not feel that was an adequate rationale. Mr. Smith said the day at Lake Compounce was a Force in Motion day where students would learn about the science and physics of roller coasters, etc.</li> <li>• Mrs. Shook noted that when she has taken classes to Lake Compounce they have entire packets of curriculum on their website as resources.</li> </ul> <p><b>B. Town of New Milford Audit Report dated June 30, 2013</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Faulenbach noted this was brought before the Operations Sub-Committee and she commended the administration on a job well done and also on the collaboration with the Town.</li> </ul> |  |
| <b>12.</b> | <p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Littlefield moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach and passed unanimously.</b></p>   | <p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.</b></p> |

Respectfully submitted:



Angela Chastain

Secretary

New Milford Board of Education