

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

**COMMITTEE ON LEARNING SUB-COMMITTEE  
MEETING NOTICE**

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>September 21, 2010</b>
<b>TIME:</b>	<b>7:30 P.M.</b>
<b>PLACE:</b>	<b>Lillis Administration Building – Room 2</b>

**AGENDA**

**A. Call to Order**

**B. Public Comment**

The Board welcomes public participation and asks that speakers please limit their comments to 3 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's personnel and students, nor against any person connected with the New Milford Public School System.

**C. Items for Discussion**

1. Summer Curriculum Work
2. *Windows on New Milford*
3. Personal Finance Grant

**D. Adjourn**

GEORGE C. BUCKBEE  
TOWN CLERK

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2010 SEP 17 A 9:46

NEW MILFORD, CT

**Sub-Committee Members:**

**Mrs. Alexandra Thomas, Chair  
Mr. David A. Lawson  
Mrs. Lynette Celli Rigdon  
Mrs. Nancy C. Tarascio-Latour**

**Alternates:**

**Mr. Thomas McSherry  
Mr. Rodney Weinberg**

**New Milford Board of Education  
Committee on Learning Meeting Minutes  
September 21, 2010  
Lillis Administration Building, Rm. 2**

GEORGE C. BUCKBEE  
TOWN CLERK

2010 SEP 24 A 10:28

NEW MILFORD, CT

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Mrs. Alexandra Thomas, Committee Chairperson Mrs. Lynette Rigdon Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Board Chairperson</b>
<b>Absent:</b>	<b>Mr. David Lawson Mrs. Nancy Tarascio-Latour</b>

<b>Also Present:</b>	<b>Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Maureen E. McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Sandra Nadeau, Principal, Hill and Plain School Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal, Northville Elementary School Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal, John Pettibone School</b>
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<b>A.</b>	<b>The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:30 p.m.</b>  <b>Mrs. Thomas seated Mrs. Faulenbach.</b>	<b>Call to Order</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>Public Comment</b> <b>There was none.</b>	<b>Public Comment</b>
<b>C.</b> <b>1.</b>	<b>Items for Discussion</b> <b>1. Summer Curriculum Work</b>  <b>Dr. McLaughlin said it was a busy summer with more than seventy teachers working on curriculum.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>In June, Dr. McLaughlin went to a workshop which introduced the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Teachers embedded all the Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) into the new CCSS. Based on the CCSS, units are now being developed for new curricula in language arts K-12. The standards are more rigorous than they had been.</b></li> <li><b>A group looked at the new math standards and matched the Saxon Math and the Everyday Math to each standard. Part of the problem in math was the schools were</b></li> </ul>	<b>Items for Discussion</b> <b>Summer Curriculum Work</b>

	<p>using different editions of Everyday Math – now everyone is using the third edition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A chemical hygiene plan was developed in the middle school. Teachers have been going through the materials and properly disposing of the out-of-date or unsafe materials.</li><li>• The kindergarten teachers have worked on a report card revision based on the new standards.</li><li>• A group worked on a personal finance grant to begin a class at the high school on personal finance in September 2012. The grant has been accepted and now the curriculum is being written.</li><li>• NEASC had advised the high school to start an advisor/advisee program. Lessons were developed over the summer, so there is no teacher prep required.</li><li>• The reading teachers have organized the Hill and Plain and John Pettibone School bookrooms, so they are much more useful for the teachers.</li><li>• Mrs. Thomas noted that the schools have their own “language” and asked Dr. McLaughlin to explain in lay terms what has been done for the classrooms this year. Dr. McLaughlin said the teachers who worked this summer will be piloting language arts units. In math, teachers will become more familiar with the new CCSS and PD will be provided on EDM. The data teams are looking at where improvements can be made and how to make them in grades K-6.</li><li>• Mrs. Faulenbach noted that a lot of work had been done over the summer, and it was important to get the word out.</li><li>• Mrs. Thomas suggested that we should use “user friendly” language when sharing all this information with the public. Also, good school systems &amp; teachers don’t just</li></ul>	
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happen - it takes this kind of hard work & dedication.

- Mrs. Thomas asked if this committee could see the kindergarten report card, and Dr. McLaughlin said she would bring one in October.
- Mrs. Thomas asked what was needed to continue the work done this summer. Dr. McLaughlin said more resources for PD and curriculum writing as well as support staff to meet the SRBI mandates.

2.

#### **Windows on New Milford**

Dr. McLaughlin went over the "Windows on New Milford" report. She said the first few pages were definitions of the different kinds of tests and a glossary of assessment terms.

In the Mastery Test results, she said the concern is that New Milford is not showing the same amount of growth as is seen in the State. Dr. McLaughlin is giving workshops for teachers specifically on teaching writing for the CMT.

The State brought back the vertical scales which help compare the same students over time. The vertical scale scores are only available in math and reading.

In our DRG, New Milford was ranked last in 4<sup>th</sup> grade math. The issue with math may have been that the elementary schools were using a different edition of the math program from the intermediate school. All four schools are now using the same edition which should help. The standards are now being taught by whichever of the two math programs in place best teaches the skill.

#### **Windows on New Milford**

may have been why they did better on the CMTs in reading. She said the students have the ability, but all the pieces were not in place. Now they are being put into place.

- Mrs. Rigdon said it was better to be proactive with the writing prompts, and Dr. McLaughlin said the writing prompts are now being done before the CMT.
- Dr. McLaughlin noted that in the Mastery Tests, the students have only forty-five minutes to write. Typically, they are given more time to complete a piece of writing, so students need to be shown how to write for the test under different conditions.
- Mrs. Faulenbach asked what the feedback from the staff was, and Dr. McLaughlin said the teachers, administrators, and staff have been very receptive. They have been extremely supportive and delighted that there is a plan and a vision for the district. She said she received only a couple of calls from parents concerned about math because of misinformation, but she once she explained what was happening, they were comfortable with the change.
- Dr. McLaughlin said what we have been doing is not working, so the schools need to try something different.
- Mrs. Thomas said there are communities that always seem to be at the top of the list for the DRG and asked if any conversations were had with them. Dr. McLaughlin said she has spoken with several of her colleagues in our DRG, and the biggest factor seems to be that they usually have more resources available to them.

Dr. McLaughlin continued the "Windows on New Milford" discussion with the high school. She highlighted the results of five different assessments. On the CAPT, the students did well

compared to the DRG. In science, New Milford ranked number three; in math five; in reading eleven, and in writing twelve, which places them in the top half of our reference group in all four subjects. The percentage of students making goal in all four areas on CAPT was 40%, and over 81% were proficient in all four areas. Students did better in math and science than in reading and writing, and none of the differences from last year are significant.

Most seniors take either the ACT or the SAT. The ACT has science, less vocabulary, all multiple-choice, and some grammar tested with math being worth about 25% of the score. The SAT stresses vocabulary, has some non multiple-choice questions, and guessing is a penalty with math being worth about 50% of the score. In 2006, ten students took ACT, and last year 157 took ACT. The State scored above New Milford in college English composition, college social science, and college biology. New Milford scored above the State in college algebra.

A high percentage of students took the SATs, and New Milford did better in reading and writing than last year and were slightly below in math. In the SAT II, New Milford did better than last year in everything except US history.

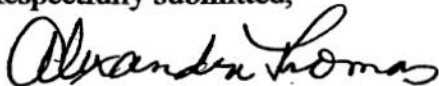
Two hundred thirty-nine students took the AP exams in seventeen areas. The averages in seven areas were above four. The only average below three was statistics.

The English Language Learners must stay in the program until they achieve a certain Mastery or CAPT score in addition to passing the LAS assessment. There were 126 ELL students tested, and eighteen were dismissed from services because of improvement. This rate is consistent with past years.

- Mrs. Thomas asked what Dr. McLaughlin

3.	<p>would like to tell the world about the results. Dr. McLaughlin said the high school is on the right track to maintain and increase test scores. Compared to our reference group in grades 3-8, we are weakest in math and writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mrs. Thomas asked what was needed to support these efforts, and Dr. McLaughlin said money for professional development and time to give teachers the opportunity to meet and create curriculum units.</li></ul> <p><b>Personal Finance Grant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mrs. Faulenbach asked if this would be an elective, and Dr. Paddyfote said in the five-year-plan it was moved to an elective.</li><li>• Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the Board needed to approve the grant, and Dr. Paddyfote said she did not believe the Board needed to approve it, but the curriculum would have to be approved.</li></ul>	<p><b>Personal Finance Grant</b></p>
D.	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Rigdon, and passed unanimously.</p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p>Motion made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted,



Alexandra Thomas  
Committee Chairperson