

**NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES**

**WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 5, 2011**

**7:09 P.M.
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**

New Milford Public School District Mission Statement

The New Milford Public School District provides relevant, innovative and rigorous educational opportunities to students at all grade levels.

The District is resolute in its attention to the development of the whole child by providing a comprehensive range of experiences essential to building capacity for independent and responsible living.

The program is designed to prepare all students to meet or exceed NJCCCS, to think critically, master the challenges of life-long academic, cultural, social, economic, emotional and professional advancement, as well as constructive participation as citizens in an interdependent global society.

The District embraces family and community as active partners in a unified effort to develop students into self-directed, self-confident adults on their journeys to becoming the next generations of entrepreneurs, builders, artists, designers, inventors, scientists, educators, caregivers, protectors, workers and leaders.

The meeting was called to order by President Conner at 7:09 p.m. Present at roll call were President Conner, Vice President Drake, Mr. Bigger, Mr. Foo, Mrs. McSweeney, Mrs. Mechler, Mrs. Ryan, and Mr. Steele. Mrs. Saslow was absent. Mr. Polizzi, Mrs. Shanley, and Mr. Sawicz were also present. Student Board Representative Joseph DeGaetani was absent.

After the flag salute, the Board President read the required New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law Statement. The Board announced that under its long-standing policy, it will not discuss in public any comments made by members of the public concerning individual staff members.

Dorene Zacher, District HIB (Harrassment, Intimidation, Bullying) Coordinator, was introduced by Michael Polizzi and gave a presentation including the Buddy Program. She advised that United Water gave the district a grant for the HIB Program. Ms. Zacher also gave the monthly HIB report.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS ITEMS *Michael Polizzi*

Mr. Polizzi spoke of the following:

- No changes will be made on the 2011-2012 district calendar at this time.
- He discussed Senate Bill 2925, as well as Assembly Bill 4132 to remove the local School Boards' and Superintendents' authority over personnel decisions. The original bills would remove the Superintendent and Board of Education from the hiring process, and require mutual consent for assigning faculty to schools.

Mr. Foo spoke of other current legislation to move school elections to November and no longer have a public vote on the budget.

He also spoke about the proposed Teaneck Virtual Charter School for which the Teaneck Board of Education would be required to set aside \$15 million for the school.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

The Board reviewed the bills; there were no questions or comments.

The following questions about the agenda for the December 19, 2011 Regular Meeting were asked:

- President Conner asked that a reminder about the meeting being held in the Middle School be sent.
- Mr. Foo had a question on BA46 regarding disenrollment of 6th or 9th Grade students who have not complied with re-registration requirements. Mr. Steele asked what happens once the students are officially disenrolled.
- Mrs. Mechler asked about F129 for SES providers; Mrs. Shanley responded that this is for Middle School Title I students who are eligible for free and reduced price lunch.
- Mrs. Ryan asked about F130 on State contracts; Mr. Sawicz explained these are vendors who are State approved.
- Vice President Drake questioned F132 in regard who made the donation of a tripod to the High School. The donation was dropped off by an anonymous donor.

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION ITEMS *Danielle Shanley*

Mrs. Shanley spoke of the following:

- This week's Professional Development Program.
- Mr. Sheninger and Mrs. Shanley attended a workshop on grants.
- She attended a workshop directed at the new NJASK in 2014 which will be using technology (e.g. computers) for the test taking.
- She is working on curriculum for the second semester.
- The Academy crests are being finalized.
- New virtual programs are being worked on with blended options incorporating computers and people.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS Michael Sawicz

Mr. Sawicz advised the Board of the following:

- Board Members are required to complete the State mandated criminal history check and fingerprinting if they have not done so already. They will be reimbursed for expenses incurred.
- The December 19 Regular Meeting will take place in the D.E. Owens Middle School Media Center.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE ITEMS Joseph DeGaetan

Absent – no report.

President Conner shared a letter from the parent of High School band member, Charlie Sternberg. Charlie auditioned and successfully made the Bergen County High School Band. Mrs. Sternberg commended everyone who contributed to Charlie's success, including Ms. Bernstein, Ms. Kolb, and especially Mr. Andolino for their efforts and support.

Motion by Mrs. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Bigger, carried by consent of the Board, the meeting was opened to the public at 8:11 p.m. There were no questions or comments; therefore, motion by Mr. Steele, seconded by Vice President Drake, carried by consent of the Board, the meeting was closed to the public at that time.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE Darren Drake, Chair***Having the recommendation of the Superintendent***

Motions P131,P132,P145,P146,P147 by Vice President Drake, seconded by Mrs. Mechler, carried by a roll call vote of 8-0:

P131 **Revision to Transfer:**

Jacqueline Bernard *from:* MS Secretary

to: HS Main Office/Guidance Secretary, \$TBD prorated, eff. ~~11/22/11~~ 12/7/11-6/30/12

P132 **Revision to Non-Certificated Appointments for 2011-2012:**

Denise Erba MS Secretary, Step 2, \$TBD prorated, eff. ~~11/22/11~~ 12/7/11-6/30/12 (replacing J. Bernard)

P145 **Hourly Rate Employees for 2011-2012:**

Thaddeus Orlowski P/T Paraprofessional, eff. 12/6/11 (replacing D. Erba, eff. 12/7/11)

Mary Gaestel P/T School Psychologist, 30 hrs/wk, \$30/hr, no benefits, eff. 1/3/12

P146 **Additional Substitute Teacher for 2011-2012:**

Christina Ginter Teacher of Students with Disabilities

P147 **Certificated Appointments for 2011-2012:**

Christina Ginter HS Special Education Teacher, Step 4, MA+16, \$TBD prorated, eff. 12/21/11–6/30/12 (replacing M. Widmer)

Shana-Rose Ginley MS Math Teacher (maternity leave replacement), BA+16, Step 1, \$TBD prorated, eff. 1/3/12-6/30/12 (replacing K. Swank)

POLICY COMMITTEE Peggy Saslow, Chair

Mrs. Ryan asked if the new legal requirements were checked. Mr. Foo asked about enforcement of the policies.

First reading of the following policies by Mrs. Mechler:

2436 Interscholastic Athletics Participation Fee Program

3321 Acceptable Use of Computer Networks/Computers and Resources (Teaching Staff Members)

4321 Acceptable Use of Computer Networks/Computers and Resources (Support Staff Members)

Liaison/Board Committee Reports

None

Old Business

None

New Business

Vice President Drake asked about the status of bus advertising. Mr. Sawicz advised that most districts in the area are waiting to see how other districts are doing before implementing this.

Mr. Foo asked that a Facilities Committee Meeting be scheduled for December 19th.

Motion by Mrs. McSweeney, seconded by Vice President Drake, carried by consent of the Board, the meeting was opened to the public at 8:24 p.m. There were no questions or comments; therefore, motion by Mrs. Mechler, seconded by Mr. Steele, carried by consent of the Board, the meeting was closed to the public at that time.

Motion by Mrs. Mechler, seconded by Mrs. McSweeney, carried by consent of the Board, the Board went into closed session at 8:25 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Steele, seconded by Vice President Drake, carried by consent of the Board, the resumed open session at 8:47 p.m.

There being no further business, motion by Mr. Bigger, seconded by Mr. Foo, carried by consent of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Sawicz
Board Secretary

MS/lv