


**New Milford Board of Education
 Committee on Learning Meeting Minutes
 October 6, 2020
 New Milford High School Library Media Center**

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

Also Present: Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
 Mr. Brandon Rush, Director of Technology

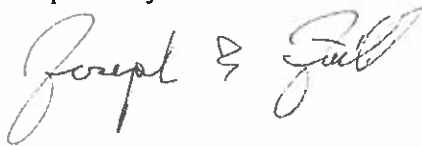
1.	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mr. Failla.</p>	<p>Call to Order</p>
2.	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was none. 	<p>Public Comment</p>
3.	<p>Presentation</p> <p>A. Vaping Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. DiCorpo introduced Jason O'Connor, outgoing president of NMCAN and current Director of the Youth Agency, to present the survey results. • Mr. O'Connor said the Western CT Coalition (Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization (RBHAO)) sponsored the mini grant to gather data and information about the nature and extent of vaping and e-cigarette use by adults and youth within regional communities. The anonymous survey was administered to 8th, 10th and 12th grade NMPS students in February 2020. A total of 738 usable surveys were collected. Responses were consistent with state and national averages. • Mr. O'Connor reported on current NMPS curriculum regarding vaping education. This includes information in Health classes, awareness events, counseling and discipline 	<p>Presentation</p> <p>A. Vaping Survey</p> <p style="text-align: right;">  RECEIVED TOWN CLERK 2020 OCT -8 A 10:09 </p>

when appropriate. Board policies 5131.6 and 1331 also provide guidance. Mr. O'Connor also reported on regional school policies and incidences and gave examples.

- The regional summary and core findings report that vaping continues to be attractive to youth and products are easy to obtain. Recommendations are that further assessment of vape use would be helpful to determine how age, gender, socio-ethnicity, ethnicity/race, mental health, and other factors play a role in who is most vulnerable to vaping. This will be the focus of a 2020-2021 LPC Grant. Retailer scans/compliance checks also seem to be one good way to reduce youth access to vaping supplies.
- Mrs. McInerney said she was pleased to see restorative practices included as a tool. She asked if student education is still ongoing in the hybrid model. Ms. DiCorpo said the Health curriculum still covers it. She said the substance abuse counselor has been helpful as well.
- Mrs. McInerney said she was interested in Wolcott's strategy of offering five day counseling versus two day suspension and would love to know if it is getting results.
- Mrs. McInerney said she appreciated previous parent presentations and asked how parents would be included now. Ms. DiCorpo said the next step after sharing this information with the Board is for the coalition to disperse the information into the community.
- Mr. Failla wondered if the country had missed something. There are strong opinions now against cigarette use, but it seems to be missing with vaping, as well as a lack of enforcement.
- Mr. O'Connor said the tobacco companies are making a big investment in vaping as traditional smokers decrease.
- Mr. Failla said the end result will probably be litigation, but that is a long way off.

	<p>report cards are difficult for parents. She said she would specifically like to see a transition on the grade 5 report card to begin including grades, since that is what parents will see at the middle school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Nabozny requested a copy of a mocked up current report card. Ms. DiCorpo said she would provide one to the committee. • Mr. McCauley said he likes the parent guide idea. He also requested that parents be given warning that a shift is coming. Don't wait until the new report cards are ready to tell parents. Ms. DiCorpo agreed preparation and inclusion are important. 	
5.	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was none. 	Public Comment
6.	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Mr. McCauley moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Nabozny and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



Joseph Failla, Chairperson
 Committee on Learning