

**NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 23, 2009**

**7:03 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 7:03 p.m. Present at roll call were President Conner, Vice President Barton, Mr. Drake, Mr. Foo, Mrs. Lacey, Mrs. McSweeney, Mrs. Mechler, Mrs. Saslow, and Mr. Steele. Also present were Mr. Polizzi, Mr. Sawicz, Mr. Picardo and Student Board Representative Nicholas Borner.

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.

President Conner and Mr. Polizzi commended and presented resolutions to the following:

- Chief Frank Papapietro of the New Milford Police Dept. and the district SRO officers for their overall level of support and cooperation with the schools and community and the training exercise conducted at the High School.
- New Milford Principals and Vice Principals for their service to New Milford schools as part of National Principals Month.

Audit Discussion by Mr. Jeff Bliss of Lerch, Vinci, Higgins

Mr. Bliss reviewed the June 30, 2009 audit, the CAFR, and the audit recommendations.

Recommended Action

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The following Board Members recused themselves from approving minutes indicated due to their absence:

Mr. Drake - October 8 Special Closed; Mrs. Mechler – October 12 Work and Closed and October 26 Regular and Closed; Mrs. Lacey – October 8 Special Closed and October 12 Work and Closed.

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

October 8 Special Closed	October 12 Work	October 12 Closed
October 26 Regular	October 26 Closed	

Open to the Public for Items on the Agenda

On motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mrs. McSweeney, carried by consent of the Board, the meeting was opened to the public at 7:53 p.m. There were no questions or comments; therefore, on motion by Mr. Steele, seconded by Mrs. McSweeney, carried by consent of the Board, the meeting was closed to the public at that time.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS REPORT Michael Polizzi

Mr. Polizzi spoke about the following:

- College Now Program
- Evacuation drills will continue to be conducted. Drills for Berkley School will be conducted in cooperation with the Hovnanian School for the use of each other's property during these drills.
- Mr. Polizzi attended a meeting with the New Milford Fire Dept. A stronger connection will be developed with the High School to recruit Junior Members of the Fire Dept.
- Mr. Polizzi also met with Mr. David Rodriguez of Bergen PAC regarding the initiative for a cooperative music program.
- The Education Foundation is now up and running and in the process of filing required paperwork.
- The district received \$20,000 worth of equipment from MSG Varsity.

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION REPORT Joseph Picardo

No report.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR REPORT *Michael Sawicz*

Mr. Sawicz advised the Board of a revision to FA12 –School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drills. He reviewed the following:

- Correction Action Plan for the 2008-2009 Audit
- A Technology Committee meeting is scheduled for December 15.
- A recent article in *The Record* regarding Circle Systems and problems with their reconditioning of football helmets is not applicable to New Milford; the district does not use the company.
- Mr. Sawicz reviewed Workers’ Compensation insurance, including the district’s history and the rebates received.
- A comparison of prices for cafeteria items with other districts was made; New Milford is the least expensive.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT *Nicholas Borner*

Student Board Representative Nicholas Borner updated the Board about the following:

- Events are in the planning stages for Martin Luther King week.

BOARD ACTION

Motions BA6,BA7,BA8 by Mrs. Mechler, seconded by Mrs. Saslow, carried by consent of the Board:

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| BA6 | Approval of revised 2009-2010 Tentative Board Meeting Dates | <i>Attachment</i> |
| BA7 | Approval of resolution commending the New Milford Police Department | <i>Attachment</i> |
| BA8 | Approval of resolution commending New Milford Principals and Vice Principals | <i>Attachment</i> |

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE *Lori Barton, Chair*

Vice President Barton reviewed topics discussed at the November 10 Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting.

Motions C7,C11,C12,C13by Vice President Barton, seconded by Mr. Steele, carried by consent of the Board:

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| C7 | Approval of updated Student Teaching/Practicum Placement for Fall/Spring 2009-2010 semesters | <i>Attachment</i> |
| C11 | Approval to limit the percentage of district students who may participate in the Interdistrict Public School Choice Program; that percentage to be no more than 2% per grade per year limitation | |
| C12 | Approval of field trips to date | <i>Attachment</i> |
| C13 | Approval of High School French Class’ trip to Montreal and Quebec under the direction of Joyce Monroe from April 5-9, 2010 (Spring break), at no cost to the district | |

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE *Lori Barton, Chair*

Having the recommendation of the Superintendent:

Motions P39,P40,P41,P42,P43,P44,P45,P46 by Vice President Barton, seconded by Mrs. Mechler, carried by a roll call vote of 9-0:

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| P39 | <u>Certificated Appointment for 2009-2010:</u>
William Kochis Berkley Teacher (maternity leave replacement) MA Step 1, \$47,850, eff. 11/30/09-6/30/10
Jennifer Oddo Gibbs Teacher (maternity leave replacement) BA Step 2, \$45,850, eff. 1/4/10-6/30/10 | |
| P40 | <u>Additional Latchkey Appointment for 2009-2010:</u>
Lisa Schiff Counselor, Step 1 | |
| P41 | <u>Additional Substitute Teachers for 2009-2010</u> | <i>Attachment</i> |
| P42 | <u>Revisions to Certificated Appointment for 2009-2010:</u>
Sarah Sidrow Elementary LDTC, MA Step 9, \$56,190, eff. TBD 12/8/09-6/30/10 | |
| P43 | <u>Teacher Aide Appointments for 2009-2010:</u>
Elizabeth Brownstein Gibbs Teacher Aide (.4), Step 1, eff. 11/30/09-6/30/10
Jennifer Presutto Gibbs Teacher Aide, Step 1, eff. 11/30/09-6/30/10 | |
| P44 | <u>Hourly Rate Employees for 2009-2010:</u>
Elizabeth Brownstein Gibbs Substitute Lunch Aide, Step 1, eff. 11/30/09-6/30/10
Jennifer Presutto ABA Home Instructor, \$40/hr for 10 hrs/week | |
| P45 | <u>Rescind Coaching Appointment for 2009-2010:</u>
Mark Fontana Assistant Wrestling Coach | |
| P46 | <u>Coaching Appointment for 2009-2010:</u>
Raymond Cottiers Assistant Wrestling Coach | |

FINANCE COMMITTEE *Peggy Saslow, Chair*

Mrs. Saslow recused her vote of F66. Motions F58,F59,F60,F61,F62,F63,F64,F65,F66,F67,F68,F69,F70,F71 by Mrs. Saslow, seconded by Mrs. McSweeney, carried by consent of the Board:

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|-----|--|-----------------|
| F58 | Approval of Secretary’s and Treasurer’s Reports for September 2009 | |
| F59 | Approval of October 2009 payroll: | \$ 1,598,091.19 |
| F60 | Approval of October 2009 payroll agency bills: | \$ 659,544.09 |
| F61 | Approval of November 2009 bills | \$ 951,779.86 |
- Attachment*

FINANCE COMMITTEE (con’t):

- F62 Approval of cafeteria bills for September 2009 \$ 66,747.49
- F63 Approval of October 2009 budget transfers *Attachment*
- F64 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): October 31, 2009
- F65 Approval of Professional Development Opportunities *Attachment*
- F66 Approval for Board Member Peggy Saslow to attend the Federal Relations Network Conference in Washington, DC to be held 1/31-2/2/10, at a cost not to exceed \$900
- F67 Approval of Special Education tuition contracts for 2009-2010 *Attachment*
- F68 Acceptance of donation of a Pilates Pro machine, approximate value \$225, from Curves of New Milford to New Milford High School *Attachment*
- F69 Approval and acceptance of 2008-2009 Independent Audit and CAFR Report as per detailed report on file and attached synopsis
- F70 Acceptance of 2008-2009 Corrective Action Plan for Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2009 Independent Audit *Attachment*
- F71 Approval of Professional Service for 2009-2010:
Michael P. Gentile Psychiatric Evaluations, \$600 per evaluation

FACILITIES COMMITTEE Theresa Lacey, Chair

Motions FA11,FA12,FA13 by Mrs. Lacey, seconded by Mr. Foo, carried by consent of the Board:

- FA11 Approval of fire drill log for October 2009 *Attachment*
- FA12 Approval of school bus emergency evacuation drills *Attachment*
- FA13 Approval to dispose of old, non-functioning computers, monitors and printers from the District *Attachment*

POLICY COMMITTEE Peggy Saslow, Chair

First reading of the following policies:

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|------|--|------|--|
| 1220 | Employment of Chief School Administrator | 2435 | NJSIAA Random Testing for Interscholastic Athletics |
| 4434 | Holidays (Support Staff) | 2631 | NJ Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) |
| 5465 | Early Graduation | 8210 | School Year |
| 5600 | Pupil Discipline/Code of Conduct | 9162 | Athletic Code of Conduct |
| 5701 | Plagiarism | 5611 | Removal of Pupils from the General Education Program for Weapons/Firearms Offenses |

Open to the Public

Motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Steele, carried by consent of the Board, the meeting was opened to the public at 8:22 p.m. The following questions or comments were made:

- Mary McElroy asked about the High School field lights; President Conner explained that the lights follow the change in Daylight Savings Time and are turned off once sporting events are finished.
- Ms. McElroy asked for an update on educational issues; Mr. Polizzi provided a response.
- Student Board Representative Nicholas Borner asked if a psychology course could be offered at the High School; this will be looked into.

There being no further questions or comments, on motion by Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Drake, carried by consent of the Board, the meeting was closed to the public at 8:32 p.m.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

- Vice President Barton was unable to attend the November 21 Delegate Assembly.
- Mrs. Lacey thanked the Administration for buses provided for the Junior Football players.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Drake asked for an update on the anticipated check from FEMA for the High School track replacement. Mr. Sawicz advised that if the check is not received by early December, he will contact FEMA for the status.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mrs. Mechler asked if the Board sends certificates to those earning the rank of Eagle Scout in January; President Conner stated it does.
- Mrs. Saslow read an article in *The New York Times* about the SATs and a new holistic approach to concentrate on a well-rounded student versus SAT scores solely.
- Mrs. Mechler commented on an article about saving gasoline by not fully filling the tanks on the school buses.

NEW BUSINESS (con't):

- Mrs. McSweeney asked for an update on the Academy Now Program.
- Mrs. Lacey asked about the alarm going off at Berkley School over the weekend.

On motion by Mrs. Mechler, seconded by Mr. Drake, carried by consent of the Board, the Board went into Closed Session at 8:40 p.m.

On motions by Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Foo, carried by consent of the Board, the Board resumed Open Session at 9:01 p.m.

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Steele, seconded by Mrs. Mechler, carried by consent of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Sawicz
Board Secretary

MS/lv