



Additionally one of the questions on the newsletter asked about Mallets Lane. What if any is the significance of Mallets Lane?

On the map outlining redistricting boundaries which shows the district lines for Northville and Hill and Plain Schools, Mallets Lane was divided, with one section in the attendance area for one school and the rest of the road in the attendance area for the other school. Going forward, the district will make an adjustment and will not divide the road into two attendance areas.



Has anyone gone to the area early learning centers and polled them as to the number of infants and toddlers that are currently enrolled (though not everyone sends their children to early learning centers so the number could possibly be higher)?

The early learning centers in the community have not been polled as to the number of infants and toddlers they are currently serving. The Cohort Survival method was used to project enrollment and that population is factored into these enrollment projections. This is the standard used by most demographers to provide enrollment projections. In the Milone and MacBroom report, the projections are based on current birth rates and the projected enrollment of those students in five years.



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

## Public Hearing Process

**Spotlight on New Milford Schools**

New Milford Board of Education  
Public Hearing  
September 24, 2013  
7:00 p.m. – SNIS LMC

The Board of Education will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 in the Sarah Noble Intermediate School LMC beginning at 7:00 p.m. at which there will be a Public Hearing regarding the possible closing of a school due to declining enrollment.

Members of the New Milford School Facility Utilization & Study Committee will present information regarding their findings and recommendations. The public will have an opportunity to comment.

In preparation for the meeting, look inside this special edition of *Spotlight* to see:

- Why was the Committee formed?
- What process was followed?
- What were the findings?
- Where do we go from here?

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

Special Edition *Spotlight* announces Public Hearing #2 and answers questions asked at Public Hearing #1.

Special Edition *Spotlight* announces Public Hearing #1 and gives background on the School Facility Utilization and Study Committee recommendations.

**Spotlight on New Milford Schools**

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](#).

The Public was invited to submit additional questions. We only got a few... Turn the page to see the questions answered.



Special Edition, Issue 9

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

Dr. Jeanette C. Podyfene  
Superintendent

Mr. Joshua Smith  
Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Elianne Radcliff  
Elementary Services Director

Mr. John Callahan  
Facilities Manager

Mr. Gregg Miller  
Food Services Director

Mrs. Laura Olson  
Pupil Personnel and Special Services Director

Ms. Barbara Pratt  
Technology Director

Mrs. Sandra Sullivan  
Food Services Director

Board of Education

Mrs. Wendy Fadenbach  
Chairperson

Mrs. Lynette Call Rigdon  
Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Thaiside Skowk  
Secretary

Mr. David A. Lavson  
Assistant Treasurer

Mrs. Angela C. Charvalis

Mr. Thomas McElwee

Mr. David B. 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 18th Administration Building, over the site of New Milford High School, was opened in 1882.

John Furbush Elementary School was opened in 1892.

Sarah Noble Intermediate School, formerly New Milford High School, was opened in 1904 and renovated in 2005.

Hill and Plain Elementary School was opened in 1967.

Schaghticoke Middle School was opened in 1971.

Northville Elementary School was opened in 1985.

All 4 schools had partial renovations done in 2005.

New Milford High School was opened in 2000.

The vision of the New Milford Public Schools, a collaborative partnership of parents, educators, faculty and community, is to prepare each child to become a responsible and successful citizen. We challenge each child, expand each child's opportunities for learning, and provide a safe, supportive, and enriching environment for all. We are committed to offering a wide range of educational programs, and teaching students to become their greatest and happiest.

**MORE QUESTIONS.**



Are the questions outlined in your document reflective of *all* of the questions that were asked on 09-24-2013 or are they a hand chosen sample of questions asked?

The questions answered in the *Spotlight* Special Edition, Issue #2 are reflective of all of the questions that were asked at the hearing.



The list of the questions asked at the 09-24-2013 meeting starts with "How many people will lose their jobs if JPS closes?" and "How much will the town pay in unemployment?". I put forth the question of how does the proposed closing of JPS benefit the children?

Closing a school will increase the district's operational efficiency and reduce enrollment imbalance across the elementary schools. The current imbalance contributes to uneven class sizes at some grade levels.



What is the goal of closing the school?

The goal of closing a school is to ensure the other five schools have a reasonable occupancy rate to accommodate all students and necessary programs and services.



Is the proposed closing of JPS a result of lack of need given the declining population of children attending New Milford public schools?

The historical enrollment data and the projected enrollment data indicate that in five years the five K-8 schools will have a utilization rate between 47.5% - 67.6%. Districts strive for a facility utilization rate of 85%.



Has any account been taken that many students utilize the Youth Agency program that is located at SNIS? There is no Youth Agency at the middle school. Now having (potentially) 6th grade at the middle school

means that 6th graders have no after school program. My daughter will be entering the 6th grade in the next school year. I, like many other parents, rely on this for child care in this day of both parents having to work full time.

The Youth Agency program that is available to sixth grade students at Sarah Noble Intermediate School was not taken into consideration when examining the utilization of school facilities. The Youth Agency will be apprised of this consideration and the district will work with the Youth Agency to provide a program if the Agency determines it can provide a program at that level.



Newtown and New Milford are similar in enrollment. I looked at the enrollment numbers and Newtown has dropped in enrollment from 2010 to 2013 by 10%, while New Milford has dropped by 6% in that same period. Including the Sandy Hook school, the number of students per class is almost identical, yet they are building a school to keep them at the same level, and New Milford is looking to close one. Can the difference of opinion be explained?

The enrollment trends and projections in Newtown have not been examined by the Facility and Utilization Study Committee.



After reading through questions on the latest district newsletter I was hoping to ask what the impact will be on length of bus routes? Right now my child spends more than 30 minutes on the bus.

The school district currently strives to provide an average ride time of approximately 50 minutes or less for students. This will not change.