



New Milford Public Schools
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New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406
www.newmilfordps.org



New Milford High School
860-350-6647
Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal

Mr. Marc Balanda, Ass't. Principal
Mrs. Liz Curtis, Ass't. Principal
Dr. Christopher Longo, Ass't. Principal



Schaghticoke Middle School
860-354-2204
Mrs. Dana Ford, Principal

Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Ass't. Principal
Mrs. Suzi Greene, Ass't. Principal



Sarah Noble Intermediate School
860-210-4020
Dr. Len Tomasello, Principal

Mrs. Anne Bilko, Ass't. Principal
Mrs. Joan Kick, Ass't. Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Ass't. Principal
Dr. Don Naiman, Ass't. Principal



Hill & Plain Elementary School
860-354-5430
Dr. Anne Stuhlman, Principal

Mrs. Joan Kick, Ass't. Principal



John Pettibone Elementary School
860-354-3218
Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal

Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Ass't. Principal



Northville Elementary School
860-355-3713
Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal

Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Ass't. Principal

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Special Edition

September 2013

New Milford Board of Education Public Hearing September 24, 2013 7:00 p.m.—SNIS LMC

The Board of Education will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 in the Sarah Noble Intermediate School LMC beginning at 7:00 p.m. at which there will be a Public Hearing regarding the possible closing of a school due to declining enrollment.

Members of the New Milford School Facility Utilization & Study Committee will present information regarding their findings and recommendations. The public will have an opportunity to comment.

In preparation for the meeting, look inside this special edition of *Spotlight* to see:

- ➡ Why was the Committee formed?
- ➡ What process was followed?
- ➡ What were the findings?
- ➡ Where do we go from here?

All School Facility and Utilization Study Committee documents can be viewed on the [district website](#).

➔ Why was the School Facility Utilization and Study Committee formed?

The Committee, a comprehensive group of Board of Education members, New Milford School administrators and teachers, Town of New Milford representatives, parents, and other interested members of the community, was formed in the fall of 2012 with the first Kick-Off Meeting held in November 2012. Its mission was to plan for facility utilization in support of the schools' mission; to determine efficient use and allocation of resources in light of demographic/enrollment trends; and to identify alternatives to current facility uses, configuration, infrastructure, practices and/or procedures and their potential impacts.

➔ What process was followed?

The Committee met almost monthly through June of 2013, at which time they presented their findings at a special meeting of the Board of Education.

- ◆ November 2012—Kick-Off/Visioning Meeting
- ◆ December 2012—Analysis of Existing Conditions
- ◆ February 2013—Educational Programming Assessment And Development of Criteria for Alternatives
- ◆ March 2013—Review and Critique Preliminary Alternatives
- ◆ April 2013—Review of Additional Alternatives
- ◆ May 2013—Refine Alternative Scenarios and Reach Consensus on Preferred Alternative
- ◆ June 2013—Make Recommendations to BOE

➔ What were the findings?

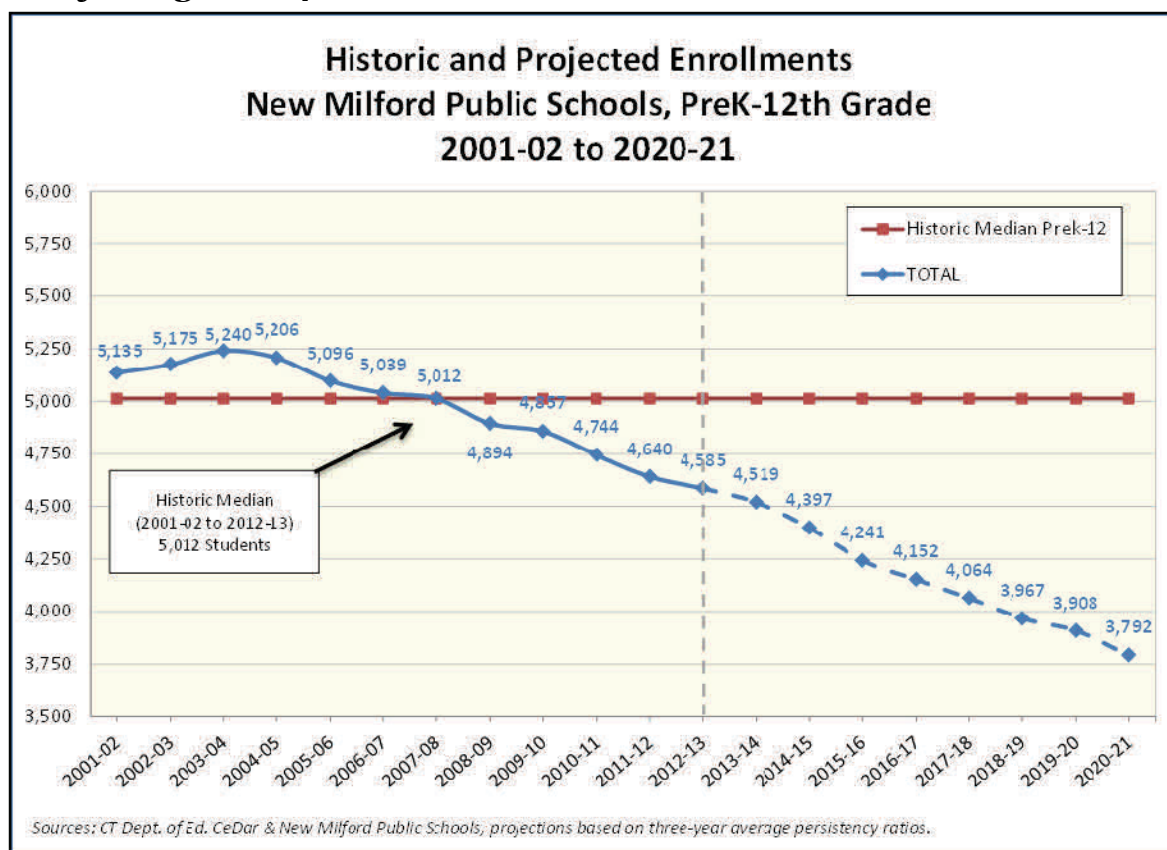


Total Enrollment for PreK-12 students peaked in 2003-04 at 5,204 students

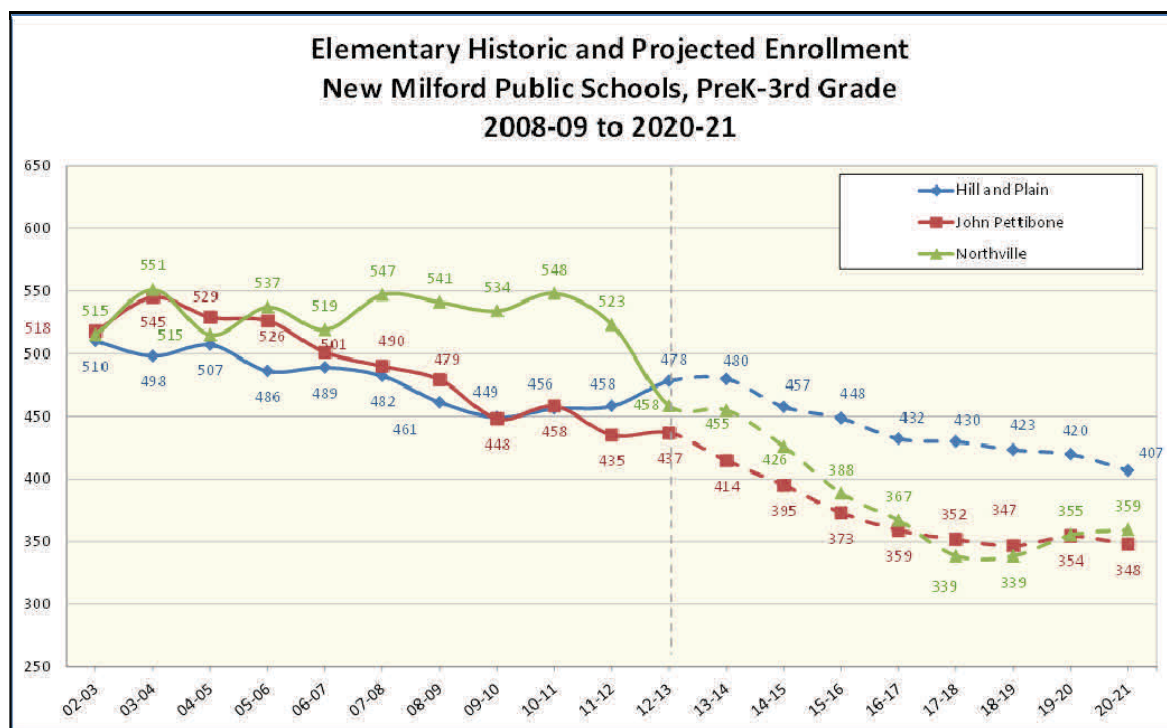
There has been a steady decline in enrollment since the peak to 2012-13 enrollment of 4,585 (Loss of 12%)

- Elementary Enrollments Down 10.5%
- Intermediate Enrollments Down 7.8%
- Middle Enrollments Down 9.2%
- High School Enrollments Down 6.8%

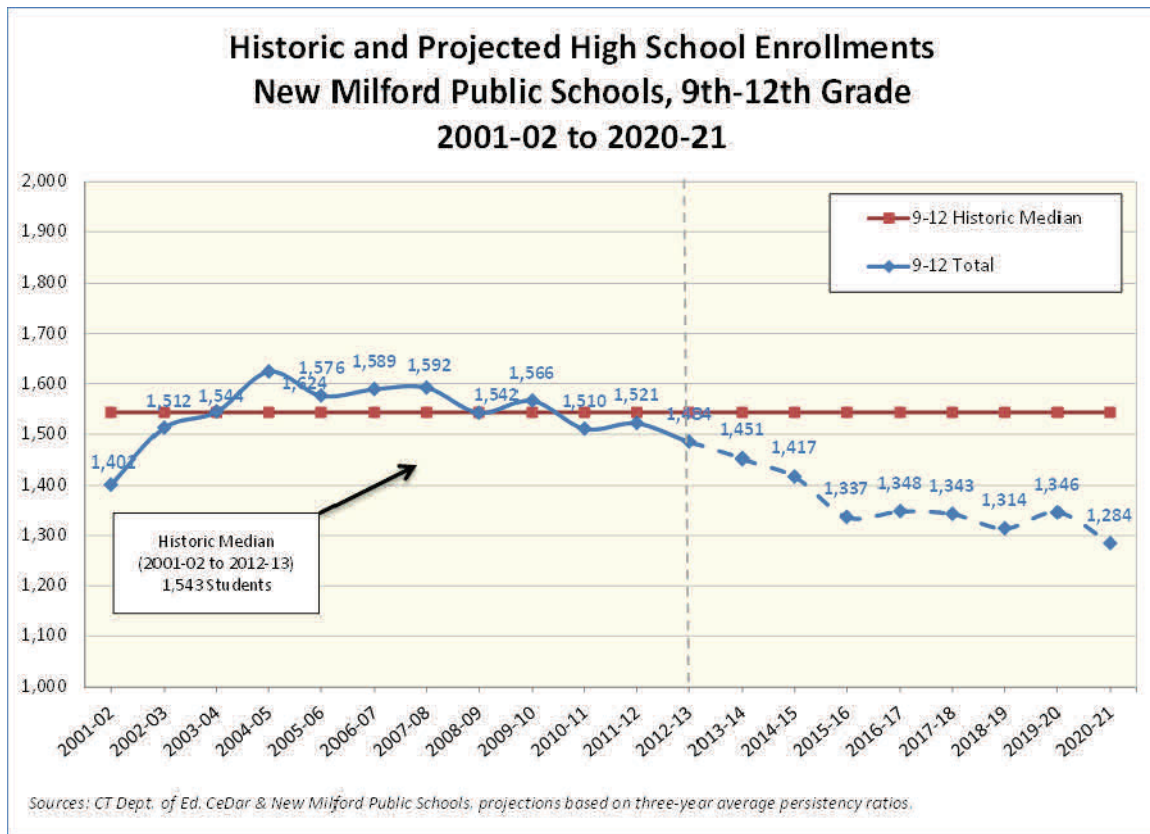
Projecting an 11.4% Decline in Total Enrollments Over Next Five Years



Projecting More Pronounced Loss in Enrollment at Northville and Pettibone



Projecting a 9.5% Enrollment Decline at Grades 9-12 by 2017-18



Five Alternatives Explored

Alternatives	Projected Facilities Utilization Rates	Committee Discussed Pros	Committee Discussed Cons
Scenario A - Grade Reconfiguration - No Consolidation - Pre K-2nd: HP, JP, NES - 3rd-5th: SNIS - 6th-8th: SMS	45% - 60% 65% - 90% 70% - 80%	- Same Number of School Transitions - Three-Year Middle School Presents Learning Opportunities - Room for Program Growth - Good Building to Program Fit - No Redistricting Required	- Does Not Improve Facility Utilization Rates at Elementary Schools
Scenario B - Grade Reconfiguration - Close Pettibone - Redistrict - Pre K-2nd: HP, NES - 3rd-5th: SNIS - 6th-8th: SMS	70% - 90% 65% - 90% 70% - 80%	- Improves Facility Utilization Rates - Same Number of School Transitions - Three-Year Middle School Presents Learning Opportunities - Room for Program Growth - Good Building to Program Fit	- Magnitude of Change - Closure of School
Scenario C - No Changes - Pre K-3rd: HP, JP, NES - 4th-6th: SNIS - 7th-8th: SMS	55% - 75% 65% - 90% 50% - 55%	- No Changes Required	- Inefficient Operations
Scenario D - Grade Reconfiguration - Close Pettibone - Redistrict - Pre K-5th: HP, NES, SNIS - 6th-8th: SMS	60% - 90% 70% - 80%	- Fewer and Later Student Transitions - Three-Year Middle School Presents Learning Opportunities - Improved Utilization Rates	- Magnitude of Change - Perceived Inequities Between Like-Grade Schools - Imbalanced Opportunities for Program Expansion Across Schools - Facilities Investments May Be Necessary (Elementary Cafeteria)
Scenario E - Grade Reconfiguration - Redistricting - No Consolidation - Pre K/K: JP - 1st-5th: HP, NES, SNIS - 6th-8th: SMS	50% - 75% 70% - 80%	- Same Number of Student Transitions - Three-Year Middle School Presents Learning Opportunities	- Magnitude of Change - Not as Significant Improvement in Utilization Rates - Transporting Youngest Students the Farthest - Perceived Inequities Between Like-Grade Schools - Imbalanced Opportunities for Program Expansion Across Schools - Facility Investments May Be Required (Early Learning Ctr Bathrooms)

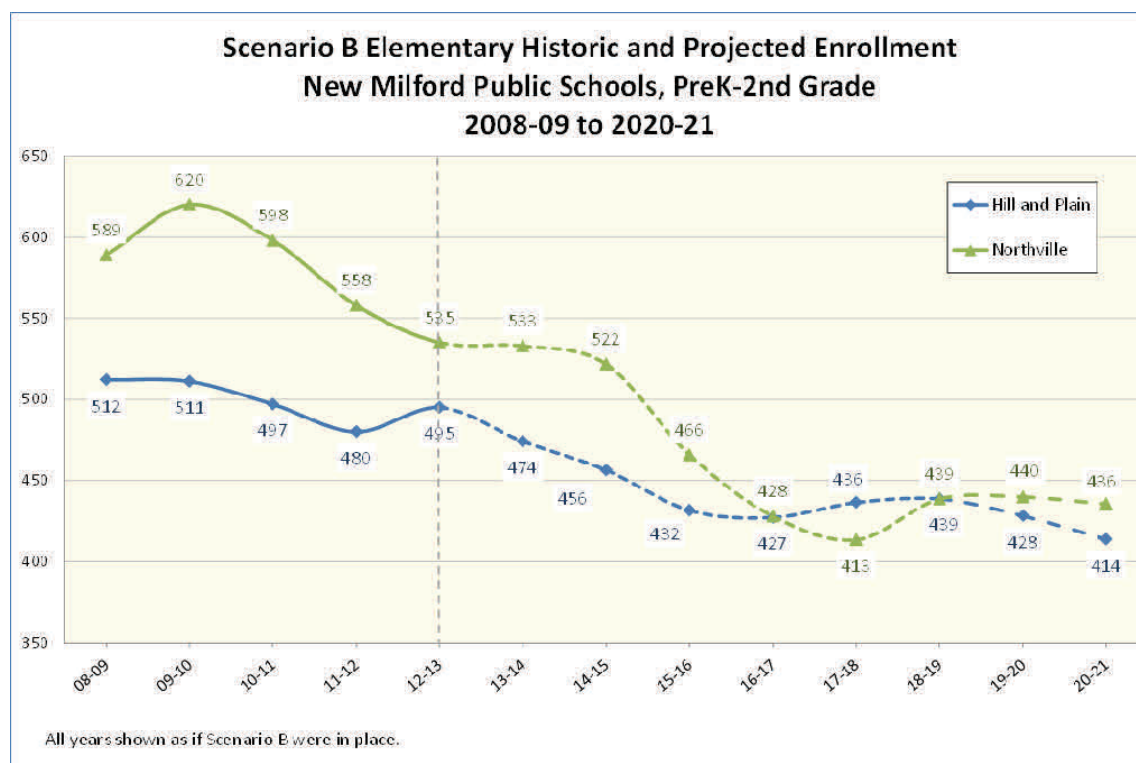
The Committee explored alternatives according to the following Criteria:

- **Maintain Low Class Sizes**
- **Responsibly Maintain or Reduce Operating Costs, While Ensuring the System's Ability to Respond to Future Needs**
- **Minimize Transportation Times and Costs to the Extent Possible**

Recommended to Proceed with Scenario B: Two PK-2nd Grade Schools

- ♦ **Close John Pettibone School**
- ♦ **PK-2nd at Hill & Plain and Northville**
 - ♦ **3rd Grade Moves up to SNIS**
 - ♦ **6th Grade Moves up to SMS**
- ♦ **Redistrict to Balance Enrollment at two Remaining Elementary Schools**

Scenario B Enrollment Projections



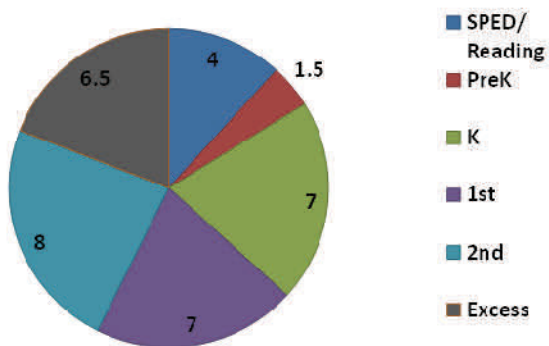
Scenario B Projected Class Sizes

- **No Average Class Sizes Greater than 19**
- **Larger Grade Cohorts Result in More Equivalent Class Sizes Across Schools**

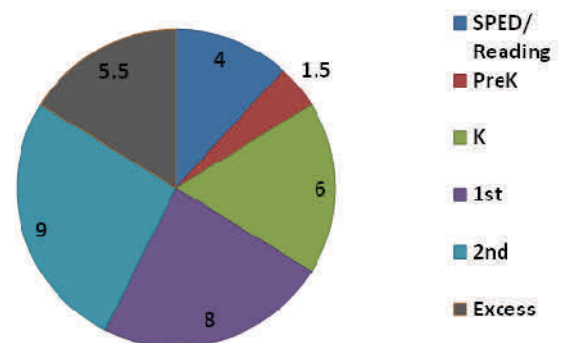
Scenario B Projected Average Class Sizes Using Current Average Class Sizes					
	SCHOOL	PreK	K	1st	2nd
2014-15	H&P	15	17	17	19
	NES	15	18	19	18
	DISTRICT	15	18	18	19
2015-16	H&P	15	17	18	17
	NES	15	18	19	18
	DISTRICT	15	18	18	18
2016-17	H&P	15	19	18	18
	NES	15	18	18	18
	DISTRICT	15	18	18	18
2017-18	H&P	15	19	17	18
	NES	15	19	19	18
	DISTRICT	15	19	18	18
2018-19	H&P	15	18	17	17
	NES	15	19	17	18
	DISTRICT	15	18	17	18
2019-20	H&P	15	17	18	17
	NES	15	18	19	19
	DISTRICT	15	18	19	18
2020-21	H&P	15	17	18	18
	NES	15	18	19	19
	DISTRICT	15	17	18	19

Scenario B Elementary Usage

Hill & Plain Scenario B Projected Classroom Usage 2015-16



Northville Scenario B Projected Classroom Usage 2015-16

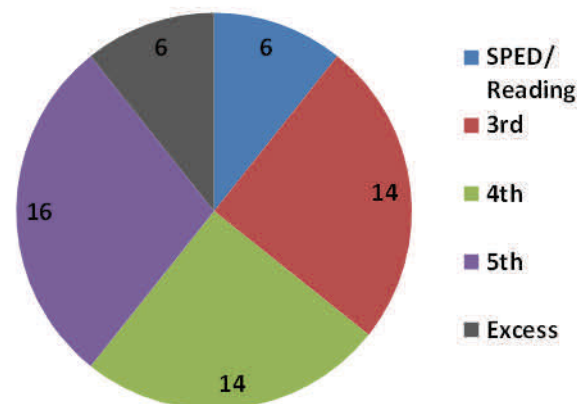


- **16% - 19% of Available Full-Size Classrooms in Excess of Current Programming Needs**
- **Current use of Art, Music, Computer, Guidance, Psych., Speech, Offices and other Necessary Rooms Remains Constant—Not Factored into Available Full-Size Classroom Counts**

Scenario B Sarah Noble Intermediate School Usage

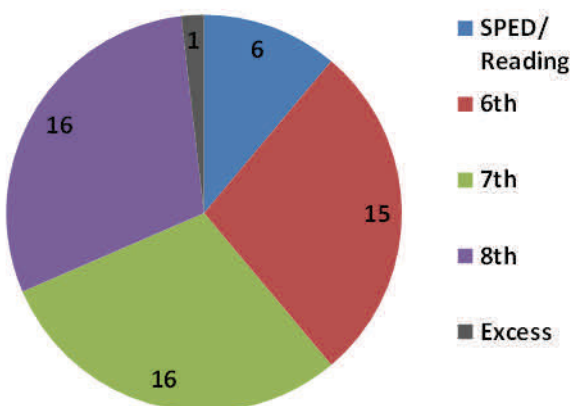
- **11% of Available Full-Size Classrooms in Excess of Current Programming Needs**
- **Current use of Art, Music, Computer, Guidance, Psych., Speech, Offices and other Necessary Rooms Remains Constant—Not Factored into Available Full-Size Classroom Counts**
- **Projected Increase in Excess Capacity**

Sarah Noble Scenario B Projected Classroom Usage 2015-16



Scenario B Schaghticoke Middle School Usage

Schaghticoke Scenario B Projected Classroom Usage 2015-16



- **2% of Available Full-Size Classrooms in Excess of Current Programming Needs**
- **Current use of Art, Music, Computer, Guidance, Psych., Speech, Offices and other Necessary Rooms Remains Constant—Not Factored into Available Full-Size Classroom Counts**
- **Projected Increase in Excess Capacity**

Scenario B Budgetary Impacts

*** Pettibone Non-Instructional Staff Savings**
Approximately \$635,000 Savings Annually
(from Admin., Nursing, Custodial, and Library Staff)

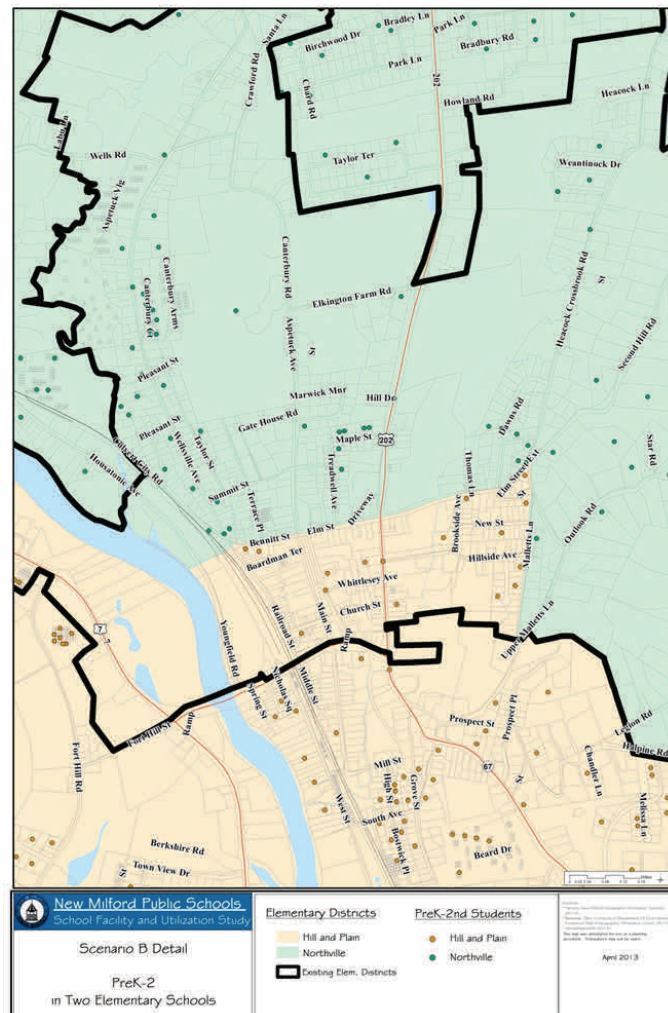
*** Pettibone Utilities Savings
(if closed and put on town books)**

Scenario B - Redistrict to Two Elementaries and Reconfigure Grade Structures (PreK-2, 3-5, 6-8)								
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
PreK - 2nd								
Hill and Plain	Total Projected Enrollment	456	432	427	436	439	428	415
	PreK Classrooms	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	K Classrooms	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
	1st - 2nd Classrooms	16	15	14	15	16	15	14
	TOTAL INSTRUCTIONAL	25	24	23	24	25	24	23
	Other Classrooms	9	10	11	10	9	10	11
	Lunch Waves	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Utilization	73.5%	70.6%	67.6%	70.6%	73.5%	70.6%	67.6%
Northville	Total Projected Enrollment	522	466	428	414	439	440	435
	PreK Classrooms	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	K Classrooms	8	6	7	7	7	7	7
	1st - 2nd Classrooms	18	17	14	13	15	14	14
	TOTAL INSTRUCTIONAL	28	25	23	22	24	23	23
	Other Classrooms	6	9	11	12	10	11	11
	Lunch Waves	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Utilization	82.4%	73.5%	67.6%	64.7%	70.6%	67.6%	67.6%
3rd - 5th								
Sarah Noble	Total Projected Enrollment	980	965	926	896	815	773	767
	3rd - 5th Classrooms	46	45	43	42	38	36	37
	Other Classrooms	10	11	13	14	18	20	19
	Min. # of Lunch Waves	3	3	3	3	3	3	2
	Utilization	82.1%	80.4%	76.8%	75.0%	67.9%	64.3%	66.1%
6th - 8th								
Schaghticoke	Total Projected Enrollment	1,024	1,044	1,024	977	963	923	893
	6th - 8th Rooms Needed	49	49	47	45	45	44	42
	Academic Rooms	37	37	35	33	33	32	30
	Science Rooms	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
	Language Rooms	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
	Other Classrooms	8	8	10	12	12	13	15
	Min. # of Lunch Waves	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
	Utilization	80.3%	80.3%	77.0%	73.8%	73.8%	72.1%	68.9%

Assumptions:
 Max. Class Sizes of 18 for K-2nd, and 22 for 3rd-8th
 2 sections of PreK per Elem. School in One Classroom per Elem. School
 Utilization Calculated by dividing Instructional Classrooms Required by Total Classrooms.

Scenario B Redistricting

**Divide Pettibone
District Between
Hill & Plain and
Northville
at
Bennitt/Elm Streets
and
Malletts Lane**



Scenario B Findings

- ◆ **Cost Savings**
- ◆ **Redistricts Approximately 335 Students**
- ◆ **Easier to Maintain Equitable and Even Class Sizes within Goal Range, Given Larger Grade Cohorts at 2 Elementaries**
- ◆ **Improved Utilization of HPS, NES and SMS**



**New Milford Public
Schools**
50 East Street
New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406

Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote
Superintendent

Mr. Joshua Smith
Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Ellamae Baldelli
Human Resources Director

Mr. John Calhoun
Facilities Manager

Mr. Gregg Miller
Fiscal Services Director

Mrs. Laura Olson
Pupil Personnel and Special
Services Director

Ms. Roberta Pratt
Technology Director

Mrs. Sandra Sullivan
Food Services Director

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Mr. William Wellman

The Board of Education will look at additional data to help with their planning process including:

- ◆ **Updated enrollment data for 2013-14**
- ◆ **Transportation routes**
- ◆ **Student and staff assignment simulation including special education services for 2014-15 and 2015-16**
- ◆ **Detailed cost-avoidance estimates for a Pettibone closure**
- ◆ **Estimate of expenses to close/move facilities**
- ◆ **Estimate of expenses to improve SMS cafeteria lunch service to accommodate additional enrollment**

The Board will use this data in conjunction with public input to determine what action will provide the most responsible way to maintain or reduce operating costs, while ensuring the system's ability to respond to future needs.

Board of Education meetings are always open to the public. Meeting dates are posted on the district website. As meetings occur, minutes from each meeting are posted as well.

Watch for future issues of the *Spotlight on New Milford Schools* for updates...

The mission of the New Milford Public Schools, a collaborative partnership of students, educators, family and community, is to prepare each and every student to compete and excel in an ever-changing world, embrace challenges with vigor, respect and appreciate the worth of every human being, and contribute to society by providing effective instruction and dynamic curriculum, offering a wide range of valuable experiences, and inspiring students to pursue their dreams and aspirations.

Where do we go from here?