New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning Minutes September 3, 2019 Lillis Administration Building, Room 2

Present:

Mr. J.T. Schemm, Chairperson

Mrs. Angela C. Chastain

Mr. Bill Dahl

Mrs. Tammy McInerney

Also Present:

Dr. Kerry Parker, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

1.	Call to Order	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. Schemm.	
2.	Public Comment	Public Comment
	There was none.	
3.	Discussion and Possible Action	Discussion and Possible Action
Α.	Review and Approval of Curricula 1. Creative Writing 2. Diverse Voices 3. US History CP 4. US History Honors	A. Review and Approval of Curricula 1. Creative Writing 2. Diverse Voices 3. US History CP 4. US History Honors
	 Mr. Schemm said there are four curriculum up for review. Several more are coming over the next few months as a result of summer work done. Ms. DiCorpo said these are all revisions. US History is on tonight because a textbook request is coming with it and she wanted to time it properly for budgetary purposes. Ms. DiCorpo said that CT passed a new law requiring a course in African American and Latino studies that will be written by CERC and put in place for 2020/21. That course proposal will be coming in October for consideration. 	RECEIVED TOWN CLERK 2019 SEP -5 A 8: 31
	 Mr. Schemm clarified that the course must be offered only. Ms. DiCorpo said that is correct; the course is not a graduation requirement. 	MIS SEP -5 A & JI

- Ms. DiCorpo said she would speak to the curricula since no teachers were present.
- Diverse Voices is a senior semester elective. It explores diversity through literature. Each unit lasts about five weeks: diverse voice, diverse identity, diversity and conflict, and tolerance of diversity. It has been updated to align with the new literacy standards of common core and performance tasks have been added. This is considered a literacy offering for graduation requirement purposes.
- Mr. Schemm asked what the course enrollment is. Ms. DiCorpo said she would check.
- Ms. DiCorpo said the curriculum is being used as a pilot until officially approved by the Board.
- There was discussion about the names listed on the cover pages. District administration is listed from when the curriculum is actually written. It was suggested that consistency is needed regarding which Board member names are used.
- Creative Writing is a college prep semester course. The focus here is on writing and helping students explore different types of writing to improve their ability in different areas. This is done in conjunction with an awareness of the units of study K-8 and offers—a continuum of that work. It keeps the college essay in mind and offers practice in that area. The performance tasks include an emphasis on technology use.
- Mrs. McInerney said she was impressed with the quality and quantity of reading choices.
 Mr. Schemm asked how many senior elective English choices there are. Ms. DiCorpo said she would follow up on that number and course enrollment prior to the Board meeting.
- Ms. DiCorpo said US History CP and Honors could be taken together for discussion. US History is a required course in the Humanities

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	grouping for the state of CT. These two courses were written together so they are in concert with similarities and differences. Both	
	courses are the study of history through	
	various lenses. They are aligned with the CT	
	History standards C3 framework. Each of the	
	units of study run three to four weeks and	
	work in concert with the middle school	
	teaching. Honors is more comprehensive. The	
	difference is in the rigor of the reading and	
	depth of analysis.	
	Mr. Dahl referenced the alignment with the	·
	middle school and asked what happens with a	
İ	student coming from another district. Ms.	
	DiCorpo said the state standards are designed	
	to help with that.	
	Mr. Schemm asked if the proposed textbook	
	would be used in both courses. Ms. DiCorpo	
	said it could be, along with primary source	
	documents.	
	Mr. Schemm asked what grade these courses	
	are for and Mr. DiCorpo said they are for	
	junior year.	
	Dr. Parker asked why the presentation of the	
	curricula is so delayed from when they are	
	written. Ms. DiCorpo said it is a good problem	
	to have in that there are so many curricula	
	being written that it takes a while to get them	
	through committee.	
]	 Mrs. Chastain suggested that revised 	
	curriculum could be presented in a shorter	
-[summary so that more could be moved	
	forward at one time. New courses could have	
	formal presentations to the committee.	
	Mrs. Chastain moved to bring the following curricula	Motion made and passed unanimously to
	to the full Board for approval: Creative Writing,	Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the following curricula to the full
	Diverse Voices, US History CP and US History	Board for approval: Creative Writing,
	Honors, seconded by Mrs. McInerney and passed	Diverse Voices, US History CP and US
	unanimously.	History Honors.
4.	Public Comment	Public Comment
	• There was none.	
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	5.	Adjourn	Adjourn
٠		Mr. Dahl moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Chastain and passed unanimously.	Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

J.T. Schemm, Chairperson Committee on Learning

New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning Minutes (revised 9/18/19) September 3, 2019 Lillis Administration Building, Room 2

Present:

Mr. J.T. Schemm, Chairperson

Mrs. Angela C. Chastain

Mr. Bill Dahl

Mrs. Tammy McInerney

Also Present: Dr. Kerry Parker, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools



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A.	 Creative Writing Diverse Voices US History CP US History Honors Mr. Schemm said there are four curriculum up for review. Several more are coming over the next few months as a result of summer work done. Ms. DiCorpo said these are all revisions. US History is on tonight because a textbook request is coming with it and she wanted to time it properly for budgetary purposes. Ms. DiCorpo said that CT passed a new law requiring a course in African American and Latino studies that will be written by CERC and put in place for 2020/21. That course proposal will be coming in October for consideration. Mr. Schemm clarified that the course must be offered only. Ms. DiCorpo said that is correct; the course is not a graduation requirement. Ms. DiCorpo said she would speak to the 	A. Review and Approval of Curricula 1. Creative Writing 2. Diverse Voices 3. US History CP 4. US History Honors

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curricula since no teachers were present.

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- Mr. Schemm asked what the course enrollment is. Ms. DiCorpo said she would check.
- Ms. DiCorpo said the curriculum is being used as a pilot until officially approved by the Board.
- There was discussion about the names listed on the cover pages. District administration is listed from when the curriculum is actually written. It was suggested that consistency is needed regarding which Board member names are used.
- Creative Writing is a college prep semester course. The focus here is on writing and helping students explore different types of writing to improve their ability in different areas. This is done in conjunction with an awareness of the units of study K-8 and offers a continuum of that work. It keeps the college essay in mind and offers practice in that area. The performance tasks include an emphasis on technology use.
- Mrs. McInerney said she was impressed with the quality and quantity of reading choices.
- Mr. Schemm asked how many senior elective English choices there are. Ms. DiCorpo said she would follow up on that number and course enrollment prior to the Board meeting.
- Ms. DiCorpo said US History CP and Honors could be taken together for discussion. US History is a required course in the Humanities grouping for the state of CT. These two courses were written together so they are in

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concert with similarities and differences. Both courses are the study of history through various lenses. They are aligned with the CT History standards C3 framework. Each of the units of study run three to four weeks and work in concert with the middle school teaching. Honors is more comprehensive. The difference is in the rigor of the reading and depth of analysis.

- Mr. Dahl referenced the alignment with the middle school and asked what happens with a student coming from another district. Ms. DiCorpo said the state standards are designed to help with that.
- Mr. Schemm asked if the proposed textbook would be used in both courses. Ms. DiCorpo said it could be, along with primary source documents.
- Mr. Schemm asked what grade these courses are for and Mr. DiCorpo said they are for junior year.
- Dr. Parker noted that these are semester classes. Since there is a delay from when they are written to when they are approved, she asked if the curriculum changes would be applied next semester. Ms. DiCorpo said right now some of the writers have been testing out revisions in their classrooms, so it is currently a hybrid of the old and some revision.
- Dr. Parker asked why there is such a delay from when the revisions are written to when they are presented for approval. Ms. DiCorpo said it is a good problem to have in that there are so many curricula being written that it takes a while to get them through committee.
- Mrs. McInerney said the change in graduation requirements also took over some of the COL meeting time at the expense of curriculum review. Ms. DiCorpo said other presentations for science changes, summer school etc. also took time.
- Dr. Parker asked if the revisions would be immediately implemented if approved and Ms. DiCorpo said yes.
- Mr. Schemm said perhaps the future review process could be looked at since, under the

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4.	current system where teachers usually present, it can take 20-30 minutes per curriculum, meaning so many can only be approved at a time. • Mrs. Chastain suggested that revised curriculum could be presented in a shorter summary, without teacher presentation, so that more could be moved forward at one time. New courses could still have formal presentations to the committee. • Dr. Parker said she is in favor of streamlining the process so that revisions can be approved and taught in a timely manner. Mrs. Chastain moved to bring the following curricula to the full Board for approval: Creative Writing, Diverse Voices, US History CP and US History Honors, seconded by Mrs. McInerney and passed unanimously. Public Comment	Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the following curricula to the full Board for approval: Creative Writing, Diverse Voices, US History CP and US History Honors. Public Comment
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5.	Adjourn	Adjourn
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J.T. Schemm, Chairperson Committee on Learning