

NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
New Milford Public Schools  
50 East Street  
New Milford, Connecticut 06776

COMMITTEE ON LEARNING  
MEETING NOTICE

DATE: February 25, 2014  
TIME: 7:30 PM  
PLACE: Lillis Administration Building – Room 2

RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
2014 FEB 20 11:35  
NEW MILFORD, CT

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. 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 items on this agenda. 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

A. Review and Approval of Curriculum:

1. Writing Workshop

Ms. Kathleen DelMonico

4. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. CCSS Overview

Mr. Joshua Smith

B. SRBI Overview

Mr. Joshua Smith

C. Teacher Evaluation Update

Mr. Joshua Smith

D. ACT Scores

Mr. Joshua Smith

5. ADJOURN

Sub-Committee Members: Mr. David A. Lawson, Chairperson  
Mrs. Angela C. Chastain  
Mrs. Daniele Shook  
Mr. John W. Spatola

Alternate: Mr. Dave Littlefield  
Mr. David R. Shaffer

The Committee on Learning curriculum  
can be previewed in the  
Office of the Assistant Superintendent  
Lillis Administration Building – Room #6.

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## Committee on Learning

February 25, 2014

### Brief Background and update on major State of Connecticut initiatives

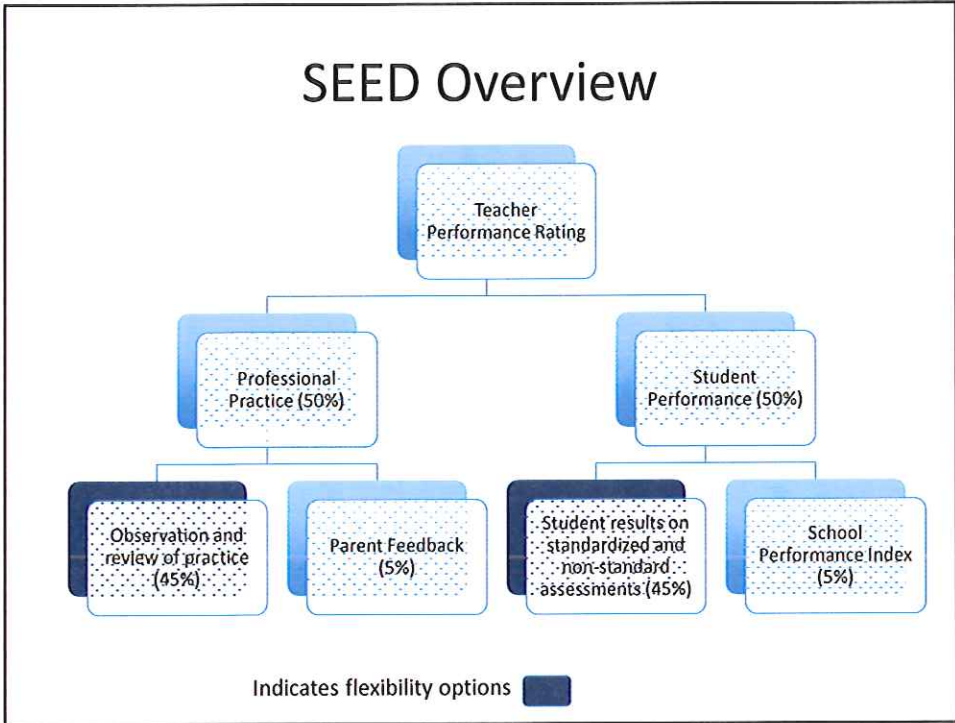
- SEED (System for Educator Evaluation and Development)
- CCSS (Common Core State Standards)
- SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium)

## SEED

### (System for Educator Evaluation and Development)

- Top three factors that determine student success:
  1. Home/ Family
  2. Effective teachers
  3. Effective leadership
- PEAC (Performance Evaluation Advisory council) was formed in 2010, State adopts an evaluation plan in 2012 and sets district adoption guidelines for implementation effective August 2013.
- 2012 New Milford forms a Professional Growth and Development Committee to examine district options and submit proposal to the Board of Education for Adoption. (BOE adopts and SDE approves in Spring 2013)
- Winter of 2014 State allows district to re-examine flexibility options.

For more information: [www.connecticutseed.org](http://www.connecticutseed.org)



SEED Overview		
Current Plan/ Flexibility Options		
Professional Practice (45%)		
	Current Plan	Flexibility Options
Tenured Teachers	2 Formal/ 2 Informal Observations every year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 1 Formal Observation every 3 years.</li> <li>• 3 Informal every year.</li> </ul>
Non-Tenured Teachers	3 Formal/ 3 Informal Observations every year	3 Formal/ 3 Informal Observations every year, can be reduced if a score of Proficient.
Student Performance (45%)		
	Current Plan	Flexibility Options
Standardized Assessments	For teachers in a tested grade and subject, must use 2015 SBAC results	No national assessment data until the 2016 SBAC assessment
Student Learning Objectives	Currently TWO per teacher with 1 Standard and one non-standard measure	A minimum of ONE SLO, with one standard and one non-standard measure.

CCSS	
(Common Core State Standards)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed out of the National Governors Association and Council of Chief State School Officers and began adoption by states in 2010</li> <li>• Published for Math and English/ Language Arts in grades K-12</li> <li>• Increased Rigor, more closely aligned with international benchmarks</li> <li>• Creates a common language and grade level standards across states</li> </ul>	
<a href="http://www.ctcorestandards.org">www.ctcorestandards.org</a>	



## SBAC

### (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium)

- Smarter Balanced is a state-led consortium developing assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards in English language arts/literacy and mathematics
- 23 States are currently participating in the SBAC consortium
- PARCC is the competing consortium with 18 participating states
- Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was established in 1965, in 2002 it was reauthorized as the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)
- Under the ESEA and NCLB States are required to assess students annual and report student progress to the Department of Education and the public
- In 2013 Connecticut applied for and was granted a waiver that allows for the participation in the Spring 2014 SBAC Field Test instead of administering the CMT and CAPT assessment for Math and Language Arts.
- The CMT was introduced in 1984 and will be replaced with an online national assessment in 2015

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org>

<http://www.parcconline.org>

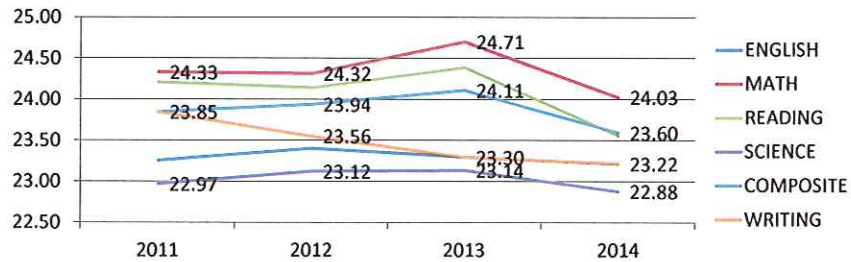
## New Milford Public Schools Committee on Learning

ACT Results  
2/25/2014

### What is ACT?

The **ACT** is an achievement test, measuring what a student has learned in school. The SAT is more of an aptitude test, testing reasoning and verbal abilities. The **ACT** has up to 5 components: English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and an optional Writing Test.

### New Milford 2011-2014 Average ACT Scores



Year	# of Students	Score Range
2014	220	35 – 8
2013	114	35 – 8
2012	165	35 – 11
2011	39	35 – 10

### What is a Good Score?

- Any student scoring a 34, 35, or 36 is among the top 1% of test-takers in the country
- The average composite score is roughly a 21
- About 50% of test-takers score below a 21



## ACT Admission Scores and Acceptance Rates to Universities in Connecticut

- **Fairfield University** – 24 or higher, 69% admitted
- **Quinnipiac University** – 20 or higher, 69 % admitted
- **SCSU** – 17/22 or higher, 75% admitted
- **UCONN (Main Campus)** – 25 or higher, 45% admitted
- **Yale University** – 30 or higher, 8% admitted

**New Milford Board of Education  
 Committee on Learning Minutes  
 February 25, 2014  
 Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

**Present:** Mr. David A. Lawson, Chairperson  
 Mrs. Angela C. Chastain  
 Mrs. Daniele Shook  
 Mr. John W. Spatola

**Also Present:** Mr. Joshua Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
 Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources  
 Ms. Kathleen DelMonico, Teacher, New Milford High School

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2014 FEB 27 P 3:54

NEW MILFORD, CT

<p><b>1.</b></p>	<p><b>Call to Order</b>          The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mr. Lawson. Mr. Lawson noted that this was the first meeting of the year for the members as a Committee. He asked that any questions and comments come through the chair for discussion.</p>	<p><b>Call to Order</b></p>
<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bob Coppola said he would like a copy of any presentation made tonight. He asked that the presentation materials be part of a discussion at the full Board meeting next week so they could be discussed by the whole Board. He said passing CAPT used to be one way of meeting the graduation requirement and asked if changes needed to be made now that we don't have CAPT anymore. He said he had already asked about field trip approvals and then asked if the Board still approved textbooks as in the past because he has yet to see any up for approval.</li> <li>• Denise Bard expressed serious concerns about the common core state standards. She asked that the Board investigate statutes that allow for more local control. She asked if common core has students' best interest at heart and what was the cost.</li> <li>• Jessica Higgins said public schools are funded by the public and should answer to the public. She said common core state standards are flawed and do not take into account the diversity in the country. She wants to see the scientific evidence in support of a national test.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>

<p>3.</p> <p>A.</p> <p>1.</p>	<p><b>Discussion and Possible Action</b></p> <p><b>Review and Approval of Curriculum:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Lawson said the curriculum format has been developed over many years with teacher input. He invited Ms. DelMonico to give highlights of the curriculum.</li> </ul> <p><b>Writing Workshop</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. DelMonico said the Writing Workshop curriculum is an elective 0.5 credit course for seniors. It is offered at the academic level to improve writing. In the fall it includes writing the college essay and in the spring follows a “college course 101” model. It incorporates various genres and ends with a capstone style project.</li> <li>• Mrs. Chastain asked how this course differs from Creative Writing and Ms. DelMonico said there is much more of a concentration on non-fiction. The expository aspect is also stressed.</li> <li>• Mr. Spatola said he thought the curriculum was well developed and rigorous. He said the material covered in four week lengths seemed very ambitious. Ms. DelMonico said not all the material listed is covered. It is a general guide for the teacher. She said the 80 minute class time of the block schedule does equate to more than one traditional class.</li> <li>• Mr. Spatola asked who chose the learning activities. Ms. DelMonico said the teacher chooses the form and the student then chooses the topic within that form.</li> <li>• Mr. Spatola asked if there was SAT Prep as part of this course. Ms. DelMonico said there is a timed essay practice but that it is covered much more in junior year. Where this is a senior elective, most of the students have already taken the SAT.</li> <li>• Mr. Spatola asked why this course could not be offered in junior year. Ms. DelMonico said it could be; more and more classes are opening for student choice including the AP level but it just depends how it fits into an individual student schedule. She said the current junior</li> </ul>	<p><b>Discussion and Possible Action .</b></p> <p><b>Review and Approval of Curriculum:</b></p> <p><b>Writing Workshop</b></p>
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	<p>curriculum is very strong.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Shook thanked Ms. DelMonico for her work and said she did a great job.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mrs. Shook moved to bring the following curriculum to the full Board for approval: Writing Workshop seconded by Mrs. Chastain and passed unanimously.</b></p>	<p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the following curriculum to the full Board for approval: Writing Workshop.</b></p>
<p>4.  A. B. C.</p>	<p><b>Items for Information and Discussion</b></p> <p><b>CCSS Overview</b>  <b>SRBI Overview</b>  <b>Teacher Evaluation Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Lawson said these topics would be covered as brief overviews this evening with discussion at future meetings as needed.</li> <li>• Mr. Smith said he had prepared a presentation for this evening but it did not include a SRBI Overview. He said he would address this at the next meeting.</li> <li>• Mr. Lawson asked for a motion to amend the agenda.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mrs. Shook moved to amend the agenda to remove item 4.B. SRBI Overview and bring it to the next COL meeting, seconded by Mrs. Chastain and passed unanimously.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Smith gave a brief background and update on major state of Connecticut initiatives including the System for Educator Evaluation and Development (SEED), Common Core State Standards (CCSS), and the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC). He said changes are on-going and that the district Professional Growth and Development Committee is meeting this week to review flexibility options.</li> <li>• Mrs. Chastain asked who is on the Committee. Mr. Smith said there are 27 people, teachers and administrators representing all grades, schools and specialties.</li> <li>• Mrs. Shook asked if the Board would need to approve any changes that the Committee might recommend. Mr. Smith said if the Committee</li> </ul>	<p><b>Items for Information and Discussion</b></p> <p><b>CCSS Overview</b>  <b>SRBI Overview</b>  <b>Teacher Evaluation Update</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to amend the agenda to remove item 4.B. SRBI Overview and bring it to the next COL meeting.</b></p>

	<p>recommends changes to this year's plan then that would need to be approved by the Board and sent to the State by March 30, 2014. If not this year, then there is a rolling submission period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Spatola said he had read that the Governor was proposing postponing SEED for two years. Mr. Smith said it was not the evaluation process itself that would be postponed just the use of a validated state test as a student performance indicator.</li> <li>• Mr. Lawson asked if a locally developed indicator could be used and Mr. Smith said yes as long as it was at least a department level or more indicator.</li> <li>• Mrs. Shook asked if the MAP test could be used and Mr. Smith said yes, but it is a teacher driven decision. The MAP tool is not a mastery test but can be used to measure growth. It must be a teacher driven measure and agreed upon by teachers and administrators.</li> <li>• Mrs. Shook asked if the district chose a flexibility option this year or would they have to go back to original next year. Mr. Smith said it was likely that a district will be able to submit a revised plan each year. He said the State is working at reaffirming the minimum requirements right now as they are hearing that the sheer magnitude of hours required by the plan now is overwhelming.</li> <li>• Mr. Smith said he would give all Board members a copy of the presentation.</li> <li>• Mr. Lawson asked that the Board Chair consider putting the presentation on the next full Board agenda.</li> </ul> <p><b>D. ACT Scores</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Smith said the ACT is an achievement test versus the SAT which is an aptitude test. The ACT measures content mastery. He distributed information regarding New Milford's ACT scores. All were above the national average. There has been a significant increase in students taking the test.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACT Scores</b></p>
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	Mr. Lawson thanked Mr. Smith for the information which he said may lead to further questions once it has been reviewed.	
5.	<b>Adjourn</b>  Mrs. Shook moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. seconded by Mrs. Chastain and passed unanimously.	<b>Adjourn</b>  Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



David Lawson, Chairperson  
Committee on Learning