

**New Milford Board of Education  
 Committee on Learning Meeting Minutes  
 March 17, 2009  
 Lillis Administration Building, Rm. 2**

Present:	Mr. David Lawson, Committee Chairperson Mrs. Amy Llerena Mrs. Alexandra Thomas Mr. William Wellman Dr. Lisa Diamond, Board Chairperson
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Also Present:	Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools Mr. Thomas Mulvihill, Assistant Superintendent Mr. David Elmore, Director of Information Technology Mrs. Kathy Delmonico Mrs. Chalice Racey Mr. Mark Pernerewski Ms. Kristie Soucie Ms. Tiffany Antkies Mr. Jeff Ferguson
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1.	The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:30pm.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment There was no public comment	Public Comment
3. A. 3A1.	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>A. Review and Approval of Curricula</p> <p>1. English 10 (English II)</p> <p>Mrs. Delmonico said this curriculum includes character education and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. It is made more media interactive and there are more new non-fiction books based on the CAPT scores. The theme is identity for 10<sup>th</sup> grade. The curricula is on every teacher's desk for use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Mulvihill asked how many books a student might read in the year to which Mrs. Delmonico responded 10 to 12 per year is a reasonable expectation.</li> <li>• Mr. Wellman asked how the curricula was used and if it was actively used. Mrs. Delmonico said they were actively used because they are written by the teachers who know the students. It is a dynamic document that changes with the needs of the students.</li> </ul>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>Review and Approval of Curricula</p> <p>English 10 (English II)</p>

3A2.	<p>American Studies</p> <p>Mr. Mulvihill introduced Mark Pernerewski and Chalice Racey. He said Mr. Pernerewski took a class in curricula writing during the writing of this particular curriculum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Pernerewski said the students feel an immersion in American culture through this course. He gave one example. During the unit on industrialization the English teacher likes Walt Whitman and he likes baseball. Walt Whitman used to write for a newspaper that covered baseball so they are able to bring Whitman and baseball history into the class.</li> <li>• Mr. Wellman said this is an impressive document but it did not cover the Constitution, Manifest Destiny, the Federalist Papers or the Second Treatise of John Locke. Mr. Pernerewski said this is a cross curricular document and the textbook includes the Constitution. The students even suggest their own amendments.</li> <li>• Mrs. Racey said this class was taught by an English teacher and History teacher to get an understanding of the development of the American character. It is not purely English nor purely History.</li> <li>• Mrs. Delmonico said that immigration and the discussion of Mark Twain covers the opening of the West (Chapter 3).</li> </ul>	American Studies
3A3.	<p>Portfolio Workshop</p> <p>Mr. Mulvihill introduced Kristi Soucie who is a high school art teacher.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Soucie said this is a revised version of a curriculum written in 2001 because of a major change in how portfolios are submitted to colleges. She said everything is now submitted digitally. This curriculum now incorporates digital technology but has been left open for future changes.</li> <li>• Dr. Diamond said she had interviewed a student for college and was directed to the website for their artwork. Ms. Soucie said that is one of the skills generated from this course.</li> </ul>	Portfolio Workshop

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Lawson asked if there was enough equipment to make this happen? Ms. Soucie said the art department has one digital camera and she was able to acquire a laptop with photoshop, a scanner, and a data projector for the art department.</li> </ul>	
3A4.	<p>Sculpture</p> <p>Ms. Soucie said the last rewrite for sculpture was 20 years ago. This is one of the last remaining pure electives. There is one class each spring.</p>	Sculpture
	<p>Mrs. Thomas moved to bring to the full Board for approval the following curricula:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English 10 (English II)</li> <li>American Studies</li> <li>Portfolio Workshop</li> <li>Sculpture</li> </ol> <p>seconded by Mrs. Llerena and passed unanimously.</p>	Motion made and accepted to bring curricula to full Board for approval.
4.	<p>Presentation – Technology of Mimio Board/Data Projector</p> <p>Mr. Mulvihill introduced Mrs. Dana Ford who invested in Mimio Boards at Schaghticoke Middle School. He said the goal is to use technology to engage students better than before.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Antkies said she is a 4<sup>th</sup> year teacher at Schaghticoke and she always used the data projector so she was asked to serve as pilot for use of technology in the classroom. She demonstrated the Mimio technology for the group.</li> <li>Mr. Elmore said the schools have been slowly adding to the number of data projectors and mimios with permanent installation being the long term objective.</li> <li>Mr. Ferguson said the students can access data all over the web with technology. He said the students are learning 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. He had his students working with laptops to learn how to build roller coasters and then did a hands-on project of building a model roller coaster after seeing simulations on-line.</li> <li>Mr. Mulvihill said April 1<sup>st</sup> is an in-service day for the schools with 47 workshops of</li> </ul>	Presentation – Technology of Mimio Board/Data Projector

	<p>which 41 involve technology in order to highlight more training for staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Llerena said her first impression was that the set up seemed complicated. Ms. Antkies said that is part of the problem that more technology is needed so more teachers can get comfortable with setting up the system.</li> <li>• Mrs. Thomas asked what the outcomes were with regards to student’s performance. Ms. Antkies said most of her students, the ones who are trying, are getting B’s and A’s now – an improvement from past results.</li> <li>• Mr. Ferguson said the students are better able to understand concepts through the use of things like songs that can be created with the use of technology. He said students go home with a passion and intense emotional engagement.</li> <li>• Mrs. Ford said this pilot program started in an alliance with Brookfield who let them borrow the technology director. She came to the school to show how to use the technology. Also, Mrs. Ford noted that shower stall material could be cut up to make whiteboards for the classroom and for the students – very inexpensively.</li> <li>• Mr. Wellman said he shares the enthusiasm for technology but worries that students are not learning by themselves anymore. Mr. Lawson said this is not the entire lesson but part of the day and is a tool in education. Mr. Mulvihill said teachers still need to assess and individualize learning for the students.</li> </ul>	
4.	<p>Adjournment          Mr. Wellman moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 pm, seconded by Mrs. Llerena and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion to adjourn made and passed unanimously.</p>

Respectfully Submitted,

David A. Lawson, Chairman  
 Committee on Learning