

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

COMMITTEE ON LEARNING
MEETING NOTICE

DATE:	November 20, 2012
TIME:	7:30 P.M.
PLACE:	Lillis Administration Building – Room 2

GEORGE C. BUCKBEE
TOWN CLERK
JM

2012 NOV 16 P 2:19

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 school operations and programs that concern them. The Board will not permit any expression of personal complaints or defamatory comments about Board of Educations 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. Grade 4 Reading

Mrs. Stacey Haleks, Mrs. Karen Hartle,
Mrs. Lisa Cosgrove
Mr. Joshua Smith

2. Russian Studies

4. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

A. AP / Graduation Requirements / NEASC / PLTW

Mr. Greg Shugrue

B. Assessment Update

Mr. Joshua Smith

C. Elementary Math Curriculum

Mr. Joshua Smith

D. Five-Year Curriculum Plan

Mr. Joshua Smith

E. SEED Update

Mr. Joshua Smith

F. Request for Information

Mr. Joshua Smith

5. ADJOURN

Sub-Committee Members: Mr. David Lawson, Chairperson
Mr. Thomas Brant
Mr. David Shaffer
Mrs. Daniele Shook

Alternates: Mrs. Lynette Celli Rigdon
Mr. William Wellman

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.

Current Local, State, and National Initiatives

	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
	FALL	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	SPRING	FALL	SPRING	FALL
**								
1 - DCF Mandate	All Staff Trained							
2 - CCSS			Language Arts					
3 - Elementary Reading Teacher Assessment								
4 - SEED				Implement				
5 - SRBI			Pilot NWEA	Expand Pilot				
6 - BYOD			Fall PD	Study Groups	PD			
7 - Math Curriculum				Pilot	Prepare	Implement	Evaluate	
8 - Universal Assessment					Pilot		Implement	
9 - School Climate					New Survey Tool		Implement	Modify and Adjust
10 - NEASC						Train and Prepare	Visit	
11 - Language Arts Curriculum							Implement Grades 2-3 Reading, Develop 7-8 Reading, Develop 4-6 Writing	
12 - SBAC							Align Curriculum and Migrate Instruction	Implement
13 - High School Reform								Completed by 2020
14 - New Professional Development Model						Plan	Implement	

** #'s do not indicate priority

Instructional Time

Committee on Learning

November 20, 2012

The Math of Instructional Minutes

Prior to 2011	45min class period x 180 instructional days = 8100 minutes or 135 hrs.
Current Schedule	81 minute class period x 90 instructional days = 7290 minutes or 121.5 hrs.

What this doesn't type of math does not factor in:

- Equity across courses
- Passing time
- An added class period
- Increased flexibility in scheduling
- Common planning time for staff

Instructional Minutes

Total Instructional minutes	Prior to 2011	Current	2010-11 State Average (High School)	2010-11 Statewide Range (In Hours)
	990.17	1008.17 hours (+18 total)	1010.5	923 - 1172

Districts of Reference
West Hartford: 924
Ridgefield : 965
Bethel: 1011
Bloomfield: 1029.5
Brookfield: 1052
Lisbon:1172

"If you want to make good use of your time, you've got to know what's most important and then give it all you've got." — Lee Iacocca

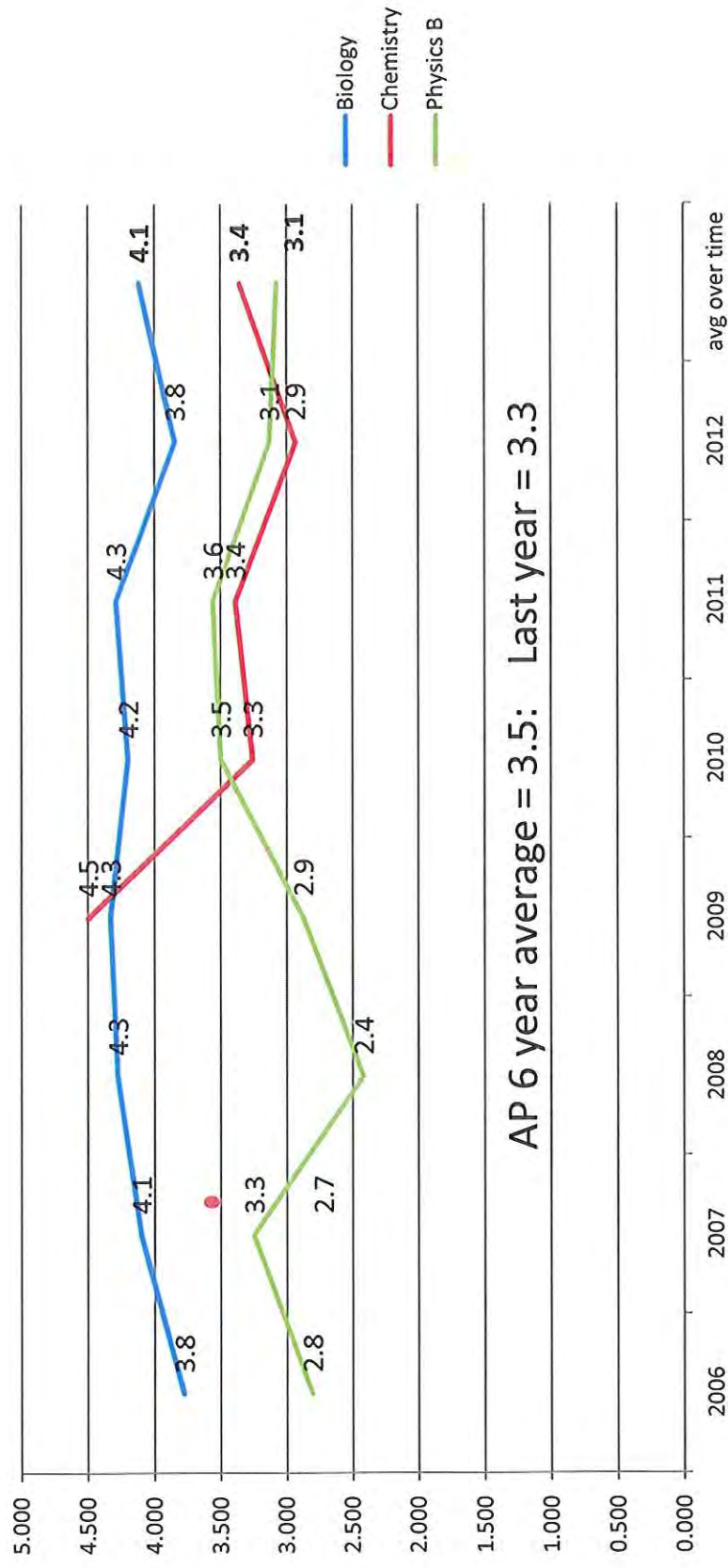
Total number of Science Sections

	Prior to 2011	Currently	Proposed for 2013
Total Sections of Science	69	73	76
Average Labs per month	24/ month	2011/12: 22/ month	
Adjustments	Spill over time is available for teachers and students. AP classes are backed up to study halls and prep time		

“Time has a wonderful way of weeding out the trivial.” –
Richard Ben Sapir

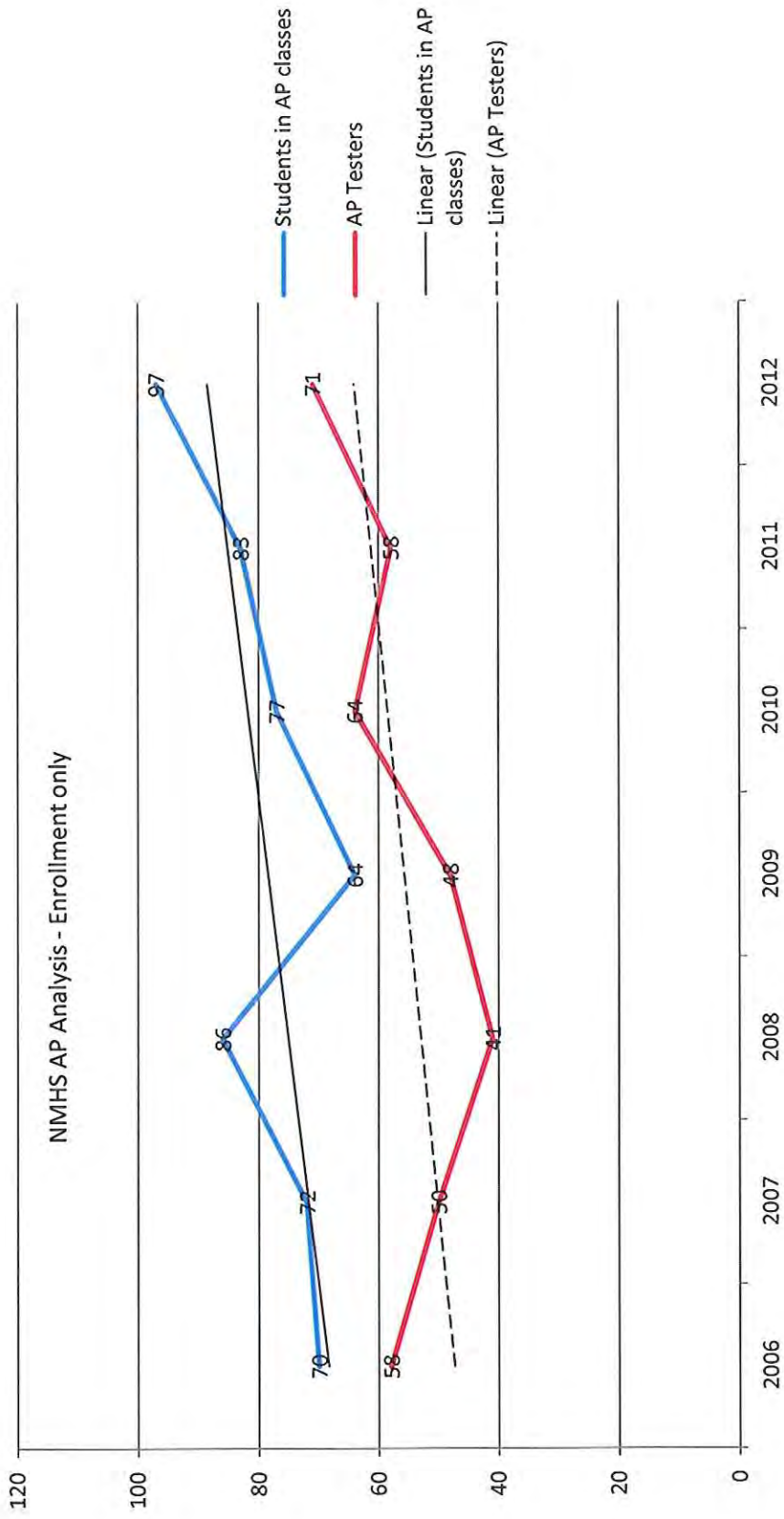
AP Scores

Over time: 2006-2012

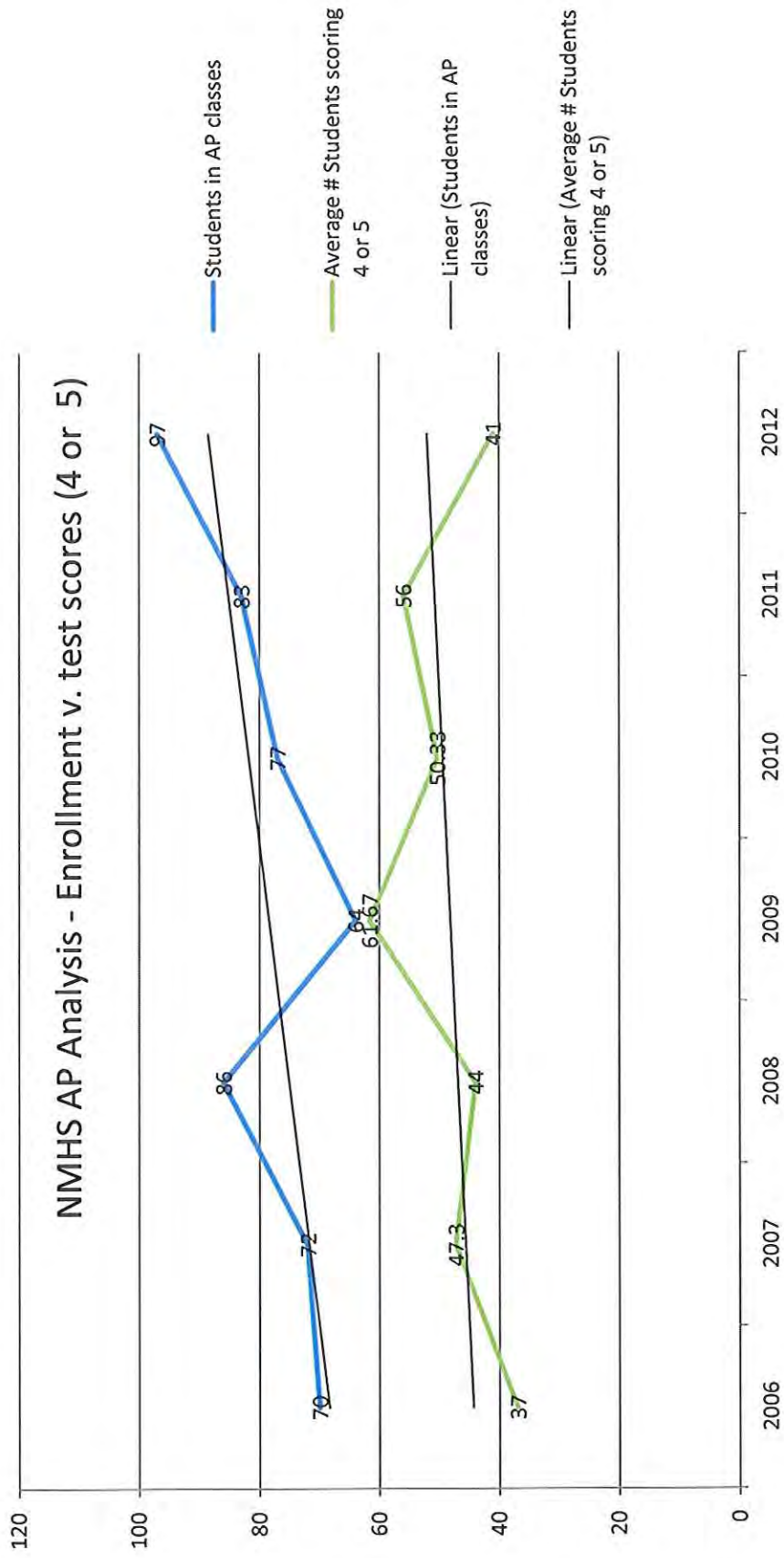


"It's not enough to be busy, so are the ants. The question is, what are we busy about?" – Henry David Thoreau

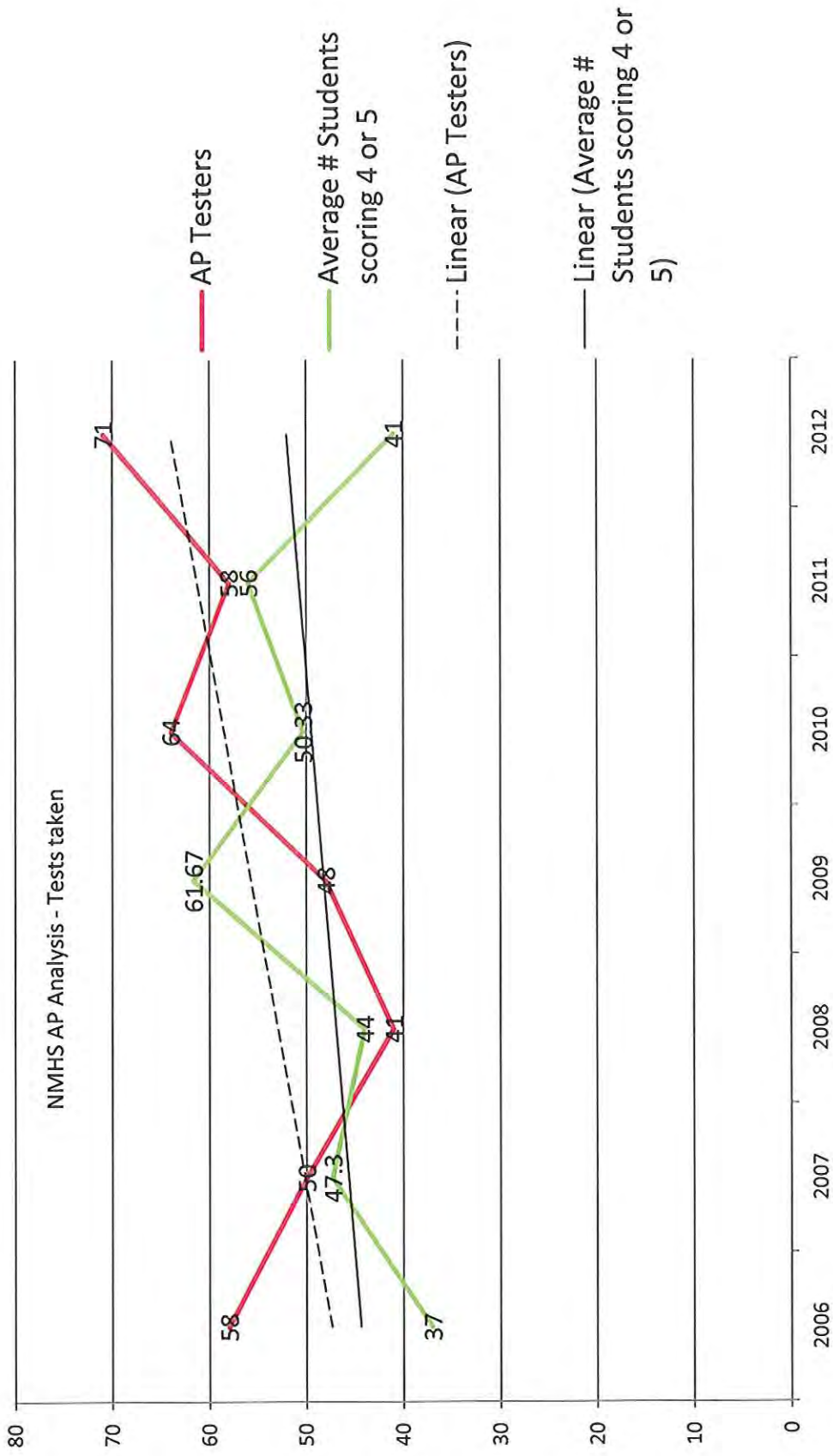
AP Enrollment



Enrollment to Score



Test Takers to Score



Science 8 Year Averages vs. 2012

AP Science Results	When looking at students achieving a 4 or 5	
All Science AP Exams	8 year average of students receiving a 4 or 5	2012
Biology	49.47% (n56)	41.33% (n71)
Physics	70.88%	76%
Chemistry	35.9%	35%
Biology and Physics	41.7%	13%
	53.4%	55.5%

“Don’t be fooled by the calendar. There are only as many days in the year as you make use of. One man gets only a week’s value out of a year while another man gets a full year’s value out of a week.” – Charles Richards

**New Milford Board of Education
 Committee on Learning Minutes
 November 20, 2012
 Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

Present: Mr. David A. Lawson, Chairperson
 Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach
 Mr. David R. Shaffer
 Mrs. Daniele Shook

Absent: Mr. Tom Brant

Also Present: Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools
 Mr. Joshua Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
 Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School
 Mr. Marc Balanda, Assistant Principal, New Milford High School
 Dr. Chris Longo, Assistant Principal, New Milford High School
 Mrs. Lisa Cosgrove, Teacher, Sarah Noble Intermediate School
 Mrs. Stacey Haleks, Teacher, Sarah Noble Intermediate School
 Mrs. Karen Hartle, Teacher, Sarah Noble Intermediate School
 Mr. Brad Jones, Teacher, New Milford High School
 Mrs. Eileen Reed, Science Department Chair, New Milford High School
 Mr. Ryan Fitzsimmons, Math Department Head, New Milford High School

GEORGE C. BUCKBEE
 TOWN CLERK

2012 NOV 21 P 1:22

NEW MILFORD, CT

1.	Call to Order The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mr. Lawson. Mrs. Faulenbach was seated in the absence of Mr. Brant.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	Public Comment
3.	Discussion and Possible Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Lawson said he had received a request to amend the agenda. <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to amend the agenda to change Item 4F Request for Information to Request for Information Pertaining to Block Scheduling: Math and Science, seconded by Mr. Shaffer and passed unanimously.</p> <p>A. Review and Approval of curriculum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grade 4 Reading 2. Russian Studies 	Discussion and Possible Action <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to change Item 4F Request for Information to Request for Information Pertaining to Block Scheduling: Math and Science.</p> <p>Review and Approval of curriculum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grade 4 Reading 2. Russian Studies

	<p>Grade 4 Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Lisa Cosgrove said this revision included changing instructional strategies and ensuring cohesive units with a focus on genres and comprehension. They were able to pilot several ideas in the classroom and tweak as they wrote the curriculum. • Mrs. Haleks said the common core standards came out as they were doing the revision so the timing was ideal. • Mr. Smith said it represents a substantial shift in the way we teach reading and noted huge gains in CMT scores. Grade 5 and 6 revisions will come later this year with grade 2 and 3 to follow next year. • Mr. Smith commented on the high level of work and efforts made by the fourth grade teachers to implement the major shift in reading instruction. <p>Russian Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Smith said this revision allows time to make current connections. • Mr. Shaffer asked how much Russian language instruction was included. Mr. Shugrue said it was minimal since it had changed from a 2 credit course to a ½ credit course but did include rudimentary instruction. <p>Mrs. Shook moved to bring the following curricula to the full Board for approval: Grade 4 Reading and Russian Studies, seconded by Mr. Shaffer and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the following curricula to the full Board for approval: Grade 4 Reading and Russian Studies.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Items of Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Smith said that many of the Items of Information were included because they may have budget ramifications and the Committee would not meet again until after the budget sessions in January. His goal is to provide some background before the actual budget presentation. 	<p>Items of Information</p>
<p>A.</p>	<p>AP/Graduation Requirements/NEASC/PLTW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Smith said Project Lead the Way (PLTW) 	<p>AP/Graduation Requirements/NEASC/PLTW</p>

was originally budgeted for one session but due to overwhelming student interest, the high school is currently running three sessions.

- Science Department Chair Eileen Reed thanked Mr. Shugrue and the Board for their support in getting this program off and running. She said it has already exceeded expectations.
- PLTW teacher Brad Jones said the class is primarily freshmen but he also has some upper classmen. Students who take the course are interested in design and engineering. They generate simple engineering drawings, learn the design process, practice higher level math skills and perform multi-step processes. There is no textbook for the class; it is an electronic curriculum. The course is very flexible, allowing for self-pacing by students. Mr. Jones said the course compared to a college freshman introductory engineering course.
- Student representatives from the class spoke about how much they enjoy the hands-on learning and electronic curriculum.
- Mr. Shaffer asked if the plan was to add the next level course next year. Mr. Shugrue said yes the plan was to add three sections of the next course in the sequence to accommodate current students. The introduction course would still be offered to new students. The addition of the next course may include a staffing increase.
- Mrs. Faulenbach asked how students were made aware of the new course. Mr. Shugrue said it was presented at Incoming Freshman Night last year following the budget process.
- Mr. Shaffer asked if it was possible to receive college credit for the course. Mr. Jones said that would be possible once NMHS was approved as a PLTW school which is at least a two year process.
- Mr. Lawson asked if there was a fee to the student for the credit and Mrs. Reed said she believed there was.
- Mr. Smith stated that for this course to be on pace in its first year of introduction is a huge credit to the high school staff.

- Mr. Smith distributed a timeline to the Committee showing all the initiatives coming in the next few years. One of the initiatives is high school reform which is requiring an increase in rigor, increased enrollment in AP classes, additional graduation credits, and clustering of credits. The plan is to start building in these areas next year while minimizing budget impact. The curriculum plan shows the addition of AP courses in Programming, World History, Government and Politics and Forensic Psychology. Staff are already onboard who are qualified to teach them. A formal presentation will come to the Committee in February or March of 2013.
- Mr. Smith said the NEASC visit has been pushed off to the spring of 2015 by NEASC. Mrs. Faulenbach asked the reason. Mr. Smith said it was a staffing issue as well as the implementation of the common core standards. Budget implications for NEASC are in staff development to make sure we have common rubrics, assessments etc.
- Mr. Shaffer asked how many administrators had been on a NEASC visiting team. Mr. Shugrue said many administrators had gone before but that was also a focus going forward: to have additional staff from the high school serve on teams prior to the visit.

B. Assessment Update

- Mr. Smith said the school reform initiatives require assessment tools to calibrate student needs. A universal assessment, NWEA, will be given in January. The NWEA is an on-line adaptive test that runs across multiple disciplines. Data reports will be used for SRBI purposes. The per student cost is \$10 to \$12 annually with another \$2500-\$3500 required for each day of training. Grant money will be used to subsidize this cost. The SBAC (Smarter Balance) assessment focuses on common core. It will be piloted in some districts in the spring of 2013 and expand to a national assessment in 2014.

Assessment Update

<p>C.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Shook asked how the SBAC and NWEA assessments differed. Mr. Smith said the SBAC was for grades 3-8 and the NWEA was from K-11. He said the NWEA could also drill down to more individual student level assessments and provide more granular reports for teachers and parents. <p>Elementary Math Curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Smith stated that our current K-5 curriculum does not fit with the common core standards and a change is needed district-wide. A team of 14 teachers attended the NCTM (National Council for the Teaching of Mathematics) K-12 conference in Hartford recently. The charge of this group going forward will be to view emerging curriculum models aligned with the common core and determine which few to pilot in select classrooms. This may have budgetary impact for training.• Mrs. Faulenbach asked if there was collaboration throughout the schools in this area. Mr. Smith said the K-6 Math Coach, SMS Math Head and NMHS Math Head were all involved.• Mr. Shaffer asked if it was true that all eighth graders would take Algebra I. Mr. Smith said that the term algebra means something different under common core; instead of Algebra I and II as we know it now, they may be referred to as Math I and II. Mr. Fitzsimmons said the eighth grade assessment will include algebra, roughly the first three months of the current high school course.• Mrs. Shook asked if the pilot at the K-6 level would be the same. Mr. Smith said the district will pilot several programs, but select only one program for K-6 or K-5 depending on which program was ultimately chosen and that it would feed into the middle school going forward.• Mr. Shaffer asked if a new Algebra textbook would be required. Mr. Smith said the book was changing and more details would come at	<p>Elementary Math Curriculum</p>
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	<p>the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Lawson reminded the committee that the change was necessary due to changes in the common core standards and mandated initiatives that are unfunded. Mrs. Faulenbach said she was pleased with the wealth of information provided as it is necessary to be aware of items needed to meet mandates before the budget process begins for this year. 	
<p>D.</p>	<p>Five-Year Curriculum Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Smith said his goal was to have this plan finalized by the March meeting of the Committee. It has already shifted and been reprioritized due to common core. Math and writing are priorities for next year with science standards to follow down the road. The plan is also being impacted by the coming high school reform and NEASC visit. 	<p>Five-Year Curriculum Plan</p>
<p>E.</p>	<p>SEED Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Smith said the System for Educator Evaluation and Development continues to evolve. There is now an online tool to manage the SEED process. Its cost is estimated at \$12,000 - \$17,000. Administrators will also have to be trained by September 2013 at an estimated cost of at \$15,000 - \$22,000. SEED will also require funds for professional development when it is rolled out to teachers and may have staffing implications due to the number of observations required. 	<p>SEED Update</p>
<p>F.</p>	<p>Request for Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Request for Information was previously amended to Request for Information Pertaining to Block Scheduling: Math and Science. Mr. Shaffer had made the request for additional information due to his concern over the number of instructional hours lost to science and math when the high school shifted to a block schedule at a time when the nation already lags in these areas. He also expressed concern about 	<p>Request for Information amended to Request for Information Pertaining to Block Scheduling: Math and Science</p>

	<p>the drop in AP scores last year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Smith said he had talked to Mrs. Reed and the high school administration at length to deconstruct the lost hours. He also examined the AP scores over the past eight years. Under the old schedule, AP and Honors science classes had two lab periods, academic had one lab period. This time for science came at the expense of other subjects which met for less time. Now the labs are imbedded in the block time and instructional time is spread out evenly across all disciplines. AP courses are backed up to study halls and teacher prep time should spill over time be needed.<p>Overall, the high school has gained instructional hours due to less passing time required by the block schedule and the equity of academic time across all disciplines. Mr. Smith cautioned that amount of hours do not always equate to performance. In a survey of other districts in the state, West Hartford has some of the lowest instructional hours in the state and Lisbon the highest. This does not correlate to their reported performance on assessments. The new common core standards stress that it is not necessarily about teaching more hours but about what and how we teach. The new schedule will help in the attainment of additional credits for graduation as needed. It also allows for Common Learning Time (CLT) for staff. Mr. Smith described CLT as on-going small doses of professional development where teachers can meet in small groups once every four days to work on common planning goals, curriculum, and view student data.</p><p>Regarding the AP scores, Mr. Smith pointed out that New Milford had its highest number of students take AP tests in 2012. As this base is increased, it would make sense that the overall scores would decrease somewhat.</p>• Mr. Lawson asked if the block schedule would allow students to reach a goal of 25 credits for graduation. He also asked if it eliminated the split lunch. Mr. Shugrue said yes to both. It also allows for an Advisory period every other	
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	<p>day. The advisory resulted from a NEASC recommendation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Shaffer asked if the College Board had guidelines on time. Mrs. Reed said they do not specify hours. All AP curricula must be approved by the College Board in advance. • Mr. Shaffer said he would like to see AP students encouraged to take the AP exam in all instances. • Mrs. Reed said while she has concern about the amount of time needed for AP science labs; she views it as just one component in the schedule. Lots of pluses have been gained by the block. Science has gained 11 sections, they have increased electives, and some classes have lab time that did not before. Mrs. Reed said she believes there are ways to offer a really good program with the current schedule. • Mr. Lawson and Mrs. Faulenbach both stated their appreciation of the discussion and asked that administrators continue to monitor the schedule as we go forward with all these evolving initiatives. • Mr. Lawson said the district must continue to focus on the overall big picture of how best to improve instruction for students and its cost. 	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Mrs. Shook moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. seconded by Mr. Shaffer and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



Pat Silverman
 Recording Secretary