

NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
New Milford Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, Connecticut 06776

COMMITTEE ON LEARNING
MEETING NOTICE

GEORGE C. BUCKBEE
TOWN CLERK

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2012 MAR 16 P 1:51

NEW MILFORD, CT

DATE: March 20, 2012
TIME: 7:30 P.M.
PLACE: Lillis Administration Building – Room 2

AGENDA

New Milford Public Schools Mission Statement

The mission of the New Milford Public Schools, a collaborative partnership of students, educators, family, and community is to prepare each and every student to compete and excel in an ever-changing world, embrace challenges with vigor, respect and appreciate the worth of every human being, and contribute to society by providing effective instruction and dynamic curriculum, offering a wide range of valuable experiences, and inspiring students to pursue their dreams and aspirations.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. 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 Educations personnel and students, nor against any person connected with the New Milford Public School System.

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Review and approval of curriculum:

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|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. AP Psychology | Wisdom Jarvis |
| 2. Ceramics II | Paula Marion |
| 3. Economics | Suzanne Andrews / Kevin Hudson |
| 4. Grades 4-8 Choral Music | Gloria Capone / Diane Taylor |
| 5. Grade 8 Health | Scott Hoffman |
| 6. Marketing Work Program | Debbie Knipple / Janice Perrone |

4. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

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|--|------------------------|
| A. Strategic School Profile | Dr. Maureen McLaughlin |
| B. Summer Calendars | Dr. Maureen McLaughlin |
| C. Summer School | Dr. Maureen McLaughlin |
| D. Confirm COL Meeting on April 24, 2012 | Dr. Maureen McLaughlin |

5. ADJOURN

Sub-Committee Members: Mr. David Lawson, Chairperson
Mr. Thomas Brant
Mr. David Shaffer
Mrs. Daniele Shook

Alternates: Mrs. Lynette Celli Rigdon
Mr. William Wellman

The Committee on Learning curriculum
can be previewed in the
Office of the Assistant Superintendent
Lillis Administration Building – Room #6.

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Strategic School Profile
can be found on our school website
www.newmilfordps.org
under the District Information tab.

**New Milford Board of Education
 Committee on Learning Minutes
 March 20, 2012
 Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

GEORGE C. BUCKBEE
 TOWN CLERK

2012 MAR 22 P 3:23

NEW MILFORD, CT

Present: Mr. David Lawson, Chairperson
 Mr. Thomas Brant
 Mr. David Shaffer
 Mrs. Daniele Shook

Also Present: Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools
 Dr. Maureen McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
 Mr. Daniel DiVito, Director of Technology
 Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School
 Mrs. Suzanne Andrews, Teacher
 Ms. Gloria Capone, Teacher
 Mr. Kevin Hudson, Teacher
 Mr. Wisdom Jarvis, Teacher
 Mrs. Debbie Knipple, Teacher
 Mrs. Paula Marian, Teacher
 Mrs. Janice Perrone, Teacher

1.	<p>Call to Order The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mr. Lawson.</p>	<p>Call to Order</p>
2.	<p>Public Comment None</p>	<p>Public Comment</p>
3.	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>A. Review and Approval of Curriculum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AP Psychology 2. Ceramics II 3. Economics 4. Grades 4-8 Choral Music 5. Grade 8 Health 6. Marketing Work Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Lawson invited presenters to share highlights of the revised curriculum. Mr. Lawson allowed presenters to choose the order in which they presented. <p>Grades 4-8 Choral Music</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Gloria Capone presented Grades 4-8 choral music. The curriculum was revised in conjunction with Ms. Diane Taylor who directs the chorus at SMS. Ms. Capone stated that the 	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>Review and Approval of Curriculum:</p> <p>AP Psychology Ceramics II Economics Grades 4-8 Choral Music Grade 8 Health Marketing Work Program</p> <p>Grades 4-8 Choral Music</p>

curriculum calls for a broad spectrum of music, both American and multicultural. It uses a variety of styles to develop voices, the dynamics of singing, performance techniques, and styles to build a great choir.

- Mr. Shaffer stated that he has attended concerts for several years and is amazed at the high level of performance. He asked if the students receive a grade for chorus.
- Ms. Capone said there was no grade given, but assessment takes place through performance. She thought a grade could possibly discourage involvement in what is now an extracurricular activity.

Economics

- Mrs. Suzanne Andrews and Mr. Kevin Hudson presented economics. Mrs. Andrews said they developed the curriculum to teach the theory behind each concept and to make it authentic using real world experiences. There is no textbook for this course, so the students will be forced to use 21st century skills to look for the information required.
- Mr. Hudson said the students will be learning economic literacy and how the science works in their everyday lives and in the global economy.
- Dr. McLaughlin asked the presenters about how the curriculum has been affected now that personal finance is a separate course.
- Mrs. Andrews said she thought the new design was even more rigorous and would better prepare students for college economics courses.
- Mr. Shaffer asked about the number of sections and what percentage of the grade would be for group work.
- The presenters stated that they did not have numbers yet as master scheduling has not started. They estimated a 60/40% breakdown in group vs. individual assessment.
- The presenters estimated the curriculum took 100 hours to complete when asked by Mr. Shaffer.

Economics

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Brant stated that he thought this was a very timely course and a great addition.• When Mr. Lawson asked if personal finance was covered in the course by how it affected other choices such as saving towards retirement, the answer was yes. <p>Ceramics II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Paula Marian presented Ceramics II. She stated that the curriculum was all about authenticity. It is the second in a series of three ceramics courses. The focus is on craftsmanship, series work, and research. Assessment includes use of vessels, shows, and competitions.• Mr. Shaffer asked about adding to the guide that it is a semester course, but Mr. Lawson recommended that it stay in the course selection guide only, giving more flexibility to the curriculum.• Mrs. Marian said there are currently three sections of the course. The ceramics courses are very popular. Ceramics I, a prerequisite, has a waiting list every year. <p>Marketing Work Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Debbie Knipple and Mrs. Janice Perrone presented the Marketing Work Program. This guide took many hours as it started almost from scratch. Presenters both said they are proud of the accountability in the document. Students are evaluated by employers and teachers. Participants must be enrolled in Marketing II to be in the program. Teachers stress work ethic and attitude, what is acceptable in a work environment. A portfolio piece has been added to the end of the course where students must show evidence of the work experience. Students are also required to do a reflection on how the experience will help them in the future.	<p>Ceramics II</p> <p>Marketing Work Program</p>
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- Mr. Shaffer asked if the course included practice in interviewing which would be beneficial to the student and a good way to involve the greater community. Dr. McLaughlin pointed out the unit in which this is done. Mr. Shaffer suggested that if the employer fills out a standard evaluation, that it be added to the curriculum as an appendix.

AP Psychology

- Mr. Wisdom Jarvis presented AP psychology. It is designed to prepare students for the AP test while including state and American Psychological Association guidelines. As part of the course, students will take on-line assessments provided by the publisher of the text. He is particularly proud of the revised curriculum's relevance to the students and the essential questions it asks which reflect higher order thinking and reflection. The district character traits are incorporated as well. With the redesign, AP psychology will now be a full year course.
- When asked by Mr. Shaffer to estimate the number of students in the class who take the AP exam, Mr. Jarvis estimated the number at slightly less than half.
- Mr. Jarvis stated that the curriculum took over 60 hours to revise.

Grade 8 Health

- Dr. McLaughlin stated that Mr. Scott Hoffman was unavailable to present Grade 8 health as he was at a school function. She stated that the course is a half year class that all 8th graders take. This is another curriculum that was started almost from scratch. The topics are very high level and timely.
- Mr. Shaffer asked if this curriculum connects to 9th grade health.
- Dr. McLaughlin stated that the health teachers meet regularly as a group and that many of the topics in this curriculum would be covered again in 9th grade but in a depth that is age appropriate.

AP Psychology

Grade 8 Health

	<p>Mr. Brant moved to bring the following curricula to the full Board for approval: AP Psychology, Ceramics II, Economics, Grades 4-8 Choral Music, Grade 8 Health, and Marketing Work Program, seconded by Mrs. Shook and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the following curricula to the full Board for approval: AP Psychology, Ceramics II, Economics, Grades 4-8 Choral Music, Grade 8 Health, and Marketing Work Program.</p>
<p>4.</p> <p>A.</p> <p>B.</p>	<p>Items of Information</p> <p>Strategic School Profile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. McLaughlin highlighted some areas of the report from 2010-2011. Enrollment has declined, free and reduced percentages have increased, special education numbers are down slightly, and preschool numbers show a slight increase. The graduation rate went from 94% to 88.1%. The number of teachers is down 18. While the per pupil expenditure was up for our DRG, New Milford's number was down. Our number remains near the bottom of our DRG. • Mr. Lawson noted that the free and reduced number may ultimately impact the food service program's ability to be self-sufficient. <p>Summer Calendars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. McLaughlin stated that a committee of 15-20 teachers had been formed to develop summer packets and had changed the format to three monthly calendars. A literacy or a numeracy activity is listed every other day. Activities may be done in any order, and only approximately half are required. Teachers will start the calendars in June with students to model for families. A letter will be sent home to parents in May explaining the format. The calendars will also be on-line on the district website. The district is also continuing to encourage participation in the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge. Parents only need to return a sign-off sheet at the end and may keep the calendars to continue activities if they wish. • Committee members stated that it was a much needed and very user friendly document. 	<p>Items of Information</p> <p>Strategic School Profile</p> <p>Summer Calendars</p>

C.	Summer School <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. McLaughlin stated that summer school will take place pending budget approval. Selection will be based on various objective resources and teacher input. Staff and rooms at SNIS are confirmed.• Dr. McLaughlin stated that the Special Education Department is cooperatively developing a schedule for transportation and classes.	Summer School
D.	Confirm COL Meeting on April 24, 2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Lawson confirmed committee members' availability for a special meeting on April 24, 2012, at 6:00 p.m.	Confirm COL Meeting on April 24, 2012
5.	Adjourn <p>Mr. Brant moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. seconded by Mrs. Shook and passed unanimously.</p>	Adjourn <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



David Lawson, Chairperson
Committee on Learning