

New Milford Board of Education
 Budget Hearing & Meeting Minutes
 January 19, 20, 26 & 27, 2016
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center

RECEIVED
 TOWN CLERK
 2016 FEB - 1 A 9:00

NEW MILFORD, CT

Budget Hearing Minutes
 January 19, 2016
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center

Present:	Mr. David A. Lawson, Chairperson Mrs. Angela C. Chastain Mr. Robert Coppola Mr. Bill Dahl Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Dave Littlefield Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mr. J.T. Schemm
----------	--

Also Present:	Mr. Joshua Smith, Interim Superintendent-Elect Dr. Eugenia Slone, Acting Assistant Superintendent of Schools Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources Mr. Jay Hubelbank, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Mr. Kevin Munrett, Facilities Manager Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Ms. Roberta Pratt, Director of Technology Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal, Hill and Plain Elementary School Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal, Northville Elementary School Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School Dr. Len Tomasello, Principal, Schaghticoke Middle School
---------------	--

1.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance The budget hearing meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Lawson, Chairperson. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance
2.	Presentation by Mr. Joshua Smith of the 2016-2017 School Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Lawson noted that there would be several presentations tonight and asked the members of the Board to hold their questions until after each presentation. • Mr. Smith began the 2016-2017 budget 	Presentation by Mr. Joshua Smith of the 2016-2017 School Budget

presentation by thanking the staff, especially as the financial system and process is new this year. He told the Board that the budget was driven by the mission: *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.*

- The budget as presented is designed to be fiscally responsible while maintaining or improving the quality of programs. Mr. Smith highlighted some of the district results including the high school accreditation positive final report, the AP test scores which included 80% at a grade three or higher, 30% in AP enrollment, sports participation, Project Lead the Way, elementary math yielding positive results, reduction of at-risk students in math and reading, special education students scoring above the state average on the SBAC test, and technology undergoing major improvements.
- A priority of this budget is on preparing students for college and career readiness through improving student learning opportunities, aligning social studies and science curriculum with new state standards, funding college readiness opportunities, and continually addressing special needs student issues.
- A second priority in this budget is student health and wellness needs which are being supported through the increase in guidance counseling at the elementary level.
- The third priority is to update and strengthen the district infrastructure, communication and technology resources.
- Mr. Smith noted that there are some items not in this budget that may be done within this

	<p>school year that will be cost neutral.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The budget was examined for cost efficiencies; to address health, safety and facility concerns; adhere to class size practices; comply with federal and state mandates; and to honor all collective bargaining agreements. Approximately 85% of the budget is comprised of salaries and benefits.• Mr. Smith noted that this is a transition year from the old accounting system to MUNIS and there are differences in format: salaries are now listed as adjusted actuals; there are old account codes and new account codes given; details and notes do not appear the same way as in the past as custom built reports will take time and money; and some budget lines were combined to reduce redundancy.• Salaries are 59% of the budget, benefits 16%, energy 2%, transportation 8%, and all other items are 15% which includes professional development, contracted services, curriculum development, etc.• Benefits are one of the biggest drivers in this budget as the cost has increased and last year the town had moved \$400,000 into the benefit fund to help defray costs artificially.• Program improvements proposed for 2016-2017 include increasing the K-2 guidance counselors to full time, additional funding of \$25,000 for K-8 field trips, and added funding to provide summer school opportunities for general education students.• The budget challenges continue to include partially funded and unfunded mandates. Some partially funded mandates include adult education, excess cost and state agency placements, and special education services. Unfunded mandates include 504 accommodations, ADA, alternate education programs for expelled students, and non-public school transportation to name a few.• Mr. Smith explained that the cost of benefits for the district is being projected by the town at \$9,475,100. The employee cost share of that is \$2,226,649 leaving \$7,248,452 to be budgeted.	
--	--	--

Last year the town, during the budget process, contributed \$400,000 to the health care bottom line but there is no word of that happening this year which means the Board needs to budget for an \$807,211 increase.

- Some of the reductions in the budget being proposed to offset other increases include reducing curriculum development, reducing special education transportation of students who will age out of the program, reducing utilities, and reducing certified staff by two due to declining enrollment.
- Another strategy being utilized is to flat fund for supplies, texts, materials, and equipment where possible.
- This budget proposes a conservative projection for excess cost reimbursement of 70% due to historical reimbursement ranges of 65% to 100%.
- This budget does not include increased Grade 6 Health instruction for next year. There is no additional Spanish teacher for Schaghticoke nor is there a second library media specialist at the high school despite the NEASC recommendation. The capital budget is not completely restored nor have additional options been added to meet the diverse needs of high school students.
- The total budget request increase is \$1,944,344 or 3.17% over the current budget.
- Mr. Smith pointed out that the per pupil spending for New Milford is one of the lower in this DRG and well below state average but that the achievement on test scores such as SATs and SBACs is at the state average.
- Mrs. Faulenbach noted that Mr. Smith said some items might come before sub-committees this year and wondered how that would impact the 2016-2017 budget. Mr. Smith said the idea would be to keep these proposed programs cost neutral. For instance, in Grade 6 the students are only scheduled to have seven hours of Health instruction a year but this is the age where students deal with a lot of anxiety and wellness issues so the proposal might be to

	<p>look at the current PE teachers' course loads and reallocate some time to Health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Littlefield asked about the second library media specialist noting that students who stay after school for sports should be able to study in the library. Mr. Smith said that if we could support another library media specialist there would be a split schedule for the library media specialists which would allow the library to remain open longer. • Mr. Coppola asked if the Board had initiated talks with the Town about a contribution to the health insurance and Mr. Lawson said he had just scheduled a meeting with the Mayor. • Mrs. Faulenbach said the Board knew last year this could be a big number this year. • Mr. Schemm asked how the Board requested increases compared to the Town's final approval. • Mrs. Faulenbach asked about the staffing increase and Mr. Smith said it would be adding a net of one position. • Mr. Coppola asked about the special education budget where currently six out of district placements are budgeted and already filled for the year. Mrs. Olson said this is a volatile budget line but they are still budgeting for six positions for next year. • Mr. Lawson apologized for not previously introducing Dr. Slone who has joined the district as the Acting Assistant Superintendent. 	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Discussion of the 2016-2017 School Budget including, but not limited to, Elementary Schools and the Intermediate School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal of Northville Elementary School, thanked the Board for allowing her the opportunity to address them. She noted this year has been a melding of staff members and collaboration at work. The social worker, who is new this year, divides her time between two schools but has been a good addition. The social worker does crisis counseling, 504 meetings, PPT meetings and 	<p>Discussion of the 2016-2017 School Budget including, but not limited to, Elementary Schools and the Intermediate School</p>

provides additional resources. She said the guidance counselors teach classes back-to-back and have a difficult time providing consultation to teachers with their schedules. Mrs. Murray said school success for young children is really based on how they feel about school, whether they feel safe and secure. Guidance counselors help students manage feelings of anxiety and anger.

- Mrs. Chastain asked if the guidance counselor and social worker were two different people and Mrs. Murray said yes.
- Mr. Coppola asked for clarification of the guidance counselor positions and Mr. Smith said each elementary position would be increased to full time.
- Mr. Coppola asked if the salary percentage included step increases and Mr. Smith said the step increases are budgeted outside the general wage increase.
- Mr. Smith said the salaries listed are the actual people in that building. Mrs. Faulenbach asked for confirmation that the total was for the whole school and Mr. Hubelbank said it was.
- Mr. Coppola asked why the professional services line had increased by 47% and Mrs. Kelleher said that was to bring in speakers who might do a series of presentations for students such as Pratt Center programming for grades K-2 and that format costs more than stand alone presentations.
- Mr. Coppola asked about the instructional supplies line and Mrs. Kelleher said the instructional supplies are the general supplies which are spread throughout the building.
- Mr. Hubelbank said the overall former 611 line of supplies was down all across the budget.
- Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the same format was used for 611 budgeting as previously, which was a targeted amount, and Mr. Hubelbank said the administration develops a target every year which is based on enrollment and per pupil costs and the schools then determine what they need.
- Mrs. McInerney asked why the increase at Hill

and Plain was 5.25% but only 1% at Northville and less than 1% at Sarah Noble and Mr. Hubelbank said it was a function of salaries and staff with different staff members earning different salaries.

- Mr. Coppola asked why the workbooks line was increasing by 10% and Mrs. Kelleher said these are consumable workbooks for students such as Sit and Spell and Quickwords.
- Mr. Coppola asked why there was a 25% decrease in English supplies and Mr. Hubelbank said supplies were bought last year that are still usable so the budget was less for this year.
- Mr. Smith said many of the general supplies were moved into this line because it is a building based budget.
- Mr. Schemm asked if each building had its own budget to allocate how was parity assured and Mr. Hubelbank said it was based on history and enrollment.
- Mr. Schemm noted that Northville was approximately \$300 different in per pupil than Hill & Plain. Mr. Hubelbank said there are 25 more students at Hill & Plain.
- Mrs. McInerney asked why the 56110 line was a 143% increase at Hill and Plain and Mrs. Kelleher said she never had the money allocated at the school level before and so globes, resources, map skills, etc. are showing here.
- Mr. Coppola asked how the 1.6 administration worked and Mrs. Kelleher said she has an assistant principal three days a week at Hill & Plain and Sarah Noble has the person two days a week.
- Mr. Coppola asked if the principals needed to juggle days to meet the needs of the schools and Mrs. Kelleher said to some extent that was true.
- Mr. Lawson asked the principals what they thought was missing from their requests and Mrs. Kelleher said the support of the coaches is key as education has gotten very complex. The math and language coaches allow a vertical

view of the children as they move through the grade levels. She said the coaches allow for on the spot professional development in the classroom and they help with analyzing work. They also improve consistency of education. Mrs. Kelleher said she would request a full time coach if she were able.

- Mr. Lawson asked Mrs. Murray what Northville needed and Mrs. Murray said a full time assistant principal would be useful as she feels the needs are great enough at the school to support the request.
- Mrs. Bilko said the transition of third graders to Sarah Noble went well and the third grade staff is terrific. She said the children are resilient, adaptable and doing a terrific job. Mrs. Bilko said the coaches do a tremendous amount of work in the classroom supporting teachers, assisting in professional development for teachers and helping with collaborations.
- Mrs. Chastain asked if the coaches were able to visit each teacher at each school and Mrs. Bilko said the coaches send a note out ahead of time saying that they will be at a certain school on a certain day and the teachers invite the coaches into their classrooms.
- Mr. Coppola asked about the 3.4 administrators and Mrs. Bilko said there is one principal, two full time assistant principals, and a 0.4 assistant who comes in two days a week. Mr. Coppola asked about the coaches and Mrs. Bilko said there is a full time literacy coach for grades three, four and five. The math coach does grades four and five and then goes to Schaghticoke for grades six and seven.
- Mr. Coppola suggested the math coach was key given the new math program and Mr. Smith said the math program is in year two for seventh graders and was piloted at the sixth grade as well. The math coach is split between four buildings.
- Mr. Coppola asked why another math coach was not requested and Mr. Smith said the goal was to keep the budget request as close to 3% as possible and he felt the five coach structure

could be maintained for one more year.

- Mr. Coppola asked about the gifted program and the potential replacement person for Dr. Cooper who is retiring and Mrs. Bilko noted a science enrichment teacher goes to all the K-5 buildings.
- Mr. Coppola asked if the STEM teacher is all over the place and Mr. Smith said the science enrichment teacher develops special programs and expands inquiry based learnings in conjunction with classroom teachers.
- Mr. Schemm said he feels that coaches play a big role in the schools and asked if there was any way to expand the role with teachers. Mr. Smith said K-8 has no formal department chairs so they were unsure how to do this but he said he would be happy to add money to the budget to make that happen if the Board wished.
- Mr. Schemm asked if there were Team mentors in the building and Mrs. Bilko said there was a handful and there are team leaders at Sarah Noble.
- Mrs. Faulenbach requested the cost for a coach including benefits be provided for budget discussions next week.
- Mr. Littlefield asked if there was any way to quantify the value of the coaches such as setting a baseline of what the expected result should be.
- Mrs. Bilko said the coaches don't necessarily work that way, she said there was not an easily quantifiable way.
- Mrs. Kelleher said every year, thanks to the coaches, the rigor level gets higher.
- Mr. Smith said there is no control group but the school can compare the math SBAC result with others and said while they were not as high as they hoped he felt they would have been worse without the coaches.
- Mr. Littlefield said there should be some benchmark set if more dollars are allocated to coaches.
- Mrs. Chastain asked for clarification on the number of guidance counselors, psychologists

	<p>and social workers at Sarah Noble and Mrs. Bilko said there were two guidance counselors, 1.4 psychologists and one social worker.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Schemm asked about the 51180 stipends and Mr. Hubelbank said the number was adjusted when the third graders moved in and the Board asked for more activities for them. • Mrs. Bilko said there are nine intramural programs, third grade before and after school programs, fourth grade softball, and fifth grade basketball. All grades start with a fitness unit in the fall. There are five instrumental programs, and student council. • Mrs. Faulenbach asked Mr. Smith to review the questions that Board members had for more information and Mr. Smith stated the list including: information on how the library media specialist position could be filled, per pupil costs, actual town approved budgets, the cost of an additional coach, and DRG class size numbers. • Mr. Littlefield asked again for a benchmark of the coach's success and Mr. Smith said there are many factors and he would try to provide data. 	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Opportunity for the Public to be heard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no public comment made. 	<p>Opportunity for the Public to be heard</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Recessed to Wednesday, January 20, 2016</p> <p>Mr. Lawson recessed the meeting at 9:09 p.m. until January 20, 2016.</p>	<p>Recessed to Wednesday, January 20, 2016</p> <p>The meeting recessed at 9:09 p.m.</p>

Budget Hearing Minutes
January 20, 2016
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center

Present:	Mr. David A. Lawson, Chairperson Mrs. Angela C. Chastain Mr. Robert Coppola Mr. Bill Dahl Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Dave Littlefield Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mr. J.T. Schemm
----------	--

Also Present:	Mr. Joshua Smith, Interim Superintendent-Elect Dr. Eugenia Slone, Acting Assistant Superintendent of Schools Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources Mr. Jay Hubelbank, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Mr. Kevin Munrett, Facilities Manager Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Ms. Roberta Pratt, Director of Technology Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal, Hill and Plain Elementary School Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal, Northville Elementary School Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School Dr. Len Tomasello, Principal, Schaghticoke Middle School
---------------	--

1. A.	<p>Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance The budget hearing meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was reconvened at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Lawson, Chairperson. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.</p>	<p>Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance</p>
2.	<p>Discussion of the 2016-2017 School Budget including, but not limited to, Middle School, High School, and the Department of Instruction</p> <p>Schaghticoke Middle School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Tomasello started his presentation by reflecting on the initial budget hearing from the night before and said he believed guidance counselors at the elementary grades was an excellent recommendation. He said when he 	<p>Discussion of the 2016-2017 School Budget including, but not limited to, Middle School, High School, and the Department of Instruction</p> <p>Schaghticoke Middle School</p>

was principal at one of the elementary schools he oftentimes served more as counselor than administrator.

- Dr. Tomasello noted that all of the administrators were new at Schaghticoke this school year and they had no full time previous experience there. He said the administration's goal is to make the middle school experience enjoyable and safe and to improve the sense of belonging of all students as well as to support teachers and staff. Study hall mini-courses were implemented this year as were new after-school clubs. Lunch periods were restructured so students could go outside and socialize once they finished their lunch. Student recognition letters were started this year where teachers write a personal letter to a student who has done something good. Project Lead the Way is growing at all grade levels. An "Administrator on Call" system was implemented which allows other administrators in the building to be more visible to the students and staff. Community service is encouraged with all students in an effort to create positive, respectful relationships.
- Mr. McCauley asked about the increase in the math textbook line and Dr. Tomasello said that is a placeholder since the current seventh grade math program may continue in eighth grade which will mean textbooks will need to be purchased.
- Mr. Coppola asked about the money budgeted in the field trips line and Dr. Tomasello said that was in music and it would be used to transport students to regional events.
- Mr. Coppola asked how the transition for sixth graders went and Dr. Tomasello said last year, when the students were in fifth grade, they were asked to fill out a form called "all about me" so that everyone could be made aware of who the students were. He said his experience is that sixth graders are enjoying the newfound freedom.
- Mrs. Chastain asked for a clarification of the total administration and Dr. Tomasello said

there is one principal, three full time assistant principals, and a 0.4 assistant principal. There are also 3.5 guidance counselors and a social worker 2 days per week. Mrs. Olson noted there were 1.4 psychologists. The literacy coach is full time and the math coach is shared with SNIS and not at the school as much as they would like.

- Mr. Coppola asked about the library books for sixth graders and Dr. Tomasello said they just finished a full inventory and put a number in the budget as a placeholder to see what they might need down the road.

New Milford High School

- Mr. Shugrue said that the budget process is a collaborative effort and noted that his administrative team was with him tonight.
- He noted that the NEASC letter recently received was very complimentary of the school and the programs and he said the teachers deserved the credit for that. He also thanked the Board for the dollars invested in the past that led up to this point.
- Mr. Shugrue said there are five different Project Lead the Way classes now at the high school and he noted that schools from the SWC cohort are coming to see what New Milford is doing. He said it is nice to lead on something and especially good that young women are seeing that they can have a career in engineering if they choose.
- There are increased offerings in the AP courses, and the numbers of students taking them and succeeding is also up. The cost of AP tests is being subsidized by the Board. This year's budget included the funding for students to take the PSAT during the school day in October.
- Mr. Shugrue said that the 2016-2017 budget is driven by salaries. He went through various lines with increases including line 53200 which has an increase of \$4319 to handle the PSAT day in October and student subsidies for the AP

New Milford High School

testing. Line 54420 includes a \$3600 increase for athletic rental space. Line 56110 includes a \$2600 increase because the PE teachers are working on personal fitness for each student and equipment is needed. Line 56010 includes an \$8,000 increase to pay for supplies for Project Lead the Way. Line 56410 includes a \$5800 increase, includes the lines 641 and 642 being merged, but also a replacement of paperbacks. Line 56410 includes a \$6,000 increase for Spanish IV textbooks. Line 56410 in math is for additional Statistics and Algebra II textbooks. Line 58100 includes a \$3000 increase for Project Lead the Way dues which has shifted from another budget line. Overall the high school budget represents a 1.68% increase.

- Mr. Dahl asked where uniforms were in the budget and Mr. Lipinsky said they are in the uniforms and equipment line and are cycled every four to five years for three to four teams a year.
- Mr. Dahl asked if the field maintenance budget will go down with the turf fields and Mr. Lipinsky said the number would go down.
- Mr. Dahl asked if certain equipment would need to be purchased and Mr. Shugrue said yes and a maintenance program put in place.
- Mr. Coppola asked how the SAT review course was handled this year and Mr. Shugrue said Mr. Bill Knipple and staff taught it. Mr. Knipple said he and another teacher attended a two and one half day seminar on training for the redesigned SAT test. They have purchased books for the redesigned test. All 11th graders will take the course in an eight week period which includes math and English instruction.
- Mr. Coppola said he enjoyed the Band competition and was hopeful it would put the A in STEM.
- Mr. Lawson asked about the redesigned SAT and Mr. Knipple said it is really designed to show what students have learned or should have learned in math courses, for instance.
- Mrs. Faulenbach asked about the 0.25 position

increase and Mr. Hubelbank said that was a shift in a secretary who was in his office to the high school and so there is a decrease of 0.25 in his office.

- Mrs. Faulenbach asked how the electives were. Mr. Shugrue said it depends on which ones. The graduation requirement now requires a student to earn 26 credits. A new tech education teacher was hired and architectural drafting has been instituted. He said they are short on Art. The biggest problem is often with scheduling classes.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said she was looking forward to the Committee on Learning having further discussion on electives.
- Mrs. Chastain asked if anything was done to keep track of the students' post-graduation to find out what courses they liked, how they were doing, etc. Mr. Shugrue said there is tracking software available but it is not in this budget.
- Mrs. Chastain asked if the number of participants had increased with the elimination of pay to participate and Mr. Lipinsky said it is about the same.
- Mr. Littlefield asked how the SAT prep courses worked if students were not able to take it in the fall and Mr. Shugrue said the SATs can be taken in the summer but there are just not enough sections offered.
- Mrs. McInerney asked about the maintenance of the turf field and Mr. Hubelbank said they have to purchase equipment and train the staff on maintenance and that the town has talked about putting money away for the replacement in ten years.
- Mr. Coppola noted that Mrs. Faulenbach is on the Turf Committee and she will be coming to the Facilities Committee meeting to update the Board on February 2nd.
- Mr. Schemm asked about the enrollment of grades 9 through 12 and Mr. Shugrue said the largest grade is the current eighth grade which will be coming in 2016 and includes 402 students.

- Mr. Schemm asked if the district pays for the SATs and Mr. Smith said the district does not; the state does.
- Mr. Schemm asked about the increase in the 55200 athletic line and Mr. Shugrue said that is medical insurance for student accidents.
- Mr. Littlefield noted the Project Lead the Way program added electrical this year and asked if robotics would be added and Mr. Smith said that was being considered for grade eight.

Department of Instruction

- Mr. Smith welcomed Dr. Slone by saying it was nice to have a new set of eyes to look at the work being done in New Milford. The coaches are all in the Department of Instruction budget and are tied to the district initiatives. He said there is \$25,000 in the budget for field trips to be parsed out to individual school budgets. He noted that 2.5 of the coaches are funded through the Title I grant.
- Mr. Smith noted there is a \$25,000 increase for summer school funding this year. The curriculum development line has been decreased by \$30,000 but Mr. Smith felt \$75,000 remaining was sufficient for what needs to be accomplished. Line 53200 has increased so the school can purchase the National Clearinghouse that works with the Naviance software and tracks post high school. The increase in the substitute line is due to the increase in the rate of pay.
- Ms. Pratt said the 53220 and 53300 lines have been cut for consultants but include funds for Smartboards and Chromebooks.
- Mr. Lawson asked why the equipment was not in the capital budget and Ms. Pratt said they were not large projects. Mr. Lawson said he thought they should still be in capital.
- Mrs. McInerney asked about the field trip money noting that if the school funds a field trip then they cannot ask for any money from the PTO as it supplants the budget. Mr. Smith said it depends on how the policy is structured

Department of Instruction

Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center

	<p>such as looking at certain core curriculum and sending students on that field trip.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Coppola asked for a legal opinion to be certain the district could give funding to field trips.• Mr. Littlefield said he was disheartened to see the decrease in the TAG line and Mr. Smith said that there is no decrease to staffing. The decrease is due to the retirement of Dr. Cooper noting that she had a PhD and longevity which had to be budgeted for. Mr. Hubelbank said even with the decrease, the teacher for this program is still being budgeted at a Master's degree step 10 for a replacement.• Mr. Schemm asked about the transportation for summer school and Mr. Smith said this would only be New Milford students and only for grades three through eight.• Mr. Schemm asked if transportation was mandated by the state and Mr. Smith said it was not for regular education students, but it provided the opportunity for students to take summer school.• Mr. Schemm asked how the summer school would work and Mr. Smith said they were discussing a one week intensive boot camp program targeted towards literature or math. Dr. Slone said the idea is to not assume the student should repeat the whole learning but to take a very targeted supportive approach.• Mrs. Faulenbach asked if there is no real plan in place at this time where were the numbers coming from and Mr. Smith said it was based on the number of students currently in the district's SRBI programs and the number of transportation runs.• Mr. McCauley asked how many students might be projected and Mr. Smith said they will focus on the SRBI process, looking at tier two and three students, and use the data to help find the gaps and weaknesses that students have. Mr. Smith said the number of students will be based on the budget, suggesting they will accept as many students as the money allows.• Mrs. Chastain asked if summer school would	
--	--	--

	<p>be in July or August and Mr. Smith said that discussion was being held right now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Chastain asked to clarify the number of coaches and Mr. Smith said there is a primary math and literacy coach, an intermediate literacy and math coach, a 7-12 literacy coach and one data coach. He noted again that 2.5 of the coaches are funded in the Title I grant. • Mr. Schemm asked about the ESL at Hill and Plain and Mr. Smith said the ESL teacher at Hill & Plain is 0.5 and there is 0.5 at Sarah Noble. There are two full time ESL tutors. The state requires an ESL teacher once 20 students speak the same non-English language. There is a 0.5 ELL coordinator that works at the high school. 	
4.	<p>Opportunity for the Public to be heard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no public comment made. 	<p>Opportunity for the Public to be heard</p>
5.	<p>Recessed to Tuesday, January 26, 2016</p> <p>Mr. Lawson recessed the meeting at 8:47 p.m. until January 26, 2016.</p>	<p>Recessed to Tuesday, January 26, 2016</p> <p>The meeting recessed at 8:47 p.m.</p>

Budget Hearing Minutes
January 26, 2016
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center

Present:	Mr. David A. Lawson, Chairperson Mrs. Angela C. Chastain Mr. Robert Coppola Mr. Bill Dahl Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Dave Littlefield Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mr. J.T. Schemm
----------	--

Also Present:	Mr. Joshua Smith, Interim Superintendent-Elect Dr. Eugenia Slone, Acting Assistant Superintendent of Schools Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources Mr. Jay Hubelbank, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Mr. Kevin Munrett, Facilities Manager Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Ms. Roberta Pratt, Director of Technology Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal, Hill and Plain Elementary School Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal, Northville Elementary School Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School
---------------	--

1.	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>A. Pledge of Allegiance</p> <p>The budget hearing meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was reconvened at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Lawson, Chairperson. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Smith handed out an updated purchase resolution information sheet for tomorrow's meeting explaining that this sheet separates the items into general fund, capital reserve, and bond funding. He said that even though the SMS roof project is being paid by the town, invoices pass through the district's budget for processing purposes. • Mr. Lawson noted that Mr. Hubelbank had received some good news on the worker's compensation insurance line and that it will be reduced by \$98,000. Mr. Hubelbank said the 	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>A. Pledge of Allegiance</p>
----	---	---

	<p>worker's compensation carrier, CIRMA, is shared with the town and originally they said to expect a 15% increase but the new projection is that the rate will remain flat. This reduction will bring the requested budget increase to 3%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Littlefield said he thought the increase in worker's compensation was a one-time increase due to claims history and Mr. Hubelbank said they look back through a three year period and there are still some big claims on the record. 	
<p>2.</p>	<p>Discussion of the 2016-2017 School Budget including, but not limited to, Pupil Personnel/Special Education, Department of Maintenance, Utilities, Department of General Administration, and Capital</p> <p>Pupil Personnel/Special Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Olson thanked the Board for their commitment to students and staff and noted that in Dr. Paddyfote's reflection in the January <i>Spotlight on New Milford Schools</i> she too spoke of this selfless commitment and said it is indeed appreciated. • Mrs. Olson said education now requires that students are given what they need and not just a fair and equitable education. • New Milford follows the letter of the IDEA law as well as the spirit which requires the district to give an appropriate education in the least restrictive environment. She said this budget reflects appropriate programming and services while following the best practices for students. • Mrs. Olson gave an overview of the 2015-2016 budget. She said the Excel program for three to four year olds is still very popular and includes 50% special education and 50% regular education students. There is a waiting list for regular education students. For five of the past six years, the students have surpassed the state 	<p>Discussion of the 2016-2017 School Budget including, but not limited to, Pupil Personnel/Special Education, Department of Maintenance, Utilities, Department of General Administration, and Capital</p> <p>Pupil Personnel/Special Education</p>

	<p>target goals due, Mrs. Olson feels, to the dedication of the teachers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading interventions have increased at Northville and Hill and Plain Elementary schools, including multisensory reading.• Sarah Noble Intermediate School has inclusive programming, including the after-school sign language club which has enrichment for special education as well as general education students. The SBAC testing scores were above goal for special education students. Goalball, a sport designed for the blind and visually impaired, was been introduced to this school and a pilot unified sports program will be launched.• Schaghticoke Middle School continues to meet the needs of young adolescents. Students exceeded the state pass rates for language arts and math. There are a variety of after-school activities being offered including the Leo club, board games club, band, etc.• New Milford High School graduated 34 students with disabilities in 2015; 33 actually received their diplomas. The high school is the showcase for the dedication of teachers, staff and parents through all the years. Students are active in the dance team, football team, track and field, etc. There is now a credit recovery program to get students up to speed. Unified sports at the high school include soccer, bowling, basketball, and track and field.• The Litchfield Hills Transition Center is part of the mandated services for students 18 to 21 years old. Primarily the students are learning vocational services. Some of the students take classes at Naugatuck Valley Community College. This program is also a revenue generator as it accepts tuition students from other districts. Currently there are 10 students on tuition which is expected to go to 20 next year. This program is supported by the IDEA grant.• District-wide there is a growing emphasis on mental health. Nearly one half of all lifetime cases of mental health issues begin by the age of 14. The counseling needs in the district have	
--	---	--

grown substantially. Social workers and guidance counselors have been doing more crisis intervention. A district-wide health forum was held with a variety of topics, speakers, and consultants focusing on eating disorders, anxiety, etc.

- Mrs. Olson noted a big part of her job is compliance with state reporting responsibilities for evaluations, child find, and reevaluations. Every October 1st the state does a snapshot report on mistakes made in compliance. The last two years, even with managing 12,000 IEPs, there have only been two citations.
- Mrs. Olson said New Milford has a higher percentage of special education students in district compared to other districts in this DRG. A graph was handed out to show the trend line of New Milford, the DRG and the state which showed New Milford's outplacements going slightly down while the DRG and state are increasing. Mrs. Olson said she credited the SRBI interventions for this trend.
- Mr. Coppola asked about the excess costs and Mrs. Olson said she would explain that later in the presentation.
- Mrs. Olson said line 53200 increased by 46% and is for the full time substance abuse counselor who started in the middle of this year so this would be for a full year's budget next year. The funds were originally budgeted as a salary line and have been moved into the purchased services account.
- Mr. Coppola said he had been at a Youth Agency presentation where he learned that substance abuse starts at a much younger age and wondered if New Milford was doing anything at the elementary level. Mrs. Olson said the increase in guidance counseling at the elementary level would help for that. She said currently the focus is on the high school with outreach to the middle school.
- Mr. Coppola asked how the schools work with CARE and Mrs. Olson said the schools are partners to a certain extent and the substance abuse counselor is on the Substance Abuse

	<p>Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Faulenbach asked how families are made aware of the services of the substance abuse counselor and Mrs. Olson said the person was introduced on the website and the guidance department at the high school makes referrals. She said the guidance counselors, social workers and psychologists usually are hands-on with the students in crisis. Teachers can also refer students.• Mr. Littlefield asked if parents could refer a student and Mrs. Olson said they could.• Mrs. McInerney asked how the substance abuse program could be taught at the middle school and intermediate school and Mr. Smith said the health teachers at the middle school are starting to work with the substance abuse counselor on using recommended consistent language in their teaching.• Mrs. Olson said line 53230 includes all outside, independent evaluations. Most are for special education but some are also for general education purposes. It also includes OT/PT services, preventative measures, training, the medical advisor, and sign language services – all of which is excess cost eligible.• Line 51115 has been reduced due to the trends in special education needs in New Milford. It also includes an increase in the teacher for the deaf to full time and summer school staffing which is mandated.• Line 53200 is for the IPP program which is where the clinician for autistic students is budgeted. It also includes the ABA funding. All of this money helps to keep students in district or helps them return to the district. All of this is excess cost eligible and the vendor provides their own worker's compensation, supervision, and substitutes.• Mrs. McInerney asked if student care workers were similar to paraeducators and Mrs. Olson said that was correct.• Line 55610 is the public outplacement tuition and line 55630 is the private outplacement tuition. These are usually for the most complex	
--	---	--

	<p>student issues. Mrs. Olson said the goal is always to bring the students back into the district if they can be kept safe and other students can be kept safe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Dahl asked how the district handles the budget situation when the need is higher than budgeted for and Mrs. Olson said it is a challenge. She said the district always budgets in placeholders based on history. In this current budget, the budget was a 14% increase from the prior year and this year's budget is a 22% increase based on trends.• Mrs. McInerney asked what happens when the parents insist on an educational format that the school does not agree with and Mrs. Olson said the district's aim is to reach a mutually agreed upon decision but mediation is an option.• Line 55110 has decreased by 11.4% based on transportation trends as a high needs client will be aging out.• Mrs. Olson described the excess cost program saying that it is a grant from the state as a reimbursement to the town.• Mr. Hubelbank noted this number is a floating number which the town would not know until next March for this budget season.• Mrs. Olson noted the revenue numbers in the budget include the Excel tuition, Litchfield Hills Transition program tuition, and excess cost reimbursement.• Mrs. McInerney asked why line 53230 increased by 751% and Mrs. Olson noted this item was in line 51201 prior.• Mr. Schemm asked what the placeholder amounts would be for out of district and Mrs. Olson said the budget includes a 22% increase versus a dollar amount per placement because there are many different needs. <p>Department of Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Munrett thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the Maintenance budget. He said they continue to look at the older facilities to prioritize upgrades.	<p>Department of Maintenance</p>
--	--	---

Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The school properties consist of 187 acres including athletic facilities and lawns.• The Maintenance department has in-house licensed mechanics which reduces the reliance on contracted services and is involved in the planning, design and construction of renovation projects.• The department is in the process of replacing outside lights to more energy efficient lighting. Inside work will commence next year.• Overall the Maintenance budget is down 2% or \$115,000 from this year.• Mr. Lawson asked if the Maintenance department was funded and staffed to manage the roof project and the turf field project and Mr. Munrett said he believed so.• Mr. Littlefield asked about the chiller and Mr. Hubelbank said they are in the process of working with a consultant to get better specs for replacement and that the other chiller is up and running and will be sufficient for the upcoming warm weather in the spring.• Mr. Schemm asked about the cost avoidance associated with the closing of John Pettibone and Mr. Hubelbank said the total savings started at \$1.2 million but then the Board voted to add five staff back in. Mr. Smith said after all the changes the cost avoidance was \$750,000. The costs would have appeared in the actual budget base costs and do not appear as part of the percent increase.• Mrs. Faulenbach said it was her understanding that if John Pettibone were still open and part of this budget then the increase would be another 1% and Mr. Hubelbank said that was correct.• Mrs. Faulenbach noted that the closing of John Pettibone allowed for savings in the overall budget so that possible revenue areas like Pay to Participate would not have to be used. <p>Utilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Hubelbank said the utilities are in the Maintenance budget. He said the oil line, which	<p>Utilities</p>
--	--	-------------------------

the Board does in conjunction with the town, is down as the contract will be \$1.69 for fuel versus approximately \$2.20 as it is in this year's budget. The electric rate is locked in already as well.

Technology

- Ms. Pratt thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the Technology budget. She said the last two years of work has helped to rebuild the entire network and all teacher computers have been replaced in the district. More capacity has been built into the student network as well and the CEN line move is ongoing.
- Ms. Pratt said there are still areas that need attention, including the refresh cycle which is part of the capital budget.
- Project Lead the Way funds are part of the Department of Instruction budget and four more high-end computers have been added.
- The Department of General Administration has technology in its budget for licensing and some staffing.
- The capital budget for technology includes the refresh cycle for 20 Smartboards a year, replacement of an aging wireless controller which is out of warranty and the replacement of access points. A seven year old server will be replaced and the computer labs that are seven to nine years old will be updated.
- Mr. McCauley asked about the lab upgrades noting most schools are going towards more portable technology and Ms. Pratt said some programs don't run on portable Chromebooks including new math and reading programs, language lab software, and the Project Lead the Way labs.
- Mr. Dahl asked how it was determined to replace a Smartboard and Ms. Pratt said it was based on age and the number of service tickets received.

Technology

Department of General Administration	Department of General Administration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Hubelbank said the DOGA budget includes legal fees for the Board's attorneys, the recording secretary and the video recordings of the Board meetings.• Mrs. Faulenbach asked why the postage budget was being reduced and Mr. Hubelbank said that was moving to the fiscal services budget.• Mr. Coppola asked how the legal fees were structured and for what and Mr. Hubelbank said the retainer fee is \$150,000 with Pullman and Comley and the balance is used for other hearings such as special education.• Mr. Coppola asked for a list of what was done for the \$150,000 and Mr. Smith said it was contract negotiations, legal opinions, etc., and for every hour the Board uses they receive a bill against the retainer.• Mr. Coppola asked when the last time this was negotiated and Mr. Smith said the hourly rate was renegotiated about three years ago.• Mr. Coppola asked when the last time this went out to bid was and Mrs. Faulenbach said it was probably four or five years ago that a variety of firms were brought in to interview.• Mrs. Faulenbach noted that it is key to have the attorneys present at meetings such as expulsion hearings and contract negotiations because Board members can get an answer right away rather than having to delay the meetings.• Mr. Hubelbank continued on the DOGA budget, noting the Superintendent's budget included money for strategic planning and recognitions.• Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the strategic planning was delayed and Mr. Smith said it was because the plan is for the new Superintendent to come on board July 1st which would be a more appropriate time to revisit the strategic plan.• Mr. Hubelbank said the fiscal services budget includes the copiers and copy paper for the entire district.• Tab four of the DOGA budget includes a contractual line for teachers whose salary will	

change due to step increases because they receive an advanced degree or other purposes. Also the property and liability insurance is in this line.

- Mr. Hubelbank noted the health insurance fell under DOGA reminding the Board that there is a 12.5% budget increase here due to the town not offering to offset this fund at the moment. The pension cost is what the actuaries tell the Board to budget.
- Mr. Coppola said he did not realize when they were negotiating the contract for the non-certified staff that the Board pays the full bill for their pension.
- Mr. Hubelbank noted that the worker's compensation is decreasing.
- Line 55300 for technology connects all the buildings.
- The transportation contract is in the last year of a five year contract and there is an increase in district transportation. The Board also shares the fuel cost with the bus company per the contract.
- Mr. Littlefield asked if the special taxi service was still in this budget and Mr. Hubelbank said they now contract with All-star for a reduced cost.
- Mr. Coppola asked if the bus routes were done in house and Mr. Hubelbank said it was all factored into the contract.
- Mrs. Chastain asked if they are keeping the same number of buses and Mr. Hubelbank said yes.

Capital

- Mr. Hubelbank said the total capital request is about \$430,000 and includes facility improvements and equipment.
- Mr. Littlefield asked about the Northville roof and wondered if that would be in the next year's budget. Mr. Hubelbank said it would probably be handled similarly to the Schaghticoke roof project which is to bond it with the town.

Capital

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Littlefield said he did not remember the Northville roof being on the five year plan and Mr. Hubelbank said John Pettibone would have been next but now Northville has moved up the list. • Mrs. Faulenbach asked how much was in the capital reserve account and Mr. Hubelbank said if the town approves the \$200,000 request, there will be \$1.6 million. • Mrs. Faulenbach asked about the census of employees by bargaining unit. There are 365.5 teachers, 93 paraeducators, 44.5 secretaries, 46 custodians, 8 nurses, and 19.5 administrators. • Mr. Schemm asked about turnover costs and whether they were factored in and Mr. Hubelbank said they were. • Mr. Smith noted that he and Dr. Slone looked at the summer school program for efficiencies and felt it would qualify for Title I funding because it would be a pilot program. Mr. Coppola had asked about math coaches and so by moving the summer school to a Title I grant eligible program, they could hire a math coach and it would almost be an even budget exchange. • Mr. Smith said as far as the field trip money is concerned, there are two options, one could be to consider a district curriculum based trip versus an enrichment program. The other option is to rewrite the policy because this was a district policy and not a state law. • Mrs. Faulenbach asked if Mr. Lawson had met with the Mayor regarding budget and Mr. Lawson said he, Mr. Hubelbank, and Mr. Smith met with the Mayor and the Finance department and it was a positive meeting. He said they spoke about the increase in health insurance and the about internal service fund. • Mrs. Faulenbach said she appreciated the work the administration and staff had done putting this budget together. 	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Opportunity for the Public to be heard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no public comment made. 	<p>Opportunity for the Public to be heard</p>

5.	<p>Recessed to Wednesday, January 27, 2016</p> <p>Mr. Lawson recessed the meeting at 9:03 p.m. until January 27, 2016.</p>	<p>Recessed to Wednesday, January 27, 2016</p> <p>The meeting recessed at 9:03 p.m.</p>
----	---	--

Budget Hearing Minutes
January 27, 2016
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center

Present:	<p>Mr. David A. Lawson, Chairperson Mrs. Angela C. Chastain Mr. Robert Coppola Mr. Bill Dahl Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Dave Littlefield Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mr. J.T. Schemm</p>
----------	---

Also Present:	<p>Mr. Joshua Smith, Interim Superintendent-Elect Dr. Eugenia Slone, Acting Assistant Superintendent of Schools Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources Mr. Jay Hubelbank, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Mr. Kevin Munrett, Facilities Manager Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Ms. Roberta Pratt, Director of Technology Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal, Hill and Plain Elementary School Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal, Northville Elementary School Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School</p>
---------------	---

1. A.	<p>Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance The budget hearing meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was reconvened at 7:02 p.m. by Mr. Lawson, Chairperson. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.</p>	<p>Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance</p>
2.	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was none. 	<p>Public Comment</p>
3. A.	<p>Discussion and Possible Action Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified, Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action A. Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified,</p>

<p>dated January 27, 2016</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as of January 27, 2016, seconded by Mr. Coppola.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Coppola said he is disappointed so many senior teachers are leaving, in particular Mrs. Joanna Desmarais, who Mr. Coppola said was a very caring teacher. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>B. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase Resolution: D-682 Budget Position dated 1/22/16 Request for Budget Transfers <p>Mr. Coppola moved to approve monthly reports - Purchase Resolution: D-682, Budget Position dated 1/22/16 and Request for Budget Transfers, seconded by Mr. McCauley.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Lawson asked if the low fuel prices and warm weather will have an impact on this year's budget and Mr. Hubelbank said this will help as well as the out of district placements remaining steady. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>C. Changes to Signatories on District Accounts – Exhibit B</p> <p>Mr. Coppola moved to approve Changes to Signatories on District Accounts-Exhibit B, seconded by Mr. Dahl and passed unanimously.</p> <p>D. Adoption of the 2016-2017 Board of Education Budget</p>	<p>Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated January 27, 2016</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as of January 27, 2016.</p> <p>Monthly Reports</p> <p>B. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase Resolution: D-682 Budget Position dated 1/22/16 Request for Budget Transfers <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve monthly reports - Purchase Resolution: D-682, Budget Position dated 1/22/16 and Request for Budget Transfers.</p> <p>C. Changes to Signatories on District Accounts – Exhibit B</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Changes to Signatories on District Accounts-Exhibit B.</p> <p>D. Adoption of the 2016-2017 Board of Education Budget</p>
---	---

- Mr. Lawson clarified some items including that there was no indication of any reduction in the budget through the Mayor's office though he did seem open to using the Internal Service Fund for relief on the medical line. He also asked that the Board use capital reserve to do the capital work for next year's budget.
- Mr. Hubelbank explained that the Board will request \$430,071 from the capital reserve account to be put in the budget as revenue so that the capital line does not get removed from the budget. He said this move would reduce the budget increase to 2.3%.
- Mr. Hubelbank noted that the Internal Service Fund has \$4 million in it and all but \$1 million is needed for prior claims because the insurance is self-funded, which leaves \$1 million for town use. The Town Council would have to approve the use of the fund.
- Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the Board could vote to reduce the health insurance line and Mr. Hubelbank said based on projections, this is the real cost for the district.
- Mrs. Faulenbach noted the Medicaid amount was budgeted at \$35,000 for revenue and \$135,000 was actually received. Mr. Hubelbank said that would probably not happen again.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said if the fund is healthy it made sense for the Board to look at that line.
- Mr. Littlefield asked about the capital reserve money that the Board had requested previously and Mr. Hubelbank said that decision would be made shortly.
- Mr. Lawson noted the reduction in the liability and worker's compensation insurance of \$8,000 and \$98,000 respectively.
- Mr. Coppola asked if the attorneys only used \$120,000 of the retainer what would happen to the remaining money and Mr. Hubelbank said it would be credited for the next year. Mr. Smith said he would provide additional information regarding the legal account.
- Mr. Schemm asked if special education legal fees could qualify for excess cost

<p>reimbursement and Mrs. Olson said they could not.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Littlefield asked about the half position in the New Milford High School library such that it could remain open from 3:30 until 5 p.m. for students who participate in after-school sports. Mr. Smith said it was not in the budget but it could become a stipend position. Ms. Baldelli said they could put a tutor in for a short period of time by stipend.• Mrs. Faulenbach asked about the capital reserve suggestion for this budget and Mr. Hubelbank said in the meeting with the Mayor and Ray Jankowski, they both suggested using the capital reserve fund but Mr. Hubelbank would only do so if it would come in as revenue so that the line does not come out of the budget. <p>Mr. Coppola moved to approve the Superintendent's proposed 2016-2017 budget in the amount of \$63,120,623, seconded by Mr. Dahl.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Lawson noted that from this point amendment motions could be made to increase or decrease the budget.• Mr. Coppola asked about the worker's compensation number and Mr. Hubelbank said it would make the new budget number \$62,583,950. <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2016-2017 budget by decreasing it by \$98,269 for the purpose of decreasing the Worker's Compensation insurance, seconded by Mr. Coppola and passed unanimously.</p> <p>Mr. Lawson moved to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2016-2017 budget by decreasing it by \$8,333 for the purpose of decreasing the liability insurance, seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion made to approve the Superintendent's proposed 2016-2017 budget in the amount of \$63,120,623.</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2016-2017 budget by decreasing it by \$98,269 for the purpose of decreasing the Worker's Compensation insurance.</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2016-2017 budget by decreasing it by \$8,333 for the purpose of decreasing the liability insurance.</p>
--	--

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Faulenbach said she wanted to thank all for the collaborative effort with the town to get together and work as a community. She said last year they were just given a number.• Mrs. Faulenbach said she was prepared to make a motion to cut health insurance but felt this budget was fair and the only way she would support the capital reserve request suggestion was if the line item was not wiped out.• Mr. Coppola asked if the field trip money stayed in this budget if it would jeopardize future PTO donations and Mr. Smith said it would not. <p>Mr. McCauley moved to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2016-2017 budget by increasing it by \$430,071 for the purpose of adding a revenue offset from capital reserve, seconded by Mr. Coppola.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Schemm said there is actuarial guidance on health insurance and wondered if there was such guidance for capital reserve and Mr. Hubelbank said there was not really such guidance but he said it should be kept around \$1 to \$2 million.• Mrs. Faulenbach asked for clarification how this offset from capital reserve would work since it had to go before the Town Council and the Board of Finance. Mr. Smith said after July 1, 2016 the Board would have to ask for an appropriation of \$430,071.• Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the Town Council would be prepared to approve this and Mr. Hubelbank said if they approve the budget then they are approving the capital reserve plan. <p>The motion passed 8-1. Aye: Mr. Dahl, Mr. Littlefield, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. Schemm, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McCauley, Mrs. McInerney, Mr. Coppola No: Mrs. Chastain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Faulenbach asked for clarification on the	<p>Motion made and passed to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2016-2017 budget by increasing it by \$430,071 for the purpose of adding a revenue offset from capital reserve.</p> <p>The motion passed 8-1.</p>
---	--

field trip dollars and Mr. Smith said this does not supplant the budget because field trips could be curriculum driven or enrichment driven or the Board could choose to revise its policy if needed.

- Mrs. Faulenbach said while adding money to the budget is for a good intention she is not thrilled it could be contrary to the Board's current policy. She also felt the amount of money was not enough.
- Mrs. Chastain said she had raised lots of money for the PTO for field trips and felt this should not be put in this budget. She also felt it was not equitable to the students in the middle school or high school.
- Mrs. McNerney said she did support this being in the budget because the PTO can never raise enough dollars. She said this money could take the burden off parents.
- Mr. Coppola said the PTO could sponsor certain field trips and the budget could sponsor other field trips as part of the curriculum.
- Mrs. Faulenbach asked for clarification of the summer school because she was not sure what the plan was and Mr. Lawson said it would come before the Committee on Learning.
- Mr. Coppola noted this time was the only time the Board could put money in the budget.
- Mr. Schemm said he too was not sure the summer school plan would give a good return on its investment. He said for only 20 days – 10 for literature and 10 for math, \$54,000 seemed like a lot of money.
- Mr. Smith said the actual amount for summer school was \$25,000 or \$35,000.
- Mrs. Faulenbach asked how much CAFE dues were and Mr. Hubelbank said it was about \$16,000.

Mrs. Faulenbach moved to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2016-2017 budget by decreasing it by \$16,000 for the purpose of cutting the CAFE dues and fees, seconded by Mrs. Chastain.

Motion made and failed to amend the Superintendent's proposed 2016-2017 budget by decreasing it by \$16,000 for the purpose of cutting the CAFE dues and fees.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Coppola said he disagreed with this because CABA was an advocacy organization that helped districts fight against unfunded mandates, for instance. • Mrs. Faulenbach noted that New Milford could still participate in CABA functions at an additional fee and could still access the website and mailings. <p>The motion failed 3-6. Aye: Mr. Littlefield, Mrs. Chastain, Mrs. Faulenbach No: Mr. Dahl, Mr. Schemm, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McCauley, Mrs. McInerney, Mr. Coppola</p> <p>Mr. Dahl moved to approve the Superintendent's proposed 2016-2017 budget as amended in the amount of \$62,583,950, seconded by Mrs. McInerney.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Faulenbach said she hopes the amendments do come to fruition. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>The motion failed 3-6</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the Superintendent's proposed 2016-2017 budget as amended in the amount of \$62,583,950.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Adjourn Mr. Coppola moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m., seconded by Mr. McCauley and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:

Wendy Faulenbach

Wendy Faulenbach
 Secretary
 New Milford Board of Education