

**New Milford Board of Education  
 Committee on Learning Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes  
 September 23, 2008  
 Lillis Administration Building, Rm. 2**

Present:	Mr. David Lawson, Committee Chairperson Dr. Lisa Diamond, Board Chairperson Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mrs. Elizabeth Finney Mrs. Alex Thomas
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Also Present:	Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools Mr. Thomas Mulvihill, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Greg Shugrue, New Milford High School Principal Dr. Kathy Delmonico Ms. Eileen Reed Mr. John Boothby
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1.	The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning Subcommittee was called to order at 7:07pm.	Call to Order
2.	There was no public comment	Public Comment
3.A.	<p>Discussion and Possible Action          Review and Approval of Curricula</p> <p>Mr. Mulvihill presented curriculum for three courses which are senior electives - Drama Workshop; British Literature I and II; and Children’s Literature and Literacy. Dr. Delmonico noted that as Mr. Mulivhill said, these are electives. The Drama Workshop is a performance course. Mrs. Thomas asked why the Drama Workshop was not called a Performance Workshop. There was some discussion about changing the name to Drama Performance Workshop.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to send the curricula to the Board for approval, seconded by Dr. Diamond and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action          Motion made, seconded and passed to send curricula to the next Board of Education meeting for approval.</p> <p>Passed 4-0</p>
3B.	<p>Review of Request for New Courses          Forensic Science</p> <p>Mr. Mulvihill introduced Eileen Reed and John Boothby who are the co-authors of the Forensic Science proposal. Mr. Mulvihill said this course</p>	<p>Forensic Science          Motion made, seconded and passed to move forward with curriculum development for Forensic Science course.          Motion passed 4-0</p>

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	<p>would replace photography as an offering since photography has changed. He said photography might move back to the art department. The forensic science proposal is interdisciplinary and the costs are minimal.</p> <p>Ms. Reed said the idea was to introduce a new elective which would be current and would draw students, mainly the “average” kid. The course is highly engaging and will expose students to many different sciences – biology, chemistry, anatomy, etc. The textbook is case study based and discusses crime scene processing, analysis of physical evidence, etc. Currently, the course will be offered once in the spring and once in the fall, there is the possibility of having two levels.</p> <p>Mr. Boothby brought some samples of what the students can learn from the course.</p> <p>The members of the committee were enthusiastic with the new idea for the class and felt many students would be interested.</p> <p>Mrs. Thomas moved to go ahead with the development of the Forensic Science course curriculum, Mrs. Faulenbach seconded. Passed unanimously (Dr. Diamond was not in the room for the vote having left at 7:23 pm).</p>	
3.C.	<p>Windows on New Milford 2008</p> <p>Mr. Mulvihill said on the release of this report that there were things to celebrate and things about which to be concerned. He said New Milford does better than the average in the State, better comparatively at the high school, less so in elementary grades. New Milford has attained 85% of the students at goal and 100% at proficiency for reading.</p> <p>Mr. Mulvihill said he had some concerns with the group going into 4<sup>th</sup> grade last year as he felt as 3<sup>rd</sup> graders they proved they could do more. He did ask the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers to push them to achieve more and they did respond well.</p>	Windows on New Milford 2008

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<p>Dr. Diamond returned at 7:37 pm.</p> <p>New Milford High School senior class did well on CAPT but did not do as well on SATs as previous years. There was a smaller number last year in SAT prep courses which may have made a difference. There are more students in SAT prep classes this year.</p> <p>There are disparate results between girls and boys in literacy tasks but this is a statewide phenomenon. New Milford still has been unable to solve the writing discrepancy nor has any other school. Overall, the CAPT testing shows that New Milford is competitive across the board with the top quarter of schools within our DIRG.</p> <p>Mr. Lawson asked what generation test this was to be sure the numbers were being compared. Mr. Mulvihill said this was the 4<sup>th</sup> generation CMT's and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation CAPT and they seemed to be updated every 5 years. Now, the tests are also done a little sooner in the year.</p> <p>Mrs. Thomas asked what East Granby, East Lyme and Old Saybrook are doing since their numbers seemed very good. Mr. Shugrue said they were discussing going down to visit one of the districts to find out what they do.</p> <p>Mr. Shugrue said the reading task force was set up to try to encourage more reading since students are not reading across the state and country. He said introducing non-fiction into the curriculum has helped.</p> <p>Mrs. Finney asked how the writing portion of the SATs had impacted the scores. Mr. Mulvihill said the first year NMHS had 501 average which went to 520 and even doing the same thing year to year the scores dropped to 513 which may just be the nature of this class as test takers. Mr. Lawson said there are a</p>	
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	greater percentage of students taking the SATs.	
4.	Adjournment Mrs. Faulenbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm, seconded by Dr. Diamond and passed unanimously.	Motion to adjourn made and passed unanimously.