



**New Milford Public Schools**  
 50 East Street  
 New Milford, CT 06776  
 860-355-8406  
[www.newmilfordps.org](http://www.newmilfordps.org)



**New Milford High School**  
 860-350-6647  
 Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal

Mr. Marc Balanda, Ass't. Principal  
 Mrs. Liz Curtis, Ass't. Principal  
 Dr. Christopher Longo, Ass't. Principal



**Schaghticoke Middle School**  
 860-354-2204  
 Mrs. Dana Ford, Principal

Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Ass't. Principal  
 Mrs. Suzi Greene, Ass't. Principal



**Sarah Noble Intermediate School**  
 860-210-4020  
 Dr. Len Tomasello, Principal

Mrs. Anne Bilko, Ass't. Principal  
 Mrs. Joan Kick, Ass't. Principal  
 Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Ass't. Principal  
 Dr. Don Naiman, Ass't. Principal



**Hill & Plain Elementary School**  
 860-354-5430  
 Dr. Anne Stuhlman, Principal

Mrs. Joan Kick, Ass't. Principal



**John Pettibone Elementary School**  
 860-354-3218  
 Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal

Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Ass't. Principal



**Northville Elementary School**  
 860-355-3713  
 Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal

Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Ass't. Principal

# Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Special Edition, Issue 2  
Issue 2

October 2013

**New Milford Board of Education  
 Public Hearing #2  
 October 22, 2013  
 7:00 p.m.—SNIS LMC**

**The Board of Education will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, October 22, 2013 in the Sarah Noble Intermediate School LMC beginning at 7:00 p.m. at which there will be a second Public Hearing regarding the possible closing of a school due to declining enrollment.**

**A representative from the consulting firm Milone and MacBroom, Inc. will present information regarding enrollment projections. The public will have an opportunity to comment.**

**In preparation for the meeting, look inside this special edition of *Spotlight* for answers to questions raised at the first Public Hearing.**

**All School Facility  
 and Utilization Study Committee  
 documents can be viewed on the  
[district website.](#)**

## Questions Asked at the Special Meeting of September 24, 2013



### **How many people will lose their jobs if JPS closes?**

Every year during the budget process the Board of Education examines all positions to determine if they are needed in the following year's budget. There have been years when positions have been eliminated due to declining enrollment. In addition, there have been years when positions have been added for new initiatives. At this time it is impossible to know if anyone will lose a job if John Pettibone closes. Annually there are retirements and employees leaving the district due to moves or other reasons so other openings may be available in the district.



### **How much will the town pay in unemployment?**

It is not possible to determine if the Board of Education will have to pay unemployment. For example, this year the Board of Education eliminated nine positions and seven of the employees obtained jobs elsewhere, and one person was re-hired due to a retirement. The Board of Education budgeted for nine employees to collect unemployment compensation and only one person is collecting unemployment.



### **What statistical analysis was used for enrollment projections? What if the projections are wrong?**

Milone & MacBroom, Inc., the consulting firm that prepared the enrollment projections, utilizes the Cohort-Survival method of projections, which is a standard method, and is accepted by the State Department of Education for School Construction Projections (CGS 10-283). The Cohort-Survival methodology relies on observed data from the recent past in order to predict the near future. The methodology works well for stable populations, including communities that are growing or declining at a steady rate. It is important to remember that the foundation of the Cohort-Survival methodology is that the recent past can be a good predictor of the near future.

The last enrollment study prior to the Milone and MacBroom report was done by Dr. Hyung Chung in December of 2007. Dr. Chung's projections were from 2008-2017. For the last six years, 2008-2013, using the low enrollment projections in Dr. Chung's report, the projections have been within 1% of actual projections. Looking at the report beyond 2013, even the low projections are higher than what Milone & MacBroom is projecting.

The Chung report was prepared in December of 2007 and like the rest of us was unaware of the pending recession. Dr. Chung's projections, as well as other demographers, utilized the Cohort-Survival methodology and built the projections on the assumption that recent past is an excellent indicator of the near future.

Milone and McBroom, in their review of the Chung Report revealed the following assumptions that were strong at the time, but did not predict (as none of us did) the economic changes post 2008:

- ◆ Chung estimated births would decline from 327 (2007) to 308 (2012) under his low projection scenario. In actuality, the CT Department of Public Health reported births went from 303 (2007) to 236 (2012). This is the main driver in the difference between the Milone and MacBroom and Chung Projections especially for Chung 5-years out. Milone and McBroom utilized actual births for 2007-2012 rather than estimates that didn't account for the recession.
- ◆ Chung estimated home sales annually would average 600-700 per year from 2007-2018. It has been reported that there have been approximately 350 home sales annually over the last three years.
- ◆ Chung estimated 80-120 housing starts annually from 2007-2018. In actuality the CT Department of Economic and Community Development reported about 20 housing starts per year since 2008.
- ◆ Chung assumed a local unemployment rate of 2-3%. In actuality the Department of Labor is currently reporting 6.9%.

In a nutshell, the first 5-years of any projection is where the data is most accurate since there are known births and students in the system. Projecting past that requires generating a set of assumptions based on the recent past. This 5-year window of accuracy for the Milone and McBroom projections extends to 2017-18/2018-19 with known data whereas the Chung Report for this same horizon is based on assumptions from much different economic times.

*Mr. Michael Zuba, Senior Planner for Milone and MacBroom, Inc. will talk about the enrollment projection methodology in person at the Board of Education Special Meeting on October 22nd.*



**Do the enrollment projections take into account national policies regarding immigration?**

Milone & MacBroom does not know of any accurate means of translating national immigration trends to a local community in a statistically sound manner to influence enrollment projections, other than to recognize the changing demographics in the town and their effect on births. A school aged immigrant child moving to New Milford is no different to the district than a school aged non-immigrant child moving to New Milford, and so those trends can be accounted for by their housing and real estate analysis. Immigrants do tend to have larger household units and have more children, and again, those effects on birth rates have been done as part of the demographic and birth trend analysis.



**What happens if school property is sold and a new school needs to be built down the road?**

If the Board of Education closes a school and does not use the school for educational purposes, the school is turned over to the Town. If additional classroom space is needed, there is land to add classrooms on at Hill and Plain School and Northville School. In addition, there is space at Sarah Noble Intermediate School to add classrooms.



**Will the money saved from closing a school now pay for a new school if it is needed?**

The savings from closing a school would be reflected in the Board of Education's budget. The Board of Education will not budget for a sixth facility and will avoid capital expenditures for that facility going forward. The Board of Education has an annual budget and at the end of the fiscal year when the books are closed any remaining balance is returned to the Town. There is no provision for a Board of Education to have a savings account.



**What are the plans for the money that will be saved by closing a school?**

The money saved by closing a school would be reflected in the Board of Education's annual budget. The savings may offset the foundation expenses of the Board of Education such as medical insurance, contractual obligations, and utilities that increase annually.



**What expenses will offset the \$635,000 savings?**

**At this time transportation and moving expenses will offset some of the savings. It should be noted that moving expenses would be a one-time cost. Transportation would be reviewed annually as part of the budget process.**



**New Milford test scores are low; how can scores be increased with larger class sizes?**

**The proposal to close a school does not increase class sizes. Projections were based on an average maximum class size of 18 for grades K-2, and 22 for grades 3-8.**



**Technology is not where it should be; should staff be added to that area?**

**The district has a Technology department and annually reviews the staffing and budget in this area. The process to evaluate the need for additional staff in the technology areas will continue to be assessed in accordance with the five year technology plan and the demands on the Board of Education budget. Closing a school actually makes things simpler from a technology perspective by reducing the overall technology footprint and focusing allocated resources across fewer locations.**



**Will Malletts Lane children attend different schools?**

**No, the children who live on Malletts Lane will not be attending separate schools. A decision will be made to attend one school regardless of the street number or side of the street on which the family resides.**



**What year is the school closing: 2014-2015 or 2015-2016?**

**The Board of Education has not made a decision to close a school. The members are in the fact finding and review process.**



**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**  
Human Resources Director

**Mr. John Calhoun**  
Facilities Manager

**Mr. Gregg Miller**  
Fiscal Services Director

**Mrs. Laura Olson**  
Pupil Personnel and Special Services Director

**Ms. Roberta Pratt**  
Technology Director

**Mrs. Sandra Sullivan**  
Food Services Director

**Board of Education**

**Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach**  
Chairperson

**Mrs. Lynette Celli Rigdon**  
Vice Chairperson

**Mrs. Daniele Shook**  
Secretary

**Mr. David A. Lawson**  
Assistant Secretary

**Mrs. Angela C. Chastain**

**Mr. Thomas McSherry**

**Mr. David R. Shaffer**

**Mr. John W. Spatola**

**Mr. William Wellman**



**Do you have a question we haven't answered yet?**

**Email your question to:**  
**[schoolnews@newmilfordps.org](mailto:schoolnews@newmilfordps.org)**  
**no later than October 18th**  
**and we will try to provide an**  
**answer at the meeting**  
**on October 22nd.**

[ Did you know... ]

The **Lillis Administration Building**, once the site of New Milford High School, was opened in **1931**.

**John Pettibone Elementary School** was opened in **1955**.

**Sarah Noble Intermediate School**, formerly New Milford High School, was opened in **1962** and renovated in **2001**.

**Hill and Plain Elementary School** was opened in **1967**.

**Schaghticoke Middle School** was opened in **1973**.

**Northville Elementary School** was opened in **1981**.

All **K-8 schools** had partial renovations done in **1993**.

**New Milford High School** was opened in **2000**.

**More Questions?**

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.