

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

COMMITTEE ON LEARNING
MEETING NOTICE

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
2017 FEB 24 P 2:55

NEW MILFORD CT

DATE: February 28, 2017
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**

An individual may address the Board concerning any item on the agenda for the meeting subject to the following provisions:

- A. A three-minute time limit may be allocated to each speaker with a maximum of twenty minutes being set aside per meeting. The Board may, by a majority vote, cancel or adjust these time limits.
- B. If a member of the public comments about the performance of an employee or a Board member, whether positive, negative, or neutral, and whether named or not, the Board shall not respond to such comments unless the topic is an explicit item on the agenda and the employee or the Board member has been provided with the requisite notice and due process required by law. Similarly, in accordance with federal law pertaining to student confidentiality, the Board shall not respond to or otherwise discuss any comments that might be made pertaining to students.

3. **Presentation**

- A. **Early Childhood Council**

4. **Discussion and Possible Action**

- A. **Review and Approval of Curriculum**

1. Middle East Studies
2. Marketing I
3. Marketing Work Program
4. Sports & Entertainment Marketing
5. Grades 3-5 Choral Music
6. Choral Performance Grades 6-8
7. Grades 4-5 Instrumental Music
8. Grades 6-8 Instrumental Music
9. Grades 9-12 Instrumental Music

5. **Public Comment**

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6. Adjourn

Sub-Committee Members: **Tammy McInerney, Chairperson**
Bill Dahl
Dave Littlefield
J.T. Schemm

Alternates: **Brian McCauley**
Angela C. Chastain

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 Pre-K/Kindergarten Transition Collaborative Grant



Grant activities coordinated by:

Debbie Clark-NMPS Department Chairman of Special Education

Alison Huntington- NMPS District Primary Schools Literacy Coach

New Milford Pre-K/Kindergarten Collaborative Grant



Purpose:

- To strengthen the link between preschool and public school teachers to ensure the success of young children as they enter Kindergarten in NMPS.
- “To bring lasting, fundamental change to how preschools and public schools work together for the benefit of young children.” (CCF, 2010)

Areas of Focus:

- Improving strength of the collaborative
- Improving literacy skills
- Strengthening the K transition process
- Increasing parent engagement
- Improving preschool instructional quality



New Milford Pre-K/Kindergarten Collaborative Grant



- NMPS has been a recipient of the grant since 2009-10
- New Milford Public Schools has received over **\$55,000** since that time
- Collaborative members include:
 - EXCEL and Kindergarten teachers - NMPS
 - Directors and staff from area preschools and daycares
 - Staff from Literacy Volunteers
 - New Milford Library - Children's Director
 - Head Start Staff
 - Teaching staff NMHS Child Development class
 - Literacy coach and Dept Chair of Special Ed

Alone we
can do so
little; together
we can do
so much.
-Helen Keller

Early Childhood Council (ECC)



ECC was developed to address all focus areas of the New Milford Pre-K/Kindergarten collaborative.



New Milford's Early Childhood Council Vision

The vision of the New Milford Early Childhood Council is to strengthen communication and collaboration within our community to build literacy skills that benefit the young children of New Milford.





ECC Mission

The mission of the New Milford Early Childhood Council is to improve the transition to Kindergarten for all New Milford children by ensuring that they receive developmentally appropriate literacy skills interaction before attending New Milford Public Schools.

Early Childhood Council (ECC)

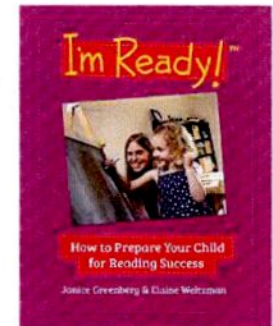


- Community co-chair every year
- Hold 3-4 meetings per year that include professional development aligned with the **CT Early Learning and Development Standards** (formerly Pre-K Benchmarks)
- ECC chooses a standard from the **language and literacy strand** to focus on based on data from Kindergarten Inventory
- Professional development is engaging and interactive
- Professional resources (ex. books, websites, strategies, etc.) are shared
- Specific meetings target parent involvement.



ECC Activities for 2016-17

- ECC Meetings/Professional development evenings
 - Building Vocabulary - Interactive PD - Each center received resource book *I'm Ready! How to Prepare Your Child for Reading Success*
 - Creating our own Word Walls for preschool environments
 - Parent Make-It and Take-It Evening focusing on strategies to improve vocabulary

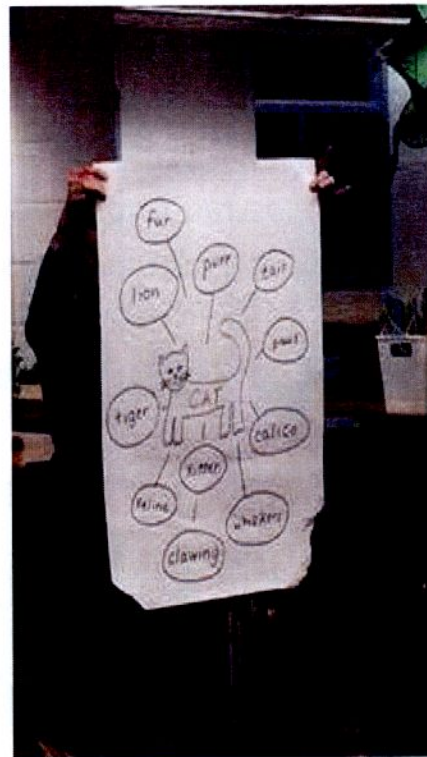
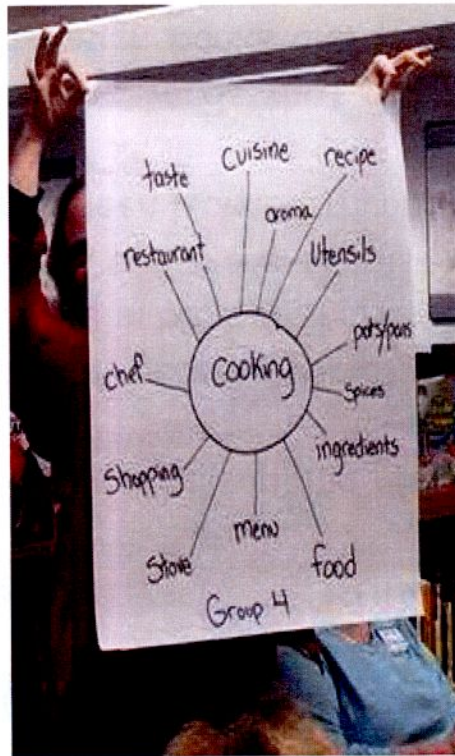


2016-2017 Goal is to increase teacher's knowledge on how to expand students' vocabulary

CT ELDS Focus for 2016- 17 ~ Building Vocabulary

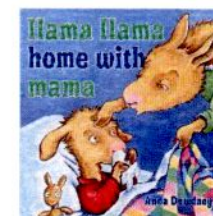
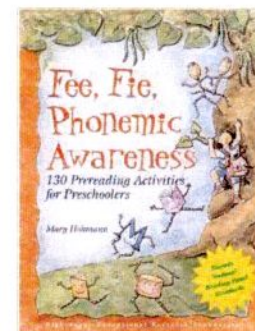
- L.36.1 Demonstrate an **understanding of an increased vocabulary, influenced by experiences and relationships**
- L.60.1 Understand an **increasing variety and specificity of words** for objects, actions and attributes encountered in both real and symbolic contexts
- L.36.5 May occasionally **use more sophisticated words** than they typically use in conversational speech but that have been learned through books and personal experiences (e.g., large, fast, angry, car, run)
- L.48.5 Begin to use some **words that are not a part of everyday conversational speech but that are learned through books and personal experiences** (e.g., gigantic, rapidly, frustrated, transportation, race or jog)
- L.60.5 Use **more complex words learned through books and personal experiences** (e.g., label favorite shirt as chartreuse, or know that a paleontologist studies dinosaurs)

Creating Webs to increase vocabulary



Examples of Past ECC Activities

- PD and Book Study: Fee, Fie, Phonemic Awareness - 130 Prereading Strategies for Preschoolers
- Read Aloud Tips for Parents Evening- Free pre-K book for all attendees
- Professional Book Study: Talking, Drawing and Writing by Martha Horn
- Book Making with Young Children - hands-on professional learning
- Make It and Take It Night for parents - Easy Ideas to Help Teach Kids Early Reading Skills
- Mini PD: Strategies to Address reading comprehension in preschoolers
- Comprehension - You and Your Child Booklet
- CT ELDS - Workshop by Early Childhood Professor
- Family Read Evening with Literacy Volunteers on the Green
- PD: How do teachers design activities to address preschool standards



Examples of Past ECC Activities

- PD: Musical Pathways to Literacy by Amy Diamond M.S.. C.C.C./SLP
- Meeting at New Milford Public Library - Books that promote phonemic awareness and Tumblebooks demo
- PD: Strategies to improve phonemic awareness - Reading specialist
- Phonemic Fun for Families booklet
- Parent Evening - Help for Parents: ABCs of Behavior
- Pre-K to K transition discussion with area programs and K teachers



Data-Driven Decision-Making



Data Analysis

- Skills in Kindergarten Inventory data
- NWEA MAP scores - low foundational skills

This data will impact what literacy standards to focus on within the ECC for the next year.



How ECC Positively Impacts NMPS Teaching and Learning



- Working with the preschool teachers improves teachers' instructional skills thereby improving student knowledge and readiness skills upon entering as NMPS kindergarten students.
- Raising awareness and understanding of CT ELDS helps to improve the quality of preschool instruction.
- Strengthening the relationship between preschool staff and Kindergarten staff helps to build awareness of Kindergarten expectations.

Thank you!

Thank you for supporting the
New Milford Early Childhood Council

