

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

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NEW MILFORD, CT

**Present:** Mr. J.T. Schemm, Chairperson  
 Mrs. Angela C. Chastain  
 Mr. Bill Dahl  
 Mrs. Tammy McInerney

**Also Present:** Dr. Stephen Tracy, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
 Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
 Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School  
 Mr. Kevin Best, Math Dept. Chairperson, New Milford High School  
 Mrs. Janice McNamara, Math Teacher, New Milford High School  
 Mrs. Susan Brofford, K-5 Science Enrichment Teacher

<p><b>1.</b></p>	<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 7:34 p.m. by Mr. Schemm.</p>	<p><b>Call to Order</b></p>
<p><b>2.</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>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Discussion and Possible Action</b></p> <p><b>A. Review and Approval of Curriculum</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. CP Algebra II</b></li> <li><b>2. Honors Algebra II</b></li> <li><b>3. Honors Geometry</b></li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. DiCorpo said these revisions align current courses with the new template and transition to standards while memorializing current practice. She said a course overview page has been added due to previous request.</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. CP Algebra II</b></li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. McNamara said this is a full year, one credit course, predominantly for sophomores and juniors. The revision is aligned with common core standards. It focuses on differentiated instruction and real world applications. The teacher acts as coach as students transfer learned skills to new</li> </ul>	<p><b>Discussion and Possible Action</b></p> <p><b>A. Review and Approval of Curriculum</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. CP Algebra II</b></li> <li><b>2. Honors Algebra II</b></li> <li><b>3. Honors Geometry</b></li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. CP Algebra II</b></li> </ol>

concepts.

- Mrs. McInerney asked why the math sequence splits Algebra 1 and II with Geometry. Mrs. McNamara said that was originally done to prepare students with the skills they would need for CAPT testing as sophomores.
- Ms. DiCorpo said this aligns with existing science course sequences too so it is not an easy change for districts to make.
- Mrs. McNamara said the Geometry course also incorporates algebraic skills to keep students moving forward.
- Mr. Schemm asked if the department is using Khan SAT Practice. Mrs. McNamara said it is optional, but students do use it and that teachers do encourage it, because it is helpful. Ms. DiCorpo said that students can link to it after their first PSAT. She said SRBI classes use it directly.

## 2. Honors Algebra II

- Mr. Best said he is presenting on behalf of Lisa Crowley and Cheryl Reiner who wrote the revision. The revision aligns with common core standards, provides differentiation and choice activities as well as flexible grouping. The Honors level differs from CP in its increased rigor and faster pace.
- Mrs. McInerney asked where students can go for help if they are struggling. Mr. Best said teachers are always willing to give help and the Math Honor Society students lend support as well.
- Mrs. McInerney asked if students are required to purchase TI83 calculators. Mr. Best said the department has a loaner program for students who do not have one. This year they loaned out over 100 calculators.
- Mrs. McInerney asked if a less expensive app had been considered. Mr. Best said the problem with an app is that it cannot be used for standardized tests such as the SAT and AP testing. Ms. DiCorpo said they are hopeful that migration may happen in the future. They are always looking for more cost effective solutions.

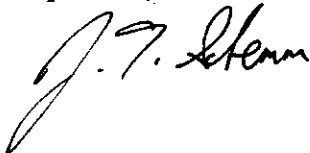
## 2. Honors Algebra II

<p><b>3. Honors Geometry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Best said he is presenting on behalf of Deb Murnan who wrote the revision. This course is aligned with common core standards and integrates appropriate algebra review. It embeds SAT aligned questions. The focus is on integration, movement and hands-on activities to reinforce concepts. This class is offered to students in grades 8-10.</li><li>• Mrs. McInerney asked for clarification that the middle school math classes are honors level, not college prep. Mr. Best said that is correct.</li></ul> <p>Mrs. McInerney moved to bring the curriculums for CP Algebra II, Honors Algebra II and Honors Geometry to the full Board for approval, seconded by Mrs. Chastain and passed unanimously.</p> <p><b>B. Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms. DiCorpo said the state adopted far-reaching K-12 science standards for which curriculum had not been written. She said there is a shift in focus from students being “told about” science to students “figuring out” science. Ms. DiCorpo said she would rather the district focus on implementation versus the development of its own curriculum from scratch. She is recommending the adoption of CREC bundle units of study. These units were developed by a consortium of over 40 districts. Training is available from CREC and there is online access to professional learning. This will provide consistency with other districts across the state. The bundles will be rolled out over time to various grades, allowing for gradual implementation and spreading out the expense of the units and training. They will build up from the lower grades and those where testing occurs. She is asking the Board to approve the bundles as curriculum. The focus will be on K-8 to begin. The high school feels confident in their current curriculum, after attending NGXS standard training.</li></ul>	<p><b>3. Honors Geometry</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the curriculums for CP Algebra II, Honors Algebra II and Honors Geometry to the full Board for approval.</b></p> <p><b>B. Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)</b></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Brofford said she has already received extensive training and she finds the CREC units well thought out and helpful to K-5 teachers without a strong science background.</li> <li>• Ms. DiCorpo said the plan is to focus on one unit at a time and have the CT Science Center and CREC come in for training.</li> <li>• Mrs. Chastain asked if there is budgeted funding for this. Ms. DiCorpo said it is included in the budget.</li> <li>• Mrs. Chastain asked how new staff would be trained. Ms. DiCorpo said they will be cognizant of asking candidates about their training in the standards, and will provide training through the Science Center as needed.</li> <li>• Dr. Tracy thanked Ms. DiCorpo and Mrs. Brofford for their work. He thanked the Board for its support of the funding necessary to continue curriculum development. He said the use of the “scientific method” is very important in this day and age of constant information.</li> <li>• Mr. Schemm asked if Ms. DiCorpo was looking for Board action to pilot this curriculum or as curriculum. Ms. DiCorpo said she does not want it considered a pilot because that usually implies a temporary nature, and that other choices are being considered. Neither is the case here.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Schemm moved to bring the adoption of the NGSS CREC bundles for K-8 Science curriculum to the full Board for approval, seconded by Mr. Dahl and passed unanimously.</p>	<p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the adoption of the NGSS CREC bundles for K-8 Science curriculum to the full Board for approval.</b></p>
<p><b>4.</b></p> <p><b>A.</b></p>	<p><b>Item of Information</b></p> <p><b>Graduation Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Schemm said this is a carryover discussion from the Policy sub-committee.</li> <li>• Ms. DiCorpo said they are looking for input from the Board as to what direction they want to go in. She said as of a result of discussion at Policy she will reach out to other districts to find out what they are doing about middle school credit.</li> <li>• Mr. Schemm said he would be particularly</li> </ul>	<p><b>Item of Information</b></p> <p><b>A. Graduation Requirements</b></p>

	<p>interested in those districts who are already at 25 credits. He is also curious to know how they are approaching the mastery credit aspect as well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Chastain said New Milford is in a unique position in that we are currently at 26 credits, more than required by the Public Act 17-42. She said we don't have to add middle school credit just to catch up. Personally, she is still not convinced that Public Act 17-42 will go into effect by the state legislature.</li> </ul>	
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was none.</li> </ul>	<b>Public Comment</b>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p>Mr. Dahl moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 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 8:54 p.m.</b></p>

Respectfully submitted:



J.T. Schemm, Chairperson  
 Committee on Learning