

**New Milford Board of Education
 Board Workshop Minutes
 March 8, 2016
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

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NEW MILFORD, CT

Present:	Mr. David A. Lawson, Chairperson Mrs. Angela C. Chastain Mr. Robert Coppola Mr. Bill Dahl Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Dave Littlefield Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mr. J.T. Schemm
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Also Present:	Mr. Joshua Smith, Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Eugenia Slone, Acting Assistant Superintendent of Schools Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources Ms. Roberta Pratt, Director of Technology Mr. Kevin Munrett, Facilities Manager Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Mrs. Susan Brofford, K-5 Science Enrichment teacher Ms. Karyn Skinner, SMS Technology teacher
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1. A.	Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance The Workshop of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance
2.	Presentation Interim Superintendent Joshua Smith will present an update on district initiatives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Smith introduced Mrs. Brofford who was hired as the K-5 Science Enrichment teacher in this budget year. • Mrs. Brofford said as this was a new position for the district she struggled briefly with where to start as she began the process of working towards the next generation of science standards. She said the first thing she did was look at available resources including the planetarium where she offered a class on the 	Presentation Interim Superintendent Joshua Smith will present an update on district initiatives.

Native American constellations and the moon phases. She introduced an Hour of Code using Blockly which helps get students started on the computer sciences. These are 21st century skills. Thanks to the PTO, she was able to bring a science cart into the classrooms. The K-2 science fair was quite successful. A Grade 3-5 science fair will be held in May. In Grade 4, teachers and administrators recommended students for the Pre-Project Lead the Way program and there are 30 students in that program now. The Grade 5 students are working on robotics and automation and their first build was a collaboration with other students. Their task is to build a robot to remove toxic waste from a site.

- Mr. Coppola asked if this is separate from the gifted program and Mrs. Brofford said that it is.
- Mr. Coppola asked how a student was chosen for the program and Mrs. Brofford said this year it was teacher and principal recommendations.
- Mr. Coppola asked if there was a magic number of students and Mrs. Brofford said there was not; there was no set limit. Mr. Smith said they were not excluding anyone.
- Mrs. McInerney said the students seem more energized thanks to this program. She noted there are science enrichment grants available through the PTO.
- Mr. Littlefield said he felt the gifted program (TAG) was “dead in the water” and Mr. Smith said the program is continuing and that many of the programs were coordinated by Dr. Cooper, but not run directly by her. They were continuing and the new gifted teacher has been hired and will start April 1st if the Board approves Exhibit A at their regular meeting. He said the district is continuing the programs started by Dr. Cooper for now and they will be able to reassess when the new person gets here.
- Mr. Littlefield said the plans were not specific to TAG and Mr. Smith said the debate club, the poetry program and the iPad robotics were TAG programs.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Littlefield asked how many were in the TAG program and Mr. Smith said there were approximately 80 students K-12 but they are not identified formally until third grade. • Mr. Lawson suggested this be referred to the Committee on Learning for further discussion. • Mr. Schemm said he feels as if science is an add-on and wondered about the equity for all students, noting that science should be taught in all classrooms. Mrs. Brofford said she has reached out to teachers and offered resources, letting them know that science can be part of all curricula. She said the Mystery Science program is part of that effort. • Mr. Smith said science is taught in all classrooms as they work on the science curriculum and the state standards. Although Mrs. Brofford is officially working in an enrichment capacity, her knowledge and lessons are improving our general science instruction as well. He introduced Ms. Skinner noting that she is a graphic designer by training so she incorporates both the art and the science part into Project Lead the Way. • Ms. Skinner said while she is teaching Project Lead the Way which is a STEM course she is an artist as well. She said she is teaching design and modeling in every 7th grade class and half of the 8th grade classes. She said for tasks the 7th graders are designing bridges to hold 100 pennies. They are doing hands-on building and then they step back and design something on the computer. The individual students design a 3-D model Lego brick. She said her effort is to make students read, learn and do so they can become innovators. There are 550 students working on Eli Whitney museum projects. The group project includes designing a table or chair with six or less pieces. • The 7th and 8th graders are also doing the Hour of Code or digital story telling and 8th graders are working with Vex robots. • Mr. Smith said students are learning how to use tools such as hand drills and hammers as well. He said this is Industrial Arts for the non- 	
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	<p>industrial age. He said the Board should be proud that they brought these two programs into existence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. McInerney asked how the 6th graders are being engaged and Ms. Skinner said they are just beginning to get a better understanding of Project Lead the Way. • Mrs. Chastain said it seems like the school is losing the shop aspect – saws, planers, etc. Ms. Skinner said power tools require two or three days of safety training so she is having students use hand tools instead to modify the kits. • Mr. Smith said the power tool equipment is still in the rooms and will be open to 8th graders as their skills develop and future scheduling changes allow more time for the safety instruction piece. • Mrs. Chastain said the different types of equipment require different skills and she is concerned those skills are being lost. Ms. Skinner said she only has the 7th graders for half a year so she sees them 15 times and the 8th graders will be seen 30 years in a full year. • Mr. Coppola suggested that the Odyssey of the Mind program would be useful as group work to learn the skills of today. • Mr. Schemm said the old industrial arts tools could be used for the “makers’ space” as a resource. 	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Mr. Dahl moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m., seconded by Mr. Coppola and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



Wendy Faulenbach
 Secretary
 New Milford Board of Education