

**New Milford Board of Education
 Regular Meeting Minutes
 November 21, 2017
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

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

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Also Present:	Mr. Joshua Smith, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Ms. Roberta Pratt, Director of Technology Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Operations and Fiscal Services Mr. Kevin Munrett, Facilities Director Mr. Nestor Aparicio, Assistant Facilities Director Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal, Northville Elementary School Dr. Chris Longo, Principal, Schaghticoke Middle School Ms. Elizabeth Meskill, Student Representative Mr. Gregory Winkelstern, Student Representative
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1. A.	Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance The regular meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance
2. A.	Recognition Commended Students – 2018 National Merit Program: NMHS students Joseph Alexander and Jeffrey Schlyer	Recognition A. Commended Students – 2018 National Merit Program: NMHS students Joseph Alexander and Jeffrey Schlyer

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Smith noted that 1.5 million students took the PSAT and 50,000 scored high enough to be recognized as commended students. New Milford High School had two this year: Joseph Alexander and Jeffrey Schlyer. <p>B. NMPS Stars of the Month: Jane Cox, Judy Grossenbacher, Susan Holland, Al Marchena Rodriguez, Barbara Morris, Jennifer Tuozzoli</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Smith read a comment about each Star from the person who nominated them. They each received a pin recognizing their nomination and Barbara Morris was randomly selected to drive the Ingersoll Automotive Courtesy Car for the month. • Mr. Lawson noted that Mr. Littlefield would be leaving the Board after this meeting. He listed some of the achievements of Mr. Littlefield and thanked him for his service. <p>The meeting recessed at 7:38 p.m. for a brief reception and reconvened at 7:47 p.m.</p>	<p>B. NMPS Stars of the Month: Jane Cox, Judy Grossenbacher, Susan Holland, Al Marchena Rodriguez, Barbara Morris, Jennifer Tuozzoli</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pete Martinez, a Gaylordsville resident, said he was concerned about an incident that occurred during USA day at the high school. He said students were supposed to dress to show their patriotism and some students came with confederate flags. He said he knows Mr. Shugrue does not condone that activity, but he was concerned the district may not be doing enough in this area. He said he felt there is a fear by teachers about discussing racism and race and he felt they needed to be empowered to discuss this in the classroom. He said it is the job of the schools to bridge the gap between the schools and the community. 	<p>Public Comment</p>

<p>4.</p>	<p>PTO Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Kathleen Lewis, PTO President, said the PTOs have sponsored some fun events for the students this past month. SNIS held a game night where students had an opportunity to learn some new games and ten winners brought home a new game. Northville sponsored their Spooktacular event, where they had games, a photo booth and haunted courtyard, while Hill and Plain held a “Trick or Treating” night where students received a map to direct them through the school to games and little prizes. • Some new events that students can look forward to are a dance at Schaghticoke for 7th & 8th graders which will be held right after school in December, as well as a Star Wars Movie Event ~ "The Last Jedi" at Bank Street Theater on Saturday, Dec. 16. The high school PTO is working with Mrs. Stiles, the LMS, to round up donations to promote the “passport to reading” program. • It is conference time and that also means that the K-8 schools will be promoting their Scholastic book fairs with family events planned for the K-5 schools. The Book Fairs are a staple and are great events that promote reading and help provide books for the schools. • December’s spirit theme is “Ugly Sweater Day.” The PTO would like to thank Mr. Littlefield for his service and wish everyone a very happy Thanksgiving. 	<p>PTO Report</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Student Representative’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This past Friday was the Spanish Honor Society talent show. • The Dramatics Club is working on their December show which will take place on December 7 and 8. • The marching band will be flying out on Thanksgiving to California for a production that will air on the CW network on December 15 at 8 p.m. 	<p>Student Representative’s Report</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yesterday, tryouts for the All School Musical production of "Curtains" were held. • Students must sign up and pay to take advanced placement tests by December 1. • Senior nights for fall varsity sports are ongoing. • Winter sports begin December 2. • The German Honor Society handed out flowers to all staff today. • The National Honor Society completed a food drive. • The students wished a Happy Thanksgiving to all. 	
<p>6.</p> <p>A.</p>	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</p> <p>1. Workshop Minutes October 17, 2017</p> <p>Mrs. Chastain moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Workshop Minutes October 17, 2017, seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach and passed unanimously.</p> <p>2. Regular Meeting Minutes October 17, 2017</p> <p>Mr. McCauley moved to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes October 17, 2017, seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>A. Approval of the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:</p> <p>1. Workshop Minutes October 17, 2017</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Workshop Minutes October 17, 2017.</p> <p>2. Regular Meeting Minutes October 17, 2017</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes October 17, 2017.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Superintendent's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Smith said the hot water heater failed at Schaghticoke and that day the health inspector visited the cafeteria. Despite the failed hot water heater, the kitchen staff worked to get hot water to the cafeteria and still scored 100 on the inspection. The new hot water heater will be 	<p>Superintendent's Report</p>

	<p>coming in on Monday and will cost about \$10,000 which will require a transfer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NMHS athletics received the Michael's Cup Award which is given to schools for their efforts in launching and implementing the CIAC Class Act School sportsmanship program. • The parents of students at Schaghticoke and the high school received information from the district on the dangers of vaping products. • The governor recently announced more cuts to the towns from the budget deficit and New Milford will lose about \$1.7 million. The excess cost numbers may also be in jeopardy as the year proceeds. • Mr. Smith and Mr. Lawson met with Peter Bass, Mayor-elect, and had a good discussion. • Teachers and students started Thanksgiving break today. 	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Board Chairman's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Lawson said the administration has begun budget planning and if Board members have suggestions they should get them to the Superintendent's office. • He noted that he and Mr. Smith had a pleasant meeting with the Mayor-elect at which they shared the facilities and curriculum five-year plans as well as the ADA report on East Street. He said he hopes to work in partnership with the Town on the \$1.7 million cut from the State. They also spoke about getting started on the strategic plan, and on adult and continuing education. 	<p>Board Chairman's Report</p>
<p>9. A.</p>	<p>Committee And Liaison Reports</p> <p>Facilities Sub-Committee – Mr. McCauley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. McCauley said they discussed the Lillis Building ADA report and how to prioritize any work. They also discussed budget drivers for the 2018-2019 budget including asbestos testing, asphalt repairs, and playground safety work. 	<p>Committee And Liaison Reports</p> <p>A. Facilities Sub-Committee</p>

<p>B.</p> <p>C.</p> <p>D.</p> <p>E.</p>	<p>Operations Sub-Committee – Mrs. Faulenbach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Faulenbach said they had a presentation by Source 4 Teachers, which is the group the district uses to fill substitute teaching spots, and they discussed the substitute fill rates. They also discussed stipend requests and monthly reports, the list of operational vacancies, and heard an update on transportation complaints and budget drivers. They also were presented with the substitute list and they discussed the agreement reached between the Board and the NMEA. <p>Policy Sub-Committee – Mr. Schemm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Schemm said they discussed the distribution of materials policy which will be going back to the Policy Committee for further discussion. They also discussed the drug, alcohol and tobacco policies as they relate to vaping technology and the existing language of the policies. They heard about possible budget drivers, especially as they might relate to the proposed expulsion legislation. <p>Committee on Learning – Mrs. McInerney</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. McInerney said they had a presentation from the Project Lead the Way capstone course and five student groups presented their projects. They will bring their prototypes to the Connecticut Science Fair in March. The committee also discussed two curricula: for Conversational Spanish I and II. Budget drivers were discussed at this meeting as well. <p>EdAdvance – Mr. McCauley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. McCauley said they have leased a building in Torrington to expand Access and the Expelled Student programs. The UConn property has also come through and will be 	<p>Operations Sub-Committee</p> <p>Policy Sub-Committee</p> <p>Committee on Learning</p> <p>EdAdvance</p>
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	<p>focused on Head Start and Adult Education. He noted many of the programs New Milford uses through EdAdvance, including Individual Day Supports, Head Start and Early Childhood Programming for Autism.</p> <p>F. Connecticut Boards of Education (CABE) – Mr. Coppola</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no report. <p>G. Negotiations Committee – Mrs. Faulenbach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Faulenbach said they have finalized the stipulated arbitrated agreement with the teachers with a three-year contract and one-year re-opener for salary. She said it was a long process, but they were able to negotiate a salary increase that would be offset somewhat by an insurance cost decrease. <p>H. Magnet School – Mr. Schemm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Schemm said he had no update. 	<p>F. Connecticut Boards of Education (CABE)</p> <p>G. Negotiations Committee</p> <p>H. Magnet School</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>A. Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated November 21, 2017</p> <p>Mrs. McNerney moved to approve Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as of November 21, 2017, seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>B. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget Position 2. Purchase Resolution: D-704 3. Request for Budget Transfers <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve monthly reports:</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>A. Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence dated November 21, 2017</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Exhibit A: Personnel – Certified, Non-Certified Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence as of November 21, 2017.</p> <p>B. Monthly Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget Position 2. Purchase Resolution: D-704 3. Request for Budget Transfers

<p>Budget Position dated October 31, 2017; Purchase Resolution D-704; and Request for Budget Transfers, seconded by Mr. McCauley.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Faulenbach said she has appreciated the progress made with the financial reporting throughout the past year. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>C. Activity Stipend Requests</p> <p>1. Schaghticoke Middle School</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve the stipend positions of Unified Sports-Bowling advisor and Schaghticoke Allies for Equality (S.A.F.E.) advisor for Schaghticoke Middle School, seconded by Mrs. McInerney.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. McCauley said he was pleased to see the Unified Sports growing. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>D. Approval of the Following Curricula</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conversational Spanish I 2. Conversational Spanish II <p>Mrs. Chastain moved to approve the following curricula:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conversational Spanish I 2. Conversational Spanish II <p>Seconded by Mr. Schemm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Littlefield said his son took this last year and picked up a lot of Spanish usage. • Mr. Schemm said students can often make better progress learning to speak a language without all the grammar to slow them down. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve monthly reports: Budget Position dated October 31, 2017; Purchase Resolution: D-704; and Request for Budget Transfers.</p> <p>C. Activity Stipend Requests</p> <p>1. Schaghticoke Middle School</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the stipend positions of Unified Sports-Bowling advisor and S.A.F.E. (Schaghticoke Allies for Equality) Club advisor for Schaghticoke Middle School.</p> <p>D. Approval of the Following Curricula</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conversational Spanish I 2. Conversational Spanish II <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following curricula:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conversational Spanish I 2. Conversational Spanish II
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	<p>E. Textbook Approval</p> <p>Mr. Lawson moved to approve the following textbook: <u>American History: Beginnings Through Reconstruction</u> - Grade 8, Seconded by Mr. McCauley.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. McInerney asked about the total cost for 380 textbooks and wondered if the students should be provided with tablets instead. • Mr. Lawson noted that there are books online, but they also require licensing fees. A move to a more digital environment is worth a conversation, but it shouldn't be seen as a cost saving option. • Mr. Smith said there are recurring costs with Chromebooks and tablets as well. They also need to be replaced faster than textbooks. • Mrs. McInerney asked if the costs had been looked into and what the average textbook shelf life was. Ms. DiCorpo said the former text for this class was 25 years old and since they revised the curriculum they had to purchase a new text. She said there are online resources as part of this purchase. She also said students are not in favor of online texts. • Mr. Dahl asked if there were quantity discounts and whether all the area social studies classes from other high schools could be included and Ms. DiCorpo said she does negotiate, but it is difficult to purchase textbooks regionally as not everyone is in the same place in the process. <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>E. Textbook Approval</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the following textbook:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>American History: Beginnings Through Reconstruction</u> – Grade 8
<p>11.</p> <p>A. Field Trip Report</p>	<p>Items For Information And Discussion</p> <p>A. Field Trip Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no discussion. 	<p>Items For Information And Discussion</p> <p>A. Field Trip Report</p>

<p>B. Review of Tobacco Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Schemm said the Policy Committee looked at the way the policies were written in terms of vaping devices. He said many adults don't know a lot about these devices and the Board needs to get information out to parents to be proactive on this issue.• Mr. Lawson said paraphernalia is paraphernalia. Mrs. Faulenbach said this could be left for interpretation but getting the information out is appropriate and has to be consistent.• Mr. Smith said the vaping device is a tobacco product and is illegal on school grounds. He said now the definition is that it can also be considered drug paraphernalia. <p>C. Possible Budget Drivers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Expulsion legislation2. High school reform3. Intervention Support4. Curriculum Mapping5. Tier I Instructional Supports6. Funding Cycles7. Review of Special Education structures8. Bilingual staffing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Smith said there is a short window for budget deliberations and the administration has been discussing how they bring program changes to the table along with budgetary changes. He said the program changes don't all increase the budget, but they may have an effect. He said they know they need to add a bilingual teacher to the district which could require a cut from some other place. He noted the recent presentation which highlighted the gap in achievement. He also said there is no line in the budget to update playground equipment, for instance.• Mrs. Faulenbach said some programming may add to the budget but other areas can be more efficient to create savings. She said the Board would need to prioritize.• Mr. Smith said special education is 22% of the budget from PreK to age 21 and they have been	<p>B. Review of Tobacco Policies</p> <p>C. Possible Budget Drivers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Expulsion legislation2. High school reform3. Intervention Support4. Curriculum Mapping5. Tier I Instructional Supports6. Funding Cycles7. Review of Special Education structures8. Bilingual staffing
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	<p>discussing if the model and delivery mechanism meets the needs of the students. He said the social emotional needs are shifting and the district is not staffed equitably between 6-12 and PreK to 5.</p> <p>D. Lillis Building ADA Report Prioritization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. McCauley said the Facilities Committee is looking for direction from the Board. They could spend nothing on up to \$5 million for ADA compliance, even though the building is grandfathered in. He said there are no safety issues that are immediate. • Mrs. Faulenbach said she was not thinking about putting anything into the operations budget yet but it should be a goal to look at the report throughout the next year. She said she would rather focus on curriculum issues for this next year. • Mr. Lawson said they did touch on this discussion with Mayor-elect Bass, seeking direction from the community as some of these items might require bonding. • Mr. Dahl said at one point there was discussion that Mr. Smith and Mr. Munrett would try and prioritize the report. Mrs. McInerney said that was discussed again at Facilities. 	<p>D. Lillis Building ADA Report Prioritization</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Mr. Littlefield moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:54 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McInerney

Secretary

New Milford Board of Education