



New Milford
Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, CT 06776



New Milford High School
Greg Shugrue, Principal

Assistant Principals
Marc Balanda
Liz Curtis
Christopher Longo



Schaghticoke Middle School
Dana Ford, Principal

Assistant Principal
Suzi Greene



Sarah Noble Intermediate School
Len Tomasello, Principal

Assistant Principals
Anne Bilko
Don Naiman



Hill & Plain Elementary
Maryann Ness, Principal

Assistant Principal
Susan Ruddock



John Pettibone Elementary
Paula Kelleher, Principal

Assistant Principal
Joan Kick



Northville Elementary
Susan Murray, Principal

Assistant Principal
Joan Kick

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 3, Issue 7

Budget 2013

School Budget

On Wednesday, January 30, the New Milford Board of Education approved the suggested budget put forth by Superintendent Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote. The \$60.21 million budget is an increase of 4.62% over last year's budget. A quick overview of some of the budget items follows:

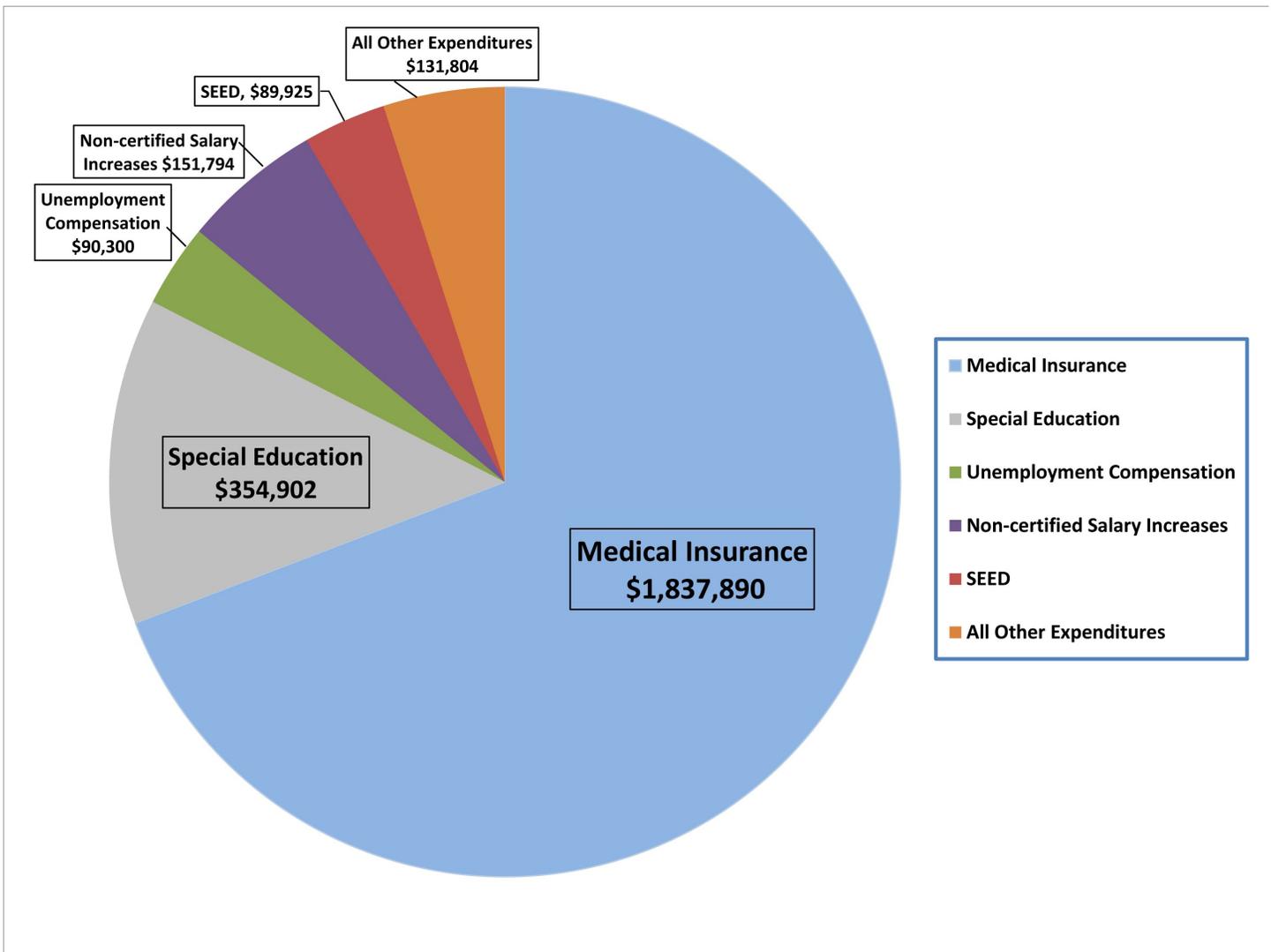
- ◆ Reducing the following teaching positions based on enrollment and reallocating as follows:
 - ◆ Sarah Noble Intermediate School—reduction of one teaching position in fourth grade, reallocation of a fifth grade position to the sixth grade
 - ◆ John Pettibone School—reduction of two teaching positions, one each in first and second grades
 - ◆ Northville Elementary School—reduction of four teaching positions, one each in kindergarten, first grade, second grade, and third grade
 - ◆ Hill and Plain School—reduction of one teaching position
- ◆ Reducing three tutors, one at each K-3 school, to reallocate funds to add a K-3 literacy coach
- ◆ Reallocating funds for one science teaching position at New Milford High School
- ◆ Expanding literacy instruction periods at Schaghticoke Middle School
- ◆ Reallocating summer school funds to the Department of Instruction to fund instructional improvement initiatives
- ◆ Increasing pay-to-play from \$75 to \$125 per student annually for most sports
- ◆ Increasing the number of course options for students, including additional Advanced Placement courses at the high school
- ◆ Expanding administrative supervision at the K-3 grade level
- ◆ Increasing technology in the classroom
- ◆ Security enhancements for the district

The next step in the budget process will be a review by Mayor Pat Murphy who will then present her recommendation to the Town Council and Board of Finance on February 19.

You can view the Superintendent's complete budget here:

[2013-2014 School Budget Proposal](#)

2013-2014 Budget Drivers



“This is not a maintenance budget; it would take an additional \$929,219 to operate in 2013-2014 at the same level of programs, services, and staffing as in the current year. “

Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote
Superintendent

Energy Efficiency



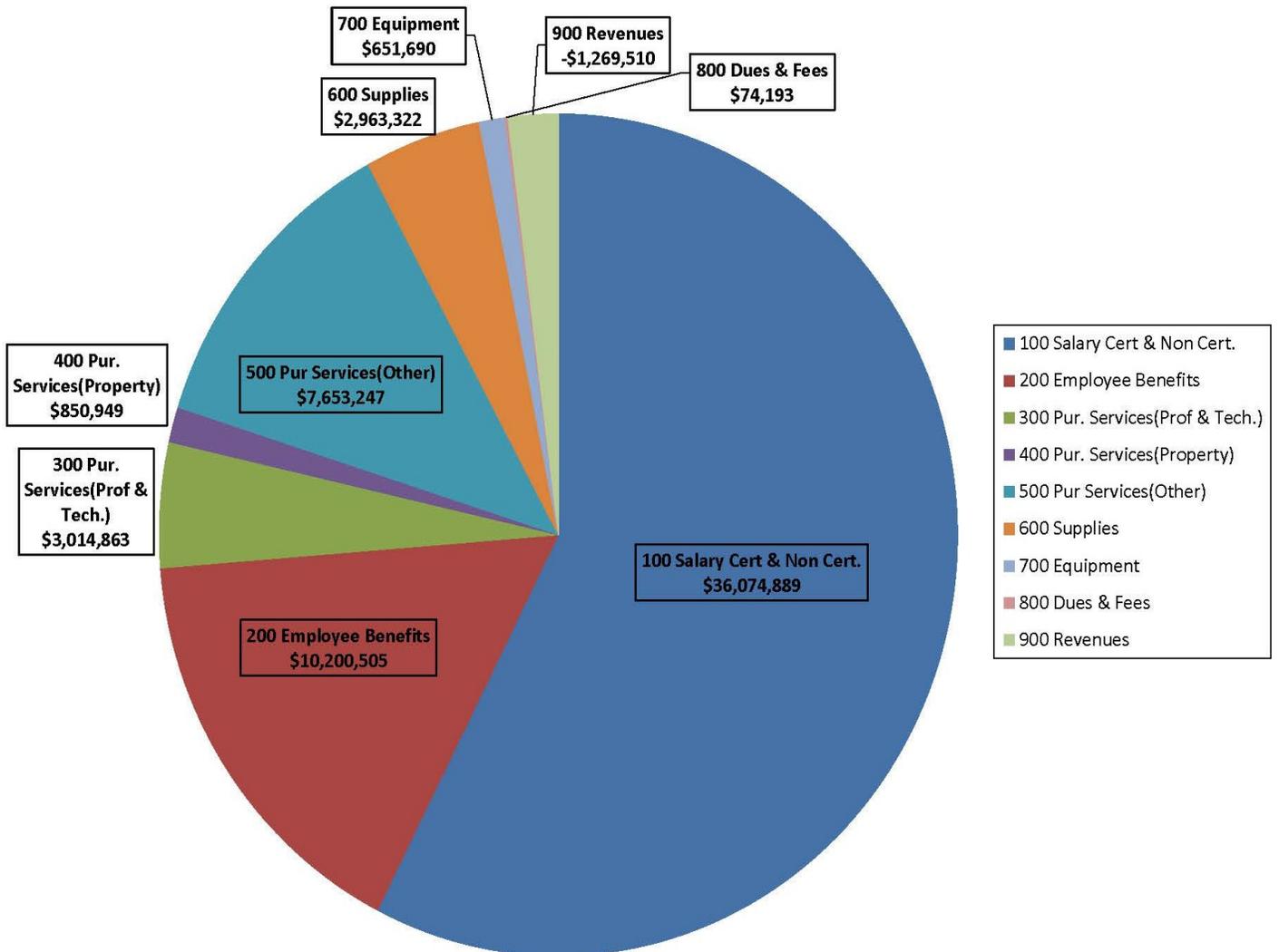
How many times a day do you tell your kids to “turn out the lights, close the front door and don’t stand with the refrigerator open?”

Well, multiply that by over 4,000 students and 600 staff and you’ll understand the importance of cost reduction for energy efficiency.

Mr. William Knipple, NMHS Math Teacher and Energy Manager, has put together an update that shows how and where NMPS is saving money! You can see his complete presentation to the Board of Education here:

[Energy Program Update](#)

2013-2014 Object Code Budget Summary of all Expenses



Budget Q & A

Q. Enrollment is down; why are we adding administrator hours?

A. We have, on average, one administrator for roughly every 320 students. However, there is much more to being an administrator than dealing with discipline issues. Here are a few of the lesser known responsibilities of a school administrator:

- Participate in all PPT meetings.
- Assist with any security issues.
- Return calls to concerned parents.
- Assess teachers and staff according to state and federal mandates.
- Coordinate educational testing including Special Education, Connecticut Mastery Testing, and Common Core.
- Attend after school events to ensure student safety and represent the district.

Q. Medical insurance makes up so much of the budget increase. Why is it so high and can't we pass those costs on to the staff?

- Medical insurance accounts for \$1,837,890 or approximately 70% of the increase. This increase is comprised of the \$1,150,000 received from the Internal Service Fund in the 2012-2013 budget and the increase of \$687,890 based on experience.
- The New Milford Public Schools staff pay varying rates of their own health care costs, as do most employees anywhere. Our staff pays up to 19% of their health care costs. We negotiate other plan design changes for cost savings, such as higher deductibles, co-insurance, etc.

Q. Couldn't we save money by closing a school?

A. Closing a school is a big step that needs to be methodically approached; it shouldn't be a "Band-Aid" fix for a one year savings. At the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year, a School

Facility and Utilization Committee was formed and is looking at the best use of each school building. Their progress and presentations can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

Q. Is the School System doing everything it can to keep costs down?

- A. The school district controls costs in a variety of ways:
- Utilizing the Bid Process for insurance (life & long term disability), Special Education transportation, occupational and physical therapy services, and data lines
 - Participating in Energy Education and Demand Direct Programs to reduce the cost of utilities
 - Utilizing Technology Programs to facilitate on-line applications, assign substitutes, and document Continuing Education Units
 - Collaborating with the Town to purchase #2 fuel oil, diesel fuel and unleaded gasoline.
 - Purchasing paper in bulk from a consortia

Q. Since we have fewer students, shouldn't the budget go down?

- A. There are fixed costs and things we must do by law (unfunded mandates) that are contained within this and every budget. Some of the major budget drivers for the 2013-2014 school year are:
- Special Education accounts for \$354,902 or 13% of the increase.
 - Non-Certified Salary Increases total \$151,794 or 6% of the increase. This is due to contractual obligations.
 - Unemployment compensation expenses account for \$90,300 or 3 % of the increase.
 - System for Educator Evaluation and Development (SEED) expenses are \$89,925 or 3% of the increase. This is to meet new certified staff evaluation requirements of the State Department of Education.



New Milford Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406

Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote
Superintendent

Mr. Joshua Smith
Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Ellamae Baldelli
Director, Human Resources

Mr. John Calhoun
Facilities Manager

Mr. Dan DiVito
Director, Technology

Mrs. Laura Olson
Director, Pupil Personnel and
Special Services

Mr. Gregg Miller
Director, Fiscal Services

Mrs. Sandra Sullivan
Director, Food Services



New Milford Board of Education

Do you have questions about the New Milford Board of Education 2013-2014 Budget?



Members of the New Milford Board of Education and New Milford Public Schools administrators would welcome the opportunity to meet with groups of interested citizens in the evening at a venue of their choice to discuss the 2013-2014 Board of Education Approved Budget. If your group of 10 or more would like to host an information discussion at your home, office, or meeting hall, please call the Central Office at 860-355-8406 or email supt_office@newmilfordps.org to schedule.

The Board of Education is happy to answer questions from individual New Milford citizens as well. Please direct your questions to the Board at admin@newmilfordps.org or call the Central Office at 860-355-8406.

The mission of the New Milford Public Schools, a collaborative partnership of students, educators, family and community, is to prepare each and every student to compete and excel in an ever-changing world, embrace challenges with vigor, respect and appreciate the worth of every human being, and contribute to society by providing effective instruction and dynamic curriculum, offering a wide range of valuable experiences, and inspiring students to pursue their dreams and aspirations.