

**New Milford Board of Education  
 Committee on Learning Special Meeting Minutes  
 September 1, 2020  
 New Milford High School Library Media Center**

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NEW MILFORD, CT

**Present:** Mr. Joseph Failla, Chairperson  
 Mr. Brian McCauley  
 Mrs. Tammy McInerney  
 Mrs. Angela C. Chastain, Alternate

**Absent:** Mrs. Cynthia Nabozny

**Also Present:** Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

1.	<p><b>Call to Order</b></p> <p>The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 6:47 p.m. by Mr. Failla. Mrs. Chastain was seated in the absence of Mrs. Nabozny.</p>	<p><b>Call to Order</b></p>
2.	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was none.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>
3.	<p><b>Discussion and Possible Action</b></p> <p><b>A. Review and Approval of Curriculum</b></p> <p><b>1. Computer Science</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. DiCorpo said this new course was proposed in November of last year. It will provide a pathway for SMS students to enter into computer science at the high school. As of August 3, the course is scheduled for all grades, two times in the six day rotation for a quarter. A total of 852 students are registered for the course. There are a few exceptions where students could not be scheduled due to conflicts. They will look to work that out going forward.</li> <li>• Mr. Failla said he was glad to see a more sophisticated computer science program. He said it is so important in the current environment and the sooner the skill is learned the better.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Discussion and Possible Action</b></p> <p><b>A. Review and Approval of Curriculum</b></p> <p><b>1. Computer Science</b></p>

- Mrs. McInerney asked if the addition of this curriculum creates two pathways for computer science. Ms. DiCorpo said it does. This curriculum connects to the Introduction to Computer Science path at the high school. Students can also work on computer skills through the high school Business courses which focus on Google Suite and Microsoft.
- Mrs. Chastain asked how SMS was able to fit this curriculum into the schedule. Ms. DiCorpo said she believes it fit into the Practical Arts slot. Practical Arts was dropped in this year's budget.

Mrs. McInerney moved to bring the Computer Science curriculum to the full Board for approval, seconded by Mr. McCauley and passed unanimously.

**B. Teacher Evaluation Flexibility**

- Ms. DiCorpo said the state has offered districts some flexibility in teacher evaluations for one year. The Professional Development and Evaluation Committee met on August 26, 2020 to review the Flexibilities for Implementing the CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017 for the 2020-2021 School Year. For teachers, that is a minimum of one goal with a minimum of two indicators or measures of accomplishment focused on social and emotional learning for students, student engagement, and/or family engagement; and a minimum of two or three informal observations for teachers based on years of experience and previous summative ratings. All teachers complete a minimum of one review of practice. For administrators, that is a minimum of two indicators or measures of accomplishment focused on the reopening of schools, supporting well-being of staff and students, supporting distance teaching and learning, and/or health and safety of students, staff, and the school community; and a minimum of two or three site visits for

**Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the Computer Science curriculum to the full Board for approval.**

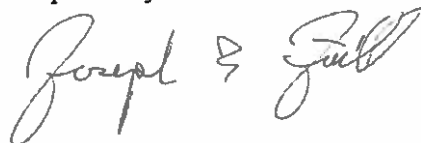
**B. Teacher Evaluation Flexibility**

	<p>administrators based on years of experience in the profession and/or district and previous summative ratings. All administrators complete a minimum of two artifact reviews. By unanimous approval of the twenty-four members present, New Milford Public Schools PDEC committee is requesting approval to implement the flexibilities for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. McCauley said he hopes the state looks at continuing this flexibility beyond this year since it is less cumbersome than the current plan.</li> <li>• Mrs. Chastain said she is glad to see this flexibility because teachers have enough on their plate this year already. She asked if the goal is the same throughout the building. Ms. DiCorpo said teachers can choose the building goal, set a department goal, or choose an individual goal.</li> <li>• Mrs. McInerney asked if the informal observations for teachers will be in person or virtual. Ms. DiCorpo said she hopes that most will be done in person, which is dependent upon the phases we're in over the course of the school year, as that is where teachers are most comfortable, but some virtual observation is possible. Ms. DiCorpo said they are providing support to teachers regarding distance learning in conjunction with <i>The Distance Learning Playbook</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Mrs. Chastain moved to bring the teacher evaluation flexibility guidelines to the full Board for approval, seconded by Mr. McCauley and passed unanimously.</p>	<p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the teacher evaluation flexibility guidelines to the full Board for approval.</b></p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p><b>A. Restorative Practices District Overview Joann Freiburg/Convocation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. DiCorpo introduced Joann Freiburg and Pat Ciccone for a virtual presentation regarding restorative practices.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p><b>A. Restorative Practices District Overview Joann Freiburg/Convocation</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Freiburg said restorative practices is a way of thinking and being, designed to change school culture. It moves from a punitive, exclusionary model of discipline to a model that focuses on a restorative, growth process and the building of relationships in spite of conflict. It involves significant training of all.</li> <li>• Mr. Failla noted that this will be a lengthy process to incorporate into the district and change will take time.</li> <li>• Ms. Freiburg said it is a journey with lots of moving pieces. It starts with training of staff, and changes should be evident almost immediately. What will take time is the accompanying change to policies, handbooks, training for parents, and community outreach.</li> <li>• Ms. Ciccone said this is an educational process for all but data shows the program brings significant positive results.</li> <li>• Mrs. McInerney said the parent piece will be important.</li> <li>• Mr. McCauley asked if staff are ever resistant to training. Ms. Freiburg said it is all in the presentation and they find staff welcomes the opportunity to have better outcomes.</li> <li>• Ms. DiCorpo said that staff will receive weekly training into November. She said this program is of critical importance to provide teachers with the tools they need to have kids be successful. Funding is coming from the Title IV grant which has a safe school climate component.</li> </ul> <p><b>B. Teachers College Partnership K-5</b></p> <p><b>C. Teachers College Online Units of Study: Reading, Writing and Phonics K-8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. DiCorpo said these two agenda items work hand in hand. These are virtual resources for teacher use. They include units of study for the year, videos for parents that explain the lessons, and writing and reading resources for</li> </ul>	<p><b>B. Teachers College Partnership K-5</b></p> <p><b>C. Teachers College Online Units of Study: Reading, Writing and Phonics K-8</b></p>
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	<p>teachers. They are offered in multi-languages. The cost is approximately \$13,000 from the operating budget. This replaces funding for classroom libraries which are not utilized in the current environment. In addition, K-5 schools are now considered as partnership schools with Teachers College. This is a multi-year project where we are assigned a staff developer for each school. The focus here will be on writing only. The total cost for all resources is \$44,000 for the year and Title II funding will be used. This provides more professional development than could usually be given in a year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. DiCorpo said personalized professional learning for the 6-12 level will be provided through ASCD Activate, which provides access to a professional learning library of vetted resources for teachers from lead researchers in their fields.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was none.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p>Mr. McCauley moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m., seconded by Mrs. McInerney and passed unanimously.</p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.</b></p>

Respectfully submitted:



Joseph Failla, Chairperson  
 Committee on Learning