

**New Milford Board of Education
 Regular Meeting Minutes
 August 18, 2020
 New Milford High School Library Media Center**

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NEW MILFORD, CT

Present:	Mrs. Angela C. Chastain Mr. Joseph Failla Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Pete Helmus Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan Mrs. Cynthia Nabozny Mrs. Olga I. Rella
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Also Present:	Dr. Paul Smotas, Interim Superintendent of Schools Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Operations and Fiscal Services Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Mr. Kevin Munrett, Director of Facilities Mr. Brandon Rush, Director of Technology
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1. A.	Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance The regular meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mrs. Chastain. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance
2.	Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Chastain requested that speakers stay to the three minute limit and use the Zoom raise hand feature to be recognized. • Andrea Norem, a teacher, said she is concerned about the well-being of students, staff, and families. She is also worried about compliance issues that may occur regarding social distancing. • Roseann Petruso said she is dismayed that the district is not opening with five days of in person attendance and asked why the shift was made to hybrid with numbers so low in CT. She said remote learning is not equitable. The Hybrid 	Public Comment

model creates issues with child care, both finding it and additional costs.

- Megan Byrd said she favors the Hybrid model due to space issues but acknowledged the child care issue. She asked the district to work with the Town to assess the scope of the problem and find new options. She said the district also needs to survey parents again in light of the Hybrid model.
- Lisa Mosey, SMS teacher, said the district needs a consistent protocol spelled out for what happens when students are not compliant with mask wearing.
- Jaclyn Mattison, HPS Special Education teacher, asked for an explanation as to why simple life style changes that would benefit teachers, such as air conditioners and not having to go into the building on Wednesdays are being dismissed.
- Christina Reddington said she is frustrated not to know what days her children are assigned yet so that she can make child care arrangements. She said the Hybrid's child care challenges will lead to increased exposure.
- Mikki Harkin said she would like to see the proposed Integrated Tech Specialists not limited to certified teachers. She said the cancellation of the August 29 SAT has students scrambling. She urged the district to allow the September 26 test to take place.
- Dyane Rizzo, SMS Special Education teacher, said she is fearful in light of the uptick in cases of COVID-19 in children. She urged the district to plan for what is best to keep kids safe.
- Merima Trako said she sent a letter to the Board cosigned by 40 parents regarding child care challenges. She said foremost she wants a place where children can have meaningful learning and the Hybrid will not provide that. The district and Town need to find creative ways to bring children to a place where their learning can be monitored.
- Kim Patella, CEA NM representative and SMS teacher, said the biggest concern is with teachers' schedules. The middle school model

	<p>requires teachers to move between 4-8 times to different environments that they have no control over. She said the 25 minute lunch in a COVID situation is appalling. She said air purifiers should be viewed as an investment and would make a huge difference in staff and student general health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim Foss, CEA NM representative and SMS teacher, said she is very concerned with how COVID moves in the air and ceiling fans in classrooms will not solve the problem. • Susan Swanson, SMS teacher, asked what happens when a teacher gets sick since substitutes are already hard to find. She said health and safety issues have already been discussed and while education is important, maintaining lives is first priority. • Angela Herdter, SMS teacher, asked what the communication protocols will be for when someone does get COVID and also about protocols for closing. She said there is a disparity in instructional time with SMS versus the other schools. • Joyce Tuz, grade 5 teacher, said teachers are anxiously awaiting Hybrid details. She said it will not be effective to teach in person and remotely at the same time. • Holly asked how lockdown and fire drills will be handled with social distancing requirements. She asked how buildings will be disinfected with teachers still there on Wednesdays. • Melissa Healey asked if any consideration has been given to a year round school model. • Lisa Joseph said safety is a concern but so is a child's education and the Hybrid model doesn't work for her. She said it is a disservice to students not to open for five days a week. 	
<p>3.</p> <p>A.</p>	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</p>	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</p>

	<p>1. Special Meeting Minutes July 21, 2020</p> <p>Mrs. Rella moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes July 21, 2020, seconded by Mr. McCauley. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>2. Regular Meeting Minutes July 21, 2020</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes July 21, 2020, seconded by Mr. McCauley.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>3. Special Meeting Minutes July 28, 2020</p> <p>Mrs. Rella moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes July 28, 2020, seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach.</p> <p>The motion passed 8-0-1, with Mr. McCauley abstaining.</p> <p>4. Special Meeting Minutes August 6, 2020</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes August 6, 2020, seconded by Mrs. Rella.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>1. Special Meeting Minutes July 21, 2020</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes July 21, 2020.</p> <p>2. Regular Meeting Minutes July 21, 2020</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes July 21, 2020.</p> <p>3. Special Meeting Minutes July 28, 2020</p> <p>Motion made and passed to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes July 28, 2020.</p> <p>4. Special Meeting Minutes August 6, 2020</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes August 6, 2020.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Superintendent's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Smotas thanked the public for their comments tonight and referenced common themes of child care and cleaning. He said 	<p>Superintendent's Report</p>

	<p>whether the district opened in full, hybrid or remotely, it is clear that not everyone would be happy. The final touches to the Hybrid plan will be made by administrators tomorrow afternoon and will go out to families at the end of the week. There may be minor tweaking following review by stakeholders. The Board will meet with New Milford Police representatives later this evening. Tomorrow he has a meeting with CEA NM representatives. Friday there is a meeting with the Mayor and others to see if they can work together on some alternative programs for child care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. McInerney asked if the Zoom sessions are still on for next week. Dr. Smotas said yes, they will be scheduled. 	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Board Chairman's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the interest of time, Mrs. Chastain did not give a report. 	<p>Board Chairman's Report</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>A. Policies for Approval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6141.321-4118.4-4218.4 Responsible Use of Technology, Social Media, District Network Systems <p>Mr. McCauley moved to approve policy 6141.321-4118.4-4218.4 Responsible Use of Technology, Social Media, District Network Systems, seconded by Mrs. Rella.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Nabozny asked if parents would see the consent form prior to distribution so they would know what they were signing on for. Mr. Rush said they will; he is hoping to have a final digital version for parents to fill out. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>A. Policies for Approval</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 6141.321-4118.4-4218.4 Responsible Use of Technology, Social Media, District Network Systems <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve policy 6141.321-4118.4-4218.4 Responsible Use of Technology, Social Media, District Network Systems.</p>

<p>2. 4118.113/4218.113 Title IX Sexual Harassment 3. 5145.7 Title IX Sexual Harassment of Students</p> <p>Mrs. Rella moved to approve policies 4118.113/4218.113 Title IX Sexual Harassment and 5145.7 Title IX Sexual Harassment of Students, seconded by Mrs. Monaghan.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>B. Policies for Second Review</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 9320 Meetings of the Board 2. 9325 Meeting Conduct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Chastain said these policies would be back next month for approval. • Mrs. McInerney said she appreciated the wording change. • Mr. Failla suggested guardian be added to parent and Mrs. Chastain said the change would be noted. <p>C. Authorization of Signatory on School District Accounts – Exhibit B</p> <p>Mrs. Monaghan moved to approve Exhibit B – Authorization of Signatory on School District Accounts, seconded by Mrs. Rella.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>D. Flexible Spending Account Amendments</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve the Flexible Spending Account Amendments, seconded by Mrs. Rella.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>2. 4118.113/4218.113 Title IX Sexual Harassment 3. 5145.7 Title IX Sexual Harassment of Students</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve policies 4118.113/4218.113 Title IX Sexual Harassment and 5145.7 Title IX Sexual Harassment of Students.</p> <p>B. Policies for Second Review</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 9320 Meetings of the Board 2. 9325 Meeting Conduct <p>C. Authorization of Signatory on School District Accounts – Exhibit B</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Exhibit B – Authorization of Signatory on School District Accounts.</p> <p>D. Flexible Spending Account Amendments</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the Flexible Spending Account Amendments.</p>
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<p>E. NMHS Student Parking Fee</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney moved to suspend the NMHS Student Parking Fee for the first semester of the 2020-21 School Year, seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Failla said he thinks this is a great thing and hopes it will continue for the whole year. He has been vocal in the past as being opposed to any student fees, especially the many assessed to our senior students.• Mr. Helmus suggested the motion be reworded to state suspended until back to full attendance.• Mrs. McInerney said she would support a motion to suspend the fee for the full year in light of the district encouraging less bus use and she said that would help parents plan going forward too.• Mrs. Faulenbach said that amendment could be suggested now or the Board could revisit the issue later instead. <p>Mrs. McInerney moved to amend the motion to suspend the NMHS Student Parking Fee for the 2020-21 school year, seconded by Mr. Failla.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Monaghan said she would support the amendment in light of other expenses.• Mrs. Chastain noted that the budget would need to be adjusted by approximately \$60,000 in lost revenue.• Mrs. Faulenbach was doubtful lost revenue could be correlated as a COVID-19 expenditure but asked Mr. Giovannone for confirmation. Mr. Giovannone said it would not qualify.• Mrs. Faulenbach said they could vote on the amendment and if it fails the original motion would stand.• Mrs. Nabozny said she would support the semester for now and revisit if needed.• Mrs. Rella agreed.• Mrs. Faulenbach said she was of that mind set as well. So many financial components are fluid right now. She thinks it is better to revisit.	<p>E. NMHS Student Parking Fee</p> <p>Motion made to suspend the NMHS Student Parking Fee for the first semester of the 2020-21 School Year.</p> <p>Amendment made to the main motion, to suspend the NMHS Student Parking Fee for the 2020-21 school year.</p>
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<p>Amendment failed 2-7, with Mr. Failla and Mrs. McInerney voting yes.</p> <p>The main motion passed 8-1, with Mr. Helmus voting no.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Smotas said that in other districts he had been in, parking fee revenue went back to students towards prom, graduation etc.• Mr. Failla said he wished that was the case in New Milford and maybe should be considered at budget time.• Mrs. Faulenbach said this is a reminder that the parking fee has been waived for the first semester. <p>F. COVID-19 Related Materials Request</p> <p>Mrs. Rella moved to approve the COVID-19 Related Materials Request in the amount of \$27,565, seconded by Mrs. McInerney.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Faulenbach said she is concerned with the specificity of this dollar amount. She said with the situation still fluid, other items will be needed besides these and she wouldn't want to hold up needed ordering while another meeting is scheduled.• Mr. Munrett agreed that other items such as dividers, fans, and signage will be needed and waiting could create issues.• Dr. Smotas asked for clarification regarding cost of air purifiers. Mr. Munrett said they had ordered five units to cover the nurses' offices at a cost of \$4,900 each.• Mrs. McInerney asked about the dividers. Mr. Munrett said they will provide physical barriers for food services workers and for shared tables at SMS.• Mrs. Faulenbach asked for clarification regarding ceiling fans ordered. Mr. Munrett said they had ordered 30, at a cost of between \$150	<p>Amendment failed.</p> <p>Main motion passed.</p> <p>F. COVID-19 Related Materials Request</p> <p>Motion made to approve the COVID-19 Related Materials Request in the amount of \$27,565.</p>
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and \$200; he would double check cost. They are not on this list.

- Mrs. Faulenbach said it is clear that other supplies will be needed as days go on and it is important to provide some flexibility.

Mrs. Faulenbach moved to amend the motion to approve COVID-19 Related Materials Requests not to exceed \$200,000, seconded by Mrs. Chastain.

- Mrs. Faulenbach said the “not to exceed” component is important. Due diligence and collaboration with the Town has been done and we know the funds are available to be used for this purpose.
- Mrs. Chastain said the additional materials purchases don’t have to be just Facilities related either; there are other areas with needs. It is critical to have some flexibility going forward.
- Mrs. Monaghan asked how much money would remain in the COVID account if this is approved. Mrs. Chastain said there would be approximately \$1.25 million left.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said the good news is that the district worked hard in collaboration with the Town to have this money. The next agenda item will be for an additional amount for personnel.
- Mr. Helmus said he liked the idea of widening the scope while putting a cap on the total.
- Mrs. Rella asked if the fans purchased would be installed by September 8. Mr. Munrett said he is confident they will be.
- Mrs. McNerney noted that the Town has a revenue line for COVID too if the Board exceeds its funding.
- Mrs. Faulenbach confirmed that there is a \$1 million buffer if the COVID account funds are extinguished and identified needs remain, but it is for Town and Board needs both.
- Mrs. McNerney said she wanted to continue the discussion about the fans and blowing air. What are the guidelines?

Amendment made to the main motion, to approve COVID-19 Related Materials Requests not to exceed \$200,000.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Munrett said they are following state guidelines regarding drawing air up from the floor or outdoors. These fans are for rooms with no exterior windows.• Mrs. Rella asked about rooms with windows. Mr. Munrett said they are trying to address as many as possible that need additional ventilation.• Mrs. McInerney continued to question the safety.• Mr. Helmus said they have financial limitations and can't put a purifier in every room. They are following the guidelines given from the State Health Department and reacting to the situation they are given.• Mrs. McInerney said she wanted it noted for the record that she doesn't think this takes care of ventilation issues in our schools and she asked if other options have been reviewed.• Mr. Failla said he supports Mr. Helmus' comments. We must depend on state guidelines for safety and do the best we can. Resources are not unlimited.• Mr. Helmus said the Board needs to trust the administration's professional judgment and decision making.• Mrs. McInerney said she disagrees and thinks she was elected to question and do due diligence. <p>The amendment passed unanimously.</p> <p>G. COVID-19 Related Staffing Requests (REVISED)</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve COVID-19 Related Staffing Requests not to exceed \$750,000, seconded by Mr. McCauley.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Faulenbach said this is in the same spirit of the previous motion. The two combined will total \$950,000 maximum, which combined with previously approved COVID expenditures is just under the \$2 million from the COVID account. She said the memo identifies areas of staffing needs. Positions correlate with the COVID	<p>The amendment passed unanimously.</p> <p>G. COVID-19 Related Staffing Requests (REVISED)</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve COVID-19 Related Staffing Requests not to exceed \$750,000.</p>
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account as they are not anticipated to be long term.

- Mr. Failla asked for clarification that the LHTC memo request is separate. Ms. Baldelli said that was eliminated from the revised memo and will be part of the operating budget.
- Mrs. McInerney said she was pleased to see the Nurse Facilitator position recommended in the revised memo. Mrs. Olson said it will be a contracted service.
- Mrs. Chastain said she would like to add a recommendation to the staff component to encourage assistance to Human Resources, in light of the additional union negotiations and staff management due to the pandemic.
- Mr. Helmus said he agreed it is needed based on the work load.
- Mrs. Faulenbach agreed that a position is needed to get through the year. These staffing requests in general are directly correlated to the COVID-19 crisis and not part of the operational budget.
- Mrs. Rella said she totally agreed.
- Mrs. Monaghan asked what the position would entail. Ms. Baldelli said it would be a combination of administrative and secretarial day to day help.
- Mr. Helmus asked about cost. Dr. Smotas said it will be a professional position with cost to be determined.

The motion passed unanimously.

H. Discussion of security strategy, as well as the deployment of security personnel, and/or devices affecting security, as well as emergency plans in the New Milford Public Schools. Executive Session is anticipated. The Board may take action when it returns to public session.

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	<p>Mr. Helmus moved that the Board enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing security strategy, as well as the deployment of security personnel, and/or devices affecting security, as well as emergency plans in the New Milford Public Schools, and to invite into the session Dr. Paul Smotas, Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, New Milford Police Chief Spencer Cerruto, Lieutenant Wheeler and Captain Wilcoxson, seconded by Mrs. McInerney.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>The Board entered executive session at 9:28 p.m.</p> <p>The Board returned to public session at 9:55 p.m.</p> <p>Mrs. Nabozny moved that the Board approve the MOU regarding School Safety and Security Initiatives Jointly Enacted by the New Milford Board of Education and the New Milford Police Department, as discussed in executive session, and to authorize Dr. Smotas and the Board Chair to sign it on the Board’s behalf, seconded by Mrs. McInerney.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion made and passed unanimously that the Board enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing security strategy, as well as the deployment of security personnel, and/or devices affecting security, as well as emergency plans in the New Milford Public Schools, and to invite into the session Dr. Paul Smotas, Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, New Milford Police Chief Spencer Cerruto, Lieutenant Wheeler and Captain Wilcoxson.</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously that the Board approve the MOU regarding School Safety and Security Initiatives Jointly Enacted by the New Milford Board of Education and the New Milford Police Department, as discussed in executive session, and to authorize Dr. Smotas and the Board Chair to sign it on the Board’s behalf.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Items For Information And Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Chastain said these are items of information only since the Board had authorized the Superintendent’s approval during summer months. <p>A. Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated August 18, 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. McInerney asked if all positions are filled. Ms. Baldelli said there are four certified openings: Physics and Health/PE/Med Tech at the high school, a Math Interventionist at SMS, and Music at SNIS. 	<p>Items For Information And Discussion</p> <p>A. Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated August 18, 2020</p>

	<p>B. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget Position dated July 31, 2020 2. Purchase Resolution: D-737 (REVISED) 3. Request for Budget Transfers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no questions. <p>C. Regulations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 4118.113/4218.113 Title IX Sexual Harassment 2. 5145.7 Procedures for Reports and Complaints of Sexual Harassment of Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Chastain said these regulations go along with the policies approved early and are provided as an item of information since the Board does not approve regulations. 	<p>B. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget Position dated July 31, 2020 2. Purchase Resolution: D-737 (REVISED) 3. Request for Budget Transfers <p>C. Regulations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 4118.113/4218.113 Title IX Sexual Harassment 2. 5145.7 Procedures for Reports and Complaints of Sexual Harassment of Students
<p>8.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Nabozny and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn at 9:59 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



Wendy Faulenbach
 Secretary
 New Milford Board of Education

