

**New Milford Board of Education
 Committee on Learning Sub-Committee
 November 25, 2008
 Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

Present:	Mr. David Lawson, Chairperson
	Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Committee Member
	Mrs. Alexandra Thomas, Committee Member
	Mr. William Wellman, alternate
	Dr. Lisa Diamond, Board Chair

Also Present	Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools
	Mr. Thomas Mulvihill, Assistant Superintendent
	Mrs. Chalice Racey
	Mr. Michael Abraham
	Ms. Kristen Stolle
	Mr. David Shaffer
	Mrs. Eileen Reed
	Mr. Shugrue

1	The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning sub-committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Lawson. Mr. Lawson seated alternate member William Wellman.	Call to Order
2	No public comment.	Public Comment
3 A1	Discussion and possible action on Advanced Creative Writing – Grade 12. Mr. Mulvihill noted this is the most advanced writing course offered as a senior elective.	
3A 2	Discussion and possible action on Chinese Studies – Grade 12. Mr. Wellman asked for clarity on the curriculum. Mr. Mulvihill noted the course includes “essential questions”, which outline the material the instructor is expected to address. The course will offer an understanding of where China is in the world today and where it is going.	.
3 A 3	Discussion and possible action on Honors Chemistry – Grades 11 and 12. Ms. Stolle and Mrs. Reed, authors of the course, noted the recent erosion on SAT II scores in Chemistry. The number of students taking the SAT tests is very small which sometimes skews results. However, a focus will now include SAT II test practice	

	<p>prior to exams, giving students the opportunity to get acquainted with the test format, and encouraging more students to take the test. When asked about enrollment, Mrs. Reed replied between 90-120 students are enrolled, however, the number of students taking the SAT II test is often 10-20. Mr. Wellman asked how the student grades correlate with SAT scores; Ms. Stolle answered there was not a lot of correlation.</p>	
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3A4	<p>Discussion and possible action on Honors Pre-Calculus – grade 12. Mr. Shaffer noted enrollment in this class of 115; Pre-Calculus emphasis is to ensure complete knowledge of Algebra and prepare students for Calculus.</p>	
3A 1-4	<p>Mr. Wellman asked that the vote on all the curricula be taken individually. Mrs. Faulenbach moved to bring Advanced Creative Writing to the full board for approval. Motion seconded by Mrs. Thomas and passed unanimously.</p> <p>Mrs. Thomas moved to bring Chinese Studies to the full board for approval, motion seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach. Vote 3 in favor, Mr. Wellman abstained.</p> <p>Mrs. Thomas moved to bring honors chemistry to the full board for approval, motion seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach, and passed unanimously.</p> <p>Mrs. Thomas moved to bring Honors Pre-Calculus to the full board for approval, motion seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion to bring Advanced Creative Writing to the full board for approval passed unanimously.</p> <p>Motion to bring Chinese Studies to the full board for approval, passed with one member abstaining.</p> <p>Motion to bring honors chemistry to the full board for approval passed unanimously.</p> <p>Motion to bring Honors Pre-Calculus to the full board for approval passed unanimously.</p>
B	<p>Update and approval of Five-Year Plan. Mr. Lawson opened discussion noting the Plan gives direction, it is not set in stone. Mr. Mulvihill looked at the Plan to see where cost savings can take place; he summarized changes in the Plan including suspension of purchasing core reading materials;</p>	<p>Motion passed 2 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstaining to reflect evaluation of pre school initiatives as to status and progress in the 5 year plan.</p>

<p>purchase of a spelling program; revising Psychology and Intellectual History. The full day kindergarten pilot will be suspended this year. Mrs. Thomas asked about tracking students who were in the full day program; this year there were 22 students, last year 21. Mr. Lawson noted that kindergarten can increase reading, math and social skills. Dr. Diamond agreed that early education can have a long term impact, however, this year all programs will have to be reviewed and may have to be eliminated. Mr. Lawson stated the program can be kept in the Plan and removed at budget time. Mrs. Thomas commented the full day kindergarten requires a more extensive conversation.</p> <p>Mrs. Thomas inquired about the substance abuse for grade 8 and asked if the curriculum is prepared? Mr. Mulvihill replied that curriculum unit would have to be developed.</p> <p>Mr. Wellman asked why bring back Psychology and Intellectual History. Mr. Mulvihill noted the courses need to be revised having not been revised for 20 years. Dr. Diamond commented that more elective courses were needed due to the increase in credits for graduation.</p> <p>Mr. Wellman asked for an elaboration on the core reading program for elementary schools. Mr. Mulvihill replied the core reading curriculum used a series of reading materials and that ample reading materials exist, however, the staff asked to be able to make further choices of reading materials from newer programs that have been published.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked to have the Plan brought back after budget time. Mr. Mulvihill noted the budget basically reflects what is in the Plan he submitted to Dr. Paddyfote.</p> <p>Mr. Lawson would like to see full day kindergarten in the Plan and the feasibility for pre-school initiatives in the Plan even though they may have to be deleted. Mr. Mulvihill commented on pre-school initiatives – efforts have been made to link pre-school programs with kindergarten; meetings have</p>	<p>Motion passed to accept 5 year plan with revisions as presented to the Committee on Learning. Vote 3 in favor, 1 abstaining.</p>
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	<p>been held between kindergarten and pre-school teachers and visits between kindergarten and pre-school programs have been scheduled.</p> <p>Mr. Wellman asked to be kept informed on a continuing basis with SAT II chemistry scores. When data is released it is available, stated Mr. Mulvihill. (“Windows on New Milford”)</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to reflect evaluation of pre-school initiatives as to status and program for 2009-2010 in the Plan. Mrs. Thomas seconded the motion which passed with Mrs. Faulenbach and Mrs. Thomas voting in favor, Mr. Lawson voting against and Mr. Wellman abstaining.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to accept the Five-Year Plan with revisions as presented to the Committee on Learning, seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Motion passed with Mr. Wellman abstaining.</p>	
4	By motion of Mr. Wellman, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m., motion seconded by Mrs. Thomas and passed unanimously.	Motion passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David A. Lawson

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

**COMMITTEE ON LEARNING SUB-COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTICE**

DATE:	November 25, 2008
TIME:	7:00 P.M.
PLACE:	Lillis Administration Building—Room 2

AGENDA

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 Education 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 curricula

- 1. Advanced Creative Writing – Grade 12**
- 2. Chinese Studies – Grade 12**

3. Honors Chemistry – Grades 11 & 12

4. Honors Pre-Calculus – Grade 12

B. Update and Approval of Five-Year Plan

4. Adjourn

**Dr. Kathleen DelMonico
Mrs. Chalice Racey
Mr. Michael Abraham
Ms. Kristen Stolle
Mrs. Eileen Reed
Mr. David Shaffer
Mr. Mulvihill**

**Sub-Committee Members: Mr. David Lawson, Chair
Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach
Mrs. Elizabeth Finney
Mrs. Alexandra Thomas**

**Alternates: Mrs. Amy Llerena
Mr. William Wellman**

Item of Information: Memo Re: Spelling Program