

New Milford Board of Education
 Committee on Learning Meeting Minutes
 Lillis Administration Bldg., Room 2
 April 29, 2008

Present:	*Dr. Lisa Diamond, Board Chairperson
	*Mr. David A. Lawson, Committee Chair (7:08 pm)
	*Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach
	*Elizabeth Finney
	*Alexandra Thomas
	Mr. Bill Wellman

*** Committee Members**

Also Present:	Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent
	Mr. Thomas Mulvihill, Asst. Superintendent
	Mr. Jason Arnauckas, Physical Education Teacher, Sarah Noble Int. School
	Mrs. Kris Kaczka, Health Teacher, New Milford High School
	Mr. John Lee, Assistant Principal, New Milford High School
	Mr. Tom Atticks, Principal, Northville Elementary School
	Mrs. Kris Golden, Assistant Principal—Hill & Plain, John Pettibone
	Mrs. Denise Dugan, Health Teacher, New Milford High School
	Mrs. Jo-Ann Salvestrini, Health Teacher—SNIS & NMHS

1.	<p>Call to Order The Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Dr. Lisa Diamond.</p>	Call to Order
2.	<p>Public Comment There was no public comment.</p>	Public Comment
3.	<p>Discussion and Possible Action A. Review and Approval of Curricula</p> <p>Mr. Mulvihill gave an overview of the scope and sequences being brought before the COL. The Physical Education K-12 Scope and Sequence was completed last June, however, the document was held until the Health Education Scope and Sequence was completed. Feedback was obtained from the Wellness Committee.</p> <p>Mr. Mulvihill introduced the staff that worked on both of these documents.</p> <p>1. Physical Education K-12 Scope and Sequence</p> <p>Jason Arnauckas discussed the make-up of the committee that worked on the Physical Education K-12 Scope and Sequence. There were new, as well as veteran teachers, that were involved with the document.</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>Physical Education K-12 Scope and Sequence</p>

<p>Some of the highlights discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ A change over from Introductory – Developmental – Mastery to Pre-Control – Control – Utilization - Proficiency.➤ State and national standards were used.➤ Curriculum from Region 15 and Newtown Public Schools was reviewed for a comparison.➤ There were some changes related to time spent in each unit. <p>Mrs. Thomas commented that the document now has more of an emphasis on physical activity being a way of life, rather than students only playing sports for physical activity.</p> <p>Mr. Arnauckas agreed. The Scope and Sequence puts more emphasis on opening students up to a number of different activities, i.e., golf being offered to an earlier age group.</p> <p>Mrs. Thomas asked if there was a plan to communicate these changes related to fitness to the community? Mr. Mulvihill stated that eventually the curriculum guides will be placed on the district website with an introduction.</p> <p>2. Health Education Scope and Sequence</p> <p>Kris Kaczka gave an overview of the Health Education K-12 Scope and Sequence. Mrs. Kaczka stated that it was somewhat difficult to create a document for K-12 because there is no health educator at the elementary level. At the elementary level, it is up to the teacher to implement a health education curriculum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ State and national standards were used when creating this document.➤ One of the goals is Health Literacy.➤ The Health Education K-12 Scope and Sequence is broken down by schools, i.e., K-3, 4-6, 7-8 and 9-12.➤ There is a hope to have health educators at the elementary schools.➤ Some of the curriculum in the document is not currently being implemented but it is expected that it can be implemented at a future date.➤ A junior/senior health class would be a nice addition.	<p>Health Education Scope and Sequence</p>
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<p>Mr. Mulvihill asked Mrs. Kaczka to discuss sex education, as this topic can be controversial.</p> <p>Mrs. Kaczka reviewed the approach to sex education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Abstinence is taught first and foremost, but not always practiced. Because it is not always practiced, other ways to avoid pregnancies are discussed at the high school level.➤ Knowledge breeds more responsible behavior.➤ Morals are discussed, it is not frivolous. <p>Mrs. Thomas had some concerns with the document regarding the format of goals. It could be a little difficult to understand for individuals not familiar with the curriculum. Mr. Lawson stated that the Scope and Sequence is an overview of the entire course and not the daily lesson plans. Mrs. Kaczka stated that the committee wanted the content to be clear about the topics, very specific. It is an outline of the content that will be covered in the classroom. Mr. Mulvihill viewed the headings in the document as a strength. Mrs. Finney stated that parents who have a difficult time with having their child take sex education, will have a problem with that issue regardless of how the information is presented. Mrs. Kaczka stated that very few students opt out of the sex ed course. If students have a question regarding what will be covered in the course, they do not hesitate to come in and discuss any concerns. Mrs. Faulenbach stated that fifth graders bring home a form that parents have to sign after each sex education lesson/class. This allows an opportunity for parents to discuss the lesson with their children.</p> <p>Motion by Mrs. Faulenbach: Move that the Committee on Learning bring the Physical Education K-12 Scope and Sequence and the Health Education K-12 Scope and Sequence to the full Board for approval. Seconded by: Mrs. Thomas</p> <p>Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Mrs. Finney, Mr. Lawson and Mrs. Thomas Nay: Abstain: Motion passed unanimously</p>	<p>Motion made and passed to bring the Physical Education K-12 Scope and Sequence and the Health Education K-12 Scope and Sequence to the full Board for approval.</p>
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<p>Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Mrs. Finney, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Thomas Nay: Abstain:</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously</p> <p>C. Character Attributes for Strategic Plan Mr. Atticks had distributed a memo regarding Strategy #2, Plan #1 concerning core attributes to be promoted throughout the Character Education Initiative.</p> <p>Mr. Lawson stated this was an excellent overview to streamline character education. He felt the ten attributes over ten months is a wonderful idea. Mrs. Faulenbach stated the background was great, very pleased with the strategy. Mrs. Thomas was also very pleased with the strategy and felt it made it easy for the schools to implement the attributes. Mr. Lawson wanted the attributes used in future curricula.</p> <p>Mr. Wellman asked if character ed was mandated by law. The answer was no. Mr. Wellman had concerns with how the schools would address good and evil, right and wrong. Mr. Wellman was concerned about teaching situational ethics. Mr. Lawson stated the attributes are not taken singularly but as it pertains to a curriculum. Mr. Atticks stated it is a concept. It is not taken out of context. Mr. Atticks stated that humanity has always been taught to the children. Mrs. Finney stated that these attributes could be incorporated into courses. Children are facing different issues today. Mrs. Faulenbach stated the Board embraced the concept of character education. The Strategic Plan was to look at ways to reinforce positive attributes. Mrs. Golden stated these attributes are taught by role playing, not be stating you will or you won't do this or that. Dr. Paddyfote stated that character education attributes have always been taught through the developmental guidance curriculum, however, each school had its own list of character attributes. This would streamline the approach to character education. Mrs. Thomas stated it helped students identify these attributes and understand them. Mr. Mulvihill stated the strategy allowed schools to develop events, even small events, around these attributes, the attributes can be woven into the curriculum.</p>	<p>Character Attributes for Strategic Plan</p>
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	<p>Motion by Mrs. Thomas: Move that the COL bring the character education attributes to be infused into the curricula being rewritten as part of the Five Year Plan so that every curricula addressed in some pointed way at least one of the attributes of character to the full Board for approval. Seconded by: Mrs. Finney</p> <p>Aye: Mrs. Finney, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Thomas Nay: Abstain:</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously</p>	<p>Motion made and passed that the COL bring the Character Education Attributes to be infused into the curricula being rewritten as part of the Five Year Plan so that every curricula addressed in some pointed way at least one of the attributes of character to the full Board for approval.</p>
4.	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion by Mrs. Faulenbach: Move that the Committee on Learning adjourn. Seconded by: Mrs. Finney</p> <p>Aye: Mrs. Finney, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Thomas Nay: Abstain:</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously</p> <p>The Committee on Learning Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion made and passed that the Committee on Learning Committee adjourn.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Lawson, Chairman
 Committee on Learning