

**NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES**

**WORK SESSION
JULY 29, 2009**

**7:13 P.M.
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**

New Milford School District Mission Statement

The mission of the New Milford School District is to provide effective instruction in all curricula areas, to develop the learning potential of all students, to build skills for a lifetime of learning, and to develop a feeling of self-worth and confidence that will allow students to become productive members of a democratic society. The New Milford School District team joins the parents and community in assisting students to develop skills to enable them to become independent and self sufficient adults who will succeed and contribute responsibly in the global community.

The meeting was called to order by President Conner at 7:13 p.m. Present at roll call were President Conner, Mr. Drake, Mr. Foo, Mrs. McSweeney, Mrs. Mechler, Mrs. Saslow and Mr. Steele. Vice President Barton and Mrs. Lacey were absent. Mr. Picardo and Mr. Sawicz were also present.

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.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Review of bills. Mr. Foo asked about the Treasurer's Report; Mr. Sawicz advised him that the report would be available with next month's information. Mr. Foo also asked if the Transfer Report could have year-to-date totals included. Review of agenda for Regular Meeting to be held on July 29, 2009. There were no questions from the Board.

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS ITEMS *Joseph Picardo*

Mr. Picardo discussed the following:

- Interviews are taking place for the positions which have been reinstated
 - The QSAC is presently being worked on.
 - Self evaluations have been sent to Board Members and are due by the 31st.
 - The Policy Committee recommended the policy on student identification badges be brought before the Board. A discussion ensued regarding how the policy addresses the way the badges should be worn. Mr. Picardo advised that only High School students currently have ID badges, and what occurs if they are lost. Mrs. McSweeney said the word "disciplined" in the existing policy is open to interpretation and consequences should be more specific. Mr. Drake felt the number of offenses for not wearing the ID badge should be taken into account. President Conner believes safety and security is the issue. Mr. Picardo said the priority is to guard against intruders, and that a temporary badge is issued for students who forget their badge so the number of times the badge is forgotten can be tracked and there are consequences for offenses. President Conner spoke about ID badges for Middle School students, and "governance" versus procedure by administration. Mr. Foo felt procedure was important.
- Also discussed was Bylaw #0167 - Public Participation in Board Meetings; it was agreed to keep the clause, "must sign up" in the existing policy.
- There will be a grievance scheduled prior to the next Board Meeting on August 17, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS *Michael Sawicz*

Mr. Sawicz gave the Board an update on the elementary school roof replacement projects.

NEW BUSINESS

- President Conner attended the Borough Council meeting in which the property next to the High School currently owned by United Water was discussed. The town has the first right of refusal of the land. President Conner spoke at the meeting, and addressed the fact that the number of students currently enrolled are only one student under capacity. If additional housing is built on the land, the district will not be able to accommodate additional students who will likely live there.
- Mrs. Saslow asked the Board Members to participate in a survey. The Board agreed and Mrs. Saslow will email it to them.
- Mr. Foo requests a meeting of the Finance Committee be scheduled; Mr. Picardo will do so.

There being no further business, on motion by Mrs. Saslow, seconded by Mrs. Mechler, the Board adjourned the Work Session at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Sawicz
Board Secretary