

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
50 East Street  
New Milford, Connecticut 06776

SCHOOL FACILITY AND UTILIZATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

DATE: February 20, 2013  
TIME: 6:30 P.M.  
PLACE: Sarah Noble Intermediate School—Library Media Center

AGENDA

New Milford Public Schools Mission Statement

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.

1. Summary of administrator and central office focus group sessions
2. Enrollment and facilities review
3. Criteria development
4. Alternatives discussion
5. Adjourn

ALICE C. BUCKHOPE  
TOWN CLERK

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NEW MILFORD, CT

**New Milford Public Schools  
 School Facility & Utilization Study Committee  
 February 20, 2013  
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

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 TOWN CLERK *AR*

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<p>Present:</p>	<p>Mike Zuba, Senior Planner and Associate, Milone &amp; MacBroom          Rebecca Augur, Senior Planner, Milone &amp; MacBroom          Thomas Jokubaitis, Educational Consultant          Jim Barret, Architect, Drumney Rosane Anderson          Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources, Resident          Walter Bayer, Retired Educator, Resident          John Calhoun, Facilities Manager          Michael Crespan, Director of Public Health          Terri Ellis, Parent          Thomas Esposito, Parent, Member of the Town Council          Beth Falder, Parent, Member of the Board of Finance          Wendy Faulenbach, Board of Education Chair, Parent          Paula Kelleher, Principal of John Pettibone School, Parent          Virginia Langrebe, NMHS Teacher, Resident          Justin Mack, SNIS Teacher, Resident          Theresa McGuinness, SMS Teacher, Parent          Gregg Miller, Director of Fiscal Services, Resident          Donna Molinaro, H &amp; P Teacher, Resident          JeanAnn Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools          Thomas Pilla, Builder, Member of the Pension Committee, Grandparent          Lynette Celli Rigdon, Board of Education Member          Gretchen Rondini, JPS Teacher, Parent          David Shaffer, Board of Education Member          Julia Taborsak, Parent          Patricia Thalassinos, NES Teacher, Parent          Len Tomasello, SNIS Interim Principal, Resident          Frank Wargo, Member, Town Council</p>
<p>Absent:</p>	<p>Thomas McSherry, Board of Education Member          Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel &amp; Special Services, Resident          Olga Rella, Parent          Michele Romaniello, Parent, District-wide President of the NMPTO          Josh Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Schools</p>

**1. Facilities Utilization & Study Committee Meeting Summary**

Consultants reviewed their findings on current and anticipated educational programming in New Milford Public Schools. Results were drawn from focus group sessions with school administrators and central office staff.

High School

- Student interests in certain areas (arts, technical/engineering) exceed available space
- Need for more career/technical training
- Inadequate locker rooms for current levels of sports participation
- Alternative high school program lacks a site and is not meeting the learning needs of students
- Anticipate need to increase credit hours for graduation under new State requirements – may necessitate increase in space utilization
- Building is a community asset with a high level of community use

Middle and Intermediate Schools

- Well-designed for current program delivery
- Some sentiment that 6<sup>th</sup> grade may be better located in middle school
- Desire to implement world languages for all intermediate and middle school students
- Common core standards and testing requirements may result in the need for additional science lab storage needs

Elementary Schools

- Current room use accommodates full-day K and alternative uses such as prep, PTO storage, rental space for Education Connection, etc.
- Projected increase in English Language Learner needs
- Desire for PreK and world languages in each elementary school
- Potential for locating family resource centers in schools
- Special education needs cannot be projected, but adequate and flexible space needs to be reserved

Central Office

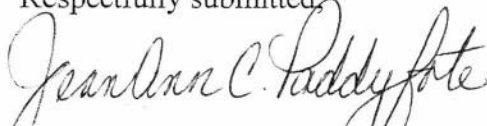
- Desire for more accessible and centralized space
- Currently occupies approximately 10,000 sq ft

Current System Configuration

- Potential strengths of the current system configuration include: facilities are well-suited for the age groups served, school sizes are manageable under current administrative structure, parents are accustomed to grade configuration, and horizontal articulation with entire graduating classes attending same schools from 4<sup>th</sup> grade on
- Potential negatives to the current configuration include: having four school transitions affects students and parent affiliations with schools, transportation

	<p>time to intermediate and middle, vertical articulation of curriculum may be more difficult with school transitions, operating costs, community perception of excess space and lack of space for some programming (i.e. alternative high school)</p> <p>The consultants quickly reviewed the school system enrollment projections presented at the previous meeting. In addition, a breakdown of classroom usage by elementary and intermediate/middle schools and projected classroom needs was presented. The projected classroom needs were prepared using current average class sizes by school, and the maximum class size guidelines included in the teacher contract to present a range of projected classroom needs.</p> <p>The Committee then discussed in small groups, and as a whole, criteria for evaluating school system organizational alternatives.</p> <p>High priority concerns to be addressed in any alternative include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintaining low class sizes – potentially adjusting Board of Education maximum policy guidelines</li><li>• Responsibly maintaining or reducing operating costs, while ensuring the system’s ability to respond to future needs (implementation of universal PreK, increases in enrollment, career/technical training space, etc.)</li><li>• Transportation - minimizing travel times and costs to the extent possible</li></ul> <p>Potential alternative grade configurations and/or programming alternatives to explore include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PreK-2<sup>nd</sup> grades in elementary, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades in intermediate, 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades in middle, and 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades in the high school</li><li>• PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grades in 3 or 4 elementary schools, 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades in middle school, and 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades in the high school</li><li>• Introducing theme-based programming to the elementary schools with district-wide lottery entrance</li></ul>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Adjourn</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.</li></ul>

Respectfully submitted,



JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools