

**New Milford Board of Education
 Committee on Learning Meeting Minutes
 Mary 19, 2009
 Lillis Administration Building, Rm. 2**

Present:	Mr. David Lawson, Committee Chairperson Mrs. Amy Llerena Mr. William Wellman Mr. Tom McSherry
Not present:	Mrs. Alexandra Thomas Mrs. Elizabeth Finney

Also Present:	Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools Mr. Thomas Mulvihill, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, NMHS Mr. Les Weintraub, Principal, SNIS Mr J. T. Schemm Mrs. Chalice Racey Mrs. Debbie Staffiere Mrs. Debbie Chin Mr. Justin Mack Mrs. Jan Allsworth Mrs. Nancy Zimmerman Ms. Sarah Wall
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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
	Mr. McSherry was seated for Mrs. Thomas	
3. A. 1.	Discussion and Possible Action A. Review and Approval of Curricula and Scope and Sequences 1. US History Mr. Mulvihill introduced Chalice Racey who is the Chair of the Social Studies department at NMHS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Racey said this document was based on the work of Lynn Erickson who looks at curriculum through a lens and of Grant Wiggins. It is dynamic and thematic curriculum in nature discussing conflict, disillusionment and change through review of U.S. History. 	Discussion and Possible Action Review and Approval of Curricula and Scope and Sequences US History

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Lawson asked Mrs. Racey to highlight the character education elements and Mrs. Racey said it was courage. • Mr. Wellman asked if the curriculum was actually used by the teachers and Mrs. Racey said it definitely was. 	
2.	<p>AP Physics B</p> <p>Mr. Mulvihill introduced J.T. Shemm who is working on aligning the curricula with what kids are actually be tested in AP Physics exams.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Shemm said this curricula works off the game plan for the AP Physics as provided by the College Board. It is similar to honors physics with suggested lab activities. The character education trait is integrity since science relies on scientific integrity. • Mrs. Llerena noted that this curricula called for a double lab period and asked if that was a problem. Mr. Shemm said it was not because these classes dovetail nicely with PE and study halls. • Mr. Lawson asked how the kids tested this year to which Mr. Shemm said students felt positive about their answers to the questions. 	AP Physics B
3.	<p>AP French V</p> <p>Mr. Mulvihill introduced Debbie Staffiere.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Staffiere said this program is the culmination of years of studies in French. As a result, the character education trait is persistence. She said the intent at this level is really not to teach anything new but to refine the mastery of the language – reading, writing, speaking, and listening. • Mr. McSherry asked how many students will take AP French this year to which Mrs. Staffiere said 8 and 5 took the exam. • Mr. Mulvihill said some students choose not to take the AP languages because if they go to a college that requires language, taking the 	AP French V

	<p>AP's would put them at a higher level language class than they might like to be.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Lawson asked about the upcoming French National Honor Society Induction. Mrs. Staffiere said 13 members would be inducted this Thursday evening. 	
4.	<p>Library Media & Information Literacy K-12 Scope and Sequence</p> <p>Mr. Mulvihill introduced Debbie Chin who is the librarian at John Pettibone School.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Lawson asked about the difference between curricula and scope and sequence. Mr. Mulvihill responded that scope and sequence was what would be happening overall for K-12. Mrs. Chin said the library media program has become very important with the increase in technology. It is necessary to teach kids to be responsible and effective in the uses of technology. Mrs. Chin said this scope and sequence is based on the 7 content standards for the State of Connecticut and the character education goal is honesty for the elementary level and integrity for the high school level. 	<p>Library Media & Information Literacy K-12 Scope and Sequence</p>
	<p>Mrs. Llerena moved to bring the following curricula and scope and sequences to the full board for approval at the June meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> US History AP Physics B AP French V Library Media and Information Literacy K-12 Scope and Sequence; <p>Seconded by Mr. McSherry and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion made and approved to send the following curricula to the full school board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> US History AP Physics B AP French V Library Media and Information Literacy K-12 Scope and Sequence
4.	<p>SNIS School Improvement Plan</p> <p>Mr. Mulvihill introduced Les Weintraub, Justin Mack, Jan Allsworth, Nancy Zimmerman, and Sarah Wall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Weintraub said this is a multi-year plan 	<p>SNIS School Improvement Plan</p>

	<p>for schools identified as need for improvement on the Connecticut Mastery Test. The school is required to address the plan every year in math, reading and writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school is asked to identify up to 3 goals in student achievement in math, reading and writing and then say how the school will go about addressing. • Mr. Lawson asked how many students comprised a subgroup to which Mr. Weintraub responded 40. • Mr. Lawson asked for the population at SNIS and Mr. Weintraub responded 1,062. • Mr. Lawson asked if the goal increased every year to which Mr. Weintraub replied “yes”. • Mr. Mulvihill said when the standards for reading first came out it was 56% now the goal is 79% and groups struggle to get to goal. • Mr. McSherry said as the years go by and more schools join the list, how hard is it to catch up. Mr. Weintraub suggested it is realistic within 3 years to get to what is called a safe harbor which the state recognizes as the school is making progress in meeting the standards. • Mr. McSherry asked if there was any sharing of best practices throughout the country. Mr. Weintraub responded that the use of the internet best practices can be found and also through local state-sponsored conferences. <p>Mr. McSherry moved to accept the SNIS plan as presented, seconded by Mrs. Llerena and passed unanimously</p>	<p>Motion made and approved to accept the SNIS plan as presented</p>
5.	<p>Five year progress report – NEASC-NMHS</p> <p>Mr. Mulvihill introduced Greg Shugrue, Principal of NMHS to present the progress report of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation report.</p>	<p>Five year progress report – NEASC – NMHA</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Shugrue said in the March 2004 report 68 items had been identified as needing to be addressed. He said at the 2 year reporting period 20 items had been addressed. At the 5 year report 48 of the 68 have been addressed and there are an additional 17 in progress. • Mr. Lawson asked how many people were working on the report and Mr. Shugrue responded that 8 people worked on writing the report. • Mr. Wellman asked if this was helpful in terms of the education of children and Mr. Shugrue said he felt it was a good exercise. • Mr. Lawson asked if students progress was consistently and periodically checked. Mr. Shugrue said there is a schoolwide rubric used to help students understand how they will be assessed. • Mr. Mulvihill said the CAPT scores show close to 60% of students are at goal in Language Arts, over 90% in proficiency. Near 70% for math. He said a greater percentage of students appear challenged and seem happier. 	
6.	<p>Adjourn Mrs. Llerena moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm seconded by Mr. McSherry and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Adjourn Motion made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm</p>

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Lawson
 Committee on Learning