

**New Milford Board of Education
 Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes
 January 21, 22, 28 & 29, 2020
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

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 NEW MILFORD, CT

**Budget Hearing Minutes
 January 21, 2020
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

Present:	Mrs. Angela C. Chastain, Chairperson 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. Kerry Parker, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Human Resources Director Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Mr. Kevin Munrett, Facilities Director Mr. Brandon Rush, Technology Director Mr. Greg Shugrue, New Milford High School Principal Dr. Christopher Longo, Schaghticoke Middle School Principal Mrs. Anne Bilko, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Principal Mrs. Gwen Gallagher, Northville Elementary School Principal Mr. Eric Williams, Hill and Plain Elementary School Principal
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1.	Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance The budget hearing meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mrs. Chastain, Chairperson. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance
2.	Presentation of the Superintendent's Proposed 2020-2021 School Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Parker said it was discovered earlier today that an error had been made in the calculation of certified teacher salaries. She said the wrong step schedule was used, and as such the certified teacher numbers are overstated and will be corrected. This will result in an overall 	Presentation of the Superintendent's Proposed 2020-2021 School Budget

	<p>lower increase, below 3%, which has been her goal all along.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Faulenbach said she appreciates the transparency, and is glad that the error at least works in our favor. She said in preparing to make the correction, she hopes for diligence versus speed. There is time before budget adoption to make sure the numbers are correct. That is the most important thing.• Dr. Parker thanked the administrative team for their work on the budget, which she said was a collaborative team effort. She reminded the Board that the budget is built from October 1, 2019 official numbers.• She began the presentation with a snapshot of New Milford Public Schools at a glance. As of October 1, 2019 there are 3925 Students PreK-12; 196 Students (0.04%) with non-English home language (15 different languages); 1028 (26%) minority students; 1350 (34%) students on Free/Reduced Lunch; and 597 (14.8%) PreK-12 students receiving special education services. The district has approximately 787,000 sq. ft. of building space and 187 acres of playgrounds and fields.• The Superintendent's Proposed 2020-2021 Budget totals \$66,008,008, which is an increase of 3.07% from the previous year. Dr. Parker provided the breakdown by major object codes.• Dr. Parker highlighted specific changes for 2020-2021: Bilingual teachers and coordinators (2.49 FTEs); Special Education EXCEL teacher for NES (0.5 FTE); 3 part time EXCEL paraeducators for NES (1.5 FTEs); increase in schedule time for 3 part time EXCEL paraeducators for HPS (0.3 FTEs); \$38,000 for Adult Education Civics Grant; \$25,000 for School Resource Officers or Armed Security Officers; \$17,500 for Strategic Plan and Portrait of the Graduate work; \$60,000 for Student Information System; a \$10,000 removal of draw from the NMHS musical activity fund, decrease of one regular education staff (1.0 FTE) at SNIS due to enrollment;	
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	<p>decrease of one mathematics staff (1.0 FTE) at NMHS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a comparison with 2018-2019 Net Current Expenditure Per Pupil (NCEP) Averages, New Milford Public Schools is reported at \$15,556; this is in comparison to the state average of \$16,988, DRG average of \$17,288 and nearby districts averaging \$23,060. • Dr. Parker ended her presentation by stating that the proposed budget is strategically focused on supporting the programmatic needs and resources of the District. 	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Discussion of the Superintendent’s Proposed 2020-2021 Budget including, but not limited to, PK – Grade 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PK-5 presentation started with a review of current and projected enrollment and continued with a thorough review of elementary programming pieces. • Ms. DiCorpo said the K-5 elementary program fosters children’s continued development of foundational concepts and skills, their application, as well as the children’s understanding of themselves and the world in which they live. Instruction integrates content and process, concepts and assessments, and is grounded in the belief that children learn through active engagement in their own learning process. Our elementary schools develop and build on foundational skills in literacy and numeracy as well as age-appropriate social and emotional development. Resources align with programs. • The Reading program is aligned K-8 and includes phonics. Writing is also aligned K-8. Ms. DiCorpo said classroom libraries are important at the elementary level. • Ms. DiCorpo said, regarding budget, there is a significant increase for math resources requested. This is the first year of a three year contract with Pearson to acquire consumables; the first year is the most expensive. 	<p>Discussion of the Superintendent’s Proposed 2020-2021 Budget including, but not limited to, PK – Grade 5</p>

- The Science program is aligned with Next Generation Science Standards. CREC units of study have been purchased, and the CT Science Center is contracted with for support. A Science enrichment teacher helps but is not a coordinator; she also serves 90 students.
- In the Social Studies program, they are working to develop curriculum fully aligned with the CT Social Studies Framework.
- Ms. Baldelli said, regarding staffing, the recommendation is for a decrease in one general classroom teacher at the grade 3 level.
- Ms. DiCorpo said the Music, Visual Arts, PE and Health curriculums are updated. She thanked all the teachers who write curriculum for their efforts.
- Regarding the Talented and Gifted program, Ms. DiCorpo said there is one teacher who presently services 38 students at SNIS and 48 at SMS.
- Ms. DiCorpo said a bilingual teacher is mandated when twenty or more students speak the same language. Current numbers show Spanish speakers at all schools: 30 at HPS, 21 at NES, 32 at SNIS, 23 at SMS, and 22 at NMHS. She said in the last four months the district has enrolled eighteen students who speak different languages. While the increased diversity is good, it means additional resources for testing and programming.
- Mrs. Chastain noted that the bilingual additions are mandated. She asked what cost is being factored in for this. Mr. Giovannone said \$66,968 per position, which is at the midpoint. Ms. DiCorpo noted that this is a shortage area, and positions are difficult to fill.
- Mrs. Olson spoke to the variety of embedded special education services at all levels. These include a mandated EXCEL program for qualifying students by age three. Numbers are up and additional staffing is requested.
- Mrs. Rella asked what class the 0.5 teacher will teach. Mrs. Olson said the 4 year olds, as that is where the increase is.

- Mrs. Olson noted that Special Education services for the three elementary schools provide a continuum of specialized instruction and related services in alignment with each student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The schools offer direct instruction in a variety of settings for English Language Arts (ELA), mathematics, writing, social skills, speech/language, behavioral regulation, occupational therapy and physical therapy. In addition, students are taught in the least restrictive environment which correlates with the mandates of IDEA. Specialized programs include Multisensory Reading instruction, Behavior Intervention Programs, co-taught instruction in identified classrooms at all three schools, Individualized Learning Centers and Developmental classrooms, and speech/language services. The district has one Board Certified Behavior Analyst at the K-5 level who works with the most dysregulated students. There is a psychologist and social worker as well. One Department Chair/Inclusion teacher is shared between the two PreK-2 schools. Paraeducators and tutors provide additional support. Contracted services include student care workers, occupational and physical therapy, and services for autistic students.
- Mrs. Olson said while demographics show a slight decrease, the intensity of student needs fluctuates. Staff are assigned according to student need.
- Ms. DiCorpo spoke to the important role of interventionists and coaches in providing support to both staff and students.
- Other support staff highlighted include the Library Media Specialist, instructional tutors, and school counselors.
- Mrs. Monaghan asked how many counselors there are. Ms. Baldelli said there is one each at HPS and NES and two at SNIS. She noted that the Special Education Supervisor is a new position this year and is spread among the three schools.

- Mr. Failla noted there are only nine instructional tutors spread over three schools, servicing 1500 students.
- Mrs. Chastain asked about the number of social workers. Mrs. Olson said there is one at SNIS and one shared between HPS and NES.
- The presentation concluded with a summary of major object codes by school.
- Mrs. McInerney noted that supply lines have decreased in general.
- Mrs. Faulenbach agreed. She said NES is particularly noteworthy since it is projected to increase by 27 students.
- Dr. Parker said they reviewed figures from last year and asked the principals to bring forward their needs. This is the result.
- Mrs. Faulenbach noted that previous budgets were based on a per pupil allotment.
- Mr. Giovannone said they consciously tried to move away from that this year and Dr. Parker asked them to present what they have and what they need. Staff audited, looked at repurposing, and then at what they needed for adequate functioning.

- Mrs. Chastain said they would begin a page by page review and invite questions.
- Mrs. Monaghan said the grade 1 projected class sizes of 22/23 are difficult for her to accept.
- Mr. McCauley said that number is a red flag for him as well. He asked if there is space in the schools to accommodate teacher adds here. Mr. Williams and Mrs. Gallagher said there is.
- Mrs. McInerney said this is the same ratio as that used for grades 4/5 and it is too high for 6 year olds. She said if a teacher is added, class size would go down to just over 19.
- Mrs. Chastain said in recent years positions have been added in the fall and she prefers to make these changes up front. She said other towns, like Danbury, are seeing increased enrollment and she thinks New Milford will get spill over. Many of these students are also non-English speaking.

- Mr. Williams said they are continuing to see students enrolling weekly. He pulled the last three years of data on summer enrollments and they average 10-12 grade 1 students, and 6-8 grade 2 students. He said the population is becoming more transient in general.
- Mrs. Faulenbach agreed the numbers are concerning.
- Dr. Parker noted that in other school districts, general education paraeducators are added to assist larger classes versus adding a new class.
- Mrs. McInerney said the district has had difficulty filling para positions in the past.
- Mrs. Faulenbach and Mrs. McInerney both asked about the increase in math lines. Ms. DiCorpo said this is where the Pearson math consumables are showing.
- Mrs. Monaghan noted that science lines are up while library lines are down. Ms. DiCorpo said this is to support the CREC units of study.
- Mr. McCauley commented that this is the most understandable budget book he has seen in his time on the Board. He appreciates the structure.
- Mrs. Faulenbach noted that the blended increase for elementary is new. She said the 9.58% increase still only represents 1% of the entire budget.
- Mrs. Chastain noted that the math request for NES was not as much as HPS. Ms. DiCorpo said that was a result of the audit. The outgoing administration did not reduce that line as much last year. Mrs. Gallagher said as a result they have a balance this year to use towards supplies.
- Mrs. McInerney questioned reductions in music and library. Mrs. Gallagher said the music is for piano tuning, which they are not utilizing. She said the library line ebbs and flows to align with actuals over the years. She said the library media specialist is in agreement.
- Mrs. Nabozny said a piano should be tuned annually and she recommended reinstating that funding.
- Mr. Failla asked Mrs. Bilko if she was comfortable with the recommended cut to

	<p>grade 3 staffing. Mrs. Bilko said enrollment is always in flux. She said this is a district decision and she is confident in her teachers. She said class size is always a focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Monaghan said the class size at this level is good in her opinion.• Mrs. McInerney noted the increase to social studies supplies at SNIS. Mrs. Bilko said this line took a major cut last year and they are trying to bring some back.• Mrs. McInerney noted several decreases to the music lines. Mrs. Bilko said these wax and wane with need. They go by actuals, with teacher input.• Mrs. Monaghan asked how many music teachers are at SNIS. Mrs. Bilko said there are two general music teachers and one instrumental teacher.• Mrs. Monaghan asked why the psychology salary line is down. Mr. Giovannone said this is due to a retirement with a lower salaried replacement.• Mrs. Faulenbach asked about the \$25,000 request for security and the status of the MOU.• Dr. Parker said the plan is to have Chief Cerruto speak in executive session at the February meeting.• Mr. Giovannone said the \$25,000 would be in addition to the repurposing of existing funds.• Mr. Failla said he is bothered by the inclusion of security funding without the information that would be provided in executive session. He said he wants that information in order to inform his decision.• Mr. McCauley said he wanted to look at the big picture. Of the 3.07% requested increase of \$1,967,316, more than \$1.7 million is contractual salary and benefits. That means that less than 1% is discretionary. This is basically a cost of living increase. The proposed budget is really very spare.• Mr. Failla said he has listened to the comments about grade 1 class size tonight and he asked what the ideal number is. He said the budget is already a 3.07% increase from last year and	
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	<p>asked how the Board will sell that to the Town. He said they must be cost conscious.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Faulenbach agreed, saying the entire budget book is foundation. All members have things they would like to add but it is a long process. There may be other areas to look at. She said it is helpful when recommending an addition to look also at where a take away might be found to keep the overall number down. The Board must be able to defend the budget number and bring the community with us. • Mrs. McInerney said it is important that the community see these budget items as “need to haves”. She reiterated her stand that the needs of the younger grades must be addressed, to prevent problems from becoming established going forward. • Mr. McCauley agreed with Mrs. Faulenbach and he said it will be important to find balance to support any grade 1 addition. • Mrs. Rella asked if all paraeducators are special education paras. Ms. Baldelli said there are four instructional paraeducators, assigned by the building principals. 	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Opportunity for the Public to be heard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roseann Petruso said she is a teacher and instructional coach in a neighboring district. She spoke in favor of lower class sizes to provide teacher time to address all student needs. She said student behavioral concerns can affect instruction for all and suggested more BCBA staff be added. She said the curriculum work is impressive but wondered if there are enough coaches to support it. She also wondered about the status of the district’s social emotional learning program. She is concerned the budget isn’t funded enough. • Heather Byrd, a 5th grader, said she is speaking in support of band, TAG, and specials like gym, art, and music. She also said supplies are important. • Megan Byrd, a New Milford parent, said every budget penny matters to someone. She said staff 	<p>Opportunity for the Public to be heard</p>

	<p>need supplies and paraeducator support. She said the constant “cut this, cut that” at some point turns into “should have afforded” for the betterment of society. She said she does not like the class size numbers and the absence of SROs this year. She is glad to see the emphasis on security in this budget. She said overall she thought the budget is well thought out and put together and she recommended that the Board send the full amount forward to the Town. She thanked the Town Council members who attended tonight’s hearing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Chastain said there will be two chances for the public to speak tomorrow night. 	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Recessed to Wednesday, January 22, 2020</p> <p>Mrs. Chastain recessed the meeting at 9:06 p.m. until January 22, 2020.</p>	<p>Recessed to Wednesday, January 22, 2020</p> <p>The meeting recessed at 9:06 p.m.</p>

**Budget Hearing Minutes
 January 22, 2020
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

<p>Present:</p>	<p>Mrs. Angela C. Chastain, Chairperson Mr. Joseph Failla Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Pete Helmus (arrived at 7:04 p.m.) Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan Mrs. Cynthia Nabozny Mrs. Olga I. Rella</p>
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Also Present:	Dr. Kerry Parker, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Human Resources Director Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Mr. Kevin Munrett, Facilities Director Mr. Brandon Rush, Technology Director Mr. Greg Shugrue, New Milford High School Principal Mr. Keith Lipinsky, New Milford High School Athletic Director Dr. Christopher Longo, Schaghticoke Middle School Principal Mrs. Anne Bilko, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Principal Mrs. Gwen Gallagher, Northville Elementary School Principal Mr. Eric Williams, Hill and Plain Elementary School Principal
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1.	<p>Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance</p> <p>The budget hearing meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was reconvened at 7:00 p.m. by Mrs. Chastain, Chairperson. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.</p>	<p>Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance</p>
2.	<p>Opportunity for the Public to be heard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no comments made. 	<p>Opportunity for the Public to be heard</p>
3.	<p>Discussion of the Superintendent's Proposed 2020-2021 Budget including, but not limited to, Grades 6 - 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Parker said tonight's presentation, which focuses on the secondary level, will follow a similar approach to last night with an emphasis on programs. • Ms. DiCorpo said the middle school builds on the work started at the elementary level, with the understanding that the middle school years are a transition time for students who begin to formally identify their interests going forward. Teachers at this level teach in a specialized content area. • Emphasis continues on development in Language Arts: Reading and Writing, with the same curriculum structure as in elementary. Additional funding is requested in the budget for classroom libraries for book clubs, where 	<p>Discussion of the Superintendent's Proposed 2020-2021 Budget including, but not limited to, Grades 6 - 12</p>

	<p>students discuss the same book, so multiple copies are needed. A Literacy Coach provides support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Mathematics program builds on the Investigations program at the elementary level with the Connected Math program. Course offerings include algebra and geometry. There is no Math Coach at SMS, but the Data Coach provides some support.• Science continues the CREC units of study; all teachers have been trained on the Next Generation Science Standards.• Grades 6 and 7 Social Studies focus on World Regional Studies. Grade 8 emphasizes 18th/19th century America. Writing is integrated through embedded assessments.• Middle school is the first time World Language is offered. Students may take either Spanish or French. The new graduation requirements now allow a transfer of one credit for a middle school language provided the student successfully meets required parameters.• There are no recommended changes to staffing for 2020-2021 at the middle school.• Mrs. McInerney asked what the guidelines are for number of students in a class at the middle school level. Ms. Baldelli said at the secondary level the guidelines call for an overall 100-125 pupil teacher ratio.• Ms. DiCorpo said general music is offered to grades 6 and 7. Orchestra, Band, Wind Ensemble, Chorus, Advanced Chorus and several other music electives also are offered as a part of this program. The Visual Arts' updated curriculum builds off of national standards. There is one head teacher over all the unified arts area. The Health teacher is shared over three schools. The focus at the middle school level is on healthy relationships and self advocacy. For Physical Education, the emphasis is on manipulation and movement. Units of study also support the fitness exam.• PLTW is offered in grades 7 and 8.• Mr. Failla asked how often students have the PLTW class in a semester. Dr. Longo said	
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	<p>previously it was one time in a six day rotation, but now it is twice, so students meet about fourteen times.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. DiCorpo said the district is trying to add more time within the middle school schedule for classes such as PLTW but it is a work in progress and not ready to bring to the Board.• Mrs. Rella asked if there is collaboration with the high school PLTW. Ms. DiCorpo said yes, the teachers meet periodically and they collaborate on the alignment of resources.• Ms. DiCorpo said Practical Arts focuses on food with some sewing machine use taught too.• Mr. Failla asked if there was any student feedback about the course. Ms. DiCorpo said no, they hear more requests at the high school for culinary options and have begun preliminary investigation into creating a pathway for that.• Mrs. Rella said that seems sensible, especially in light of the Community Culinary School in town. She suggested there might be a tie in.• Ms. DiCorpo said she has met with New Milford's Economic Development Director to discuss possibilities for job shadowing and internships as part of a pathway. She said they are in the process of obtaining training that will provide definitions from the state to share with community members to ensure students all partake in like experiences. She said it will probably be a three to five year phase in.• Mrs. McInerney said last year this program was proposed to be cut. She said she would like to see the data behind that proposal in order to mull it over for this year. Ms. DiCorpo said it had to do with the lack of curriculum in that area. The syllabus is old and there is no pathway for it right now. It is a survey course only. She said it is difficult to even get certification from the state.• Mrs. McInerney asked what the trend is for Practical Arts in other districts. Ms. DiCorpo said she would check.• Mrs. McInerney said she appreciated the economic piece to the course but she was	
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	<p>aware that personal finance is a graduation requirement at the high school. She suggested Practical Arts may be antiquated at this point and expensive to offer as a stand alone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Parker said the power of this conversation is exactly why the district needs strategic planning overall.• Mrs. Faulenbach agreed, saying strategic planning has been pushed aside for far too long. Fluid conversation is needed outside of budget time.• Ms. DiCorpo said the middle school computer education course is also a survey course and they are working on some changes to bring it more in line with a pathway. She said Robotics is just getting started, primarily with after school activities.• Mrs. Monaghan asked if students take both Practical Arts and PLTW. Dr. Longo said they do, in different semesters.• Mrs. Monaghan said she thinks the money for Practical Arts should be taken and used somewhere else because she feels its cost is not justified.• Mr. Failla said he remains a strong advocate for skills based programming as an alternative to college. He said it is important to fill that gap.• Ms. DiCorpo said the TAG teacher is shared with SNIS. At SMS, the teacher services 48 students currently.• The mandated Bilingual program has been offered at SMS for the last few years in a pull out, push in model. The coordinator provides staff support.• Mrs. Rella asked why Spanish language version textbooks are not provided in the regular classroom. Ms. DiCorpo said they can be budgeted as needed. She said the online social studies text is offered in various languages. The district will also be testing in Spanish and English, where appropriate.• Mrs. Olson gave the update on special education programming at the middle school. She said at this level, one particular focus is on the social emotional needs of the student.	
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Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center

Multisensory reading services 36 students at SMS. There is one BIP program. A part time ESS program is new this year and has 8 slots filled. Co-teaching is thriving with 29 sections. There is one ILC program, 1.4 psychologist, and 2.0 FTE social workers. The substance abuse counselor offers support here as a 0.2 FTE. The other 0.8 FTE is spent at the high school.

- Mrs. Faulenbach said it was fantastic to have the counselor position filled finally and that she wished we had more in this area.
- Mrs. Olson said other support services mirror the elementary schools. She said she was pleased to report that SMS is in the final stages of having a therapy dog in use.
- Demographics show an anticipated reduction of seventeen students so a special education teacher will be redeployed to HPS, which has higher needs. The move is budget neutral.
- Ms. DiCorpo said the middle school benefits from interventionists and coaches. Mrs. Rella asked if there were tutors to support the interventionists. Ms. DiCorpo said there are 2.5 tutors in support.
- Mr. Failla asked if there is a method to monitor the success of the tutors' work since he thinks they provide good value at reasonable cost. Ms. DiCorpo said it is difficult to fill the tutor positions because they must be a certified teacher and are paid at a lower rate.
- Mrs. Chastain noted that the certification requirement is Board policy, not a state requirement.
- Ms. DiCorpo said the Library Media Specialist enhances classroom work. She said there is a requested increase in the library book line based on the annual audit.
- Regarding the counselors, Ms. DiCorpo said they continue to work on social emotional learning; the Choose Love program was introduced this year. There is an increase requested for career investigation to link Naviance from the middle school to high school.

- SMS has head teachers and team leaders. The team leaders perform managerial functions for their team and the head teachers work with the instructional coaches to plan professional learning for their group.
- Mrs. McInerney asked how many there are of each. Ms. DiCorpo said there are 9 total team leaders and 7 head teachers (one for each major subject area, and one for unified arts).
- Dr. Longo spoke regarding athletics. He said this is the first opportunity for students to become student athletes. There are 10 interscholastic teams, which travel, and 11 in-house intramural teams. There is also a Unified Sports team. The fall season runs through November, winter is December-January, and spring is March-May.
- Mr. Failla noted the large numbers in track and field and asked Dr. Longo if their needs are being met. Dr. Longo said the sport, by its nature, allows a large group to participate.
- Mr. Failla asked if the same level of participation continues at the high school. Dr. Longo said there is some carryover but there are more offerings at the high school so some students change focus.
- Mrs. Chastain asked if there is still a late bus offered. Dr. Longo said yes, twice a week, on Mondays and Wednesdays. He said advisors try to schedule their events on those days too to take advantage of the bus. Mr. Giovannone said the bus costs \$60 per day. Mr. Shugrue said the high school has a late bus four days per week.
- Mr. Giovannone spoke to the major object codes. He said certified salaries are still being recalculated. The non-certified reduction is three paraeducators who are being redeployed. The professional services reduction is for Chromebooks that are being moved into the Technology budget. The exception is Chromebooks for special education which are left here to take advantage of excess cost qualification. Professional services are for decreased repairs based on historical actuals. Other services decrease is to printing/postage.

	<p>The supply line decrease is in Chromebooks and also a byproduct of projected enrollment decreases. Capital is reduced furniture. Fees are based on actual from prior year spending.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Chastain invited line-by-line review.• Mrs. Rella asked about the increase to world language workbooks. Dr. Longo said this is based on audit of inventory.• Mrs. McInerney noted the decrease to art supplies. Dr. Longo said this is also based on audit of inventory.• Mr. McCauley asked about the decrease to science periodicals. Dr. Longo said the information is more web based now. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Parker said the focus at the high school continues to be based around programming.• Ms. DiCorpo said at this level, students are focused on making decisions for their future. The high school programming is comprehensive.• There are 24 courses offered in the English department for student choice.• Mr. Failla asked how the college essay factors in. Ms. DiCorpo said it has been moved to the beginning of the junior year. She also noted the importance of the Digital Writing Portfolio.• Math offerings total 23 courses and include algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics and practical math. The budget includes a request for replacement texts in this area.• Science courses are aligned to the NGSS, and offer students individual choice in the areas of earth science, biology, chemistry and physics. PLTW is part of the science department. There are 5 courses in the PLTW area. College credit is possible. There is work to be done on encouraging enrollment.• Mrs. Chastain said PLTW courses are often described as engineering classes which will turn off some students. She suggested that it might be good to shift how they are described. Ms. DiCorpo agreed and said she would remind staff to be cognizant during course selection.	
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- Mrs. Nabozny asked if space is an issue for the PLTW program. Mr. Shugrue said it is not.
- There are 24 social studies classes including the required US History and Civics.
- Mr. Failla said he found the recently reviewed textbook “busy” with visuals and thin paged.
- Ms. DiCorpo said the book is a resource for the course and would not be used chapter by chapter. She said students were surveyed by the department and requested a hard copy book. The request is in this budget.
- World Language is offered in French, German and Spanish with 8 courses each. The Seal of Biliteracy was added in 2019. The assessment line has a requested increase to test for the Seal of Biliteracy in a second language not English.
- Mr. McCauley asked about offering world language earlier than middle school. Ms. DiCorpo said it is difficult to find staff.
- Music is a regionally recognized program, with over 10 courses offered. There is a requested increase for equipment replacement.
- Visual Arts offers 14 courses including digital photography.
- Health offers 8 courses. Health 1 is required for graduation. Other courses offer preprofessional and vocational pathways. The Perkins grant is helpful in this area. The district is exploring the addition of a pharmacy tech course. PE offers 4 courses including the PE Leader. There is a lot of choice in instruction within the courses.
- Business has 17 course offerings, including preprofessional and vocational pathways. The Perkins grant is a benefit here as well. The district is exploring a Future Bankers of America program. Building internships and externships is also a priority. Tech Ed is hands on at the high school and also includes some automation work in CADD. The district is still working to set up the MedInstill partnership for students.
- Mrs. McInerney asked if the Tech Ed area is geared for career entry. Ms. DiCorpo said it provides students an opportunity to develop skills that might lead to future careers but not

	<p>to start apprenticeship per se. Mrs. McInerney said that is why internships are so important.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. McInerney asked why Architectural Drafting wasn't offered under the Visual Arts umbrella. Ms. DiCorpo said it is more math heavy, with drafting and building plans.• Ms. DiCorpo said the high school has a mandated bilingual program. They couldn't find a qualified bilingual teacher so are using a TESOL teacher this year instead. The coordinator has been a huge help with this program.• Ms. Baldelli said, regarding staffing, one reduction in math is being recommended.• Mrs. Chastain asked for the reasoning behind this. Mr. Shugrue said they struggle with math staffing; there are three openings now. There is an anticipated retirement as well. Mr. Shugrue said the plan is to eliminate the SAT Prep course and offer it outside of school hours. It would be covered by a teacher stipend.• Mr. Failla said this program was proposed to bring about an uptick in student SAT scores and now we will be pushing student to have to pay for it outside of school, on top of all the other fees they pay at the high school.• Mr. Shugrue said the program would be free to students. He said they have not seen a significant uptick in scores since the course was offered and he thinks resources could be better utilized during the day.• Ms. DiCorpo said Khan Academy offers free personalized resources based on students' PSAT performance. The district offers students the opportunity to take the PSAT in grades 9 and 10.• Mr. Failla said he would like the impact of this change tracked over the next few years.• Mrs. Rella said with Khan Academy, some students are electing to take other courses instead of the SAT Prep.• Ms. DiCorpo said another possible avenue to pursue is the Early College Experience through UConn. This would align a course with college credit. This would be helpful to students.	
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- Mrs. Chastain asked if the position is retained, but not in math, are there other electives that could be offered.
- Dr. Parker said she would be happy to repurpose the position full time grades 6-12 to work on internships, Portrait of the Graduate, community liaison and recruiting. This should be someone who understands education, but not necessarily a certified teacher.
- Mrs. Olson spoke regarding special education. She said the biggest emphasis at the high school level is making the student more accountable and autonomous.
- The Multisensory Reading program has 17 students. There are two full time BIP programs, 32 co-taught classes, two ILC programs and a 0.8 substance abuse counselor. There is a full time Department Chair/Inclusion Teacher and a Supervisor of Special Education. The ESS program is full time; there are 18 slots of which 14/15 are currently filled. Demographics are projecting an increase in special education students, but there are more special education teachers at the high school so it is easier to accommodate increases.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said she would like to see the statistics on the number of interactions with the substance abuse counselor, as well as the number of crisis interventions.
- Ms. DiCorpo said department chairs oversee each academic area and unified arts. They also teach three classes.
- Counselors focus on the graduation track as well as on student social emotional health. Ms. DiCorpo said they discussed credit recovery options but it is not included in this budget request.
- Mrs. Faulenbach asked what the cost is for the credit recovery discussed and how many students it would service. Ms. DiCorpo said it would be \$24,000 for Odysseyware with teacher supervisor. She will check on the number of students.

- Mr. Shugrue and Mr. Lipinsky described the high school's comprehensive athletic program, which includes 27 distinct programs.
- Mrs. Chastain asked if the student numbers listed are unique numbers. Mr. Lipinsky said there is some overlap. He said last year there were 575 unique athletes and this year they are projecting 630. Mrs. Chastain asked if Mr. Lipinsky thought the removal of pay to play was leading to the increase. Mr. Lipinsky said he thought it was a factor for some, but also a combination including recruiting from grade 8 and a large freshman class.
- Mr. Failla asked if coaches discouraging athletes from playing more than one sport had been addressed. Mr. Lipinsky said no coach does that. The department has a multisport philosophy.
- Mr. Helmus said he had never heard that as an issue prior to Mr. Failla mentioning it tonight.
- Mr. Failla said it was common knowledge.
- Mr. Failla asked about the required reconditioning of equipment, specifically football equipment which had been brought up at a previous meeting. Mr. Lipinsky said equipment has a life span and some are reaching expiration dates. Mr. Failla asked if enough money is being allocated for safety. Mr. Lipinsky said yes.
- Mr. Failla asked about uniform replacement. Mr. Shugrue said there is no funding included in this budget for uniform purchases. No uniforms have been purchased since 2017-18.
- Dr. Parker said they originally considered including a request for \$25,000 to purchase uniforms for approximately 10 teams, but it was cut from the budget in the eleventh hour to keep the overall increase down.
- Mrs. Chastain asked that field trips be renamed athletic transportation for this area of the budget.
- Mrs. Chastain asked how much funding is needed to bring all uniforms up to date. Mr. Lipinsky estimated under \$50,000.

- Mr. Failla said he felt this request should have been brought before the Board. He understands the budget is tight, but athletics get cut year after year.
- Mrs. Faulenbach asked if uniforms could be considered a capital expenditure. Mr. Giovannone said no but perhaps the Board might choose to use end of year funds if available.
- Mrs. Faulenbach suggested perhaps a conversation could be had with the Town about using the Waste Management Fund which is designated for recreational use.
- Mr. Failla said he would strongly support that.
- Mrs. Chastain asked if field advertising could be used for uniforms or if parents could buy their own child's uniform. Mr. Shugrue said Board policy prohibits supplanting the budget.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said band uniforms are also needed. Mr. Shugrue said that cost is \$72,150.
- Mrs. McInerney said she thinks this needs to be added to the budget. The Board needs to tell the Town what we need and the Town needs to fund it or provide another source for funding.
- Regarding the advertising campaign, Mrs. McInerney said it needs a lot more organization. She said people would support it if they knew specifically that their money was going back to the athletics program.
- Mr. Shugrue said gate receipts average \$25,000 per year and perhaps they could go directly back to the athletics account as the Board is doing with the all school musical this year.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said that will have a budgetary impact since you would really just be reallocating the funds from revenue.
- Mr. Failla asked a question about the need for field netting on game days. Mr. Munrett said he is in the process of getting a proposal but the problem is in the spacing of poles and the need for fittings.
- Mr. Giovannone summarized the major object codes. The certified staff is being recalculated. The non-certified staff shows two less paras due to grant and redeployment. Professional

	<p>services has an increase for Naviance, reductions for the reallocation of Chromebooks. Property services is decreased for repairs as actual. Supplies show an increase for textbooks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. McInerney asked for a breakdown of dues. Mr. Shugrue said there is \$1,000 for CAS/CIAC, \$50 for National Council of Social Studies, \$2,190 for online subscription for Physics text and \$120 for the Seal of Biliteracy. • Mrs. McInerney asked about the increase in math. Mr. Shugrue said it is due to low inventory in Algebra 2 books. • Mrs. McInerney asked about Science field trips. Mr. Shugrue said it is for the Science Olympiad at Yale. • Mrs. McInerney asked about the equipment increase. Mr. Shugrue said this is for Vernier lab sensors. • Mrs. Monaghan asked about the equipment request in music. Mr. Shugrue said this is for stands and chairs. • Mrs. McInerney asked about Business supplies. Mr. Shugrue said this is for toner. • Mr. McCauley asked about the library supplies. Mr. Shugrue said this is for Makerspace tech related mechanisms and consumables. • Mrs. McInerney asked about general equipment. Mr. Shugrue said this is for cafeteria table replacement: 5 tables at \$1,300 each. • Mrs. Monaghan asked where the after school bus shows in the budget. Mr. Giovannone said it is in general transportation. • Mrs. McInerney asked about the decrease in student activities supplies. Mr. Shugrue said that was inventory related. • Mrs. McInerney asked about the head teacher stipends at the elementary level. Ms. DiCorpo said they did not make the cut from budget drivers to budget final. 	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Opportunity for the Public to be heard</p>	<p>Opportunity for the Public to be heard</p>

**New Milford Board of Education
 Budget Hearings & Adoption Minutes
 January 21, 22, 28 & 29, 2020
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Megan Byrd said she thought it was important that the public and Town officials see a list of all the things that were discussed which are not included in the budget. She thanked the Town officials who attended tonight's hearing. 	
5.	<p>Recessed to Tuesday, January 28, 2020</p> <p>Mrs. Chastain recessed the meeting at 10:04 p.m. until January 28, 2020.</p>	<p>Recessed to Tuesday, January 28, 2020</p> <p>The meeting recessed at 10:04 p.m.</p>

**Budget Hearing Minutes
 January 28, 2020
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

Present:	<p>Mrs. Angela C. Chastain, Chairperson 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</p>
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Also Present:	<p>Dr. Kerry Parker, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Human Resources Director Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Mr. Kevin Munrett, Facilities Director Mr. Brandon Rush, Technology Director Mr. Greg Shugrue, New Milford High School Principal Dr. Christopher Longo, Schaghticoke Middle School Principal Mrs. Anne Bilko, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Principal Mrs. Gwen Gallagher, Northville Elementary School Principal Mr. Eric Williams, Hill and Plain Elementary School Principal</p>
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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 Mrs. Chastain, Chairperson. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.</p>	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>A. Pledge of Allegiance</p>
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2.	<p>Opportunity for the Public to be heard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no comments made. 	<p>Opportunity for the Public to be heard</p>
3. A.	<p>Discussion Superintendent's Proposed 2020-2021 Budget including, but not limited to, District-wide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Parker referenced the revisions made to the budget pages that changed the overall budget amount to \$65,843,593, which is an increase of \$1,802,901 or 2.82% over the current year's budget. Dr. Parker also referenced material provided to the Board as follow up to questions asked last week: NMHS Course Sections by Department, a draft Credit Recovery Proposal for NMHS, and a proposal for a netting system for the NMHS softball field. • Dr. Parker said the first slide in the district-wide proposal was added in response to questions last week regarding what was considered over the last several months as budget drivers but not ultimately requested. She said these items represent what the district administration would have included in the budget in a perfect world. The items total \$1,273,345 and would have brought the increase to 4.8%. • Mrs. Faulenbach questioned how many out of district placeholders are currently in the proposed budget. Dr. Parker said four; this year there are six. • Mr. Rush, Technology Director, said a large piece of the Technology budget request will go towards refreshing Chromebooks. He said many Chromebooks are at end of life, and have expired updates. Not doing the refresh may lead to problems at testing time. He said the goal is to have all devices up to date to start the next school year. The number requested by school can be found in the Capital Five Year Plan. He said the district is also in the process of exploring new Smartboards to see which ones will best meet staff and student needs. Mr. Rush said this is the last year for the PLTW 	<p>Discussion A. Superintendent's Proposed 2020-2021 Budget including, but not limited to, District-wide</p>

	<p>computers. They will move them out to other classrooms after that and replace them with new machines for this high level usage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Chastain asked what the expected life is of a Chromebook. Mr. Rush said typically four to five years for the style the district purchases.• Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the requested Chromebooks are embedded in the budget or captured in capital at the end. Mr. Rush said they are in capital.• Mrs. Chastain asked what each Chromebook costs. Mr. Rush said \$175, plus \$25 for the license. This is the consortium price.• Regarding the Student Information System (SIS), Mr. Rush said staff has expressed a high level of dissatisfaction with the current vendor and the district is in its last year prior to renewal. An RFP was posted and three bids were received. A committee will vet vendors in the spring, give feedback and a decision will be made. The impact to the budget is \$60,000 for a one-time implementation fee, in addition to the current \$50,000 operating expense.• The district copiers are at the end of a five year lease with Ricoh; currently we are in a month to month lease. The copier fleet is aging and reports of breakage are increasing. An RFP was posted and eight bids received. The plan is to replace all district copiers under a new five year lease. The new plan will also include print use tracking and authentication codes.• Mrs. Faulenbach asked about cost. Mr. Rush said it is \$116,000 per year, which is lower than recurring now.• Mr. Munrett, Facilities Director, said custodians cover 772,225 square feet. There are 30.5 custodians so that works out to over 25,000 square feet per person, per night. In addition, they set up for over 200 events annually. Supplies and materials are green certified; there is a 1.75% increase requested. Controllable budget items are nearly flat. The uniform increase is contractual.• The district schools encompass over 187 acres. The Maintenance staff services over 1000 work	
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	<p>orders annually. Mr. Munrett said having professional staff in house saves the district from having to hire more costly outside consultants. Mr. Munrett said increases in this area include printing to update and digitize architectural prints and contracted services for Windows 7 and security systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Munrett said they continue to have collaborative meetings with the Town regarding roofs, asphalt and energy conservation. Items on the Five Year Capital Plan include assess controls, building automation, vehicle replacement, SNIS elevator retrofit, NMHS alarm panel upgrade and custodial equipment district-wide. The SNIS RTU that has been discussed previously is not included because it is time sensitive and is needed this year.• Mrs. Faulenbach asked about the cost of the RTU and Mr. Munrett said it is \$65,000.• Ms. DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent, presented regarding the Department of Instruction which includes curriculum development; professional development and training for all staff; instructional testing, support and intervention and state mandates; 504 services and resources; support for homeless students; summer programs; Adult Education; and Computer Based Instruction (CBI) program.• Ms. DiCorpo said there is a \$10,000 increase requested based on the curriculum five year plan for 72 curriculums. There is a slight increase to professional development.• Mr. McCauley asked if the mandated TEAM program is funded by the state. Ms. DiCorpo said there is some funding, but not enough, especially for New Milford which has a significant number of new teachers.• Ms. DiCorpo said the Summer Bridge Program has been very successful, and they have seen long term gains as a result.• There is a request for \$38,000 to replace an EL Civics grant for which the district no longer qualifies due to a change in the standards. Ms.	
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	<p>DiCorpo said these critical dollars directly affect the Adult Education EL population which makes up the majority of the program's students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The CBI program has nineteen students currently. Their Chromebook use counts against the high school count.• Ms. DiCorpo discussed Agriscience and Magnet School enrollment. Agriscience enrollment is capped at twenty. Magnet School seats total eighteen.• Mrs. McInerney asked if students could still choose Nonnewaug. Ms. DiCorpo said not for new entry; the state determined Shepaug as our program last year. Ms. DiCorpo said transportation for both programs is at no cost for next year through an agreement with the bus company.• Mrs. Monaghan asked if Nonnewaug and Shepaug cost the same to the district and Ms. DiCorpo said they do.• Mr. Failla asked if all the Agriscience seats are filled and if there is a waiting list beyond. Ms. DiCorpo said all seats are filled at Shepaug and 11 of 12 seats at Nonnewaug. Ms. DiCorpo said the district is not privy to who is accepted or on the waiting list but she does know that Shepaug reaches out as seats become available.• Mr. Failla asked how students are made aware of the opportunity. Ms. DiCorpo said Shepaug sends out marketing materials, and they come on-site to SMS to present.• Ms. DiCorpo said information had been requested about administrative responsibilities. She listed sample topics including dysregulated students, the discipline referral process, investigations and mediations, the teacher evaluation process, planned and impromptu meetings with stakeholders, curriculum concerns, re-entry meetings or case conferences, PPTs, 504s, DCF/211/911 referrals, scheduling, testing, professional development, daily duties, events, assemblies, evening events and administrative team meetings. The data does not quantify the work	
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	<p>administrators do in classrooms with teachers. Ms. DiCorpo said that is difficult to organize on top of everything else. Sample breakdowns of time spent on various duties were also provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Chastain said the data is very helpful to focus on specifics versus the abstract.• Mrs. McInerney noted that an administrator position had been requested last year but she does not see it in this budget request. Ms. DiCorpo said she had moved away from the director position to ask for two coordinator positions, one for Humanities and one for STEM, in order to try to get “more boots on the ground”. That request did not make the cut from budget driver to budget.• Mrs. Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services, shared demographic information which shows identifications trending upwards. In comparison to the state, the district is trending slightly lower. She said out of district placements are a huge piece of the budget and the district has been fairly steady in this area. There are 32 this year and we are projecting 32 next year; these include eight mediated agreements. There are four placeholders budgeted next year. These placements can range from \$60,000 to \$300,000 depending on services. New Milford’s private placements as a percentage of total special education are 3.6%, compared to the state average of 5.2%.• Mr. McCauley asked when the ESS program started in district. Mrs. Olson said 2017-18 and the program has been very successful.• Mrs. Olson said the Litchfield Hills Transition Center program is in its thirteenth year and provides mandated services for 18-21 year olds. She expects their numbers to increase next year. This program provides cost avoidance savings for the district. Mrs. Olson thanked the community partners for their support of the program.• Mrs. McInerney said the Board had discussed a possible move from the MAXX due to issues	
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	<p>and asked what the status of the move is. Mrs. Olson said they had looked at a few sites in town but that was as far as it had gone. Mrs. McInerney asked if there was a threshold that would precipitate a move. Mrs. Olson said there are limitations now but students are still thriving. She said they are expecting an increase in population in two years, so this may be a topic for next year's budget.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Olson noted that the professional services line encompasses many services including student care workers, specialized therapists and consultants, the Institute of Professional Practice for autism support, behaviorists K-5 and BCBA supervision and consultation.• Mrs. Rella asked how the district monitors that services are happening in the schools with all the providers. Mrs. Olson said the IEP is the primary monitoring system, administrators keep the pulse of their buildings and the supervisors provide oversight as well.• Mrs. Chastain asked for any questions for any section.• Mrs. Monaghan noted that the number of tutors was up but the budget number was down. Mr. Giovannone said this is based on actuals of past vacancies; positions often go unfilled for portions of the year. He said funding for 504 private tutoring is also in that line and they looked at historical actuals there too.• Ms. DiCorpo said that the district requires tutors to be certified but their pay is low in comparison to teachers.• Mrs. McInerney questioned the TAG travel which has increased 50% and supplies that are up 118%. Ms. DiCorpo said this is a new staff member who is traveling for more professional development, which is not often local.• Mrs. Faulenbach noted that the actual dollar amount is minimal, only \$100.• Ms. DiCorpo said the supply line varies based on enrichments offered as well as the number of students. More students are being serviced.	
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Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center

- Mrs. Monaghan asked about the deployment of the six social workers. Mrs. Olson said they service students K-12.
- Mrs. McNerney asked about the counseling certified salary line. Mr. Giovannone said this is due to the hiring of the substance abuse counselor. There is a corresponding decrease to the professional services line.
- Mr. Failla said he would like to see information on what progress the counselor is making. Dr. Parker said that the counselor has only been on board for six weeks and she expects to have those measurements to share with the Board by May of this year.
- Mr. McCauley asked about the increase to Health supplies. Mrs. Olson said that is for epipens. Parents are not mandated to supply them.
- Mrs. Rella asked about the speech supplies. Mrs. Olson said they are for low tech devices, and testing materials. Tests must be re-normed every 4-5 years.
- Mrs. Monaghan asked about the \$402,900 in professional services. Mr. Giovannone said this is a realignment of the two ESS programs to one line together.
- Mrs. Faulenbach asked about the settlement cost in the legal services line. Mr. Giovannone said it is \$21,400.
- Mrs. Faulenbach asked about the reduction made to the turnover savings line. She said this line is watched very carefully each month, a reduction was already made last year to it, and she is leery about continuing to reduce it. Mr. Giovannone said it is all about risk tolerance.
- Mr. Giovannone said the benefit increase is 1.76% overall. This includes an offset to health insurance from the Internal Service Fund authorized by the Town Finance Director.
- Mrs. Faulenbach noted that technically it is a 5.3% increase without the offset. She said we need to be conscious of the trade-off, in that this offset creates a hole for next year's budget. She said she appreciates the collaboration to make a tight budget, but the community needs

	<p>to know it will be a factor next year. She said overall the health insurance would be much more devastating if the district was still self insured. Mr. Giovannone said the increase under the old plan would have been between 13-17%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Faulenbach said there was also a \$200,000 revenue offset last year that created a hole for this year's budget before the process even started.• Mr. Failla said he raised that issue last year, saying that the Town did the district no favors. That is showing now here.• Mrs. Faulenbach asked what line MUNIS shows in, what year we are in for the contract, and what the amount of the debt is. Mr. Giovannone said it is in the professional services line under Fiscal Services and that he will check on specifics.• Mrs. Faulenbach said she appreciated the notation on page 73 under 5 Year Capital Plan Expenses about projects being completed with funding taken from the capital reserve account after the capital was zero'd out.• Mr. Giovannone noted that the bus contract is in year 3 of 5 for 2020-21. Mrs. Faulenbach asked for the number of buses. Mr. Giovannone said he would get that information.• Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the security enhancements in the capital plan could be staggered. She said if the Board approves this budget with the capital plan as is, they are authorizing these projects to be taken from the capital reserve, in the amount of \$525,200.• Mr. Giovannone said the current capital reserve balance, without audit, is \$661,200.• Mrs. Faulenbach noted the collaboration with the Town this year on such projects as the playgrounds. While she does not doubt the validity of the projects in the capital plan, funding them through capital reserve will result in a historically low balance. She said this is a very serious move when a large unforeseen expense could require a supplemental appropriation from the Town.	
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Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center

- Mr. Munrett said there is risk to staggering the enhancements because they are not supported by the current system.
- Mrs. McNerney said Mrs. Faulenbach makes a very good point. She said the Town is putting forth lower and lower budget requests. She asked what happens next year when the Board won't have a capital reserve to turn to.
- Mr. Failla said this is a larger conversation with the Town regarding their reductions to the BOE and its ability to run the district.
- Mrs. Chastain asked about the request for vehicle replacement. Mr. Munrett said it is to replace a 2002 pickup truck with a rotted frame. She asked why a 350 is requested. Mr. Munrett said it is a plow vehicle. Mrs. Chastain noted that the district purchased a truck two years ago. Mr. Munrett said 30% of the fleet is over twelve years old.
- Mrs. Faulenbach asked about the scrubbers. Mr. Munrett said he tries to stagger their purchase but none were bought last year. Mrs. Faulenbach asked about the age of the equipment. Mr. Munrett said he would get it.
- Mr. Failla asked about the school musical request. Dr. Parker said they are leaving it in the musical account instead of putting it in revenue. This will give more control to the musical for use.
- Mr. Failla asked what the parking fee is and noted revenue was down. He reiterated that he thinks it is an unfair burden to a select group. Mr. Giovannone said the fee is \$225. Less revenue is coming in. Mrs. Chastain noted that enrollment is down too as a factor.
- Mrs. Faulenbach noted some revenues were bumped up. Mr. Giovannone said the district is expecting more in excess cost based on the certified state report. At the same time, the district is reducing the percentage expected to 66% for this budget. The Medicaid line is a function of tracking actuals. EXCEL tuition is based on projections.
- Mrs. Chastain asked Mr. Shugrue why he is not reducing an English teacher, along with the

	<p>Math teacher, as a result of eliminating SAT Prep. Mr. Shugrue deferred to Dr. Parker. Dr. Parker said she based her decision on Mr. Shugrue's recommendation.</p>	
4.	<p>Opportunity for the Public to be heard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Megan Byrd asked that the revised budget documents be added to the district website for transparency. Dr. Parker said they would be put up in the morning as a follow up to tonight's discussion with the Board. 	<p>Opportunity for the Public to be heard</p>
5.	<p>Discussion and Possible Action (Executive Session Anticipated)</p> <p>A. 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</p> <p>B. Discussion of Non-Bargaining Unit employment and salary</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved that the Board enter into Executive Session for the purpose of:</p> <p>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,</p> <p>Discussing Non-Bargaining Unit employment and salary,</p> <p>And to invite into the session Dr. Kerry Parker, Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Mr. Brandon Rush, Mrs. Laura Olson, Mr. Kevin Munrett, New Milford Police Chief Spencer Cerruto, Lieutenant Lee Grabner and Lieutenant Earl Wheeler.</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action (Executive Session Anticipated)</p> <p>A. 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</p> <p>B. Discussion of Non-Bargaining Unit employment and salary</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously that the Board enter into Executive Session for the purpose of:</p> <p>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,</p> <p>Discussing Non-Bargaining Unit employment and salary, And to invite into the session Dr. Kerry Parker, Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Mr. Brandon Rush, Mrs. Laura Olson, Mr. Kevin</p>

	<p>Seconded by Mr. Failla.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>The Board entered executive session at 9:11 p.m.</p> <p>Police Chief Cerruto, Lieutenant Grabner and Lieutenant Wheeler left executive session at 9:51 p.m.</p> <p>Ms. DiCorpo, Mr. Rush, Mrs. Olson, and Mr. Munrett left executive session at 9:51 p.m.</p> <p>Ms. Baldelli and Mr. Giovannone left executive session at 10:00 p.m.</p> <p>The Board returned to public session at 10:06 p.m.</p>	<p>Munrett, New Milford Police Chief Spencer Cerruto, Lieutenant Lee Grabner and Lieutenant Earl Wheeler.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Recessed to Wednesday, January 29, 2020</p> <p>Mrs. Chastain recessed the meeting at 10:06 p.m. until January 29, 2020.</p>	<p>Recessed to Wednesday, January 29, 2020</p> <p>The meeting recessed at 10:06 p.m.</p>

**Budget Hearing Minutes
 January 29, 2020
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

<p>Present:</p>	<p>Mrs. Angela C. Chastain, Chairperson 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</p>
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Also Present:	<p>Dr. Kerry Parker, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Human Resources Director Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Mr. Kevin Munrett, Facilities Director Mr. Brandon Rush, Technology Director Mr. Greg Shugrue, New Milford High School Principal Dr. Christopher Longo, Schaghticoke Middle School Principal Mrs. Anne Bilko, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Principal Mrs. Gwen Gallagher, Northville Elementary School Principal Mr. Keith Lipinsky, New Milford High School Athletic Director</p>
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1.	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>A. Pledge of Allegiance The budget hearing meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was reconvened at 7:00 p.m. by Mrs. Chastain, Chairperson. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.</p>	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>A. Pledge of Allegiance</p>
2.	<p>Recognition</p> <p>A. NMPS Stars of the Month: Daniella Brooks, Darryl Gregory, Linda Hurley, Eileen McDougal, Christine Santorella, Susan Sullivan</p> <p>Dr. Parker read a comment about each Star from the person who nominated them. They each received a pin recognizing their nomination and Linda Hurley was randomly selected to drive the Ingersoll Automotive Courtesy Car for the month.</p>	<p>Recognition</p> <p>A. NMPS Stars of the Month: Daniella Brooks, Darryl Gregory, Linda Hurley, Eileen McDougal, Christine Santorella, Susan Sullivan</p>
3.	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heidi Edel spoke in support of the hiring actions for EL and she encouraged the Board to continue to support all teachers to learn about EL students. • Carolyn Hyde said she has three children in New Milford schools and works for Headstart where the EL population is growing. She thanks the Board for the EL teachers. She applauds the “spork” initiative at NES which is 	<p>Public Comment</p>

	<p>what learning should be about. The second graders who brought about this change were given a voice. She asked the Board to also keep classroom size in mind tonight.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roseann Petruso commended the administrators and staff for presenting the impressive work of the district. She said she has heard a lot of “doing the best we can with what we have” and wishes that would change to “we have all we need to do the best we can”. She appreciates the Town officials’ attendance. She is concerned about grade 1 class sizes, especially in light of emotional learning needs. She would like to see athletic uniforms funded. She said it will be important to sell the budget to the community and she suggested focusing on ways to bring the community into our schools through tours etc. She also suggested going out into the community, for example to the senior center. • Megan Byrd spoke on behalf of Amy Photopoulos, a parent and member of the Board of Finance, who is home with the flu. Mrs. Photopoulos requested the addition of 2 FTE for grade 1 to mitigate class size and help with emotional needs. She is in favor of strategic planning to help prioritize future choices. She requested funding for sports and band uniforms. Mrs. Byrd suggested the Board go out to the Town to inform them about the schools and build budget support. 	
<p>4.</p>	<p>A. Approval of Minutes Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</p> <p>1. Special Annual Meeting Minutes December 19, 2019</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Annual Meeting Minutes December 19, 2019, seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Approval of Minutes A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</p> <p>1. Special Annual Meeting Minutes December 19, 2019</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Annual Meeting Minutes December 19, 2019.</p>

	<p>2. Special Meeting Minutes December 19, 2019</p> <p>Mrs. Monaghan moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes December 19, 2019, seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach and passed unanimously.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Helmus asked to comment. He said in reallocation of administrative offices, the notes say that he said any capital savings go to the Town. That's not exactly what he meant. Capital savings for the BOE gets handed to the Town as a capital expense and that's why it would undermine BOE support if that continues to happen. <p>3. Regular Meeting Minutes January 7, 2020</p> <p>Mr. McCauley moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes January 7, 2020, seconded by Mrs. Rella and passed unanimously.</p> <p>4. Special Meeting Minutes January 14, 2020</p> <p>Mr. McCauley moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes January 14, 2020, seconded by Mrs. McInerney and passed 8-0-1.</p> <p>Aye: Mrs. Chastain, Mr. Failla, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. McCauley, Mrs. McInerney Mrs. Monaghan, Mrs. Nabozny, Mrs. Rella Abstain: Mr. Helmus</p>	<p>2. Special Meeting Minutes December 19, 2019</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes December 19, 2019.</p> <p>3. Regular Meeting Minutes January 7, 2020</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes January 7, 2020.</p> <p>4. Special Meeting Minutes January 14, 2020</p> <p>Motion made and passed to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes January 14, 2020.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Superintendent's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Parker said she wanted to thank all the administrators, departments and support staff for their work in preparing this budget. She also wanted to thank the members of the Board 	<p>Superintendent's Report</p>

	for sharing their depth of knowledge and for their thoughtful questioning as we shared the work of the district and its needs.	
6.	Board Chairman's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Chastain said she had no report to give. 	Board Chairman's Report
7.	Discussion and Possible Action <p>A. Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified, Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated January 29, 2020</p> <p>Mrs. Monaghan moved to approve Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as of January 29, 2020, seconded by Mr. McCauley.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Failla noted there were two more math vacancies and asked how their absence is being covered. Ms. Baldelli said the total is now three. She said the high school is using a variety of teachers to pick up an extra class, there is a virtual school component and the assistant principals are helping. She said they are looking for candidates, but it is a shortage area across the state. Mrs. Rella said she has heard from students about their frustration with the lack of support for the online course and the high school needs to be aware of that. Mrs. McInerney asked about the status of the English vacancy at SMS. She said she was aware there is a long term substitute in place and that the class has had a lot of change. She wondered if the substitute would be there for the rest of the year. Ms. Baldelli said the vacancy is posted and they are looking for a replacement. In the meantime, the substitute is being supported by other teachers. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	Discussion and Possible Action <p>A. Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified, Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated January 29, 2020</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as of January 29, 2020.</p>

<p>B. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget Position dated 12/31/19 2. Purchase Resolution: D-730 3. Request for Budget Transfers <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve monthly reports - Budget Position dated 12/31/19, Purchase Resolution: D-730, and Request for Budget Transfers, seconded by Mr. McCauley.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Faulenbach asked for confirmation of the capital reserve total on page 4. Mr. Giovannone said \$661,200 is correct. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>B. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget Position dated 12/31/19 2. Purchase Resolution: D-730 3. Request for Budget Transfers <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve monthly reports - Budget Position dated 12/31/19, Purchase Resolution: D-730, and Request for Budget Transfers.</p>
<p>C. Policy for Approval</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 6146 Graduation Requirements <p>Mrs. McInerney moved to approve Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements, seconded by Mrs. Monaghan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no discussion <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>C. Policy for Approval</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 6146 Graduation Requirements <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements</p>
<p>D. Adoption of the 2020-2021 Board of Education Budget</p> <p>Mr. McCauley moved to approve the Superintendent's proposed 2020-2021 budget in the amount of \$65,843,593, seconded by Mrs. Monaghan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. McCauley said he appreciates the careful review of the budget. He said it is bare bones. He also appreciated the slide last night which showed the budget drivers that were not included in the final budget presented. He hopes they make it into future budgets, items such as the social worker, more classroom teachers and the special education chairperson. 	<p>D. Adoption of the 2020-2021 Board of Education Budget</p> <p>Motion made to approve the Superintendent's proposed 2020-2021 budget in the amount of \$65,843,593.</p>

<p>Mr. McCauley made a motion to amend the Superintendent's Proposed 2020-2021 budget by increasing it by \$120,000 for the purpose of hiring two grade 1 teachers, seconded by Mrs. McInerney.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. McCauley said 23 grade 1 students in a class is too many. He said that number could even grow to 24/25. He said another alternative could be to add one teacher and reassign a grade 3 teacher, which would bring the average class size at grade 3 to 23.• Mrs. McInerney said she wholeheartedly supports adding two grade 1 teachers and prefers not to touch grade 3 where the students are transitioning to a bigger school. She said she toured HPS classes this week. She is afraid of additional summer enrollments for grade 1 and thinks the number is already too high.• Mr. Helmus said he also visited HPS and was impressed with the professionalism of the staff. He said he didn't see any magic number, staff handled all well. He saw some paraeducator help, small area instruction. Mr. Williams appeared very good at juggling his resources. He said he is new to the Board. Dr. Parker and her administrative staff didn't recommend any additions so he thinks the Board should trust their guidance to manage. He thinks the numbers are fine for now.• Mrs. Monaghan agrees the grade 1 numbers are a lot and she worries about new enrollment. She wants to be practical and reposition some money to help make the change. She suggests cutting Practical Arts at SMS and using that teacher salary towards the grade 1 adds. She suggested some of the practical arts instruction could be handled through a stipended club.• Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the \$120,000 includes benefits. Mr. Giovannone said with benefits, the cost should be \$175,834 for two teacher adds. Mrs. Faulenbach said she appreciates the conversation but that it is early on to add two full positions to the budget. She said the Board can make modifications when faced with higher	<p>Motion made and failed to amend the Superintendent's Proposed 2020-2021 budget by increasing it by the revised amount of \$175,834 for the purpose of hiring two grade 1 teachers.</p>
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	<p>numbers if they occur. She can't support the motion now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Faulenbach asked Mr. McCauley if he was comfortable using Mr. Giovannone's figure for his motion. Mr. McCauley said he was.• Mr. Failla said the Board looks at class sizes every budget and there is no clear indication for what number works. Guidelines are for 25. He has faith in the teachers. He said you never know where the census will go, population has been declining; these are anticipated sizes. If the Board sees a significant increase, then adjustments can be made then.• Mrs. Rella said she agrees with Mr. McCauley and would love to be able to afford smaller sizes, but she trusts the teachers will handle the numbers. She would like to see support with additional paraeducators to provide another pair of hands.• Mrs. Chastain said she doesn't disagree that we are approaching a caution area and will keep watching.• Mr. McCauley said he wanted to put the discussion out there to keep it on the radar. He would like more paras but ultimately doesn't see that as the answer as they are pulled too many places.• Mrs. McInerney said she doesn't understand the current discussion and is very disappointed and fearful. She wondered if Board members had made up their minds before the meeting. She said the Board is not doing what is best for children at this level. Surrounding towns average 18-20. She supports this motion.• Mrs. Monaghan said young students establish a rapport with their teachers so she thinks it is important to make any needed changes before school starts, not after the class has started.• Mrs. Faulenbach said there will be opportunities to keep an eye on this prior to September, even in June. She said this is a collaborative process; no decisions were made ahead of time. The Superintendent did not recommend these additions. The discussion can be ongoing with moves made if needed in the future.	
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- Mrs. Monaghan asked where finances will come from in the future if it is not budgeted for now.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said the Board adjusts lines all the time to prioritize need. They find a way to make it work.

The motion failed 3-6-0.

**Aye: Mr. McCauley, Mrs. McInerney,
Mrs. Monaghan**

**No: Mrs. Chastain, Mr. Failla, Mrs. Faulenbach,
Mr. Helmus, Mrs. Nabozny, Mrs. Rella**

Mrs. Monaghan made a motion to amend the Superintendent's Proposed 2020-2021 budget by decreasing it by \$70,447 for the purpose of dropping interscholastic athletics at SMS, seconded by Mr. McCauley for discussion.

- Mrs. Monaghan said that is a lot of money for athletics at the middle school. She would keep intramurals. She said students could participate in after school sports supported by stipends. Parks and Recreation has fourteen sports in their youth program. There are Town programs too for other opportunities to redirect students to. She wants to at least start the discussion.
- Mr. Failla said the number of students who currently compete in track and field at the middle school is significant. Sports provide a balance of health and activity, teamwork, structure, and competition, which is such a part of the educational process as a whole. Meeting fitness requirements could also become an issue. He can't possibly agree with this motion.
- Mrs. Rella said this would be a mistake. Sports brings the school together for spirit. After school programs could be an issue for working parents. Plus these programs feed our high school programs.
- Mr. McCauley said he can't support the motion either but it is worth having the discussion in case further cuts are needed down the road.

The motion failed 1-8-0.

Motion made and failed to amend the Superintendent's Proposed 2020-2021 budget by decreasing it by \$70,447 for the purpose of dropping interscholastic athletics at SMS.

Aye: Mrs. Monaghan

**No: Mrs. Chastain, Mr. Failla, Mrs. Faulenbach,
Mr. Helmus, Mr. McCauley, Mrs. McInerney,
Mrs. Nabozny, Mrs. Rella**

Mrs. Chastain made a motion to amend the Superintendent's Proposed 2020-2021 budget by decreasing it by \$290,900 for the purpose of eliminating the full ESS program, leaving the half program only, and leaving it to administration to determine where that will be put in place, seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach.

- Mrs. Chastain said the budget cycle is always rough and she tries to look for the happy medium of supporting education and putting forward a budget that will pass at referendum. One of the things she looks at is the number of students a program supports. She said we cannot sustain the cost of this program for the limited number of students it supports. She said it was adopted in part because it was supposed to decrease out of district placements (ODPs), but ODPs have been constant for the past six years. Plus the Board has added lots of social emotional learning. She said very few districts offer this program. In our area, it is only Wilton and Greenwich and New Milford is not them. She views this program as a want, not a need.
- Mr. McCauley said he strongly disagrees, the program is an absolute need today. As a special education teacher, he sees the tremendous need every day and said we need more programs like this one.
- Mrs. McInerney said she understands this is a cost savings from outplacements. Mrs. Olson said the district brought three students back from ODP at the start, but now it is cost avoidance.
- Mrs. McInerney said if the Board does away with this program, 14 to 15 students will be displaced. What happens to them? Do they get pushed back out into the general high school population? Do they become outplacements? She said she can't support this motion.

Motion made and passed to amend the Superintendent's Proposed 2020-2021 budget by decreasing it by \$290,900 for the purpose of eliminating the full ESS program, leaving the half program only, and leaving it to administration to determine where that will be put in place.

- Mr. McCauley said he is shocked. He said it is very early to be discussing cutting a program already. He said the program does provide cost avoidance. He said if backs are against the wall in June, maybe they could discuss it then. He is opposed.
- Mrs. Monaghan asked if there were more students being identified and if that is why there is no dip in ODP. Mrs. Olson said mental health needs are increasing across the nation. She said everything is a risk. ESS is a high cost program but Mrs. Olson says she stands behind the data. She said it is a matter of how much risk the Board is willing to take on.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said the motion still leaves a third of the program in place.
- Dr. Parker said administrators will look to customize the remaining program where it is most needed.
- Mrs. Olson said support will go from 25 students to 9.
- Mrs. Rella said the program is run by an outside entity. She asked if it could be done in-house with trained New Milford staff for less expense. Mrs. Olson said it is possible, but those staff would have to be hired and the program would probably lose student exclusivity.
- Mr. McCauley said there were several requests that didn't make it into the budget including a social worker, special education department chair and credit recovery program so realistically there won't be new hires for this. He will not support the motion.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said this is a difficult decision, it is hard to bring amendments forward. She said they are not eliminating the program. Choices are needed.
- Mr. McCauley said we don't need to make this choice now. Adjustments can be made later if required. He urged Board members to leave the budget as is, at a 2.82% increase, which is bare bones for programs. He strongly disagrees with this motion and called it a fire sale.
- Mrs. Monaghan again suggested the elimination of the Practical Arts program at SMS, and to use

that money here to help keep this program, which she says is a higher priority.

- Mrs. McInerney said eliminating this program will be disastrous to the students it is serving who need it to become functioning young adults, and she begged the Board not to do this.

The motion passed 6-3-0.

Aye: Mrs. Chastain, Mr. Failla, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. Helmus, Mrs. Nabozny, Mrs. Rella

No: Mr. McCauley, Mrs. McInerney, Mrs. Monaghan

- Mr. McCauley left the meeting at 8:27 p.m.
- Mrs. Chastain asked for an update on the new budget total. Mr. Giovannone said it stands at \$65,552,693, which is a 2.36% increase.

Mrs. Faulenbach made a motion to amend the Superintendent's Proposed 2020-2021 budget by reducing the revenue line of \$525,200 and decreasing the corresponding line items in the Five Year Capital Plan to match, seconded by Mr. Failla.

- Mrs. Faulenbach said this action has no budgetary impact. She said it was proper to include the capital in the budget for discussion of these necessary and important items, but she thinks the Board should come back to them as separate requests to the Town rather than give them wholesale approval now as part of the budget. She wants them to be reviewed individually as was done last year. She appreciates the notation in the budget that references that.
- Mr. McCauley rejoined the meeting at 8:31 p.m.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said the Board should look for continued collaboration and consider all other funding sources for capital items. The capital reserve balance is \$661,200 and approving \$525,200 in capital expenditures will leave a dangerously low balance. She said there is a risk in going through the request process with the

Motion made and passed unanimously to amend the Superintendent's Proposed 2020-2021 budget by reducing the revenue line of \$525,200 and decreasing the corresponding line items in the Five Year Capital Plan to match.

Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center

	<p>Town, but that the process also provides checks and balances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. McInerney said she agrees the capital reserve is too low due to budget cuts year after year. She said she will support the motion in spite of the fact that all capital requests are needed. She said we need to partner with the Town to prioritize needs in the new year.• Mr. McCauley said he will support the motion due to the capital reserve total.• Mr. Failla said he is very concerned about the low total as well. He said the upside is that they have a good relationship with the Mayor and Town Council to help move things forward.• Mrs. Faulenbach said all line items are needed. We will work through the process, collaborate, and see where we can push funds back into education. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Mrs. Chastain made a motion to amend the Superintendent's Proposed 2020-2021 budget by decreasing the English salary line at the high school by \$87,917 to eliminate the SAT Prep English component in conjunction with the Math component, seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. McInerney asked for the reasoning behind this request.• Mrs. Chastain said they are dropping the course so do not need the English staffing for it. They have already eliminated the Math position in the budget.• Mrs. McInerney asked if this position was full time SAT Prep. Mr. Shugrue said it is currently.• Mr. Failla said he does not like to see classes eliminated but hard choices need to be made.• Dr. Parker said when the two mandated bilingual teachers needed to be added they looked at FTEs to offset. They took one FTE at SNIS and then asked Mr. Shugrue to absorb one from an open position at the high school.	<p>Motion made and passed to amend the Superintendent's Proposed 2020-2021 budget by decreasing the English salary line at the high school by \$87,917 to eliminate the SAT Prep English component in conjunction with the Math component.</p>
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<p>Mr. Shugrue offered the Math opening and Dr. Parker took it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. McInerney asked Mr. Shugrue is this will create a hardship in other English classes. And if it would not, why was it not cut before?• Dr. Parker said it was a lack of knowledge on her part, being new to the district. She did not realize the Math and English were intertwined for SAT Prep. <p>The motion passed 8-1-0.</p> <p>Aye: Mrs. Chastain, Mr. Failla, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. Helmus, Mr. McCauley, Mrs. McInerney, Mrs. Monaghan, Mrs. Rella No: Mrs. Nabozny</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Chastain asked for an update on the new budget total. Mr. Giovannone said it stands at \$65,464,776, which is a 2.22% increase. <p>Mrs. Chastain moved to adopt the 2020-2021 Board of Education Budget by approving the Superintendent's Proposed 2020-20201 budget as amended in the amount of \$65,464,776, seconded by Mr. Failla.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. McInerney said she is very disappointed in what was done here today and won't support this budget.• Mr. McCauley said he can't support it either with the cut to the ESS program. Even if we can help one student, we should.• Mrs. Monaghan agreed, saying high school years are precarious and how the Board can cut services to fifteen students is beyond her. She will not support the budget. <p>The motion passed 6-3-0.</p> <p>Aye: Mrs. Chastain, Mr. Failla, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. Helmus, Mrs. Nabozny, Mrs. Rella No: Mr. McCauley, Mrs. McInerney, Mrs. Monaghan</p>	<p>Motion made and passed to adopt the 2020-2021 Board of Education Budget by approving the Superintendent's Proposed 2020-20201 budget as amended in the amount of \$65,464,776.</p>
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8.	Adjourn Mrs. Monaghan moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m.
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Respectfully submitted:



Wendy Faulenbach
Secretary
New Milford Board of Education