

**New Milford Board of Education
 Committee on Learning Meeting Minutes
 February 2, 2021
 Via Zoom Virtual Meeting**

RECEIVED
 TOWN CLERK
 2021 FEB -4 A 11: 55

NEW MILFORD, CT

Present: Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Chairperson
 Mr. Joseph Failla
 Mr. Brian McCauley

Also Present: Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Interim Superintendent of Schools
 Mrs. Catherine Calabrese, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Schools
 Mrs. Catherine Gabianelli, Human Resources Director
 Mr. Brandon Rush, Technology Director
 Ms. Karen Bosco, Instructional Coach

<p>1.</p>	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mrs. McInerney via Zoom. Mrs. McInerney asked Mr. Helmus if he would like to be seated as an alternate due to a vacancy on the committee. Mr. Helmus said he would prefer to observe as he is new to the committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Rush said the meeting is available in closed caption format for the hearing impaired. There is an icon on the tool bar at the bottom of the zoom screen that may be enabled. 	<p>Call to Order</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was none. 	<p>Public Comment</p>
<p>3.</p> <p>A.</p>	<p>Presentation</p> <p>SMS Science Pacing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. DiCorpo said the Board had previously adopted CREC units of study as curriculum. SMS is starting to make adjustments using OpenSciEd units. They are presenting information tonight so that when the actual curriculum is written the Board will have this background for approval. • Mrs. Calabrese introduced instructional coach 	<p>Presentation</p> <p>A. SMS Science Pacing</p>

Karen Bosco, who is the district-wide data coach, as well as the instructional coach who works closely with SMS science and math teachers. Ms. Bosco and SMS Assistant Principal Sasha Salem have worked closely with teachers on the pacing in conjunction with the Department of Instruction. Mrs. Salem is unavailable this evening so Ms. DiCorpo will present with Ms. Bosco.

- Ms. DiCorpo said the CREC units were viewed as a starting place for Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) while the curriculum was being developed. As the years have gone on, the middle school has realized that the CREC units are not something to use alone and has started looking into how to improve. OpenSciEd units are being integrated in as well.
- Ms. Bosco described the two instructional models and the pacing calendar used to align the CREC and OpenSciEd units, as well as additional resources for remote learning. A powerpoint presentation is attached to these minutes. She said the OpenSciEd units are on a slow release schedule so other resources are needed to supplement now.
- Ms. DiCorpo said they may put off curriculum writing until February 2022 so that staff can compare the use of the additional OpenSciEd units with the CREC units.
- Ms. DiCorpo said the district has a current partnership with the Mandell Academy of the CT Science Center to support teachers in their work.
- Ms. Bosco said she participates in Wednesday Professional Learning Communities to provide building level support.
- Ms. DiCorpo said the pacing guide is a living document, as the Science department integrates new resources. She said if the Board is amenable, they will continue working this way towards a future curriculum.
- Mrs. McInerney thanked the presenters and said there was a lot of work ongoing.

<p>4.</p> <p>A.</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>Review and Approval of Curricula</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. McInerney said there are eleven curriculum for review. The CP & Honors are very similar, with different levels of rigor. She said she would recognize each curriculum individually and invite member comments. Mrs. Calabrese said, as Interim Assistant Superintendent, she received assistance with curriculum vetting. This set of curricula was vetted by a SERC consultant. Mrs. Calabrese has reviewed them as well. Mrs. Calabrese gave a brief overview of each curriculum as it was discussed. <p>1. English III CP & Honors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. McCauley said he loved the American Literature approach to this course. He pointed out that the Unit 2 resources were the same as Unit 1 in the College Prep version. Mrs. Calabrese said she would go back to the curriculum writers to correct and report their response to the Board. Mrs. McInerney noted that the course has a big social studies component as well. <p>2. Journalism I CP</p> <p>3. Journalism II CP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Calabrese said these are both half year courses starting with the fundamentals of journalism and moving on to actual writing. She said the Journalism II course did not run this year due to low student request. Mrs. McInerney asked how often the student newspaper comes out. She said she would love to have the Board receive copies. Ms. DiCorpo said she believes the newspaper is not running this year due to COVID. Mrs. Calabrese said she would see if she could 	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>A. Review and Approval of Curricula</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> English III CP & Honors Journalism I CP Journalism II CP Grade 6 Social Studies Grade 7 Social Studies Grade 8 Social Studies Spanish III CP & Honors French III CP & Honors
---------------------	---	--

<p>get the most recent edition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">4. Grade 6 Social Studies5. Grade 7 Social Studies6. Grade 8 Social Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Calabrese said these courses include inquiry based lessons that are hands on, interactive, and teach students to think critically. Grades 6 and 7 cover World Studies and Grade 8 is American History 1700s-1990s.• Mr. Failla asked how old the textbooks are since he believes they are out of date almost as soon as they are written• Ms. DiCorpo said it is a resource, not the primary source, for that reason.• Mrs. Calabrese said the revision includes many updated resources, including digital primary and secondary sources.• Mr. Failla said he was glad to see it moving in that direction. <ul style="list-style-type: none">7. Spanish III CP & Honors8. French III CP & Honors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Calabrese said both these curriculums follow a similar pattern. The topics are the same, just in a different language. Courses are 90% in the target language and include an exploration of culture as well.• Mrs. McInerney noted that the grade level consideration is 9-12. She asked how it is possible for a freshman to take level III based on what is offered at SMS.• Ms. DiCorpo said this is primarily an accommodation for students transferring in who may have additional credits in this area, but that it is rare. <p>Mr. McCauley moved to bring the following curricula to the full Board for approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. English III CP & Honors	<p>Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the following curricula to the full Board for approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. English III CP & Honors
---	---

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Journalism I CP 3. Journalism II CP 4. Grade 6 Social Studies 5. Grade 7 Social Studies 6. Grade 8 Social Studies 7. Spanish III CP & Honors 8. French III CP & Honors <p>Seconded by Mr. Failla and passed unanimously.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Journalism I CP 3. Journalism II CP 4. Grade 6 Social Studies 5. Grade 7 Social Studies 6. Grade 8 Social Studies 7. Spanish III CP & Honors 8. French III CP & Honors
<p>5.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was none. 	<p>Public Comment</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Mr. McCauley moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m., seconded by Mr. Failla and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McInerney, Chairperson
 Committee on Learning