

NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
50 EAST ST.  
NEW MILFORD, CT. 06776

COMMITTEE ON LEARNING SUB-COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

CLERK  
GEORGE C. BIKIDEE  
TOWN CLERK  
JFM

2009 NOV 13 A 9:22

NEW MILFORD, CT

**DATE:** November 17, 2009  
**TIME:** 6:30 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Lillis Administration Building – Room 2

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment  
The Board welcomes Public Participation and asks that speakers please limit their comments to three minutes. Speakers may offer objective comments of school operations and programs that concern them. The Board will not permit any expression of personal complaints or defamatory comments about Board of Education personnel and students, nor against any person connected with the New Milford Public School System.
3. Discussion and Possible Action Items
  - A. Review and Approval of Curricula
    1. Revision Grade 9 English Mr. Reed
    2. Revision Anatomy and Physiology Mrs. Terhaar
  4. Discussion
    - A. Full Day Kindergarten Data Mrs. Kelleher
    - B. School Improvement Plans Dr. Nadeau  
Mrs. Kelleher  
Mrs. Murray  
Mr. Weintraub  
Mrs. Ford  
Mr. Shugrue
5. Adjourn

Sub-Committee Members: Mr. David Lawson, Chair  
Mrs. Amy Llerena  
Mr. William Wellman  
Mrs. Alexandra Thomas

Alternates: Mr. Thomas McSherry  
Mrs. Elizabeth Finney

**The Committee on learning  
documents can be previewed in  
the  
Office of the Assistant  
Superintendent—Room 6  
Lillis Administration Building,  
50 East Street  
between 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

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

Present:	Mr. David Lawson, Committee Chairperson Mrs. Amy Llerena Mr. William Wellman Mrs. Alexandra Thomas
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Also Present:	Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools Mrs. Catherine Richard, Interim Assistant Superintendent Dr. Maureen McLaughlin, Incoming Assistant Superintendent Mr. Greg Shugrue Mrs. Dana Ford Mr. Les Weintraub Mrs. Paula Kelleher Mrs. Susan Murray Dr. Sandy Nadeau Ms. Jennifer Andrea Six members of the public
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JENNIFER A. ANDREA  
 CLERK  
 2009 NOV 19 P 3:46

NEW MILFORD, CT

1.	The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 6:30pm.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment Joseph Failla spoke in support of the full day Kindergarten hoping that perhaps one full day class could be implemented at all three elementary schools.	Public Comment
3. A. 1.	Discussion and Possible Action Review and Approval of Curricula 1. Revision Grade 9 English  Greg Shugrue, Principal at New Milford High School presented the revised curricula. He said the curricula is aligned with the five year strategic plan, the Connecticut Board of Education Language Arts framework, and the National Council of Teachers of Language Arts. This course is full year course for 9 <sup>th</sup> grade.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Wellman said there was an extensive list of other books and he wondered if the students were expected to read all of them as well. Mr. Shugrue said To Kill a Mockingbird and Odyssey are broken down and students go in depth into themes, common experiences, etc.</li> <li>• Mr. Wellman asked if all the books were read by</li> </ul>	Discussion and Possible Action Review and Approval of Curricula 1. Revision Grade 9 English 2. Revision Anatomy and Physiology

<p>2.</p>	<p>the students. Mr. Lawson said not every book would be read.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Wellman asked how the supplemental books were used. Dana Ford, Principal at Schaghticoke Middle School, said teachers choose which books might work best for them and the students would read excerpts.</li> <li>• Mr. Wellman asked why Odyssey, which is translated into English, is the core book versus a book written in English. Mr. Shugrue said this is a classic book and that's why it is used.</li> </ul> <p>2. Revision Anatomy and Physiology</p> <p>Mr. Shugrue said these are ½ credit courses with a prerequisite of Biology. This course meets New Milford High School's Expectations of Learning which addressed the NEASC accreditation issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Llerena said she took this course in high school and it prepared her well for her nursing program at Fairfield University.</li> <li>• Mr. Wellman asked why students would be exempt from the final to which Mr. Shugrue said that only applied to full year courses and only if students got a 90 or better. This is general practice for year long courses.</li> </ul> <p>Mrs. Llerena moved to move to the full board for approval the revision of curricula for Grade 9 English and Anatomy and Physiology, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion made and approved to move to the full board for approval the revision of curricula for Grade 9 English and Anatomy and Physiology</p>
<p>4. A.</p>	<p>Discussion</p> <p>A. Full Day Kindergarten Data</p> <p>Paula Kelleher, Principal at John Pettibone School presented data on a pilot full day Kindergarten program conducted in the 2007-2008 school year. Mrs. Kelleher said there was a greater reading level and writing level after the full day program because teachers were allowed more time for individual instruction.</p> <p>She said looking at Level 4 readers with an all day program 47% of the students score well on the IRI's in the</p>	<p>Discussion</p> <p>A. Full Day Kindergarten Data</p> <p>B. School Improvement Plans</p>

Spring of their kindergarten year and 32% scored well on the DRA's which is a different test but the numbers still suggest positive results.

Also, students that come into the schools with limited abilities, such as knowing colors, not being able to cut with scissors, are found sooner and can be worked with sooner which helps them later on.

- Mrs. Richard said that the parent surveys were very positive with parents saying that their kids were socializing more and each teacher had more time with their children versus a ½ day program.
- Mrs. Kelleher said that early intervention with kids that might have some disabilities shows a marked difference with full day kindergarten.
- Mr. Lawson said he had visited at the end of the year the full day class and was amazed at how well the kids could read. He asked if this would help with SRBI.
- Mrs. Kelleher said SRBI (Scientifically Researched Based Intervention) assesses where children are based on educational standards and if students are not up to the standards they are taught a different way to help them learn.
- Ms. Jennifer Andrea, who piloted the full day program, said in the ½ day program, teachers feel stress to get everything done – with the full day they are less stressed and can actually sit and read and spend individual time.
- Mrs. Thomas said this data was important but more information such as tracking these students longer term is needed. She also said it is hard to use these numbers because there are other contributing factors such as parents wanting full day kindergarten and so they might push a little harder for their kids to succeed. She said it will be important to build a base of community support for this during budget time.
- Mr. Wellman said the statistics did not clearly show everything because the class size could make a difference, the different teachers could make a difference. He said intuitively, he would expect the children to do better with a full day.
- Ms. Andrea said the statistics are necessary but

	<p>she said so much more is expected of these students today than when most of the people in the room were in kindergarten and having a full day program makes that more attainable.</p>	
<p>4. B.</p>	<p>Discussion        B. School Improvement Plans</p> <p>Dr. Sandra Nadeau presented for Hill and Plain and said she was pleased with the students CMT results for 2009. The goal for proficiency for the district is 85% Hill and Plain students are at 76% for reading. There is a difference in both reading and math between girls and boys and the school is trying to close those gaps. Professional development workshops are being offered to increase student proficiency in reading and math.</p> <p>Dr. Nadeau said part of the problem with Hill and Plain is the ELL population is higher than other schools – this year 91 students are on free or reduced lunches versus 51 last year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Wellman said, in general, that is these reports are meant to be shared with the public than the educational jargon needs to be eliminated or explained. He said he has a hard time understanding these reports and yet they should be of great interest.</li> <li>• Mr. Lawson said these are public documents mandated by the State Board of Education.</li> <li>• Dr. Paddyfote said these documents drive what the school does and they are taken directly off the State Department of Education website.</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Paula Kelleher presented for John Pettibone and said elementary grades are looking at the data of where kids are in grade level and trying to get them all to proficiency. She said JPS has some new programs such as the Blue Ribbon related to math, reading and writing for the CMT's; and they are partnering with Literacy Volunteers of America for ELL learners. They are trying to get parents to learn basic English as well so they can communicate with their children in the future.</p> <p>Mrs. Murray presented for Northville Elementary and said their focus in on reading. They will do reader text connection exercises and guided reading instruction with</p>	

	<p>guided reading groups to enhance reading skills. NES uses reading specialists as necessary to enrich the learning for children. The Special Education population at NES is only 12.6% of the population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Wellman asked for explanation of the term AYP to which Mrs. Murray explained that it stood for Adequate Yearly Progress as required by the No Child Left Behind act.</li><li>• Mr. Lawson asked for confirmation that the AYP was going to be 100% of the students by a certain year to which several education audience members said by 2014.</li><li>• Mr. Wellman noted in this report it talked about funding source being building budget and Title II and asked what that meant. Mrs. Murray said funds come from the operating budget for NES and Title II is grant money from the government that the Assistant Superintendent can put towards these programs.</li><li>• Mr. Wellman asked for percentages for funding objectives to which Mrs. Murray answered that she did not have exact numbers but more money was allotted to reading proficiency.</li></ul> <p>Mr. Les Weintraub presented for Sarah Noble Intermediate School and noted that SNIS is in year 1 of a multi year improvement plan because of its designation as not meeting NCLB standards. SNIS has collaborated with LitLife which is a Columbia University program for reading in Grade 6. Also, they have initiated Magical Rides program with new materials for academic achievement. Year 2 of the plan is being laid out now as a pilot and will be implemented school wide soon.</p> <p>Ms. Dana Ford presented the plan for Schaghticoke Middle School and said SMS is not a Title I school so no money comes from the federal government even though they have the same NCLB standards. SMS scores are good and the curricula is geared toward the CMT's. The special education population is the reason that SMS is on the AYP list. SMS is using language art consultants to help teachers teach reading. There are in school writing labs to help remediate the students where needed. After school programs include Academic Fitness; a math lab; and a writing lab. SMS is working on individualizing what the school offers its students. Ms. Ford said she was</p>	
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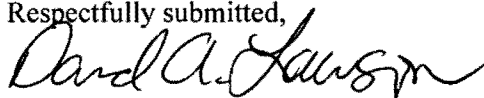
	<p>surprised that SMS did not make a safe haven this year given the progress made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Thomas asked about the number of study halls to which Ms. Ford responded there were not so many but flex periods were added to include reading days. She said flex periods could also be used to see teachers, go to the library or computer room and physical education.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Shugrue presented for New Milford High School and said there are 4 goals the school is working on to increase student achievement. He said the CALI team is trying to work with Education Connection to get training on some initiatives but since every school has these same training needs, the Education Connection group is backed up. He said there is more multi-media use in the classrooms and Naviance software is being used to create an active individualized learning program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Wellman asked how differentiated learning has been going. Mr. Shugrue said it is a work in progress that he continues to stress and encourage teachers to take professional development in this area. The idea of differentiated learning is that students are taught what they need to know using different methods.</li> <li>• Mrs. Thomas said it would be helpful to hear back about these improvement plans before the budget and certainly before another year has gone by.</li> </ul>	
	<p>Mr. Failla asked if the committee would extend the courtesy of including another session of public participation for Council member Peter Bass who could not be present at the start of the meeting.</p> <p>Mrs. Thomas moved to amend the agenda to add public participation, seconded by Mrs. Llerena and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>A motion made and approved to amend the agenda to add public participation, seconded by Mrs. Llerena and passed unanimously.</p>
	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>Peter Bass said he was speaking in favor of all day kindergarten. He said competition in the very near future does not come from the neighborhood child it comes from India, Japan and China and these children go to school longer than our children. He also serves on the Economic</p>	



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	Development Commission and said property values are driven by the quality of the education system.  Mr. Lawson thanked Catherine Richard for filling in as interim Assistant Superintendent until a replacement could be found.	
4.	Adjourn  Mrs. Llerena moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 pm seconded by Mrs. Thomas and passed unanimously.	Adjourn  Motion made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 pm

Respectfully submitted,



David A. Lawson  
Curriculum Committee Chair

