

**NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2010**

**7:08 P.M.
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**

New Milford 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 students 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 at 7:08 p.m. Present were President Conner, Vice President Barton, Mr. Drake, Mr. Foo, Mrs. Lacey, Mrs. McSweeney, Mrs. Saslow, and Mr. Steele. Mrs. Mechler was absent. Also present were Mr. Polizzi, Mr. Sawicz, and Mr. Picardo. Student Board Representative Nicholas Borner was absent.

After the flag salute, the Board President read the required New Jersey Open Public Meeting 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.

A presentation recognizing Daniele Kass as 2010 New Milford District Teacher of the Year took place. Mr. Polizzi read the resolution, and Board President Conner and members of the PTO spoke of Dr. Kass' achievements which contributed to this honor. Flowers were presented to Dr. Kass by fellow teachers, as well as the Gibbs PTO.

Recommended Action

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Drake recused himself from approving the December 15 minutes due to his absence from the meetings.

Motion by Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Foo, carried by consent of the Board, the following minutes were approved:

December 15 Work December 15 Regular December 15 Closed

Open to the Public for Items on the Agenda

On motion by Mrs. McSweeney, seconded by Vice President Barton, carried by consent of the Board, the meeting was opened to the public at 7:23 p.m. There were no questions or comments; therefore, on motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Vice President Barton, carried by consent of the Board, the meeting was closed to the public at that time.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS REPORT *Michael Polizzi*

Mr. Polizzi reported on the following:

- "Race to the Top Grant" – the District submitted the application to the State. The NMEA did not sign the application; however, there were only a few educational associations that did sign their districts' applications. The items listed on the application for the grant are also on the State's agenda; if the application is not successful, the State will probably not file again in June due to time constraints.
- The Gibbs Winter Concert was very well attended, with a standing room only crowd.
- Berkley students raised over \$1,700 for Haiti relief.

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION REPORT *Joseph Picardo*

No report

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR REPORT *Michael Sawicz*

Mr. Sawicz reviewed the following:

- Governor Christie's office issued a Transition Team Report on Education which recommends a moratorium of accounting regulations, as well as a salary freeze. The Report was distributed to the Board Members.
- Today's windstorm produced no major problems in the schools including with the new roofs.
- The "opt out" option will be discussed at a future meeting.
- The NJ School Boards Convention will no longer take place in Atlantic City. A new location will house the event on October 19-21, 2010.
- All schools will post Board Meeting dates on their outdoor signs.

BOARD ACTION

Motions BAI7,BAI8,BAI9,BA20 by President Conner, seconded by Mr. Steele, carried by consent of the Board:

- BA17 Approval of Guide for Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and Internal Controls for the New Milford School District
 BA18 Approval of High School Project Graduation, June 23-24, 2010
 BA19 Approval to participate in “Dollars and Sense” Program
 BA20 **Approval of Application for Disenrollment:**
 Eric Garcia – High School

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE *Lori Barton, Chair*

Motions C20,C21 by Vice President Barton, seconded by Mrs. McSweeney, carried by consent of the Board:

- C20 Approval of field trips to date *Attachment*
 C21 Approval of Student Teaching/Practicum Placement for Spring 2010 *Attachment*

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE *Lori Barton, Chair*

Having the recommendation of the Superintendent:

Motions P53,P54,P55,P56,P57,P58,P59 by Vice President Barton, seconded by Mr. Drake, carried on a roll call vote of 8-0:

- P53 **Resignation:**
 Daniela D’Amato HS World Language teacher, eff. 2/19/10
- P54 **Additional Extra Pay Stipends for 2009-2010:**
 Alexander Diaz HS Musical Director
 Evelyn Lees MS Science Club Advisor .5
 John Ronan MS Science Club Advisor .5
 Michael Coyne MS Spring Track
- P55 **Additional Substitute Teachers for 2009-2010** *Attachment*
- P56 **Certificated Appointment for 2009-2010:**
 Lauren Zaccaria Gibbs Teacher (maternity leave replacement) BA Step 1, \$45,350, eff. 2/22/10-6/30/10
 Peter O’Neill Gibbs Teacher (maternity leave replacement) BA Step 1, \$45,350, eff. 2/1/10-6/30/10
- P57 **Additional Latchkey Recommendations for 2009-2010:**
 Courtney Cheval, Site Manager, Step 1
 Marisa Leone, Site Manager, Step 1
 Christina Petrone, Site Manager, Step 1
 Ariel Pasquale, Counselor, Step 1
 Jessica Ruiz, Counselor, Step 1
- P58 **Approval of Spring Coaching Recommendations for 2009-2010** *Attachment*
- P59 **Approval of Additional Hourly Rate Employee for 2009-2010:**
 Kellye Barden Home Instruction at a rate of \$25 per hour

FINANCE COMMITTEE *Peggy Saslow, Chair*

Vice President Barton commented on the District’s payment for non-public school transportation. She wrote a letter of disagreement to Senator Cardinale regarding the issue.

Motions F85,F86,F87,F88,F89,F90,F91,F92,F93,F94,F95,F96,F97,F98 by Mrs. Saslow, seconded by Mr. Foo, carried by consent of the Board:

- F85 Approval of Secretary’s and Treasurer’s Reports for November 2009
 F86 Approval of December 2009 payroll: \$1,595,092.01
 F87 Approval of December 2009 payroll agency bills: \$ 653,705.77
 F88 Approval of January 2010 bills \$1,314,898.14 *Attachment*
 F89 Approval of cafeteria bills for November 2009 \$ 52,904.00
 F90 Approval of December 2009 budget transfers *Attachment*
 F91 Approval and acceptance of Board Secretary and Board of Education’s monthly certification of budgetary major account/fund status that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a): December 31, 2009
 F92 **Setting of 2010 New Milford school election hours (subject to change as determined by State of NJ):**
 Tuesday, April 20, 2010, 2:00-9:00 pm
 F93 Approval of professional development opportunities *Attachment*
 F94 Acceptance of donation of an HP printer, scanner, copier Model #HP psc 750 to the High School *Attachment*
 from Diane Norton, approximate value \$150
 F95 Acceptance of donation of \$74.50 for the purchase of a new set of novels for the Fifth Grade from *Attachment*
 the Korzelius family
 F96 **Approval of Special Education tuition contract for 2009-2010:**
 New Alliance Academy Student attending 1/19/10-6/30/10, \$30,952

FINANCE COMMITTEE (con't):

- F97 Additional January 2010 bill \$1,000.00 Attachment
- F98 **Approval of Professional Service for 2009-2010:**
 Kellye Barden Reading Specialist, \$60 per hour for 10 hours per week

FACILITIES COMMITTEE Theresa Lacey, Chair

- Motion FA17 by Mrs. Lacey, seconded by Mrs. Saslow, carried by consent of the Board:
- FA17 Approval of fire drill log for December 2009 Attachment

Open to the Public

Motion by Mr. Foo, seconded by Mrs. McSweeney, carried by consent of the Board, the meeting was opened to the public at 7:33 p.m. The following questions or comments were made:

- Doreen Moat asked how successful the “Everyday Math” program is. She said the parents are not happy with it and should be instructed on how to assist their children with the program. Mr. Picardo advised that studies show that the program shows an improvement in students. President Conner advised the District began the program in the lower grades to continue as the students move into higher grades. Introducing the program in all grades at once is less successful.
- Mrs. Moat also stated there is a vast difference in the class size in Berkley versus Gibbs.
- Joann Prizendorf has concerns about students being dropped off at the High School in the morning, and asked what can be done to alleviate the dangerous situation. She asked that a letter be sent to the Mayor and Council to change the turn on Cooper Street. President Conner responded that this can't be changed, but Officer Wilde will be requested to revisit the situation.

There being no further questions or comments from the public, on motion by Mrs. McSweeney, seconded by Mr. Steele, carried by consent of the Board, the meeting was closed to the public at 7:40 p.m.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Saslow advised the Board that the Finance Committee met prior to this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Steele commented on the marvelous Talent Show held at Berkley School.

On motion by Mrs. Saslow, seconded by Mr. Foo, carried by consent of the Board, the Board went into Closed Session at 7:44 p.m.

On motion by Mr. Steele, seconded by Mrs. Lacey, carried by consent of the Board, the Board resumed open session at 9:17 p.m.

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Vice President Barton, carried by consent of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Sawicz
Board Secretary

MS/lv