

**NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
MAY 18, 2009**

**7:00 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 at 7:00 p.m. Present at roll call were President Conner, Vice President Barton, Mr. Drake, Mrs. Lacey, Mrs. McSweeney, Mrs. Mechler, Mrs. Saslow and Mr. Steele. Mr. Foo arrived at 7:02 p.m. Also present were Mr. Picardo, Ms. Dunn, and Student Board Representative Angela Wan.

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.

Recommended Action

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mrs. Mechler, (recused by Mr. Drake, Mr. Foo, Mrs. McSweeney, and Mr. Steele) carried by consent of the Board, the following minutes were approved:

March 30 Public Hearing/Budget Adoption	March 30 Special		
April 6 Work	April 6 Special	April 6 Closed	April 20 Regular

Motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mrs. Mechler, carried by consent of the Board, the following minutes were approved:

April 27 Reorganization	April 27 Closed #1	April 27 Special	April 27 Closed #2	April 27 Closed #3
May 4 Special	May 4 Closed #1	May 4 Closed #2		

Open to the Public

Motion by Vice President Barton, seconded by Mrs. Mechler, carried by consent of the Board, the meeting was opened to the public at 7:03 p.m. The following question was asked:

- Mr. McCarten asked about the approval of the Acting Superintendent and why it was not on the agenda. President Conner responded.

Motion by Vice President Barton, seconded by Mr. Steele, the meeting was closed to the public at 7:04 p.m.

ACTING SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS/

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION REPORT *Joseph Picardo*

Mr. Picardo spoke about the following topics:

- Mr. Picardo congratulated the Tennis Team upon winning the Semi-Finals Sectional Championship; this was the first title for the Tennis Team in New Milford history.
- An evacuation drill took place at Gibbs School on May 18. Principal Scott Davies and Police Chief Papapietro were pleased with the results. A similar drill will be held at Berkley School on May 22.
- Committee meetings need to be scheduled.

INTERIM BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR REPORT *Joan Dunn*

No report.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT *Angela Wan*

Ms. Wan said the Spring Concert will take place on May 20 at 7:00 p.m.

BOARD ACTION

Motions BA6,BA25,BA31 by President Conner, seconded by Vice President Barton, carried by consent of the Board:

BA6	Revised Tentative Board Meeting Dates Calendar	<i>Attachment</i>
BA25	Revised resolution to participate in Bergen County Banking Consortium (BCBANC) for 2009-2010	<i>Attachment</i>

BOARD ACTION (con't):

BA31 Motion to approve the following Closed Sessions to be held in the Board Conference Room for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent Search and conducting interviews:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Anticipated Starting Time</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Anticipated Starting Time</u>
May 27, 2009	6:30 p.m.	June 17, 2009	7:00 p.m.
June 8, 2009	7:00 p.m.	June 29, 2009	6:00 p.m.
June 15, 2009	7:00 p.m.	July 1, 2009	7:00 p.m.
June 16, 2009	7:00 p.m.		

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE *Lori Barton, Chair*

Motions C41, C42 by Vice President Barton, seconded by Mrs. Mechler, carried by consent of the Board:

- C41 Approval to accept NVE Bank’s offer to award a \$500 Savings Product to a qualifying graduating 8th Grade student
- C42 Approval of additional field trips for 2008-2009 to date *Attachment*

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE *Lori Barton, Chair*

Motions P157, P158, P159, P160, P161, P162, P163, P164 by Vice President Barton, seconded by Mrs. Saslow, carried by a roll call vote of 9-0:

- P157 **New Milford High School Chairpersons for 2009-2010:**
 James Carr Guidance Department Chair
 Rose DePoto English/World Language Department Chair
 Pamela Miller Mathematics/Business Department Chair
 Walt Pevny Industrial Arts & Related Arts Department Chair
 Vicki Smith Science/Family & Consumer Science Department Chair
 Colleen Tambuscio Special Education Department Chair
 David Wilson Social Studies Department Chair
 Lou Coco Attendance/Scheduling Chair
- P158 **Approval of Fall Coaching Recommendations for 2009-2010** *Attachment*
- P159 **Coaching Recommendation for Winter 2009-2010:**
 Michael Kilgallen Head Girls’ Basketball Coach
- P160 **Custodial/Maintenance Staff Appointments for 2009-2010** *Attachment*
- P161 **Teacher Aide Recommendations for 2009-2010** *Attachment*
- P162 **Hourly Rate Employees for 2009-2010:**
 Stephen Jaskot ABA Home Instructor, 6 hrs/wk for 10 weeks at \$25/hr (\$1,500)
Lunch Aide Recommendations *Attachment*
- P163 **Additional Substitute Teachers for 2008-2009** *Attachment*
- P164 Motion to grant a medical leave of absence from 5/11/09 through 6/30/09 *Attachment*

FINANCE COMMITTEE *Peggy Saslow, Chair*

Motions F180, F197, F198, F199, F200, F201, F202, F203, F204, F205, F206, F207, F208, F209, F210, F211, F212 by Mrs. Saslow, seconded by Mrs. Mechler, carried by consent of the Board (Mr. Foo, Mrs. McSweeney and Mr. Steele recused themselves on F212):

- F180 **Revision to Professional Services for 2008-2009:**
~~Stephen Jaskot ABA Home Instruction~~ (changed to Personnel – Hourly Rate Employee)
- F197 Approval of Secretary’s and Treasurer’s Reports for March and April 2009
- F198 Approval of April 2009 payroll: \$ 1,461,433.16
- F199 Approval of April 2009 payroll agency bills: \$ 594,894.52
- F200 Approval of May 2009 bills: \$ 820,909.98 *Attachment*
- F201 Approval of April 2009 cafeteria bills \$ 66,610.58
- F202 Approval of April 2009 budget transfers *Attachment*
- F203 Approval to submit amended IDEA FY 09 Grant due to carry-over funds:
 Basic: \$738,049
 Preschool: \$ 35,718
- F204 **Approval of Professional Services for 2008-2009:**
 Laura Sylvia Speech Evaluations, three evaluations at \$450 per evaluation
 Taek Chang Bilingual Educational Evaluation, \$600
 Bilingual Psychological Evaluation, \$600
- F205 Approval of additional Special Education tuition contract for 2008-2009:
 Palisades Learning Center Student attending 5/4/09-6/30/09 \$9,056.40

FINANCE (con’t):

- F206 Approval of contract with Bergen County Special Services to provide 2009-2010 Extended Year Services (Summer 2009) to ten classified residents at a cost of \$42,400
- F207 Approval of Special Education tuition contract for Summer 2009:
Sage Day Student attending 6/29/09-7/31/09 \$2,250.00
- F208 Approval for New Milford Board of Education Members and Administrators to attend NJ School Boards Conference in Atlantic City from October 28-30, 2009, expenses not anticipated to exceed \$8,500
- F209 Motion to amend the 2008-2009 budget, effective April 2009, to reflect a reduction in State Aide of \$89,253 (this is due to the State’s budget crisis/revenue shortfall.)

<u>Account</u>	<u>Deduct</u>
11-999-291-290-00	\$36,253
11-999-291-290-08	\$33,000
11-999-291-290-09	<u>\$20,000</u>
Total	\$89,253

- F210 Approval of Latchkey budget and tuition rates for 2009-2010 *Attachment*
- F211 Approval of professional development opportunities *Attachment*
- F212 Approval for new Board Member David Foo, Judith Rabinowitz-McSweeney, Joseph Steele to attend NJ School Boards New Board Member Orientation Training on June 6, 2009 at an anticipated cost of \$150.00

FACILITIES COMMITTEE *Theresa Lacey, Chair*

Motions FA43,FA44 by Mrs. Lacey, seconded by Mrs. Saslow, carried by consent of the Board:

- FA43 Approval of Fire Drill Log for April 2009 *Attachment*
- FA44 Approval for Solomon Schechter Day School to dispose of computer equipment *Attachment*
- FA45 Motion to approve the tentative calendar for bids regarding roofing projects at Berkley and Gibbs Schools *Attachment*

ATHLETIC/CO-CURRICULUM COMMITTEE *Darren Drake, Chair*

Motion AC13 by Mr. Drake, seconded by Vice President Barton, carried by consent of the Board:

- AC13 Approval of continued membership in New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association for 2009-2010 *President Conner had questions about the football program.*

COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

- President Conner cited a letter from a grateful parent.
- Board Members are invited to attend the Memorial Day parade and march as a group.
- Vice President Barton attended the NJ School Boards Delegate Meeting. The following had been discussed:
 1. It is no longer necessary to give one-year’s notice for the termination of a Superintendent of Schools; it will now be 30 days for each contract year.
 2. Over 400 districts now participate in ACES with an expected savings of \$36 million.
 3. NJ School Boards Association will no longer charge additional fees for mandatory Board Member training.
 4. A resolution was approved giving districts the right to use any appropriate and legal method to determine a student’s residency.

Open to the Public

Motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Foo, carried by consent of the Board, the meeting was opened to the public at 7:14 p.m. The following questions or comments were made:

- Mr. McCarten cited what he believes was erroneous information in *The Twin Boro News*. President Conner responded.
- Mr. McCarten asked again about the rationale for hiring an Interim Director of Curriculum & Instruction, as well as increasing Mr. Picardo’s stipend. He also stated that the Personnel Committee be expanded; and that there is no reason for another community or staff forum.
- Dr. Mintz noted that he supported the comments by Mr. McCarten. He also noted that we need a new speaker system.
- Mr. McCarten stated his position that there should be no further spending by the Board until the union contract is settled.
- Ms. Dunbar asked for clarification about Mr. Picardo’s stipend. President Conner responded.
- Mr. McCarten asked about the status of negotiations. *Mr. Steele and Mrs. Lacey were recused and left the room.* President Conner stated that a Memorandum of Agreement was signed on April 14th. *At 7:34 p.m. Mrs. Lacey and Mr. Steele returned to the meeting.*
- Mrs. McMahan asked for clarification on the terms of Mr. Picardo’s contract, as well as clarification on the role of the Superintendent Search Consultant.

- Mr. Carr indicated that he wanted to speak about negotiations. *Mrs. Lacey and Mr. Steele recused themselves again.* Mr. Carr and Mr. Wilson commented on the negotiations and stated their positions. *Mrs. Lacey and Mr. Steele returned to the meeting at 7:44 p.m.*
- Mr. Wilson made a statement about the difficult state of the negotiations process. He criticized the priorities of the Board.
- Ms. McElroy asked about positions to be eliminated and stated that there should not be eliminations at Berkley. She had additional questions about the Interim Curriculum & Instruction position, and wished there had been more discussion.
- Dr. Mintz suggested that a secretary could be hired to fill the position of Interim Curriculum & Instruction Director.
- Mrs. Tyler asked about the Director of Special Services position and stated her concern about the lack of attention to her daughter's IEP.
- Mr. Pevny stated his concern about the status of morale in the district.

There were no further questions or comments by the public, therefore, on motion by Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Foo , carried by consent of the Board, the meeting was closed to the public at 8:06 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. McSweeney, seconded by Vice President Barton, to go into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues at 8:10 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Saslow, seconded by Mrs. Mechler, to return to the Regular Meeting at 8:52 p.m., and there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at that time.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Dunn
Interim Board Secretary

JD/lv