

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

COMMITTEE ON LEARNING
MEETING NOTICE

DATE:	February 26, 2013
TIME:	7:30 P.M.
PLACE:	Lillis Administration Building – Room 2

GEORGE C. BUCKBEE
TOWN CLERK

2013 FEB 22 A 11:36

NEW MILFORD, CT

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 three 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:

1. Grade 5 Reading

Mrs. Michelle Klee
Mrs. Lisa Montemurro
Mrs. Linnea Leclair
Mrs. Angela Herdter
Mrs. Monique Gil-Rogers
Mr. Joshua Smith

2. Grade 6 Reading

3. Curriculum Plan Approval (Three Years)

4. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

A. High School Graduation Requirements (Update)

Mr. Greg Shugrue

B. SEED (State Evaluation Model Update)

Mr. Joshua Smith

C. NWEA (District Assessment Update)

Mr. Joshua Smith

D. Elementary Math Curriculum (Pilot Update)

Mr. Joshua Smith

5. ADJOURN

Sub-Committee Members: Mr. David Lawson, Chairperson
Mr. David Shaffer
Mrs. Daniele Shook
Mr. William Wellman

Alternate: Mrs. Lynette Celli Rigdon

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.

**New Milford Board of Education
 Committee on Learning Minutes
 February 26, 2013
 Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

Present: Mr. David A. Lawson, Chairperson
 Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach
 Mrs. Daniele Shook
 Mr. William Wellman, alternate

Absent: Mr. David R. Shaffer

Also Present: Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools
 Mr. Joshua Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
 Mrs. Samantha Gati, Teacher, Sarah Noble Intermediate School
 Mrs. Michelle Klee, Teacher, Sarah Noble Intermediate School
 Mrs. Linnea Leclair, Teacher, Sarah Noble Intermediate School
 Mrs. Lisa Montemurro, Teacher, Sarah Noble Intermediate School
 Mrs. Monique Gil-Rogers, Teacher, Sarah Noble Intermediate School
 Mrs. Karen Hartle, Literacy Coach

GEORGE C. BUCKBEE
 TOWN CLERK



2013 FEB 28 P 2:24

NEW MILFORD, CT

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. Mrs. Faulenbach was seated due to vacancy and Mr. Wellman was seated in the absence of Mr. Shaffer.</p>	<p>Call to Order</p>
2.	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<p>Public Comment</p>
3. A.	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>Review and Approval of curriculum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Smith said the development of the Grade 5 and Grade 6 Reading curriculum is the culmination of several years' work by the staff involved as they piloted, refined and enhanced the program. <p>1. Grade 5 Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Klee said alignment with the common core began in 2010. There is a vertical alignment; all fifth grade students receive the same reading experience. 	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>Review and Approval of curriculum:</p> <p>Grade 5 Reading</p>

- Mrs. Montemurro said all assessments are uniform across the grade as well. The curriculum includes small group instruction and collaborative discussions.
- Mr. Wellman asked for clarification on “Just Right Books” (JRB). Mrs. Montemurro said they use formative assessments to match a book with the instructional needs of individual students. This also fosters differentiation.
- Mr. Smith said that the teachers no longer use whole class novels instead using a wide variety of books to match to reading level. The number of books read per year has increased substantially from six to seven a year to between 30 and 40. Reading scores have also shown remarkable progress.
- Mrs. Leclair said students are taking responsibility for their own learning and setting goals.

2. Grade 6 Reading

- Mrs. Gati said the process reported for Grade 5 is very similar in Grade 6. The new curriculum continues to build from year to year and allows for deeper depth and more volume. Units cover all pieces of the common core. Goal is for mastery of standards.
- Mrs. Gil-Rogers said teachers guide students in picking their just right books, but that students make individual choices that are enjoyable to them.
- Mr. Smith said this curriculum and that of Grade 5 are web accessed so can be easily modified and enhanced for student learning. The literacy coach provides cohesion from teacher to teacher and grade to grade, helping to organize the curriculum and provide outside ideas. This enables forward movement of the program.
- Mr. Wellman asked about the focus of the website unit. Mrs. Gati said that the common core emphasizes equal use of fiction and nonfiction materials. This unit came about with

Grade 6 Reading

the need for students to know what research to trust when using the internet. Mrs. Gil-Rogers said they also explore which websites are most appropriate for the types of information students want.

- Mr. Wellman asked if there were any issues with access to technology. Mrs. Gati said students have access to labs, portable laptops and also bring their own devices. Mrs. Gil-Rogers agreed that access was not a problem.
- Mr. Lawson asked what types of nonfiction were utilized. Mrs. Gil-Rogers said nonfiction was used not just in the reading curriculum but in science and social studies content areas as well. A unit is devoted to how to pick out and read a nonfiction book. Mr. Smith said much of the budget request is to build selections in the nonfiction area.
- Mrs. Shook thanked both grades for the phenomenal work done.

Mrs. Faulenbach moved to bring the following curricula to the full Board for approval: Grade 5 Reading and Grade 6 Reading, seconded by Mrs. Shook and passed unanimously.

Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the following curricula to the full Board for approval: Grade 5 Reading and Grade 6 Reading.

3. Curriculum Plan Approval (Three Years)

Curriculum Plan Approval (Three Years)

- Mr. Lawson had suggested that a three year plan might be more appropriate in the result of the rapid fire change that has been seen lately.
- Mr. Smith said the five year draft he was presenting should be viewed as a guiding document only. He highlighted some areas and adjustments made as a result of the common core adoptions. Emphasis has been on English language arts and math as standards are available. Curriculum writing in science has been delayed as standards are not yet available. Several new courses were listed and will be brought to the committee beginning in March. The district is starting to build a K-8 vertical math team and is piloting K-5 math programs now.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Shook asked when results would be available from the math pilots. Mr. Smith said they were hoping to have a decision by May so that professional development can take place over the summer and would bring information to the Committee in March before adopting. Mr. Smith said he would also ask the math coach to come to the March meeting. • Mrs. Faulenbach asked about parent involvement in the pilots and Mr. Smith said letters were sent home to all parents of children involved in the pilot test. • Mr. Lawson asked about the PE/Health curriculum. Mr. Smith said it is very dated and needs to be redone versus revised. • Mrs. Faulenbach stated that her personal preference was for a five year plan. • Mr. Lawson noted the consensus was to keep a Five-Year Plan. <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to bring the Five Year Curriculum Plan to the full Board for approval, seconded by Mrs. Shook and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the Five Year Curriculum Plan to the full Board for approval.</p>
<p>4.</p> <p>A.</p>	<p>Items of Information</p> <p>High School Graduation Requirements (Update)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Smith said that a requirement of 25 credits is coming for high school graduation. The current requirement is 22.5. The current schedule at the high school allows students to take up to eight classes per year. Students who choose to take even seven classes per year could theoretically graduate as juniors currently or take a very light schedule as a senior. • Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the credit requirement was a change imposed by the state. Mr. Smith said it was but that the requirement would allow for more rigor at the high school level. He also recommended a gradual increase so as to minimize budget impact and to avoid impacting current students negatively. 	<p>Items of Information</p> <p>High School Graduation Requirements (Update)</p>

<p>B.</p>	<p>SEED (State Evaluation Model Update)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Smith said documents relating to SEED change hourly. The 40% assessment data piece has not changed but the 40% observation piece is becoming more flexible and less defined. He said New Milford is trying to work closely with other districts.	<p>SEED (State Evaluation Model Update)</p>
<p>C.</p>	<p>NWEA (District Assessment Update)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Smith said we have begun the pilot test of the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) and that teachers are finding the results very helpful. The testing is adaptive for individual students and data is instantly available to teachers. Mr. Smith said the hope is to expand the program to all K-9 classes by May so as to have baseline data going forward to the new school year.• Mr. Lawson asked if it was a diagnostic or achievement test. Mr. Smith said it was diagnostic, measuring the progress of the student not mastery.• Mr. Lawson asked how the test affected 504 and special education students with emotional needs. Mr. Smith said the test can be started and stopped at any time and one of the nice points about this test is that it adapts to student answers.• Mr. Lawson asked how it fit with teacher evaluation. Mr. Smith said the teachers would set professional goals based on student progress over time.• Mr. Lawson asked about the number of standardized tests required of students. Mr. Smith said that this test is much quicker to administer than others and could ultimately replace others, leading to a gain in instructional time.• Mrs. Faulenbach said that parents welcome more information to pinpoint student needs (in reference to an informational meeting she attended).	<p>NWEA (District Assessment Update)</p>

D.	Elementary Math Curriculum (Pilot Update) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Lawson said this topic had been discussed earlier in the meeting but asked if there were any additional questions. There were none.	Elementary Math Curriculum (Pilot Update)
5.	Adjourn Mrs. Shook moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



David Lawson, Chairperson
Committee on Learning